

CBSE Class 10 Social Science Civics Notes Chapter 1: You learned in Class 9 that no single branch of government holds absolute power in a democracy. A democracy's structure depends critically on the wise distribution of power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

This chapter provides a detailed explanation of power-sharing while drawing comparisons between the histories of Belgium and Sri Lanka. You will also become familiar with the many types of power sharing.

CBSE Class 10 Social Science Civics Notes Chapter 1

Story of Belgium

Almost one crore people live in the small European nation of Belgium, which is roughly half the population of Haryana. Five-nine percent of the nation's population speaks Dutch, forty percent speaks French, and one percent speaks German. To learn about Belgium's language variations, look at the map below.

Due to their wealth and influence, the minority French-speaking population benefited from both economic growth and educational advancement. In the 1950s and 1960s, this led to tensions between the Dutch- and French-speaking communities.

Accommodation in Belgium

The Belgian government did a great job of managing community differences. Belgian politicians rewrote their constitution four times between 1970 and 1993, each time creating a new framework for governing.

The Belgian model comprises the following components.

- According to the Constitution, there should be an equal number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the Central Government. Each linguistic group's majority members must approve certain unique laws. As a result, no community can decide on its own.
- The federal government does not have authority over the state governments.
- Brussels has a distinct government, with equal representation for both groups.
- There is a third type of government in addition to the federal and state governments.
- Regardless of where they reside, members of the Dutch, French, and German-speaking communities elect this "community government." When it comes to matters of culture, education, and language, this government is in charge.
- Though extremely intricate, the Belgium model prevented tensions between the two main communities.

Story of Sri Lanka

Let us now examine the circumstances in Sri Lanka, a different nation. With a population of roughly 2 crore, it is an island nation comparable in size to Haryana. Sri Lanka's population is diverse.

The two largest social groupings are those who speak Tamil (18%) and Sinhala (74%). There are two subcategories of Tamils: "Tamil Indians" and "Sri Lankan Tamils." The population distribution of Sri Lanka's various communities may be seen on the map below.

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

In 1948, Sri Lanka gained its independence. Since they were the majority, the Sinhala community established the government. Additionally, they followed laws that gave preference to Sinhala candidates for government and university employment.

The government's actions enhanced the Tamils in Sri Lanka's sense of separation over time. Tamils in Sri Lanka believed that their interests were ignored by the government and that they were denied equal political rights as well as discrimination in employment and other chances. As a result, there is poor interaction between the Tamil and Sinhala communities.

Tamils in Sri Lanka started political parties and fought for equal opportunities in obtaining employment and education, regional autonomy, and the designation of Tamil as an official language. However, the administration consistently rejected their demand.

The mistrust that existed between the two groups grew into a civil war and a generalized struggle. Thousands of members of both communities have died as a result. Numerous families had to leave the nation as refugees, while a great number of others lost their jobs. 2009 saw the end of the civil war, which had a devastating impact on the nation's social, cultural, and economic life.

learnings from the stories of Belgium and Sri Lanka

- Despite being democracies, the two nations approach the idea of power sharing differently.
- The authorities of Belgium have realized that respecting the sentiments and interests of many communities and regions is the best way to maintain national unity. This led to power-sharing agreements that were agreeable to both parties.
- Sri Lanka demonstrates how a majority community can threaten national unity by attempting to impose its will over others and by refusing to cede power.

Form of Power Sharing

The majority of you probably believe that splitting power equals weakening the nation. In the past, people believed something similar. It was believed that a government's whole power must be vested in a single individual or collection of individuals in a single location.

If not, it would be exceedingly challenging to make snap decisions and follow through on them. But as democracy has grown, these ideas have evolved. People control themselves in

democracies through institutions of self-government. Everybody can influence how public policies are formulated. Therefore, political authority ought to be shared among the people in a democracy.

Power sharing can occur in a variety of ways in modern democracies, as listed below:

- The legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government all share authority. The reason this is known as the horizontal distribution of power is that it permits several government agencies positioned at the same level to exercise various authority.
- This division guarantees that no organ has unlimited authority. Every organ assesses every other one. We refer to this setup as a system of checks and balances.
- Two types of governments can share power: the federal government, which is the main government for the entire nation, and the province or regional governments.
- Different social groupings, including linguistic and religious ones, may also share power. Belgium's "community government" is an excellent illustration of this structure.
- Minority populations are given a fair amount of power through the employment of this technique.
- How political parties, pressure groups, and movements influence or control the powerful can also be interpreted as power sharing relationships. When two or more political parties band together to run for office, they form a coalition government and share power if they win.