MIND MAP

Power Sharing

The case of Belgium

- Language communities in Belgium
  - 59% speak Dutch
    - In Brussels (Capital) only 20% speak Dutch
      - Dutch speakers got less benefit of economic development
  - 40% speak French
    - In Brussels 80% speak French
      - French speakers became rich and powerful
  - 1% speak German

Peace in Belgium

- Constitutional amendments made to reduce conflict
  - Equal number of Dutch and French speaking ministers in Central Government
  - State governments not subordinate to Central Government
  - Equal representation of both language speakers in Brussels
  - Power regarding cultural, educational and language issues given to community government.

Comparison of Belgium and Sri Lanka

- Minority dominated majority
  - Made constitutional amendments
    - Shared power among communities
      - Result
        - Peace and unity
- Majority dominated minority
  - Favoured the majority community
    - Result
      - Civil war

The Case of Sri Lanka

- Language communities in Sri Lanka
  - 74% speak Sinhala
    - Government established by majority community
  - Sinhalse declared as official language
  - Policy of Majoritarianism was adopted
    - 18% Spiak Tamil
- Resulted in agitation by minority
  - Demand for separate state (Tamil Eelam)
    - Civil war in Sri Lanka

Power Sharing

- Sharing of power among different organs of the government
  - Need for power sharing
    - Prudential reason
      - Reduces conflict between different social groups
      - Ensures stability of the government
    - Moral reason
      - Strengthens democracy as all citizens enjoy equal participation in the governance

Forms of Power Sharing

- **Horizontal Distribution of power** Power shared among different organs of the government e.g. India
  - The organs are
    - Legislature
    - Executive
    - Judiciary
- **Vertical Distribution of Power** Power shared among different levels of the government e.g. India.
  - The levels are
    - Central Government
    - State Government
    - Local Government
- **Community Government** Power shared among different social groups e.g. Belgium. Community government on the basis of linguistic groups.
- **Coalition Government** Two or more alliance between political parties to contest elections then form government and share power.
- **Different interest groups** People with different interest form groups like farmers, traders association and share power.