

INCIPIENCY OF ETHNIC CONFLICT IN SRILANKA- A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Ethnic conflict is one of the greatest problems of the modern age. The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka showed a new dimension to the contradictions that had long paralyzed the entire nation. The purpose of this article is to explore the underlying issues of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. In this paper deals about the definition and causes and consequences of ethnic conflicts. The Sri Lankan conflict has been greatly exacerbated by the continued economic discrimination of the Sinhalese. One group accuses the other of enjoying dominance in the bureaucracy, government-sponsored and ruling elite-based institutions. Demands on state units decrease when economic benefits are the result of hard work.

Keywords: Ethnic Conflicts, Manipulation and Politicization of Ethnicity, Democratic Politics and Ethnicity, Regional Politics and Ethnicity.

Introduction

Racism is a global problem in the modern age. No country on earth is exempt from it. However, the dimension of ethnicity is not the same in all countries, with some countries less affected and some more affected. In the recent era especially the last decade of the 20th century and the 1st decade of the 21st century South Asia became a hot bed of

ethnocentrism. Countries in the South Asian region are mostly affected by terrorist activities, which are affected by thousands of types of terrorist activities.

Race and Nation

The terms "ethnicity" and "ethnic group" are derived from the Greek word *ethnos*, usually translated as "nation" or people of the same race who share a distinct culture. Nations today are eager to assimilate their races. "Race" and "nation" are two functional words that can be fashioned into many convenient definitions. Ethnicity refers to a group of people or people who share a culture, religion or language. "

An ethnic group is a group of people whose members identify with each other through a common heritage, real or assumed. This shared heritage may be based on common descent, history, kinship, religion, language, shared territory, nationality or physical appearance. Members of an ethnic group recognize that they belong to an ethnic group; And ethnic identity is further defined by the recognition of a group's uniqueness from others. Ethnic theory states that ethnicity is a social category and one of the many factors that determine ethnicity. .

Ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka

Another country in South Asia where terrorism is high is Sri Lanka. It has been plagued by various forms of terrorist activity, particularly by the separatist movement of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist organization formerly based in northern Sri Lanka. Founded in May 1976, it waged a violent separatist campaign seeking to create an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. This campaign evolved into the Sri Lankan Civil War, one of the longest armed conflicts in Asia until the LTTE was militarily defeated by the Sri Lankan Army in May 2009.

We know Sri Lanka has 73.9% Sinhalese, 12.6% Tamil, 7.4% Moors, 5.2% Indian Tamils, 0.5% other ethnic groups. Sinhalese always try to exploit others mainly Moors and Tamils. As a result many contradictions arise in the Sri Lankan society. But the Rajapaksa government trying to deal with all kinds of problems. Sri Lanka is a multi-religious country with 69% Buddhists, 15% Hindus, 8% Christians and 8% Muslims. As a result of the

oppression of the ruling majority Sinhalese community - mostly Buddhists - Tamils - mostly Hindus - rose up in the north and east of the island to demand an independent Eelam state. A vicious civil war lasted 19 years and killed 65,000 people.

Cause & Effects

The Sri Lankan conflict has been greatly exacerbated by the continued economic discrimination of the Sinhalese. One group accuses the other of enjoying dominance in the bureaucracy, government-sponsored and ruling elite-based institutions. Demands on state units decrease when economic benefits are the result of hard work. The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has several underlying causes and effects, which are closely interlinked. Generally, these themes can be broadly identified as-

- Ethnic politics and interpretation of the past
- The politics of language
- The politics of education
- Other factors including employment and land

Beginning of ethnic conflict

The pre-colonial situation in Sri Lanka was a continuous process of immigration from India with indigenous and other earlier migrant groups [Bandaranayaka:1985]. Sinhalese or Sinhalese (74%) constitute the major ethnic group; Sri Lankan Tamils living in the north and east make up 12.6% of the population and a group known as Indian Tamils (who immigrated to work on plantations in the 19th century) make up 5.6% of the population.

Although Muslims are the third largest ethnic group (7.4%), there are also small minorities of Burghers (people of mixed race) and Malays. All major groups in Sri Lanka belong to a similar ethnic mix of Southeast Asian, Arab and European hybrids from various parts of India, particularly South India.

Despite this, today each ethnic group has a distinct identity; The Sinhalese believe that they are Aryans from Bengal, the Tamils are of pure Dravidian descent, and the Muslims want to be decent from the Arabs. Sri Lanka's history of ethnic conflict is a history of the rise of consciousness among the majority community, the Sinhalese, which defines Sri Lankan

society as Sinhala-Buddhist and denies its multiracial nature. This development of consciousness has affected the minorities in Sri Lanka to the extent that they cannot find solutions to their problems internally. Sinhalese dominated the country from the 5th century BC and succeeded in establishing a kingdom with its center in the north central province of the island. The term "Sinhala" was originally used to refer to the royal family of the island, then extended to include the royal family, and then further extended to include the people; AD This social process dating back to the 6th century was a process of ethnic assimilation of the Sinhalese people. The Sinhala Kingdom, which controlled the entire island, entered into alliances and hostile relations at various times with the Chola, Pandya and Chera kingdoms of South India. This long history of contact with South India is still present among the Sinhalese, perhaps best remembered for acts of aggression.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, certain developments in Sri Lanka determined its ethnic population in a decisive way, which continues to the present day. Population distribution provides a regional basis for major ethnic groups; For the Tamils, territorial concentration developed into the concept of a "traditional Tamil homeland". This did not occur to the Muslims as they were scattered all over the island and were a majority only in one part of the Eastern Province. Religion played a dominant ideological role in ethnic integration. Buddhism, introduced from India in the third century BC, became the religion and state religion of the Sinhalese. Hinduism was the religion of the Tamils. Apart from the conversion of a section of Sinhalese and Tamils to Christianity during the colonial period, the unity between Sinhalese and Buddhism on the one hand and Tamil and Hindu on the other was on the whole.

Social and economic developments during the colonial period under the Portuguese and later the Dutch – commercialization of agriculture, registration of land ownership, registration of births and deaths, conversion – contributed to the blurring of ethnic boundaries. This meant the amalgamation of the Sinhalese community in the central and south-western parts of the island and the Tamil community in the northern and eastern seaboard. Economic developments during the British occupation of the island led to two events that made Sri Lanka's ethnic picture even more complex.

Conclusion

The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has several underlying causes and effects, which are closely interlinked. Sri Lanka is a multi-religious country with 69% Buddhists, 15% Hindus, 8% Christians and 8% Muslims. In this paper deals about the definition and causes and consequences of ethnic conflicts. The effects of ethnic conflict are those involve refugee flows, internal displacement, regional instability, economic failures, environmental disasters, diffusion and spillover effects, and conditions favourable to organized crime and terrorism.

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