

Need for Power Sharing

Chapter 13: Power-sharing · Topic 1

Key Concept

In diverse societies with multiple religions, languages, and ethnic groups, concentrating power in one group can lead to resentment, conflict, and instability.

Power sharing ensures different groups have a voice in decision-making, reducing the risk of one group dominating or oppressing others.

There are two main reasons for power sharing - a prudential reason (reducing conflict and promoting stability) and a moral reason (democracy requires the participation of all citizens).

Countries like Belgium have successfully implemented power-sharing arrangements to manage diversity, while conflicts in other regions often stem from a lack of adequate power sharing.

Quick Revision Notes

- Power sharing is necessary in diverse societies.
- Concentrating power in one group can cause conflict.
- Power sharing ensures different groups have a voice.
- This reduces domination or oppression of groups.
- The prudential reason is reducing conflict and promoting stability.
- The moral reason is that democracy requires participation of all.
- Belgium has implemented successful power-sharing arrangements.
- Lack of power sharing can lead to conflict elsewhere.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss why power sharing matters in a diverse country.
- 2 Research Belgium's power-sharing arrangement.
- 3 Explain the prudential and moral reasons for power sharing.
- 4 Discuss a conflict that arose from lack of power sharing.
- 5 Research how India shares power among its diverse groups.
- 6 Debate whether power sharing always prevents conflict.