

Differences in Perceptions in Three Ethnic Groups about the Predicted Impacts of the Rise of Mono-Ethnic Nationalism in Post-war Sri Lanka a

PWKH Hemakumara^{1#}

¹Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

[#]khemakumara313@gmail.com

Mono-ethnic nationalism is a form of nationalism that advocates for the political unity and cultural homogeneity of a nation defined by a single ethnic group. In such a context, ethnicities recognize only their own group's existence within a region. Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic society consisting primarily of Sinhalese, with minorities including Tamils, Muslims, and Burghers. Although the precise origin of this ethnic division is difficult to pinpoint, it appears to be longstanding, dating back to the British era. In the post-independence period, this division intensified, leading to increasing polarization between Sinhalese and Tamil identities, nearly creating warring factions. After three decades of conflict, Sri Lankan society has displayed new dynamics in inter-ethnic relationships among Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims. These groups have attempted to assert their distinct cultural values and identities, rather than uniting under a single Sri Lankan nationality. This fragmentation has led to a lack of interaction, communication, and understanding, resulting in several clashes between ethnicities over the past decade. This research fills a gap by investigating how perceptions of mono-ethnic nationalism differ among these three ethnic groups, particularly from their ethnic perspectives. It examines the potential social, economic, and political effects of this phenomenon. Data were collected using qualitative methods, with a sample of 15 respondents from each ethnic group, and interviews were conducted as the primary data collection method. Data analysis was performed by the researcher following data collection using thematic analysis method.

Keywords: *mono ethnic nationalism, three ethnic groups, post war Sri Lanka, predicted impact*