

When vesting some of the powers which previously had in the hand of president, 19th amendment did not clearly state what are the powers in the hand of president and what are the powers in the hand of prime minister and how they should be exercised with regard to each other's. For instance, regarding some appointments it says president must appoint this position after inquiring the opinion of PM. It is not clear that president is bound to appoint the person suggested by PM, or (s)he can use his discretion and ignore the suggestion by PM. Partly because of such unclear division of powers and partly because of the president and PM belonged to two different parties who had completely different philosophies, there were many disputes inside the two main figures of the past government and it created a political instability in the country. Because of this instability, despite their turn towards liberal values, past government did not able to attract foreign investors as expected by them.

If the current president wasn't able to get required seats in the parliament, this is what is happening to going again. Further we can say, based on our observations of the political culture of the country, that Party of Opposition will use their power in parliament to retaliate from the government, when the government is going to pass any law which is beneficial for the country. This will happen especially on the legislations aiming to curb the extremism or when reverting the evils of the 19th amendment. So it is imperative that president and parties supporting him wining the two third seats in the parliament, if possible.

Here are some more points to take into consideration when deciding to which party your votes should be given.

1. Though Mr: Dinesh Gunawardhana declared in the UNHRC that Sri Lanka will withheld the co-sponsorship given by former foreign minister Mangala Samarawera to the resolution against the country, that expectation will become a reality only after a new government was elected with totally different policies that of UNP. Yet we only have appointed a new president not a new government. (you can [read this](#) if you want to know about this harm in detail)
2. under the leadership of UNP a constitution which gives overwhelming powers to provinces (following the principle of subsidiary), while weakening the central government at best, was drafted using some Marxist intellectuals, (who are advocating for any "change" requested by minorities without foreseeing the possible dangerous consequences of it) as main resource persons and contributors. UNP and proponents of that constitution tried to enact it without making any amendments though such amendments were requested by SLFP. Such devolution of power will sustain both Tamil separatism in the North and Islamization and extremism in the East. Tensions among ethnicities will become more acute and national security also will be in threat. Though it is not possible to divide the country physically thanks to the power to central government to

dissolve a provincial counsel in any attempt to rebellion, great powers suggested to be given to the provinces will divide the country mentally (I'm talking about the impact this devolution will have on North and East provincial councils). But yet UNP leader Ranil Wicramasinghe or honorable Sajith Premadasa who is said to be has a Sinhala-Buddhist attitudes have not stated that they regret about the harm they were intended to do to the country. So anyone who votes for them, unless if the UNP (including Samagi Peramuna) promise that they have now changed their views on that constitution before the noble Sangha, is a traitor. To know about the harm of that proposed constitution in more details [please read this](#).

3. Lecture given by Dr: Chulani Aththanayaka (a visiting research fellow at the Institution of Asiatic Studies in the National University of Singapore) in the Colombo Defense Seminar 2019, under the topic [Sri Lanka: Decade after 2019](#) can be found in the website of Sri Lanka Army. In her lecture under the subtopic of Confronting Terrorism she makes following observation regarding the Easter terror attack.

“In order to curb the terrorism born from extremism, Singapore for instance, implements a zero tolerance approach. It is seen implementing arrests, detention, and imposition of restriction orders under its Internal Security Act, deportation, protective security measures, counter-ideology, terrorist rehabilitation and community engagement. On the contrary, we saw that in Sri Lanka, for almost three years, the government is attempting to introduce a new counter-terrorism act calling the existing Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) as draconian. As a result, the security authorities could not carry out their duties appropriately which cost the lives of innocent people.”

Statement of the current president as the secretary of defense in Colombo Defense Seminar 2013 shows that he was in a correct understanding of the *Threat of (Islamic) Extremism*.

“It is a known fact that Muslim fundamentalism is spreading all over the world and in this region. This is a situation that our law enforcement agencies and security forces are concerned about particularly as there have been instances where extremist elements have been in transit in Sri Lanka prior to arrest and handing over to appropriate authorities... The possibility that such extremist elements may try to promote Muslim extremism in Sri Lanka is a cause for concern.”

Full Video of Gotabhaya Rajapaksa's speech is Available Online:
<http://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?>

[nid=23950&mode=beauti#.UibPzaaSXUQQ.facebook](#)

4. Economic policy of the UNP was something based on theories of Adam Smith and David Ricardo. UNP believes that more they privatize the government properties, more they loosen the labor rights and reduce wages and thus give privileges to private companies, more they import every little product/agricultural commodity, while destroying local businesses (a policy based on Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage) more they loosen the laws regarding land ownership/taxes for the advantage of foreign investors, the economy of the country will increase. Instructions which are still giving by World Bank and by IMF to the developing countries are also based on these theories and following them is the condition by World Bank & IMF to eligible for their loans. But Amith Baduri and Deepak Nayar have explained how these policies contributed to bankrupt the economy of India in 1980s and why it happened that way contrary to popular view, in their book "[An Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalism](#)." One can know how the instructions given to third world countries by IMF and World Bank make the situation worse by reading "[Globalization and Its Discontents](#)" written by [Joshep E. Stiglitz](#), who was a former chief economist of IMF and 2001 Nobel prize winner for economics. He shows (in that book and in many other papers) how pressuring the developing countries for privatization while ignoring realities of that countries and seeing labor laws as a barrier for investors have detrimental to people's lives and at the last how this affected negatively on economy of the country. One can also read 7th chapter of the "[Free Trade Doesn't Work](#)" by Ian Fletcher to know why Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage is wrong.
5. Some still believes that there's no harm from the MCC agreement and thinks rather it's beneficial to the country. In fact there's no harm if the agreement is analyzed separately from the ACSA agreement. Do you remember how was the Kim Jon Nam being killed? Two girls applied two different substances to his face. There's no harm from each substance if you apply only one of them into your palm. But when mixed they become a great poison. Same is true for MCC and ACSA agreements. MCC is not harmful as a single document. But if you accept it as post-ACSA Sri Lanka then there's a great risk for the sovereignty of the Sri Lanka. ACSA allows using Sri Lanka as logistic and supply place for US in a future war situation in the Indian Ocean. What is going to be done by MCC is to make an electric railway from Kolamba to Thrikunamalaya and creating airfields in the places needed to them. Map of these gifts is given in the MCC website. MCC agreement says reason to create these things in these places is to make the transportation system of Sri Lanka more effective. But the real motive is to use them in the future under the ACSA agreement. If not why to create the map so early, and without an involvement of the government of the country they are going to do that project? Have Sri Lanka government and our local specialists to make any suggestions and thus to change the map or to omit its certain

objectives? If the answer is “no” then it will be a usage of the land of the sovereign state to do their construction plans by a foreign government, since MCC is an organization linked with US government. Additionally amending land laws of Sri Lanka by removing barriers to foreign cooperation’s to own state lands are also will be done by MCC agreement. It’s not stated in the agreement itself. But the committee to be created under the agreement to give instructions and technical support on managing land ownerships to the government will give instructions on how should land laws of the Sri Lanka be changed. ‘Constraints to the Investment in Sri Lanka’ – a report authored by MCC with the support of Sri Lankan government (it’s available from MCC website) and ‘State Land Bank Act’ and ‘Lands (Special Provisions) Act’ which were drafted so early shows how will land laws be changed and its intentions. I found some articles which talks about harms of the SOFA agreement, but I could not found what the content of the agreement is really, to clarify their claims. A commission appointed by current government (GR et al) decided that not to sign MCC agreement since it’s harmful to the country, after carefully studied it. But past (yahapalana – good governance) government of Wicramasinghe tried to sign it without such an investigation. One may argue that ACSA was first signed by MR government and it is the current president GR who signed to it behalf of Sri Lanka as then defense secretary. They neglect two important points. 1. GR/MR signed it just for 10 years time, but Wicramasinghe et al tried to sign it for an infinite time. 2. When GR/MR signing the ACSA, Sri Lanka was in a war LTTE, and at that moment not signing the agreement will has the possibility of US revenging from Sri Lanka by using their power in a way detrimental to that process. For instance it’s said that at sometimes US told Israel to not to sell certain necessary weapons to Sri Lanka by making it difficult to do war against LTTE, but after signing the agreement that was changed. So signing ACSA at the time was a strategic act instead of being a both covertness and a betrayal like the readiness to sign it by Wicramasinghe et al.

- Sachintha Madushan