

ECONOMY AND NATIONALISM IN CONTEMPORARY SRI LANKA

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Economy and nationalism are fundamental factors in national states, since political stability always depends on the economic condition of the state. Therefore, nationalism in new and developing states is a complex problem of increasing concern to both political scientists and economists. To political scientists, nationalism appears on the one hand as an interrogative ideological force facilitating the establishment of a viable and cohesive nation-state: on the other hand, ethnic groupings, especially with considering geographical, linguistic and religious differences, generate the phenomenon of nationalism within the state. To accelerate the development processes, economic planning and policy buildings as well as industrialization, the government and ruling class have normally used economic nationalism. Economic nationalism is a term used to describe policies which emphasize domestic control of the economy, labour and capital formation. In this paper, there is an attempt to examine about the combination of Buddhist nationalist ideas and national economy of Sri Lanka during the post Independent era up to the present situation. There will be a critical analysis about the economic policy of some Buddhist influence groups like *BoduBalaSena* and *RavanaBalaya*. Also there is an attempt to study about the anti-Muslim ideas of the attitudes on nation's economy in the contemporary Sri Lanka. The methodology of this research is to analyse historical data with comparing other primary sources like newspapers political manifestos and relevant historical documents. Some official documents like annual report of Ministry of finance and planning, and Ministry of consumer welfare and parliamentary reports will be used. I wish to use historical methodology, when analyse the primary data. Try to find trends and the historical evolution of economic nationalism in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lankan situation, economic nationalism emerged with the current political and social trends. After 1956 regime change, government economic policies were affected by economic nationalistic ideas. Especially it was combined with Buddhist social movements. Economy and Religion is a joined theme in every society either ancient or modern. In Sri Lanka, Buddhism has always combined with the State power, economic factors and dynamic social features. After getting independence as a national state, the Sri Lankan regime has used idea on the 'National Economy' to develop their economic policies. Especially after the regime change in 1956, the philosophical and national aspects of Sinhala Buddhist community widely effected to the contemporary policy makers which belong to the democratic. It also influenced ordinary customers and the consumer behaviours of the society. With the nationalist political parties like *SihalaUrumaya* and *JathikaHelaUrumaya* this discourse has emphasized in the parliamentary level. With the Government policy on open economy and privatisation, this concept has expanded to the general society. During the post-war period, the economic nationalism trend has changed with the impacts of some pressure groups which based on ethnicity and religions. They have encouraged native customers to promote Sinhalese trade and industries with neglecting some business network belong to Muslims.

Keywords: Anti-Muslim, Nationalism, Open economy, Post-independent era