

**Politics of Reconciliation in Post-war Sri Lanka:
A Critical Study on the Report of Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission**

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Abstract

This paper attempts to analyze the implication of the report of Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). After the military defeat of LTTE, Sri Lanka is standing at the cross-roads to restore reconciliation. The issue of reconciliation has been repeatedly surfaced in Sri Lanka's domestic politics as well as international relations in recent years. The government commissioned a domestic process for investigation and reconciliation through the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), which conducted its inquiry in various parts of the country to investigate into the violations that may have taken place during period between 2002 and 2009. Subsequently, the report was handed over to the former president Mahinda Rajapaksha in 2011. However, the report was not fully implemented yet and reconciliation has become a vague and messy process. This study was carried out mainly through a qualitative field research by using both bibliographic survey and field work. The field work is consisting in-depth interviews and informal discussions. The finding of the study shows that the report of the LLRC is a virtuous beginning to address the root cause of the conflict and to help restore reconciliation among the post-war Sri Lankan societies, despite it being criticized for having failed to effectively and meaningfully deal with issues of accountability.

Key words: Peace-building, Politics, Post-war Societies, Reconciliation

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