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## **Sri Lanka 2.0: After the war - From Majoritarian Control System to Integration and Accommodation?**

May 2009, after over 25 years from its beginning, the civil war between the Sinhalese majority, represented by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the 'sole spokesmen' of the Tamil minority-the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)-has come to an end. Scholars and practitioners generally agree on the fact that 'control system' imposed by the majority on its minorities was responsible for the escalation of the ethnic conflict, the radicalization of Tamils and the violent outcome.

After the war, several trends and policy shifts have become evident. First, the GoSL, become overtly reluctant and resistant towards any exogenous

interference or pressure, trying to find home-grown and context specific innovative solutions in order to finalize the yet to be completed nation- and state-building projects. Second, it has become clear that in order to stabilize and consolidate the political system, which has its roots in the introduction of the universal suffrage in 1931, politics as usual will not suffice and, moreover, their continuation may risk causing the emergence of a LTTE spin-off. Third, both political elites and civil society have adopted a general attitude of "forgive and forget" in terms of coping with the past. Fourth, although current political trends are contentious by nature, there is consensus between all ethnic groups that policies on public sector employment, language, proportionality and devolution of power are

crucial for reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

The paper seeks to explore how policies and initiatives impact the political capital of the GoSL contributing to its legitimacy and popular support. Additionally, the paper critically analyzes the measures undertaken with regard to the IDPs (internally displaced persons) in Sri Lanka compared to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Finally, the paper seeks to answer whether political capital is enough to decisively impact the consolidation of democratic institutions and the increase of the quality of democracy in general.