



The Devils in Devolution

A Lecture by Donald L. Horowitz
Moderated by Radhika Coomaraswamy

Devolution is often presented as a pathway to peace, autonomy, and inclusion. But what happens when devolved power deepens ethnic division instead?

In this lecture, scholar Donald L. Horowitz explores the hidden dangers that can emerge within devolved political systems, particularly in ethnically heterogeneous regions. Drawing from constitutional experiences across Asia and Africa, the lecture examines how well-intentioned legal and political frameworks can produce discrimination, conflict, and lasting inequalities.

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**ICES
AUDITORIUM**

No. 2, Kynsey Terrace,
Colombo 8

Donald L. Horowitz

Donald L. Horowitz is one of the world's leading scholars on constitutional design, ethnic conflict, and divided societies. He is the James B. Duke Professor of Law and Political Science Emeritus at Duke University and has written extensively on democracy, power-sharing, federalism, and conflict resolution in multiethnic states. His influential work has shaped academic and policy discussions across Asia, Africa, and beyond.

The discussion will explore:

- The fears and misconceptions surrounding devolution
- Ethnic conflict within devolved regions
- Constitutional contradictions and unequal protections
- Judicial failures in addressing discrimination
- The real-life consequences of flawed governance structures

