



Faculty of Graduate Studies

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**DEVOLUTION OF POWERS UNDER THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT
TO THE CONSTITUTION OF SRI LANKA
A CRITICAL LEGAL ANALYSIS**

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the implementation of the Thirteen Amendment to the constitution in Sri Lanka, focusing on the legal framework, challenges, and potential pathways for effective devolution and power-sharing with a comparison of the Canadian system. The research identifies the central problem of ethnic conflict and governance, aiming to elucidate the complexities and opportunities inherent in the constitutional provisions for devolution. Employing a comprehensive legal research methodology rooted in the Black letter approach, the study analyzes laws, practices, and legal theories to provide a nuanced understanding of the subject. Through thematic coding, comparative jurisprudence, and critical evaluation, the research elucidates prevailing narratives, operational challenges, and ethical considerations shaping the discourse on devolution. The findings underscore the importance of political will, institutional reform, and inclusive governance structures in addressing ethnic tensions and fostering reconciliation. Ultimately, the dissertation calls for a concerted effort towards genuine devolution, grounded in principles of equality, justice, and pluralism, to promote stability and democracy in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Thirteen Amendment, devolution, power-sharing, ethnic conflict