

## Propositions

Attached to the thesis

### **In Pursuit of Hegemony: Politics and State Building in Sri Lanka**

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1. Transdisciplinary approach to politics is best suited to deepening our understanding of the paths and outcomes of Sri Lanka modern state building trajectories that began during the 19th century's colonial interventions.
2. Alongside the formal processes and institutions of democratic governance and "high politics", there is need for giving primacy to everyday politics of the subalterns' as a better reflection of 'democracy in deed'.
3. Contrary to popular perceptions, the genesis of Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism does not lie in the so-called 'contentious ethnic relations', but in the dynamics of class relations which have their antecedence in the 19<sup>th</sup> century politics (*This thesis*).
4. The latent factional conflicts of the elites since 1920s are the result of the introduction of the Universal Adult franchise (1931) in Sri Lanka by the British Colonial rule. This had negatively influenced the quality of political participation of the subalterns in subsequent phases of state building (*This thesis*).
5. When the discourse of cultural or ethnic nationalism is used for pursuing narrow interests by the political elites, the space for development of a genuine sense of nationalism or an inclusive nationalist ideology among the masses is severely curtailed.
6. Kinship, political party or ethnic identity based patronage politics are integral elements of alliance building strategy of factionalized Sinhalese- political elite-dominated state (*This thesis*).
7. Low level of state accumulation encourages the political elites to rely on identity politics regardless of its long term negative social, economic and political outcomes or threat to state-building.
8. There is a strong correlation between the level of distributive politics, on one hand and exchange of material patronage at horizontal level among the political elites and an increasing use of symbolic cultural nationalist slogans in electoral politics, on the other (*This thesis*).
9. War, peace and conflict are essentially continuation of politics by other means. The elite resort to war as an instrument of legitimacy when institutional politics fails and vice versa (*This thesis*).
10. Formal democracy has meager meaning, if any, in contexts where the prerequisites for realizing substantive democracy is being manipulated by power hungry elites.
11. 'Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love.' (*Albert Einstein*)