The Sri Lankan Independence Movement (1943 - 1948) and the British position on it

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Abstract
This study deals with the Sri Lankan independence movement (1943 - 1948) and the British position on it, through which the winds of change reached Sri Lanka, which entered the Second World War alongside Britain, and picked up part of the fruits of this cooperation with the British, and there was a development at the political and constitutional levels. So, many political parties were established that fed the personalities, programs and ideas of the Sri Lankan political scene, which was reflected on the constitutional side, so these political organizations took their role in directing the Sri Lankan people towards participating in elections and interacting with the national political scene, and pushed my work Independence forward, after the age of the Constitution of 1946 entered the country to stage elections in 1947, and then integrated some of the pillars of the political structure of the state until they reached the direct negotiations with the British stage, which resulted in the achievement of independence in February 1948.

Keywords: Sri Lanka, Britain, Political, Constitutional, Independence.

1. Historical introduction about Sri Lanka until 1943
Several historical records (documents) confirm that the history of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) dates back to the fifth century B.C., when groups of Sri Lankans (the largest ethnic in the country also known as Sinhalese) migrated from the Indian state of Orissa to the island of Sri Lanka, and then burst into the century Third BC Other waves of Tamils (the second ethnic in the country) from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. It has been a Yankees control the southern and western regions of the country, the parts of the River Wallouwe to Chilaw and Malabars, while the Tamils take over the northern and eastern regions of the country, and this competition remained between them until the Portuguese arrived in Sri Lanka, They took control of some of its regions in 1505, then built a
fort in Colombo (the Sri Lankan capital) in 1517, and their control expanded at the expense of the coastal regions and then the interior regions of the country, and most of its areas came under Portuguese colonialism (The Study Magazine, 2012, p. 14).

Portuguese colonialism remained in Sri Lanka until 1658, after the Dutch drove them out of it by force, and they extended their control to most of Sri Lanka with the exception of the Central Kingdom of Kandy (The Study Magazine, 2012, p. 14.). In 1795 - 1796 Sri Lanka came under British control, expelled the Dutch from it, and the British succeeded in controlling Colombo and Jaffen quickly. Its affairs are a British general ruler, but it was within the rule of the British East India Company until the year 1801, after which it became a crown colony, and after they extended their control over the country, the British moved to control the Kingdom of Kandy, which rejected the British, but this refusal did not last long. Nyein In 1815 a war on the Kingdom of Kandy, succeeded by subject them, and arrested its king, who took a prisoner of the British, and then, Sri Lanka has become completely under their control, (Oversea Settlement Office, 1920, p.5).

The British sought to develop Sri Lanka's constitutional status, and in November 1927 they sent an official committee known as the "Donoughmore Commission" (Samarnayake, V, 2008, p. 182) to draft a constitution for the country, and succeeded in drafting and promulgating the constitution in June 1928, He was known as the "Donoughmore Constitution", which allowed every adult citizen to vote, in order to form a local government, and this is a privilege obtained by Sri Lanka without the rest of the British colonies, except that the All Ceylon Tamil Congress is the first and largest political party For the Tamils in Sri Lanka, the constitution was vehemently rejected, calling it "the death of minorities" and demanded that it be representative No, in the official state council (parliament) on a par with the Sri Lankans (50 x 50), that is, (50%) for the Sri Lankans and (50%) for the rest of the other ethnicities in the country. As for the Sri Lankans, the Dongmore constitution was not happy with them, and they called for the formation of a government managed by a group of committees, to address the country's ethnic diversity, and to prevent specific ethnic control of the government, and for each of the members of parliament to represent all ethnicities in the country to be managed (The Study Magazine). , 2012, p. 14.).

Despite the discontent of the two parties, the first formal council (the first government) of Sri Lanka was formed, and it was administered by Sri Lankan ministers and chaired by the British Governor General, and on July 10, the inaugural meeting of the council took place in an atmosphere of magnificent Rajasingham celebration. K, (22 September 2001)), and on the basis of the constitution itself, the second council was formed in
1937, and after two years, disturbances occurred between Sri Lankans and Tamils in Navalpitiya, which were caused by the Dungmore constitution and the Mahavamsa (the Bible) for Sri Lankans. As the official state book. Meanwhile, the Second World War (1939-1945) occurred and brought with it the winds of change in Sri Lanka (The Study Magazine, 2012, p. 14).

2. The National Movement in Sri Lanka during the period (1943 - 1944)

Britain suffered at the beginning of the war, and its government needed any support during the war, and in order to ensure Sri Lankan support for its war effort, the British government issued a brief statement on May 26, 1943, in which it affirmed that "Her Majesty's government attaches great importance to the issue of constitutional reform in Sri Lanka, as it will work after the end of the war and achieve victory to develop the pillars of the institutions of self-government for Sri Lanka within the British Commonwealth, and will help to form a self-government responsible for all internal civil affairs, with the exception of the field of external relations and defense, and will also maintain the areas of security, construction and maintenance Communications and staffing therein, which are essential for the maritime and air security of the British Commonwealth, including Sri Lanka as well, and the two governments will participate in the provision of security later, and this government will be under the British Crown, and the British government will oversee Sri Lanka’s relations with other countries and some of the British Commonwealth countries, and will manage The governor-general has these powers after consulting the London government, who will have the right to enact foreign and defense legislation after consulting the London government as well. ”(The National Archives: These Documents is The Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, (DPBMG), 1945, p. 4).

Among the contents of the declaration also, that the drafting of a new constitution in accordance with the contents of the declaration will be subject to examination by holding a conference or forming a special committee for that matter, after the end of the war and achieving victory in it, because conditions do not allow now to harness some of the state ministries for this matter, and on Sri Lankan ministers formulate their proposals and review the lacunae of the Dungmuri constitution, and then come up with a new constitution (constitutional blueprint) that represents the aspirations of public opinion in the country, provided that three-quarters of the Council of State approve it (except for British officials and spokesperson for the council or the chairperson), and it is within the general guidelines that The announcement came in May 19 43, and this declaration, came from Her Majesty's government, in appreciation of the
war effort presented by Sri Lanka, managed by the Council of Ministers
and State Council (D.P.B.M.G., 1945, p. 4-5)

On June 8, 1943, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sinanayake admitted that
the May 1943 announcement was a major gain, but at the same time (on
behalf of the Cabinet) he submitted an inquiry about the content of some
points of the declaration, which needed interpretation from the British
government. However, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden said: “He
cannot get into details.” For their part, the Sri Lankan ministers asserted,
“They cannot continue to formulate their blueprint until they know
whether their interpretations of some of the declaration points are
acceptable or not.” The British Foreign Secretary replied to them, "The
declaration came with general principles, and entering to discuss details is
not appropriate at this time [means the time of World War II]," but he
assured them by saying: "He did not find a fundamental contradiction
between the explanations provided by the Sri Lankan ministers and some
points of the declaration." The Sri Lankan ministers considered this
answer to be a conviction of Sri Lankan interpretations. (D.P.B.M.G.,
1945, Pp. 28-29)

Nevertheless, on July 2, 1943, Andrew Caldicut (Governor General)
issued a clarification regarding the May 26, 1943 Declaration, stating that
there are three main points that this declaration will achieve, the first of
which is that the Dongmuri regime will be abandoned and things in Sri
Lanka will return to Westminster Law (Ismail, 2014, pp. 37-38), and
secondly, the British internal control over Sri Lanka will fall, as state
officials (most of whom are British) will be abandoned and the reserve
powers of the British ruler over Sri Lanka will be, and the Sri Lankan
government will be responsible for internal civil affairs, and thirdly, the
British government will retain the reserve powers of the crown The
British as the basis for British foreign control over Sri Lanka (K.M. De
Silva, 1981, Pp. 452 - 453) and in the establishment of the foregoing, the
President of the Council of State (Speaker of Parliament) on July 15,
1943 directed the ministers to proceed with the drafting of the new

The Sri Lankan ministers recognized the difficulty of three-quarters of the
members of the Council of State agreeing to their draft constitution, and
the issue of consensus was the obstacle that has always been opposed to
every stage of the reforms in their countries. Internal politics, and decided
to obtain official approval from the Sri Lankan Cabinet to draft the
constitution, to complete it formally and with everyone’s approval
(DPBMG, 1945, p. 29).

The issue of drafting that met most of the requirements of the May 1943
Declaration was a major challenge for Senanayake and the Sri Lankan
Council of Ministers, who formed a constitutional committee chaired by
Senanayake and the membership of his advisers (KM De Silva, 1981, P. 454). The committee completed its work in early February 1944, and sent a copy from the draft to the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, there was concern from some ministers about some of the draft articles on minorities in Sri Lanka (DPBMG, 1945, p. 29).

Senanayake's touches were clear in drafting most of the articles of the draft, and the speed of its completion is due to the fact that Senanayake did not invite any of the cabinet or state council, but he chaired the committee and the membership of his advisers, in which he made clear concessions to Sri Lankan minorities, and the issue of unilateral drafting was the most important criticism The Tamil minority and the British minorities with commercial interests in Sri Lanka (KM De Silva, 1981, Pp. 454 - 455), the Indian minority objected to the draft, because they had not consulted about their future, and declared that "the draft was only a document organized by Sri Lankan ministers only" and affirmed " Most of the least Yat in Sri Lanka will not accept this draft "D.P.B.M.G., 1945, P. 29)

After they completed their mission, the Sri Lankan ministers led by Senanayake pressured the British authorities to obtain formal approval of their draft constitution, and emphasized that the country's internal conditions need a speedy decision, because no further extension of Council of State members can be granted for a second term, because it is not acceptable For public opinion, and thus elections should be held in early 1945 in accordance with the new Sri Lankan constitution (DPBMG, 1945, p. 29). It is clear from this, that Senanayake and his companions wanted to use the conditions that Britain was going through during the war, to obtain more concessions on the issue of national independence.

While in the British House of Commons, Anthony Eden (British Foreign Secretary) confirmed on July 15, 1944 that "the recent request of the Sri Lankan ministers is contrary to what was stated in the May 1943 Declaration, which is certain that after victory is achieved in war, the draft constitution will be examined by holding a conference Or send a committee to find out and explain the draft articles. " Accordingly, the British government decided to form a committee to study the draft ministers, and to meet with some minority representatives in Sri Lanka, and likely to visit Sri Lanka at the end of 1944, thereby extending the life of the Council of State, perhaps for another two years (D.P.B.M.G., 1945, p. 30).

The Sri Lankan ministers strongly objected to the decision to form the committee and expand its work, and they confirmed that this matter is contrary to what was stated in the May 1943 announcement, and it renounced the approval of the British Foreign Secretary regarding his approval of the explanations provided by the Sri Lankan Cabinet at the
time, which emphasized that there is no fundamental contradiction between The Sri Lankan ministers understood the declaration and the points of the announcement, and the ministers requested that the committee's mission be confined to examining the draft without considering the issue of minorities, because the approval of three-quarters of the members of the Council of State would be enough to protect minorities. However, the ministers realized that their protest did not help before the British government's decision to send the committee to Sri Lanka (D.P.B.M.G., 1945, pp. 30-31). Perhaps Senanayake and his colleagues rejected the decision to consider the issue of minorities, because they feared that Britain would take advantage of this issue to delay granting independence to Sri Lanka, and the pretext of protecting minorities to put obstacles in the way of independence, and perhaps bringing them up to the level of repudiation of some of the implications of the May 1943 Declaration.

3. Solbury Committee and Approval of the Free Sri Lanka Law (1944-1945)

Indeed, the formation of the committee was officially announced on July 5, 1944, chaired by Lord Herwald Ramsbotham Soulbury and the membership of Sir Frederick Rees, President of the University of Southern Wales and Sir Frederick Burrows (later Governor of Bengal) Island Newspaper. (Aryadasa Ratnasinghe, 2004), the committee was known as the “Solbury Committee” in relation to the name of its president, which was charged with the task of visiting Sri Lanka and studying the proposed draft constitution and interviewing some minority leaders living in Sri Lanka, to find out their position on the draft (KM De Silva, 1981, p. 455. It is clear that the British authorities wanted to provide protection to the crisis for minorities before they were granted Independence for Sri Lanka, to ensure that power from the Sri Lankan (Sinhalese) majority is not abused against them.

As a result, on September 11, 1944, Senanayake and the Sri Lankan Cabinet officially announced the withdrawal of their draft, D.P.B.M.G., 1945, pp. 30-31)), and boycotting the sessions of the Solbury Committee, and if they do not attend the public sessions that the committee will hold, it is possible through intermediaries, and they refused to submit the draft constitution to the (K.M. De Silva, 1981, Pp.455 - 456).

In order to legalize this draft, Susantha de Fonseka moved in November 1944 to a movement within the Council of State to approve the draft, and this project was known as the "Free Sri Lanka Draft Law" (Newspapers Daily News, A Resolution for Reconciliation , 2016).
The committee arrived in Sri Lanka on December 22, 1944, and despite the complaint about it, Senanayake had some discussions with her commissioners, and some of them escorted to some parts of Sri Lanka, which led to Lord Solbury's assistance. Senanayake's assistance to the committee was a step to correct the relationship Friendly Between The British Government And Sri Lankan Cabinet (Rukman Senanayake, 2017). Some of the ministers held private meetings with commissioners, as only honor guests, and Senanayake assured that he would publish the draft constitution in due course. Despite the boycott, the committee started its work and confirmed that it came to know the aspirations of minorities in Sri Lanka, and the extent to which these aspirations coincide with the proposed draft constitution through several rounds that its commissioners in the country K.M. De) Silva, 1981, Pp.455 - 456)

Meanwhile, the Free Sri Lanka Bill was formally presented at the State Council meeting on January 19, 1945 (Newspapers Daily News, A Resolution for Reconciliation, 2016)), for its first reading, then it was read for the second time on February 6 of the same year, and at the meeting that It was held by the State Council on the 16th of the same month and after a long discussion, this draft was initially passed on the condition that some necessary amendments be made to it, after which it will be formally voted on, and after making the amendments, the vote was taken on March 22 of the same year. Island Newspaper, Aryadasa (Ratnasinghe, 2004) As 40 (41) members voted on it, (7), three of these seven reject the project, and they are absent. J voting Hansard, 1945, P.1414)). Clearly, the leaders of the national movement in Sri Lanka wanted to embarrass Britain after they formally ratified their constitution on the grounds that this step is legal, and represents the aspirations of most of the Sri Lankan people, and it cannot be undone, in addition, they wanted to influence the work of the committee and its decisions, and perhaps abort its work He rejected its results.

Meanwhile, in April 1945, the Council of State approved by a large majority (in the presence of some minority representatives) a resolution calling for the transfer of power to Sri Lanka, which framed the constitution on the lines of sovereignty and the immediate transfer of it, as representing the true desire of the Sri Lankan people, and in it they pledged to preserve Britain's interests in As far as the defense issue is concerned, provided that an agreement is concluded between the two sides in this regard, and in the event of British ratification of the Sri Lanka Bill, Sri Lanka affairs should be transferred from the Ministry of Colonies to the Dominion Affairs Department D.PBMG, 1945, p. 4)). After the Solbury Committee completed its work and submitted its report in early July 1945 to the British government, the latter formed on July 11
of the same year a ministerial committee headed by the Minister of Finance, and the membership of both the President of the Trade Council and Minister of Production and Minister of State for India and Minister of State for Colonial Affairs and Minister of State for War Affairs The Secretary of State for Air Force Affairs and the first Lord of the Deanship, to discuss the report, and take final recommendations thereon (D.BMG, 1945, pp. 97-98).

4. Senanayake mission to London and its results (July-September 1945)

In these circumstances, in July 1945, the British Colonial Secretary, Oliver Stanley, sent an official invitation to Senanayake to visit London. Events were moving at remarkable speed. He met Oliver Stanley on July 16, 1945, the first time the two sides met, and he promised to hand him a copy of the Solbury Committee report (K.M. De Silva, 1981, P. 456.). While Senanayake was in London, Governor-General Henry Monck on July 17, 1945 conveyed a message from the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs to the Council of State, in which the minister declared "that he has failed to persuade his government to agree to the Sri Lankan independence project." Which sparked strong reactions in the council, and George Edmund de Silva, Sri Lankan Minister of Health and Wijeyananda Dahanayaka, protested this refusal, and affirmed in it that this refusal represents a denial of the rights of the Sri Lankan people. In obtaining his freedom and deciding his own constitution, they submitted a request to dissolve the parliament, so that they could raise the independence bill during the upcoming elections, but their request was rejected by (24) votes in the council (Island Newspaper, Aryadasa Ratnasinghe, 2004).

On July 25 of the same year, the British Labor Party won the general elections in Britain, which means that it is difficult to find an immediate response from the new government regarding the report of the Solbury Committee K.M. De Silva, 1981, p. 456). After the formation of the British government on July 26, 1945 (Samuel Berlinski and Others, 2012, p. 89), Senanayake on August 9 of the same year met with George Henry Hall, the new Secretary of Colonial Affairs, who received a copy of the Solbury Committee report. In conjunction with important global events, the end of the war in the Far East with the tragic end of Japan, which postponed discussion of the report of the Solbury Committee, because the British Council at the time was preoccupied with the issue of establishing political and diplomatic sanctions against Japan (KMD De Silva, 1981, p. 456).).

Meanwhile, George Henry was briefed on the report of the Solbury Committee, which visited Sri Lanka in (December 1944 - April 1945),
and the most important thing in it, is that the government system in Sri Lanka was formed on the basis of the Dongmuri Constitution since 1931, which was formed from an executive branch. It is composed of seven committees, each of which is run by a Sri Lankan official with the rank of minister, and the Solbury Committee found that this system did not work, and should be changed by a system managed by a governor general with all the additional powers (emergency), which came in the May 1943 Declaration, and there will be a cabinet of ministers (It represents the executive branch) and a legislative council (parliament) consisting of two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Parliament. For women who are female, the first assembly consists of (101) members, 95 of whom are elected by universal suffrage, and the remainder (6) are nominated to represent minorities (especially Europeans and Burgers), who may fail to elect those who are represented in the elections, while the House of Lords is composed of (30) members, fifteen (15) of whom are elected by the House of Representatives, and the remainder (15) nominated by the Governor-General, which is similar to the British House of Lords in his functions, and under the new Sri Lankan constitution the powers of defense, foreign and financial affairs, communications and trade must be reserved. The transport affecting any part of the British Empire, should be made. The Constitution provided protection to minorities in Sri Lanka such as (Europeans, Tamil Ceylon, Tamil Indians, Muslims, Burgers), and a government services committee and a judicial services committee (albeit later) should be formed on the recommendation of the governor-general, in order to ensure full integrity in work (DPBMG, 1945, Pp. 1 - 2).

The report emphasized that all male adults are entitled to participate in the elections, and the issue of the participation of immigrants (most of them Indians) remains within the authority of the civil government in Sri Lanka, and a committee will be formed at the instigation of the Governor General to determine the new electoral districts (constituencies), and the Governor General will appoint the Prime Minister, Which in turn will carry both the defense and foreign portfolios as well, but legislation on defense, foreign affairs and currency issuance is exclusively the prerogative of the governor-general, and there must be a judicial authority represented by the chief and judges of the Supreme Court, who are appointed by the governor-general. The formation of the House of Lords will be one of the main guarantees for the protection of minorities in Sri Lanka, and an alternative to the proposal for a "balanced representation" or the so-called (50 x 50), which calls for reserving half of the seats in the Legislative Council (Parliament) for minorities, and half of the Cabinet also to them, and will be a matter of legislation. Laws pertaining to immigration to Sri Lanka are the prerogative of the London government.
and not the governor general. In its report, the commission noted that religious freedom is guaranteed to all without distinction between one group and another (D.P.B.M.G., 1945, pp. 2-4).

As the international situation changed, the view of Senanayake, who no longer accepted the position of Dominion for Sri Lanka and accepted the draft constitution, changed. He met the Minister of Colonies on August 16, 1945 and received a copy of the report of the Solbury Committee, and confirmed that they would meet as soon as possible after studying the proposals of the Solbury Committee. On 3 September 1945, the British Council of Ministers, who was busy discussing problems arising from the issue of Japan’s surrender, met on the sidelines of this meeting. Some instructions were issued to the Minister of Colonies, whether about Sri Lanka. Indeed, Hill met with Senanayake on September 4, 1945 (K.M.De Silva, 1981, p. 457). And in it, the latter reiterated its demand for the importance of granting sovereignty to Sri Lanka, and leaving the field of defense and foreign affairs under the administration of the British government, provided that this is done in accordance with an agreement between the two sides. But did he make clear to him that “the British government did not invite him to discuss the issue of independence, but rather invited him to discuss the proposals of the Solbury Committee, and that the time is not appropriate to grant any major constitutional progress” (D.P.B.M.G.,) 1945, p. 1), and informed him that “the British Council of Ministers officially confirmed that it does not literally abide by the proposals made by the Solbury Committee, but it is only a basis for discussion between the two sides.” Thus, Senanayake’s thinking changed, but he assured him that “the Sri Lankan Cabinet accepted the May 1943 Declaration as a basis For interim reforms to encourage them to increase the war effort in Sri Lanka, but the war is over, and there is no longer a willingness to move forward on the basis of what was stated in the Declaration of May 1943, and will press for the Dominion status for Sri Lanka ”(KMDe Silva, 1981, p. 457). Through this, it appears that the British government does not want to negotiate with Senanayake on the issue of independence only after studying the issue in detail and in all its aspects, at a time when Senanayake was pushing for its achievement in the fastest and simplest way, and this matter may be evident through the statements of both sides.

While Senanayake was in London, Colonial Ministry officials met on September 7 and 10 to conduct an exhaustive study of the report of the Solbury Committee, and they confirmed that they had produced a comprehensive project for constitutional reform in Sri Lanka, based on the assumption that "pending the granting of sovereign status to Sri Lanka by amending Westminster Law After the agreement on the issue of managing foreign affairs and defense between the United Kingdom and
Sri Lanka, a fully-sovereign autonomous government will be established. On September 11, 1945, the British Council affirmed that it would accept the report of the Solbury Committee as the basis for discussions with the Sri Lankans without committing to it in text, and a new constitution would be drafted for the country, and the Council refused to transfer Sri Lanka to the Dominion status immediately and directly (K.M. De Silva, 1981, P. 458). The Minister of Colonies conveyed these decisions to Sinanayake on September 17, 1945, who announced his desire to return to the homeland, and expressed disappointment that his main goal had not been achieved, but he affirmed, "The question of achieving self-government for Sri Lanka will not take long, and that he succeeded in Verbal promise from the British government to achieve this" (K.M. De Silva, 1981, P. 458).

5. White Paper Policy and Sri Lankan Attitude towards it (October - November 1945)

After the departure of Senanayake, the report of the Solbury Commission was published in Britain and Sri Lanka on October 9, 1945, and after the publication of the report, the Sri Lankan Cabinet clarified in a statement, in which it affirmed, "The declaration of May 1943 cannot be considered a convincing basis for drafting a new constitution for Sri Lanka, because it was issued during the war, And that it was approved by most of the ministers, whose aim was to raise the level of the war effort for Sri Lankans, and the justifications for its issuance were removed after the end of the war. "They demanded the issuance of a statement similar to what was issued in favor of Burma, transferring sovereignty to it, in appreciation of the war effort presented by the Sri Lankan people during the war. The Cabinet also objected There are some articles of the committee’s report, including that the planned House of Lords is unnecessary, undemocratic, and unnecessary, whereas the powers of the governor general according to the committee’s report will be established for a dual system (a dark system) in some matters, and this constitutes a practical difficulty in managing the affairs of the country, and the way to solve that it is to find an agreement between the British government and the government of Sri Lanka to suspend a group of these powers. As for the issue of protecting minorities, a proposal for “balanced representation” or what is called (50 × 50) calls for reserving half of the Legislative Council (Parliament) for minorities, and half of the cabinet as well, Unnecessarily under the formation of the House of Lords, who ed The Committee considered that it is one of the main means to protect minorities, and there is also no need for the Governor-General to retain some of his powers, which he claims were legislated to protect minorities, in addition to that, the balanced representation proposal was not
supported by all minorities in Sri Lanka, but only from Tamil (D.PBMG, 1945, Pp. 4-5).

Meanwhile, Hale assured the Colonial Affairs Committee of the British Council of Ministers on October 12, 1945 that "autonomy for Sri Lanka cannot be achieved before India and Burma, but it is necessary to support Senanayake, and it is possible to draft a new constitution for Sri Lanka according to some of what was stated in the report of the Committee Solbury, but after six years. " In keeping with this statement, Sir Henry Monck emphasized, "Her Majesty's government can only give an empty check to self-government after six years" (K.M.De Silva, 1981, P. 459)).

It is clear that these statements prove that the Minister of Colonies and the Governor of Sri Lanka repudiated most of the contents of the May 1943 Declaration, and their style changed after their victory in the Second World War and their need decreased for the Sri Lankan people.

To prevent the political landscape from stagnating and pushing forward, the British government presented a new statement on constitutional reform in Sri Lanka in October 1945, which was a vaccination between what was stated in the draft Sri Lankan ministers constitution and the proposals of the Solbury Committee with the amendments of the Colonial Affairs Committee of the British Council, and in it The British government confirmed that the difficulty arose when the ministers withdrew their draft in August 1944, because the ministers believed that the committee referred to in the May 1943 Declaration would be tasked with examining the conformity between the draft and the contents of the May 1943 Declaration only, while the British government considered this Draft from multiple angles, especially the issue of protecting minorities and their approval of them, and despite the withdrawal of ministers, the government went on to activate the work of the committee in September 1944, and published its report on October 9, 1945, and through the statement, she insisted that the time was not right to grant autonomy to Sri Lanka But it will assist it in achieving political and constitutional reform, so that the Sri Lankan government is able to assume its responsibilities within the British Commonwealth, and will review any decision issued by it, and the new Sri Lankan constitution will enter into force after six years, and it will be reviewed by British and Sri Lankan constitutional experts, and that the six-year period is an opportunity for Sri Lanka through which it can demonstrate its ability to take on new responsibilities and gain experience, and Sri Lanka will be managed during this period through the proposals of the Solbury Committee with some major amendments made to it (part of which was taken from the draft of the Sri Lankan Ministers) (D.P.B.M.G., 1945, p. 2).

Accordingly, the House of Lords will have a term of six years, one third of its members will retire in two years, then the second third will be
retired after four years, and then the last (third) third after six years, then the new constitution will be implemented. As for the powers of the Governor-General, instead of the recommendations of the Solbury Committee, which gave the governor-general the right to enact legislation on defense and foreign affairs, the right will be reserved to the British government after it is presented with an official request through the Council of State in Sri Lanka. In the event of an emergency, the Governor-General is entitled to use his powers without consulting the State Council in Sri Lanka. The communication process between the Government of Sri Lanka and the British Government will be through the Governor-General and Minister of State for Colonial Affairs. As for suspending the constitution, the British government has the right to suspend it only in case of an emergency. Regarding transport and communications, the government of Sri Lanka will be encouraged to establish and organize transport and internal and maritime transport affairs after informing the London government of every action it takes, and there will be a preference in transferring services to the Commonwealth countries. Acceptance of any constitutional proposals in the Sri Lankan State Council will be conditional upon the approval of three quarters of its members (D.P.B.M.G., 1945, Pp. 5-6).

In agreement with the Sri Lankan State Council, on October 17, 1945, the British authorities announced the extension of the Council of State session until March 1947, which was supposed to be dissolved before this time, but was extended; in line with the issue of constitutional reform in the country, on the basis of which it can issue instructions New Elections in Sri Lanka (Hansard, 1945, Pp. 1138 - 1139)).

As a result of the lack of interaction of the national movement in Sri Lanka with the last British declaration, Britain launched on October 31, 1945 its new policy towards Sri Lanka and called it "White Paper", through which it declared that "Her Majesty's government sympathizes with the will of the people. Sri Lanka is in progress towards the status of sovereignty, and it is eager to reach with them to that until the end, and this matter will be achieved through reaching a new constitution for the country, formulated according to the general guidelines proposed by the Solbury Committee and some of what was stated in the constitutional plan of the Sri Lankan ministers, and this matter will provide a practical basis for progress. The Constitutional in Sri Lanka. And the experience of working in Parliamentary institutions in the British Commonwealth, showed progress towards the status of sovereignty, by finding amendment to constitutions and concluding agreements, amending Westminster’s law was an advanced constitutional recognition better than the means by which they believed that they would achieve their independence, so the government’s hope The British is that the new constitution is acceptable
to the Sri Lankan people, and with insistence and action within a relatively short time period, the domino’s position will evolve, and the actual duration and specific time for that depends on the experience and expertise that will be gained through the application of the Sri Lankan people. In the articles of the new constitution, the British government is anxious that Sri Lanka will continue with the issue of progress towards the status of sovereignty, which depends on what the Sri Lankan people achieve in implementing and digesting the articles of the new constitution ”(Hansard, 1945, pp. 431-432). On the issue of citizenship in the country, the texts of the white paper confirmed that every citizen who lives in Sri Lanka for a period of five years is a Sri Lankan citizen, and whoever has not lived in it for five years, makes the necessary pledges that he will settle there permanently, and is also a Sri Lankan citizen and is entitled to His participation in the elections (Hansard, 1945, p. 2281).

After reviewing what was stated in the white paper, Senanayake moved within the State Council to mobilize its members to agree to it and told them: "Our move is to end the Dongmuri's constitution and its obligations, and put the capabilities of this country at the disposal of its people, which is a movement to end our political submission, and enable us to dedicate Ourselves to serve the people of this country, a movement to end our protracted constitutional disputes, and any member who votes in favor of this movement, means voting for the freedom and independence of Sri Lanka, and delighting everyone ”(Rukman Senanayake, 2017).

Indeed, Senanayake succeeded in his movement, and the Council of State approved by an overwhelming majority in the session held on November 8, 1945, by (51) votes in favor, (3) votes against the policy of the white paper, voted by (38) Sri Lankan members and (5) From Tamils, (3) Muslims, (4) Europeans and one from the burger, and Sri Lankan rejected one and two Indian Tamils, and the approval rate was higher than the proportion of three quarters (4/3), which was required to agree to the contents of the white paper and the drafting of the new constitution D .PBMG, 1945, p. 1)), as the percentage reached 95% of all voters (Rukman Senanayake, 2017).


After the Sri Lankan approval, the British government announced its satisfaction with the situation, and the role Senanayake had played in the council in order to achieve this, and announced its approval of the necessary steps needed to draft a new constitution, according to the white paper (DPBMG, 1945, p.1).
Based on the British paper's pledges regarding granting sovereignty to Sri Lanka and taking the necessary steps to rise to the rank of Dominion, the legal advisors of the British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin have prepared, with the assistance of British and Sri Lankan experts working in the Sri Lankan government such as Sir Barclay Nihill Sir Oliver Goonetilleke (final draft of the new Sri Lankan constitution, ratified by the British government on May 15, 1946 (Island Newspaper, Aryadasa Ratnasinghe, 2004).

After the British ratification, the new Sri Lankan constitution was published on the same day in the official government newspaper Ceylan, and its most important pillars were to confirm the replacement of the State Council in Sri Lanka with the "Parliament of Sri Lanka", and the British government would be represented by the Governor-General, and it would be formed from two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate, He has full power to draft laws that concern peace, and has the power to form a new government in Sri Lanka, but he has no right to pass laws against any minority or enact legislation that affects freedom of worship and religion, and will be formed a ministerial cabinet headed by the Prime Minister, who will assume full and direct responsibility In running government affairs, his government will be accountable to the Sri Lankan Parliament. The British Governor will be responsible for issues reserved for the British government, and he (the Governor General) has the right to issue some laws pertaining to defense affairs and foreign relations, or some specific matters, for example in the event that an ethnic group or religious minority is subjected to injustice from the Sri Lankan government, who has the right to raise this Prejudice or injustice about them. The British government has the right to issue laws relating to defense and foreign affairs, and it has the right to amend or repeal the Sri Lankan Constitution (Hansard, 1946, pp. 281-282)

On the same day, the British government congratulated the Sri Lankan people and their leaders on the occasion of the promulgation of the new constitution, which it described as a "great achievement", through which the Sri Lankan government revealed its potential and self-confidence, and demonstrated its cooperation with Britain and the Commonwealth countries in times of peace and war, and at the same time commended On the Solbury Committee and its work, I thanked Sri Lanka Prime Minister Sri Lanka, who had stayed for three months in London to present his proposals on the independence project, and looked forward and with great confidence to the future prosperity of the State of Sri Lanka under the new constitution. She hoped that the constitution would be acceptable to the Sri Lankan people, who would organize the Sri Lankan government during this transitional phase, and some of its articles could be amended
after the formation of the new Sri Lankan government (Hansard, 1946, pp. 281-282).

With the increasing coordination of the Sri Lankan national movement and the increase in its popularity that interacted with internal and external political events, Senanike announced on September 6, 1946 the formation of a new political party called the United National Party (Shiromi) (Abeyasinghe, 2018), and the party emerged as a result of integration The Ceylon National Congress Party and the Sinhala Party Maha Sabaha and some organizations that supported the policy of Sinanayake, and the number of its members on the day of its formation reached (205) members, and they elected on the same day the leader Senanayake as party leader, and ratified the party charter (Walter Wijenayake, 2009).

This establishment, in line with the circumstances of the stage in which the country was experiencing On the day of its founding, Senanayake asserted that “the party is based on democracy and reconciliation”, in which the Islamic, Tamil, and Sri Lankan consensus emerged, and he also said: “We must understand that we are a Sri Lankan nation, and the religious and public differences must be completely excluded. Or burgers or even Eurasians, we must think, then this is our home. Buddhists need Hindus, Muslims and Christians, and with their birth God bless this island. ” These statements have increased the popularity of Sinanayake among Sri Lankan society, with different religious and political affiliations (Shiromi Abeysinghe, 2018,).

In light of this constitutional progress for Sri Lanka and the important steps taken to grant independence to India and Burma, Leader Senanayake on March 22, 1947 delivered a letter to Arthur Creech Jones, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, in which he explained to him, "As he is the leader of the moderate party who will compete in the elections.” The upcoming parliamentarian, he is often embarrassed by the questions and inquiries presented by political opponents and some ministers to him, which confirm that the constitutional status of Sri Lanka is much less than its counterpart in India and Burma, "and stressed that there is a serious move from his political colleagues to obtain the same concessions that have been received With India and Burma, and if there is any deterioration in the political situation in Sri Lanka, the British authorities must prepare to take the necessary measures to do so, and pointed out that the main opposition to his moderate party is the Indian Congress (Congress) and the Communists, who recently won the elections of local trade unions (DPBMG). , 1947, p. 1). Certainly, Senanayake and his companions wanted to pressure again Britain by comparing the issue of independence to India and Burma, and investing that to obtain national independence in the best way.
He also emphasized in the message, that India's independence will put great pressure on Sri Lanka, especially in economic terms, as economic sanctions will be imposed on his country through the Indian Congress Party, and disturbances and strikes may be fueled, and the Sri Lankan government is seriously embarrassing, and therefore the British government Not wishing to intersect with India to protect Sri Lanka, the way to do so is to declare independence for Sri Lanka, so that it can resort to the United Nations (United Nations), to protect it from the potential Indian threat (DPBMG, 1947, Pp. 1-2).

In April 1947, Arthur Kreach confirmed, "The constitutional preparations in Sri Lanka are advanced and proceeding very well, and it is expected that the new parliament will hold its inaugural session in October of this year (1947)." In a call on April 29 of the same year between Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs and Governor-General Sir Henry Moore, the latter urged his government to take into account Senanayake's proposals, because the matter of defending the Commonwealth and its members would be content through it. For his part, the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs assured the Governor-General that Senanayake is facing public pressure to gain independence for Sri Lanka, and he is afraid of India, preferring to gain independence within the Commonwealth rather than being swallowed from India, and at the same time facing stinging criticism from his political opponents over The issue of constitutional progress lags behind its counterpart in India and Burma, despite continued loyalty and support from Sri Lanka to Britain during World War II. The Minister explained to the Governor-General that granting independence to Sri Lanka means preserving it within the Commonwealth and ensuring our vital defense therein, and proving the credibility of our policy before the countries of the world by emphasizing that our stated policy for the inhabitants of the colonies is sincere political and not just empty talk. The Governor General shared his opinion regarding the importance of adopting the Senanayake proposals, but assured him that before independence was granted, we must guarantee British defenses there, and that we were well-thought of Mr. Senanayake but we could not guarantee the policy of his predecessor (DPBMG, 1947, P. 1; Pp). .2 - 3)

To ensure the issue of defense, on April 29 of the same year, the Secretary of the Colonies sent a telegram to British Chiefs of Staff and some of its related departments, to find out the impact of Sri Lankan independence on the area of British defenses there (D.P.B.M.G., 1947, p.4).
In furtherance of the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, the Council of Colonial Affairs of the British Council of Ministers announced on May 1, 1947 its vision consistent with the steps put forward by the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs to grant independence to Sri Lanka (D.P.B.M.G., 1947, p.1).

After the arrival of the Minister’s telegram, the British Chiefs of Staff responded on May 5, 1947 to it with a report, in which they stressed the strategic importance of Sri Lanka in maintaining the security of the British air and naval defenses in particular, and of the Commonwealth countries in general, and their importance comes because it is one of the most important contact centers in the Indian Ocean region. It is a vital point of contact for Australia and the Far East, and is the center of our maritime intelligence organizations in countries close to the Indian Ocean. Therefore, any future war that requires us to use Sri Lanka as a base to secure these defenses and communications, and not to use it, deprives us of the main base. The rapid link between the island of Malta and Singapore, our control in the Indian Ocean region is greatly weakened, and our maritime contacts across the Indian Ocean and our airlines to Australia and the Far East will be seriously compromised (D.P.B.M.G., 1947, p.1).

On the basis of the foregoing, the defense requirements in Sri Lanka will be ensured by maintaining naval bases and air forces there, and providing the necessary means for that, and limited ground forces, as an organization to defend Sri Lanka, and to protect our transportation there, should be kept. As for the outbreak of war, it is necessary to intensify our presence there, and since the issue of Sri Lanka's independence is a matter of time and must be faced sooner or later, the issue of securing our defenses there must either be reserved for defense affairs for the benefit of the British government, or be negotiated through an agreement with The government of Sri Lanka, as a condition of independence, and granting unconditional independence is a dangerous adventure, and it cannot be accepted militarily (D.BBMG, 1947, pp.1-2).

And after the vision of the British government became clear, the goal of Senanayake was achieved before the new parliament elections to be held in (August - September 1947), especially after he pressed the British government to extract a precise statement regarding the achievement of sovereignty for Sri Lanka, especially after the British Cabinet announced on February 20 1947 about India’s independence decision, and the Indian subcontinent’s division into two parts (India and Pakistan), as well as Burma’s independence decision, and thus the way was clear for the Dominion Sri Lanka K.M. De Silva, 1981, p. 460)).

On the basis of the foregoing, the British House of Commons confirmed on June 18, 1947 that "the upcoming elections in Sri Lanka are arranged
on the basis of the provisions of the 1946 constitution, and the new Sri Lankan Parliament will meet in October 1947, and it is not possible to have a significant constitutional development before it receives the new Sri Lankan government." Officially, its responsibility is negotiated, and after that, a number of agreements are negotiated with it, and after its completion, steps will be taken to amend some articles of the constitution, so that Sri Lanka is granted full status of sovereignty within the British Commonwealth, and to avoid delay in starting negotiations on the agreements, the British government has directed its relevant institutions Li importance of starting preparatory work for the drafting of these agreements identified themes reserved only in the 1946 Constitution "(Hansard, 1947, Pp. 2015 - 2016).

With this government openness to the issue of Sri Lankan independence, Arthur Crichet was more receptive to Senanayake's request regarding converting Sri Lanka to Dominion status, and there was a clear understanding by many British politicians that moderates in Sri Lanka faced great pressure from left-wing organizations, and that converting Sri Lanka to Dominion’s position was The best means for their political safety. In a related context, the British government announced on July 18, 1947 that "Sri Lanka will have full responsibility within the British Commonwealth." Senanayake's proposals in September 1945 regarding independence negotiations and the defense and foreign agreements (K.M. Silva, 1981, p. 460) were accepted.

7. Parliamentary Elections and Prime Minister Senanayake Ascend to Prime Minister (August - October 1947)

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Parliamentary elections were held on August 23, 1947 and ended on September 21 of the same year (The Singapore Free Press Newspaper, 1947, p. 8), and most of the political parties and organizations in the country participated in it, as right-wing forces participated in it. (Such as the United National Party, the Tamil Congress, the Indian Ceylon Conference, independents, and socialist independents), and left-wing forces such as the Sama Samaj Trotskyite Party, Bolshevik Leninists, Communists, and the Labor Party. For the elections on September 23 in Colombo, which resulted in the victory of the United National Party (Senanayake party) with (42) seats, Sama party won (10) seats, the Bolshevik Leninist Party won (5) seats, and the Communists won (3) seats, and the Tamil Conference scored (7) seats, while the Indian Ceylon Conference has He won (6) seats, the independents controlled (18), while the socialist independents reserved (3) seats, and the Labor Party won one seat, bringing the total to (95) seats, its owners arrived by election, and the governor-general will be appointed (6) Other seats for minorities (Europeans and Burgers), bringing the total to 101,
which is the total number of the new Sri Lankan Parliament, and it is worth noting, he participated in these elections (160,694, 1) A vote of a total of (291, 309, 3) people was registered, while invalid electoral papers were counted with (356, 44) papers, (Singapore Free Press Newspaper, 1947, p. 8).

On the basis of its results, the United National Party became the largest party in the corridors of Parliament, and the leader of Senanayake had the support of most of its members, and based on this support (Rukman Senanayake, 2017), Governor-General commissioned Sir Henry Monk on Monday 25 September The leader of the parliamentary majority, Mr. Senanayake, has the task of forming his government and distributing cabinet portfolios to ministers (The Straits Times Newspaper, 1947, p. 1).

Two days later (September 27), Senanayake succeeded in forming a government composed of (14) ministers, and this government was a government of the Dominion State in the British Commonwealth, he assumed the prime minister, and assumed Solomon Bandaranaike (Ministry of Health and Home Affairs and the office of Parliament) George Edmund de Silva was appointed to the Ministry of Industry, Industrial Research and Fisheries, the Ministry of Transport and Labor was allocated to John Leonel Kotlawala, Junius Richard Jayawardene was appointed to the Ministry of Finance, and E.A Nugawela, the Ministry of Education, and Cathiravelu Sittampalam. Visit the Ministry of Post Communications, Dudley Shilton Senanayake was assigned to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land, and Appeyratne Ratnayake was appointed Minister of Food and Cooperative Development, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs was allocated to Tuan Branudeen Jayah, and the Ministry of Commerce was handed over to Chilabah Suntherlinghma and Dr. Chellappingther Sunal LA Rajpakse) and RSS Sunawardene as Minister without a Ministry, while Sir Oliver Gunetelick hand over to the Ministry of the Interior (The Singapore Free Press Newspaper, 1947, p. 8).

After the formation of the government, the Sri Lankan Parliament formally held its first session on October 15 of the same year, and its members elected Sir Alexander Francis Molmore (A.F. Molamure) speaking on behalf of Parliament (The Straits Times Newspaper, 1947, p. 3).

After this opening, several British officials on the same day sent letters of congratulations to the Sri Lankan people, including Colonel Clifton Brown, spokesman for the British House of Commons, and Lord Solbury, chair of the committee that had been dispatched to Sri Lanka in advance, Lord Harlech and Lord Bever Beaver Brook, Lord Brad Moore, Sir Herbert Stanley, Sir Andrew Caldecott, former Governor of Sri Lanka, Sir Drummond Shiels, Admiral Jeffrey Layton and Sir Frederick
Burrows, former Governor of Bengal, Sir Reid (T. Reid) Former Ias mayor of Colombo, and a member of the House of Commons on behalf of (The Singapore Free Press Newspaper, 1947, p. 8 British Labor Party).

8. Final negotiations and achieving national independence (November 1947 - February 1948)

After actually starting its work, the new government introduced the Sri Lanka Independence Act to the British House of Commons on November 13, 1947, and on December 3 of the same year, the defense agreement was presented to the Sri Lankan Parliament, and during the presentation, Senanayake said: "The agreement has become necessary not for any other reason, but rather Because of the obligations that Britain has undertaken in our interest, and in so doing, accepting this agreement means accepting the independence of Sri Lanka, moreover, it is necessary that we bear in our special interest the signing of the agreement to provide us with defense (Rukman Senanayake, 2017). This means that Sri Lankan independence was conditional on the acceptance of some agreements with Britain, the most important of which was the defense agreement.

On the following day (4 December 1947) three agreements were presented to the House of Commons in line with the Sri Lankan Independence Law, the first defense agreement, focused on the issue of defense and mutual assistance for external defense and repelling aggression, and protecting the necessary British communications, which allow the British government to use air and sea bases and military institutions There, provided the British government monitors and prosecutes its armed forces in Sri Lanka, an agreement necessary for both sides. As for the second agreement, it is the Foreign Affairs Agreement, which allowed Sri Lanka to establish foreign relations with the Commonwealth countries only. Sri Lanka will be represented in London by a Sri Lankan High Representative, and in return there will be a British High Representative to represent the London government in Sri Lanka. Whereas, the third agreement concerned British officers who worked in Sri Lanka, and through this agreement, they will be guaranteed their salaries, vacations and pension benefits, and they will be given financial compensation in case they want to retire from military service there (Hansard, 1947, pp.1205 - 1206).

On December 10, 1947, the House of Commons voted the Sri Lanka Independence Act without discussion or amendment (Malaya Tribune Newspaper, 1947, p. 1), and on 13 of that, the Sri Lankan Parliament ratified independence agreements (Rukman Senanayake, 2017), and signed the agreements in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, as British Governor Sir Henry Monk signed it on behalf of the British government,
and Prime Minister Senanayake signed it on behalf of his country's island (island Aryadasa Ratnasinghe, 2004).

After this signature, in the early hours of the morning of February 4, 1948, the bells of temples and churches in Sri Lanka rang, and the Sri Lankan people rang the drums to rejoice in Independence Day, got up from slavery sleep and woke up to the day of freedom and independence, the capital Colombo was decorated with decorative lights, and Sri Lankans flocked to it from all the areas to celebrate, this day is a national holiday in the country (The Sunday Times Magazine, 2014). The armed forces participated in Independence Day through its military parade and passage in front of the President’s platform, and school students highlighted some skills during the ceremony. In addition, most ministers, dignitaries, and members of the diplomatic corps attended, and Prime Minister Senanayake raised the national flag, which bears the image of the lion, and launched (21) A salutation to celebrate independence, Senanayake called on the Sri Lankan people to unite to solve the country's problems, so that independence could be real for the people at all levels (Chandani Kirinde, 2006).

Thus, Sri Lanka became an independent country after (148) years of submission to the British Crown as a "crown colony", but through constitutional development it reached independence, and it will take its real place among the Commonwealth countries (Malaya Tribune Newspaper, 1948, p. 4), and the use of the term "A colony" became known as the "Dominion State", Senanayake took office officially and legitimately, and became known as the "father of the nation" (Rukman Senanayake, 2017).

On the same day, Sir Henry Moore vacated his office as governor-general of the Sri Lanka colony, and he was sworn in as governor-general of Dominion of Sri Lanka, and Sir John Curtois Howard also swore an oath as president of the Sri Lanka Court (The Sunday Times Magazine, 2014). On the same day, the British House of Commons offered congratulations to members of the Sri Lankan Parliament, gifting a mace, chair and microphone to the Sri Lankan Parliament speaker as a gift on the occasion of independence (Island Newspaper, 2004). The members of the Sri Lankan Parliament decided that the first formal opening session of Parliament would be on February 10 of the same year, to exercise its legislative and oversight role in the country (Morning Tribune Newspaper, 1948, p. 2).
9. Discuss the results

- Political organizations in Sri Lanka developed after the Second World War (1939-1945), through the programs and goals that they set and demanded, so after they were demanding constitutional and political reform, they started demanding independence from Britain.

- The religious influence in the process of forming political organizations in Sri Lanka almost ended after the Second World War, and ideological parties, which were led by prominent political figures, appeared.

- The national movement in Sri Lanka (with the exception of some left-wing parties) stood by Britain in World War II without any restrictions or preconditions (unlike India).

- In spite of this position, the Winston Churchill (1940-1945) government did not deal positively with the demands of the national movement, and it was often prevailed and procrastinated in order to abort these demands, sometimes it sends committees and at other times invokes protection of minorities, to benefit from time. In her favor, after the war ended, she broke away from most of the promises and announcements that she made, especially the May 1943 Declaration, and announced that it could grant independence to Sri Lanka after six years.

- The British Labor Party government (1945) was more flexible and understood the political situation in the world, as she realized the size of the change that occurred in Sri Lanka after the war, so she wanted to preserve her interests in Sri Lanka, and if it granted her independence at the same time, and she succeeded in that, through Treaties to which the Sri Lankan government was bound, and incorporated into the British Commonwealth system.

- The year (1946) is considered one of the important years in the history of the national movement in Sri Lanka. In it, the new Sri Lankan constitution was approved, most of its sections were approved by the national movement, and it formed the main pillar of the new political system. In addition, the United National Party, which leads the independence movement led by Senanayake, was founded in 1946.

- The dominance of the United National Party took place in the political scene in Sri Lanka starting in 1947, as it won the elections of September 1947, and formed the first cabinet in its known form (and not in the form of executive committees like the previous one), and its leader Senanayake won the position of prime minister.
• The United National Party, through its leader Senanayake, has proven its ability to succeed in the independence negotiations, and has officially won the British recognition of this independence.
• The national movement achieved independence peacefully without entering into an armed war with Britain, and it is perhaps one of the rare cases in the Asian independence movements for a state to achieve its independence without entering even a single battle against the colonizer.
• Independence movements in India and Burma had an impact on Sri Lanka, as the latter often compared their future and linked their fate with their counterparts in India and Burma, and formed a pressure card on Britain.
• The independence struggle between Britain and Sri Lanka was confined only without witnessing interference from the United Nations or one of the poles of the Cold War (1945 - 1990), the United States of America or the Soviet Union.
• February 4, 1948 is the most important day in the history of the national movement, in which it officially declared independence and got rid of British control, which is an official holiday in which the Sri Lankan people celebrate every year.

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