



*Liberation Tigers
of Tamil Eelam*

Sri Lanka

History: background

- The Tamils are the ethnic group that lives in southern India and on Sri Lanka. Most Tamils live in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, and they comprise approximately 10-11% of the island's population. Their religion is Hindu.
- The majority of island's population are Sinhalese —members of a largely Buddhist, Sinhala-speaking ethnic group.
- During British rule there was balance between ethnic groups and Tamils perceived a preferential treatment. Soon after the gain of independence the situation changed.

- In the beginning of 1970s government endorsed law, which restricted the right of Tamil students to enter the universities + the publication of new Constitution in 1972, seen anti-Tamil radicalization of society.
- In 1972 two Tamil terrorist groups were created : the Tamil New Tigers (TNT) (leader Velupillai Prabhakaran) and Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO)
- In 1976 TNT was transformed into “Liberalization Tigers of Tamil Eelam”



- After the “ Black July “ of 1983 the organization moves to systematic hostilities against Sri Lankan authorities
- The combat operations were with varying success. In 1987 parts of five Indian divisions, the peacekeeping contingent, were introduced into Sri Lanka(withdrawn in 1990)



- Permanent fight during 1990s and early 2000s has led to the permanent cease-fire agreement of 2002 (an idea to transform Sri Lanka into federation)
- It failed in 2008, the army forces seized Kilinochchi (the administrative center of LTTE) in January 2009.
- The final offensive operation of army forces in mid-May was in April, 2009 and the LTTE leadership (including Prabhakaran) was killed. The victory over LTTE was declared on 19 of May.

Who enters Tamil Eelam ?



- Suffered from natural disasters or economic reforms and lost their properties;
- Offended and discriminated by the Sinhalese
- Those, who has not access to education, not to work

Gender aspect : 1/3 of the LTTE cadre comprised women

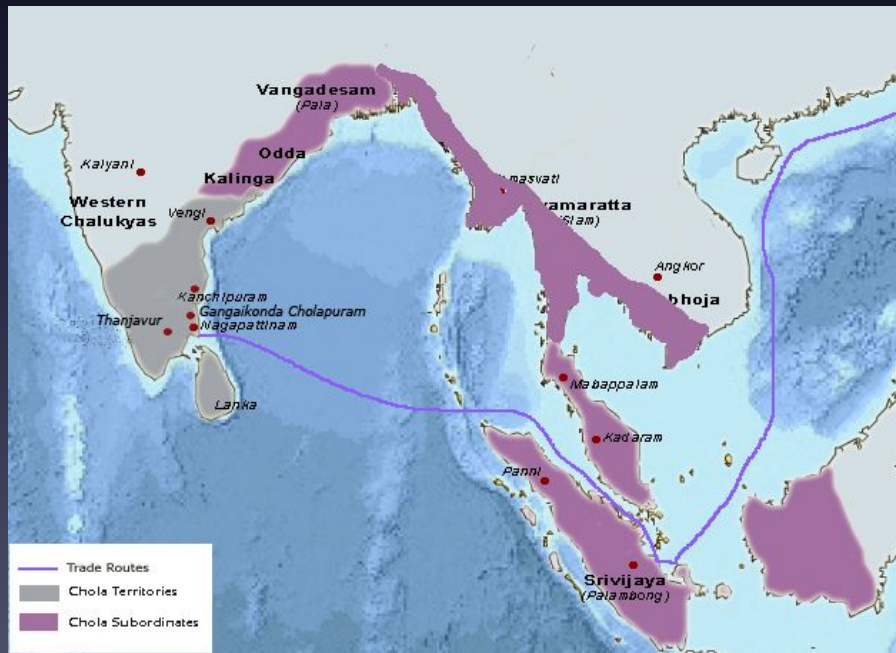
Age : As much as 60% of rebels were below 18 (from 9 to 18)

The number of adherents : 8000-10000: during war in 2000s the number grew up to 18 000



The myth

The history of independent Chola state in the south of India and north of Sri Lanka, known in 3 century ad. In the XI century Tamil medieval empire Chola manages to conquer the Sinhalese island kingdoms. Despite the losses, an independent Tamil state appeared on Jaffna peninsula. The tiger is the symbol of Chola dynasty.



Structure

Central Governing
Committee (CGM)

```
graph TD; CGM[Central Governing Committee (CGM)] --- Political[Political wing: It oversees civil administration, Manages its own international Secretariat]; CGM --- Military[Military wing: 'Charles Anthony Regiment', 'Black tigers' (suicide wing), 'Air tigers' (air-wing), 'Sea tigers' (naval wing), women's military wing. Units, dedicated to intelligence aims, arms procurement network and research and development];
```

Political wing:
It oversees civil administration
Manages its own international
Secretariat

Military wing:
"Charles Anthony Regiment"
"Black tigers" (suicide wing),
"Air tigers" (air-wing),
"Sea tigers" (naval wing),
women's military wing.
Units, dedicated to intelligence
aims, arms procurement
network and research and
development

The international support

- Most of the Tamil diaspora resides in Canada, the United Kingdom, and India.
- The LLTE international Secretariat is situated in London.
- Australia is being comparatively liberal on granting citizenship to migrants
- From August 1983 to May 1987 India supported LTTE, provided weaponry and training in Tamil-Nadu state.
- South Africa provided training bases till 1998
- It is believed that Tamils were trained with Palestine Liberation Organization

The financing of organization

Annual budget is around \$200--\$300 millions

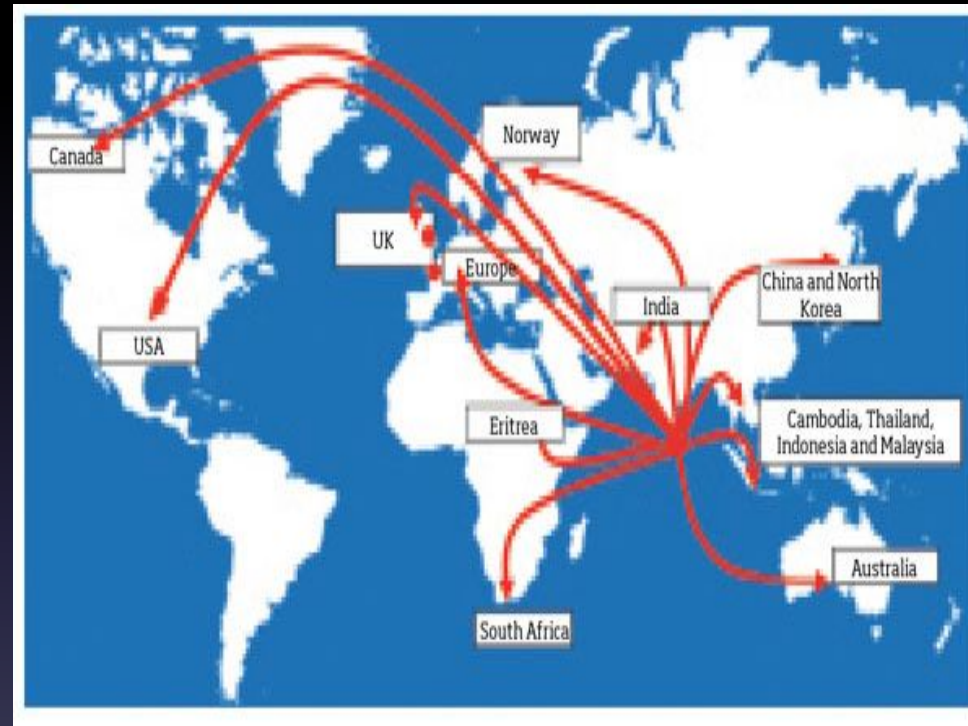
!) The majority of incomes comes from 6 external diasporas

2) Heroin trafficking from the early 1980s.

3) The extortion of Tamils, who live abroad.

4) The extortion of local Tamils –special fees in 10000 rupees +one family member for ‘Civil Defence Force’

5) Smuggling human cargoes



Aims and goals

LTTE aims to create a separate homeland for the Tamils known as the Tamil Eelam (State) in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka.



Tactics and methods

- Partisan warfare strategy that includes terrorism tactics for the destruction of infrastructure and for psychological and political coercion on the government
- Among methods are guerrilla warfare, intelligence collection and suicide attacks
- According to FBI, “Tigers” invented suicide belt and pioneered the use of women in suicide attacks. Has its own fleet and aviation.



The successes

- The majority of north-eastern territories were under the control of LTTE by 1985.
- May 1991 suicide terrorist assassinated a former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at a campaign rally in India
- May 1993 the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ranasinghe Premadasa, also was assassinated by a suicide bomber.
- July 1996, the seizure of camp in Mullaitivu (more than 1200 people were killed)
- 1997, the takeover of Stillus Limassul ship with weaponry for governmental army (valued 3 million dollars)

- July 2001, the attack on the Sri Lanka Air Force Base in Katanaike. As a result, fighter aircraft "Kfir", one front bomber Mig-27 (received from Ukraine), two multi-purpose helicopters Mi-17, three Chinese training aircraft K-8 and 4 Airbuses were destroyed.
- August 2005, assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar
- From 2007 LTTE began using aviation for their attacks



The losses

- In June 1987, the Sri Lankan army was one step away from defeating the LTTE: it managed to capture almost the entire Jaffna peninsula
- In the end of 1990s the "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam" were close to the disaster, but armistice's negotiations helped to escape the failure.
- After the break of cease-fire in 2008, LTTE began suffering defeats and the last stronghold -Mullaitivu city was taken by army on 25 January, 2009. The leadership of LTTE was abolished in mid-May.