

## **THE POLITICAL TIES BETWEEN THE JAFFNA KINGDOM AND THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

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Sri Lanka a multi ethnic country has the pride of being a country of continuous historical traditions due to the contribution of two major ethnic groups namely Sinhala and Tamil who have lived in the country since ancient times. The main reason behind prestige is the ethnic harmony maintained between these two ethnic groups. Hence, the interest in studying the struggle for dominance between the two ethnic groups from the historical records as ethnic conflicts is not shown in studies related to the ethnic cohesion between the two ethnic groups. Accordingly, even though the relationship was maintained from ancient days the medieval period is given significance. Smooth relationship was maintained between Jaffna Kingdom and the Southern Kingdoms. This tie builds up the historical trend of medieval history of Sri Lanka as a healthy one. In the history of medieval Sri Lanka, the kingdom that emerged in the North was called Jaffna Kingdom which originated in the 13th century AD with Nallur as the capitol. The Kingdom that emerged in the 13th century AD started to fall in the early 17th century AD. During this period the Kingdom in the South was weak and the capitals started moving towards the southwest. From the emergence to the decline of the Jaffna Kingdom, political relationships were maintained with the kingdoms of Yapahuwa, Kurunegala, Gampola, Kotte and Kandy. The relationship was sometimes a conflict of establishing political dominance over one another or a harmonious political relationship to support each other. The relationships between the two kingdoms was neither ethnic nor religious but are of political cohesion with harmony. This study is based on the historical approach and hence primary and secondary sources are used. The books that originated in the Jaffna Kingdom, books in Pali and Sinhala languages and documents from European writers, archaeological evidences like stone inscriptions, coins and ruins of buildings are used as primary sources. Research books and research articles on the subject are used as secondary sources for the study. The primary objective of this study is to unveil the political relationship maintained between the two kingdoms and to expose that the relationship was politically well maintained and that it was not based on ethnic or religious aspects.

**Keywords:** Kingdom, Political ties, Dominance