How The Nepalese Constitution Fuelled An Oil Crisis

By MICHAEL CHANDRASKAR

THE NINETY-NINE-Day-old parliament in Kathmandu was split between those supporting the new constitution and those opposing it. The opposition had been joined by the country's oil producers, and the government was being pressed to satisfy its demands. The government was divided. The opposition was divided. The country was in crisis.

The new constitution had been drafted by a constituent assembly and was based on the principles of federalism, democracy, and the rule of law. It had been approved by a majority of the people in a referendum. However, the oil producers felt that the new constitution had not adequately protected their interests, and they were demanding that the government compensate them for any losses they might incur.

The government was under pressure to satisfy the demands of the oil producers, but it was also under pressure to satisfy the demands of the opposition. The opposition was demanding that the government withdraw the new constitution and return to the status quo ante. The government was under pressure to do so, but it was also under pressure to stand firm and defend the new constitution.

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