

Research Report

Security Council

Addressing the territorial claim over the Kashmir region

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INTRODUCTION

The Kashmir region borders three of the most populated nations: Pakistan, India and China. Therefore, its location is of great strategic value, and there is a long history of disputes and conflict within the region. The region is also known as Jammu and Kashmir, but to simplify, this research report will address the region as Kashmir only.

To understand the reasons behind this issue, we must look at the origins of the conflict. These date back to the 1800s, when India was still under British rule. During this time of colonialism, poverty nearly doubled and the amount of deaths increased immensely, both due to more frequent famines and higher taxes combined with lower wages.

During this time, the country was divided in provinces and princely states. Provinces were governed by British officials and princely states by locals, who recognized the British rule while simultaneously remaining autonomous.

In 1947, after almost a century of tension between civilians and the British, there was finally an independent state. The problem that arose was that, though the British had hoped to create a united country, there was such a clear division between the Muslim and the Hindu and Sikh population that a partition seemed to be the only option.

Pakistan and India were formed, one nation for the Muslims and one for the Hindus and Sikhs. Provinces were divided by the British government, while princely states could decide for themselves. This led to a region neighboring both Pakistan and India, with a population of mostly Muslims under a Hindu monarch. For a while, the monarch attempted to remain a neutral status, but a Muslim-led rebellion with Pakistani support sparked a conflict. The local leaders turned to India for support, which it provided in exchange for Kashmir to join India.

The two nations clashed and this conflict caused the first (of four) Indo-Pakistani war. It was temporarily resolved with a ceasefire established in the United Nations Security Council in the beginning of 1949. The idea behind it was for both nations to leave the region, so a vote could be held to definitely resolve the conflict. Sadly, neither country followed the deal and the temporary border became an actual border, until a second war broke out, once again in Kashmir.

There would be two more wars; one was focused on East-Pakistan, a region within India that belonged to Pakistan. India helped rebels in the region fight the Pakistani regime until the region became a new country: Bangladesh. In the next decades, tensions increased and protests arose, which were met with a large military force. The Kashmir region became one of the most militarized regions in the world. The fourth war, also known as the Kargil war, took place while both countries were in the possession of nuclear weapons.

Though officially the countries had a ceasefire, violence remained present. There were several terrorist attacks committed by Pakistani militant groups in India in the 2000s, as well as there was the Indian military shooting at unarmed protesters in Kashmir.

To conclude, India and Pakistan are stuck in a cycle of violence, with the people living in Kashmir stuck in the middle. This research report aims to provide a clear and thorough overview of the issue, in order for the delegates to be able to debate and come to a solution beneficial to all.

Definitions of Key Terms

Monarch or Maharaja

A sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen, or emperor. In Britain this leader is called a monarch, but in both India and Pakistan it is also referred to as a Maharaja.

Province

A part of British India which was ruled by a British monarch.

Princely state

A part of British India which was ruled by local officials. These officials could rule (mostly) in accordance with their personal agenda, as long as the British governance remained recognized.

Colonialism

The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

British Raj

British raj, period of direct British rule over the Indian subcontinent from 1858 until the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947. Also referred to as the Crown or Direct rule in India.

The Partition

The division of territory between Pakistan and India after Britain left in 1947.

Line of Control

A line drawn between the Pakistani ruled parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Indian territory. This line is not legally recognized but is known as the de facto border.

General overview

In order to understand this issue, similar to many others, it is important and necessary to look at history first. A conflict causing over tens of thousands of deaths and leaving many millions of people displaced, one that has been going on since 1947, is clearly a humanitarian disaster. However, the roots of the issue are definitely so clear. It is important to study the history that created today's situation. Tensions in the Kashmir region have been high and have been low, but the conflict's presence and influence in the region are undeniable. It is of great importance to realize that the issue at hand is incredibly multi-faceted, and each layer is important to observe.

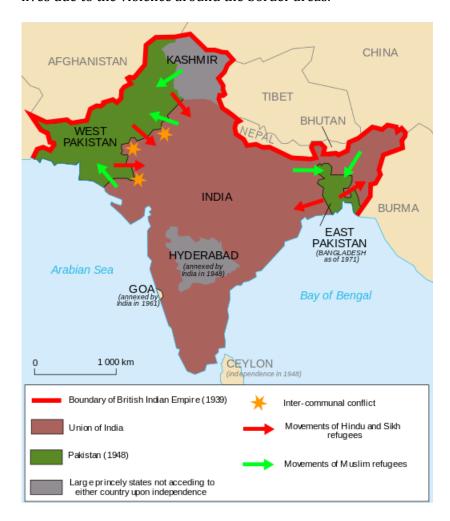
History up until the Partition

Looking back at the very beginning of the issue, as has been briefly addressed in the introduction already, we see India under British colonial rule. Since the 1600s, the British had been trading with India in a fairly peaceful manner. It was not until 1757 that the British started to seize parts of Indian land. This started after the Battle of Plassey, which was not so much a battle as merely a violent conflict. The British won, and this event marked the start of the Crown rule in India. Between 1770 and 1773, 10 million people died due to famine caused by the increased taxation.

After a large rebellion in 1857, the British took control over entire India in 1858. A British ruler was established and India was divided into a system with provinces and princely states. During this rule, Indians were educated on British customs, and Britain

discouraged cultural practices. What they did encourage was a divide between the Hindu and Muslim communities, which is part of the reason of today's conflict. During the World Wars, Indians contributed largely to the British armies, mostly involuntary.

This only increased the impatience and desire for independence, until in 1947 Britain left India. However, the amount of hate between Hindus and Sikhs and Muslims was so large and Britain's exit so messy and hasty that India was divided. Representatives of all communities came together and agreed on new borders, including the creation of Pakistan. In the image included underneath, the stream of migration and refugees is displayed. Pakistan was created for the Muslim population, while Hindus and Sikhs lived in India, as the population was largely divided across the country like that. Nevertheless, the number of refugees was still incredibly large, and up to two million people lost their lives due to the violence around the border areas.



Kashmir's independence

When the borders were drawn, provinces were divided by the British, but princely states decided on their own. The Partition was mostly based on religion, but in Kashmir the division was a bit more complicated. The region had a Hindu monarch but a Muslim population and would therefore go with either India or Pakistan. To stay in power, the monarch decided that Kashmir would remain neutral and not join either side. Pakistan however believed that because the population was Muslim, the region should belong to their territory, and during times of high tension, the monarch turned to India for political assistance.

The first Indo-Pakistani war

The Indo-Pakistani war of 1947-1948, or the first Indo-Pakistani war, also known as the First Kashmir War, was the first military conflict between the two nations after the Partition, as well as the first war over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Kashmir's geographical position had increased tensions, as both India and Pakistan bordered the region. In October 1947, not long after the Partition, tensions in the region were so high, fueled by the Maharaja's indecision and both countries' claims. When tensions finally escalated so much the involved parties clashed, the Pakistan Army supported tribal forces which combatted local militias, until the Maharaja requested India's support, in exchange for control of the Kashmir region.

India provided this support, which resulted in a full-scale war between the two nations, fought on Kashmiri land. The war drew victims from both sides, with thousands of deaths and wounded. Pakistani losses were greater though, and India emerged victorious, having gained larger territory.

The war ended on January 1st in 1949, with a United Nations ceasefire and a ceasefire border. The Indian side of the border is known as Jammu and Kashmir. At the time, both parties had agreed upon a referendum to decide upon whether or not Kashmir should really belong to India. However, this referendum has still not been held.

The second Indo-Pakistani war

After a ratification in 1954 and another constitution in 1957, India officially started to refer to Jammu and Kashmir is Indian territory. In 1962, tensions between India and China also rose, after a pre-existing territorial dispute in Tibet escalated. Part of this war was fought in a region located in Jammu and Kashmir, and a result was that India started to modernize its military. On the other side of the border, Pakistan and China resolved a border dispute through an increase in trade, making the two countries allies.

After this war, India and Pakistan, along with the UK and the USA, had a few talks on the disputed territory of Kashmir, but still no agreement was reached. The contents of this conversation are still not released, even after a journalist named Kuldeep Nayar's specific request. It does seem as though Pakistan agreed to a different method than a referendum and India admitted the dispute connected to the territory.

However, as the meeting is not fully disclosed, there may be some reasons not taken into consideration.

In 1964, Pakistan referred the issue of Kashmir to the Security Council, where a resolution was unanimously passed calling for the ceasing of hostilities in the region.

Sadly, a year later a new war started. This escalation followed fighting in a region named Rann of Kutch, which Pakistan booked a few successes in. After India's loss to China, Pakistan is said to have believed they could win fast military actions. This initiated Operation Gibraltar, which in turn led to the second war. Operation Gibraltar was supposed to be a sabotage mission in Kashmir, intended to turn the population against India. The operation was, however, a failure, and the war erupted in 1965.

After losses and intelligence mistakes on both sides, the war ended in a similar fashion with the UN Security Council passing a resolution calling for a cease-fire.

The third Indo-Pakistani War

After the 1970 Pakistani election, tensions ignited between East- and West-Pakistanis. This led to a violent conflict, resulting in a rebellious major in the Pakistani army

declaring the independence of the state of Bangladesh in what was formerly East-Pakistan.

In March 1971, India declared its full support of the rebellion and the newly formed state, and even offered shelter. After enhancing many diplomatic relations, freshly improved relations with Russia prevented China from engaging in the conflict.

India's support resulted in building tensions and increasing numbers of military bases near the Pakistani borders. In December 1971, after a Pakistani opening attack, the war was fought within two weeks and won by India. After Pakistan's surrender the state of Bangladesh was formally established, and the countries' would see a period of peace. This was especially certified after the Simla Agreement the year after, returning a portion of land to Pakistan.

Fourth Indo-Pakistani War

The fourth war, also known as the Kargil War, is the most recent and perhaps most interesting war. It took place during a time when both countries possessed nuclear weaponry and tensions were high.

From May to July 1999, the conflict between India and Pakistan took a new turn. The conflict started again with Pakistani militants infiltrating India, and India's intelligence finding out about this. Diplomatic conversations were held as the fighting went on under tough conditions.

Essentially, this war was not extremely different from any of the others looking at the background and the result. What is interesting to look at, though, is the role that nuclear warfare could have played. Considering that both nations had developed nuclear weaponry the year before this escalation, the ending could have been quite different than it is today. With not a lot of history with nuclear warfare, the conflict could have easily escalated, but both nations decided not to. Nevertheless, it is still important to recognize the threat and influence the weapons might have had during peace negotiations.

Though the influence might have decreased, it could still play a pivotal role.

Status quo

In 2019, part of India's constitution was amended. Article 370, which recognized Kashmir's special status and ensured its autonomous rights, was revoked. After this far-stretching political decision, Indian presence near the region increased as well, tensing relations with Pakistan again.

Two years later, though, in the beginning of 2021, India and Pakistan renew their ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control, which saw a period of peace again.

Underneath, a map of the Kashmir region is displayed. It portrays the division of the region and which parts are governed by which country in a concise yet thorough manner. Hopefully, the picture helps clarify the situation.

Kashmir's Geopolitical Divisions



The Kashmir region is still very disputed, and as a referendum is yet to be held, and information is missing, the future could result in anything. It is up to the delegates to ensure that the future is as peaceful as possible. Tensions between the two countries are still high, as the issue still has not been resolved. There is no long-term solution, only a temporary agreement trying to promise peace. India's interest in other parts of the region and Pakistan's desire to include Jammu and Kashmir in their territory are still present and do not seem to be easing soon. With the long history of tension over the region, the inhabitants are easily forgotten. It is incredibly important to remember there are still people at the root of this issue, and we are not simply debating a conflict between countries, but the lives of civilians.

Hopefully, this research report provides delegates with a concise yet thorough review of the issue, in order for them to properly investigate and represent their country's stance.

Major parties involved

Pakistan

Pakistan's involvement in the issue is not hard to understand. Neighboring the disputed territory and believing the Kashmiri population to be more in favor of Pakistan, the country still wants the region to belong withing its borders. The main reason for this is that the majority of Kashmiri are Muslim, very much like the Pakistani population. On the other hand, the Pakistani prime minister has announced his desire for peace with India.

India

India's involvement, much like Pakistan's, is easily comprehensible. Also neighboring the territory, India possesses control over a larger part of the region. As India's government has revealed multiple times that Pakistan supposedly supports rebels and helps fight the Indian control, it is hard for the countries to improve their relations. Despite this, India preserves the desire for peaceful relations with their neighbor, though Pakistan is often blamed for the missing talks.

China

After the conflict was limited to India and Pakistan for years, China has recently gotten more and more involved. After the Sino-Indian war in 1962, a long period of relative calm set in the Kashmir region disputed, with a small clash in 1967. However, recently there have been small clashes again between China and India, while China and Pakistan hold close diplomatic ties. China additionally criticized India's political decision of 2019 in the Security Council. The possible Chinese influence on the conflict in the near future is undeniable and necessary to consider.

IISA

USA's involvement in the conflict in the past has been military-related but has recently been more nuclear-focused. The USA strongly discourages the countries' use of nuclear weaponry and has imposed sanctions, which has taken a toll on diplomatic relations. Where in the past the USA has played a role in restoring peace, recently the country has been backing away from the conflict. This new policy might have an influence on new escalations.

ПK

As India used to be under UK's rule, one could argue that the UK is partially at fault for this conflict. At present, British diplomatic relations with India seem to be better than with Pakistan, which might lead to increased tension. Especially as, on the other hand, India believes the Britain to be favorably biased towards Pakistan in the conflict. Nevertheless, official statements express Britain's position that the issue is for India and Pakistan to resolve on their own, considering the people's wishes. The UK does not wish to be a mediator in this process.

Security Council

The Security Council has been used as a mediator on multiple occasions. Many parties involved have called for the Council's advice in order to force a settlement in moments where tensions were incredibly high and more than once the Council has resolved the issue (temporarily). The issue is presented again, and this time it is up to the delegates to resolve the problem.

Timeline of Key Events

1757 Britain starts to colonialize India

After the Battle of Plassey, the British started taking over small parts of India. The British East India Company began to gain more and more control.

1857 A great uprising takes place as India protests British rule

During the 1800s, the British began developing different legal systems, outlawing certain events of cultural significance, which held illegal status in the British kingdom beforehand. The Indian people, partially out of fear of being Christianized, mutinied.

1858-1947 Crown Rule

During these 89 years, India was under British rule. The country was divided into provinces and princely states.

1947-1948 First Indo-Pakistani War

After the British left India, leaving the Partition, tensions surrounding Kashmir rose for the first time, resulting in the First Indo-Pakistani War.

1954 and 1957 India's constitution is adjusted and Indian officials start referring to Jammu and Kashmir as Indian territory

This created a different atmosphere in the two countries' diplomatic relations, complicating further peace negotiations.

1962 Sino-Indian War

Leading up to the Second Indo-Pakistani War, India fought China in a more northern part of Kashmir. This did play a role in the events that took place building up to the Second Indo-Pakistani War, as has been described earlier in this research report.

1965 Second Indo-Pakistani War

After relations worsened once more, a new war erupted in Kashmir, fought in 1965, after the failure of Operation Gibraltar.

1970 Tensions in East-Pakistan increase after elections

During these elections, East-Pakistanis voted for a party advocating in favor of East-Pakistan's autonomy. This party was, however, stopped from assuming control. This became one of the primary reasons for the Bangladesh Liberation War.

1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and the Third Indo-Pakistani War

India showed a large amount of support for the East-Pakistani rebellious movement and the formation of the autonomous state of Bangladesh. The Third Indo-Pakistani War started, in part as a consequence of that.

1972 The Simla Agreement is accepted and a few decades of relative peace follow

The Simla Agreement is an agreement signed by both India and Pakistan, defining the Line of Control and increasing peaceful negotiations.

1999 The Kargil War takes place

Unlike the other Indo-Pakistani Wars, this one took place while both parties were in the possession of nuclear weaponry. As the countries still possess these weapons, it is important to ensure the risk is as minimized as possible.

2019 Article 370 is revoked

An Article in the Indian constitution, temporarily providing Jammu and Kashmir with a special autonomous status, is revoked, decreasing the dual rights of the region and increasing tensions again.

2021 The Ceasefire Agreement between India and Pakistan is renewed

An important agreement between India and Pakistan is renewed, ensuring both countries' recognition of the Line of Control, and providing more peaceful engagement between the two.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

There have been many attempts at solving the issue through talks, but not a lot of results have been reached. As has been stated in this research report, agreements only seem to help temporarily before the relevant parties clash again.

The Simla Agreement defined what was previously known as the ceasefire line as the Line of Control. There have been plenty of tense periods regarding the Line, but it is an attempt at a solution. As well as the Security Council having passed many resolutions as well, attempting to ease tensions. Examples are Resolution 47 and 211.

The issue with many attempted solutions is that they only ease tensions for a moment, and not in the long-term.

Possible solutions

The conflict is not one constant problem, but rather an intertwined history flaring up every few decades. It is important to realize the struggle both countries face and the role it plays in negotiations.

That being said, a possible solution could be to hold a referendum. However, in the case a referendum was to be held, it is important to ensure a way that the result of it will be respected by both parties.

Of course, conflicts should always be solved through dialogue and not fighting, but with only talking it will still be difficult to reach a solution. Both countries want something and are unlikely to walk away without it, so perhaps looking for other things to include in a trade would be a way to approach the issue with a new perspective.

Naturally, it is up to the delegates' discretion to implement these ideas in the debate. We encourage them to research their own country's stance and opinion as well, so the issue might finally be settled.

Further Readings

If, after reading this research report, delegates find themselves in a situation where they would feel aided with links to documents with more information on the issue in general, these will be provided underneath. Additionally, all information for this research report was found through the links in the bibliography, and they could also provide delegate with more specific information.

https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Indo-Pakistani Wars

This link provides a thorough assessment of the first three Indo-Pakistani War, along with the influences exercised by other countries, such as China and the USA, on the conflicts. Additionally, India's involvement in the Bangladesh Liberation War is described further. The article is especially appropriate for delegates wishing to learn more about the history of this issue.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/the-great-divide-books-dalrymple

The article found through this link describes the Partition in 1947 a bit clearer. It describes the events in the year 1947 in a very specific matter and could especially help delegates looking for more information about the root of this issue: the Partition.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/3/1/timeline-india-pakistan-relations

This link leads to a timeline of the issue, from 1947 to 2019. Indo-Pakistani relations are described in a concise but thorough manner, including almost all relevant details in a relatively shortly written manner. It is specifically helpful for time specific research and for delegates looking for shorter descriptions of important events.

https://newlinesinstitute.org/strategic-competition/china/china-joins-india-and-pakistan-in-the-kashmir-battlespace/

This article clarifies the Chinese presence in the Kashmir region, including when, why, how and where it started. For delegates interested in the Sino-Indian War this is the place to start looking.

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/pakistan-wants-peace-with-india-but-kashmir-remains-key-premier-kakar-tells-un-general-assembly/2998975

An example of the countries' desire for peace, but Kashmir's importance in talks is described in this article. Delegates looking to understand the tensions could begin here. The article does not go very deep but describes part of the issue relatively well.

A personal recommendation would be to also look for explanatory videos. During this time and age we have almost completely unlimited access to the internet and simple explanations of complex issues are fairly easy to find.

Hopefully this research report has provided delegates with enough information to know where to start their specific research. We wish you the best of luck and hope you look forward to the conference!

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