



## The Question of the Kashmir Conflict

Historical Security Council

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## Introduction

The Kashmir conflict has on multiple occasions been the main topic of conversation and argument in many different UN committees, and over the last centuries, few possible solutions have been proposed to resolve the crisis however none have shown to be effective in the long term. The origin of the conflict involves India and Pakistan which are bordered by each other and have an area of land in between them named Kashmir which has been the focal point of conflict between the 2 parties. When the former British dominated India became independent in August 1947, the "Great Divide" meant that the nation of Pakistan was created and was divided into two areas: West Pakistan and East Pakistan. However, the area of Kashmir remained independent from both countries and, therefore, became a target for both countries due to the major benefits it provides for both nations. This conflict more than any other is of the utmost seriousness as it opposes 3 of the most nuclear-armed nations with China playing a third-party role.

## Definition of Key Terms

### **Line of Control (LoC)**

The war between India and Pakistan from 1947-1948, was eventually put to a halt after a UN ceasefire which created a 740 km long, military-controlled line that separates the parts of Jammu and Kashmir that Pakistan controls and India.

### **PDP**

PDP stands for the People's Democratic Party of Jammu and Kashmir founded in 1999.

### **Insurgency**

Insurgency is when small scale armed rebellion goes against authorities and the government but are not impactful enough to cause an organized revolution.

### **UNSC**

The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution in 1948 to implement a ceasefire between Pakistan and India.

### **UNMOGIP**

The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan is a UN organization that aims at controlling any and all ceasefire violations. UNMOGIP was created through the Security Council passing Resolution 91 in 1951.



## General Overview

Jammu and Kashmir is an area bordered by three of the largest armies in the world: Pakistan, China and India and has been the centre of conflict between all these nations. Kashmir is only bordered by India and Pakistan and as of right now, it is part of the territory of Jammu and Kashmir that India conquered. In the past century, we have seen the conflict to oppose Pakistan and India and instead, China has played a third-party role. In 1947 the first Indo-Pakistani war broke out and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one occurred in 1965. In 1971, the third Indo-Pakistani war occurred however this was the only one of four to occur outside of Kashmir. This conflict occurred in East Pakistan which, due to the conflict, eventually became the now UN-recognized nation of Bangladesh. As a result, due to this major loss in Pakistani territory, Kashmir became of the utmost territorial importance. This quickly led to Kashmir becoming one of the most militarized places on earth as India and Pakistan both began sending tanks, troops and artillery. Over the years, the rise of Pakistani militant groups leads to the 4<sup>th</sup> war in 1999. Throughout the years, Kashmir civilians have been suppressed and unable to share their ideas and thoughts in resolving the conflict further spreading terror and destruction throughout the area. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1949, just 5 days before the first Indo-Pakistani war, Article 370 of the constitution of India was introduced. Article 370 aimed at giving Jammu and Kashmir a special status which would mean that citizens of Jammu and Kashmir had the possibility to have dual citizenship. Furthermore, Article 370 implies that Indian citizens would not be allowed to purchase land and/or properties from Jammu and Kashmir. However, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 article 370 was modified leading to a change in the status of Jammu and Kashmir. Nowadays, minor conflicts between the two parties and civilians of Kashmir continues, however current Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi stated that Jammu and Kashmir is a safe location for tourists which since has been proven to a certain extent as there has been zero crime record against tourists.

## Major Parties Involved

### India

India is one of the two major parties involved in the Kashmir conflict. Currently, India controls over 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Kashmir which is approximately 55% of the land. India believes that control over Kashmir is necessary for them as it holds major advantages. Strategically speaking Kashmir is very mountainous as a result it holds a great strategic advantage for India specifically Tiger King which was a disputed area between Pakistan and India during the Kargil war. Similarly, the Siachen Glacier was also an area that holds a heavy strategic advantage which India conquered through Operation Meghdoot (1984).



## Pakistan

Pakistan is the 2<sup>nd</sup> major party that is viciously fighting for ownership of Kashmir. Currently, Pakistan holds 35% of Kashmir which used to be much higher in 1947 when Pakistan decided to claim Kashmir a Pakistani territory. In between 1947 and the present day, India and Pakistan have opposed each other in four separate wars and one undeclared war however throughout the last 74 years, constant conflict and skirmishes have also occurred between these two parties with the sole purpose of gaining ownership of Kashmir. The main reason that Pakistan needs the land of Kashmir is simply for its major supply/sources of water. Pakistan and India are two major countries facing water shortages and poor water sanitation, as a result, having full territorial ownership of Kashmir would help Pakistan massively.

## China

China has played a major third-party role in the Kashmir conflict due to the border they hold with Kashmir and the 20% of Kashmir's land that is theirs. Since the 1960s, China has continuously emphasized their demand for a verbal agreement between their 2 neighbouring countries. In regards of the History of the country and its relationship with the 2 major parties involved in the Kashmir conflict, during the Cold war, India was a strong ally to Russia, China's main enemy. As a result, China engaged in a military alliance with Pakistan in 1962 and began advertising Kashmir as Pakistani territory. However, over the following years, China began retracting their bias and focused on making sure that India, Pakistan and the Kashmiris would eventually resolve the current ongoing conflict.

## Timeline of Key Events

October 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 1947	First Indo-Pakistani war in links to the territory and ownership of Jammu and Kashmir.
April 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1948	Resolution 47 was passed further impeding the withdrawal of Pakistani troops and India to reduce their military presence. This resolution was presented by India in the Security Council.
August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1959	The relationship between China and India escalates as China annexes Tibet and the question of the Indo-Tibetan border creates rising tensions.
April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 1965	Second Indo-Pakistani War.
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1971	Third Indo-Pakistani war occurs however this one occurs in East Pakistan. The war resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.
July 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1972	The Line of Control (LoC) is established between r areas of Pakistani controlled Jammu -Kashmir and India. The Shimla agreement helped create peace between India and Pakistan however this did not last.



- November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1976 Founder of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF),  
Muhammad Maqbool Bhat is arrested when returning to Kashmir.
- July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999 4th Indo-Pakistani war occurs.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Jammu and Kashmir's state of special status is removed as article  
370 is revoked.

## Previous attempts to resolve the issue

Over the last 74 years, The UN alongside nations such as China and The United States have tried to disperse the conflict and overall reduce the mass destruction that the Kashmir war is causing however nothing has seemed to work in the long term, for now. The UN in 1972 called upon India and Pakistan to engage in a ceasefire between areas bordering Pakistani controlled areas of Jammu-Kashmir and India. The UN also implemented the creation of the Line of Control (LoC) however this did not stop Pakistan and India from engaging in the Indo-Pakistani war in 1999. Furthermore, independent groups in Jammu and Kashmir decided it would be in Kashmir's best interest to make it an independent state which could be a way for India and Pakistan to both leave this conflict as equals as they would both have to retaliate all troops and control over Kashmiri land.

## Possible Solutions

Unfortunately, since both India and Pakistan believe that Kashmir is a necessity for their country to own it for various socio-economic reasons, it means that the idea of Kashmir becoming a completely independent state would most likely not be effective unless major trade/exchange deals are made in regards to, for example, export of Kashmir's water to Pakistan and/or to India. A possible idea for resolving the conflict would be with the inclusion of the 3 major parties involved (Pakistan, India and China) and representatives of the Kashmiri populations in order for them to still benefit from the resolutions made.

## Appendix/Appendices

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