



The ongoing Kashmir-conflict



SC

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Forum: Security Council

Issue: The ongoing Kashmir-conflict

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Abstract

This HMUN research report will dive into the multifaceted issue of the ongoing Kashmir-conflict exploring cultural grievances, socioeconomic factors and historical dynamics in the path towards finding a binding solution.

Introduction

To the committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is perhaps one of the most prominent of the six main organs of the United Nations. It is tasked with the permanent obligation of seeking international peace and security, extending to the point where the council is lawfully obligated to only discuss within these very foci during debate. This very mandate was first written in Article 24 of the UN Charter¹. The UNSC, more often referred to as the SC, also has the power to approve alterations to the UN Charter itself, affirming peacekeeping operations and enacting international sanctions. It is safe to say that the SC is the most prominent pillar of international peace and security within the international landscape. The institution was established in 1945 under the UN Charter. The SC holds a unique position, well-known for its authority to make decisions binding on all UN member states. This last aspect is often a matter of controversy.

The right to a veto vote, a defining feature within the SC, grants the five permanent members (P5)—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—a legal and political high ground in the international community. This right enables any of these nations to single-handedly block resolutions, underlining the balance between the importance of international decision making and national sovereignty.

¹ United Nations. "United Nations Charter." *United Nations*, 26 June 1945, www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text.

During the upcoming 78th session in mid-2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will choose five new SC members that will replace the 5 members that have already served a two-year term within the council. The current members of the SC, along with the P5, are Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. This means that neither India or Pakistan will be present at the table. Sadly, the HMUN secretariat has made the assessment that it would be a decent strategy to compose this council with the outdated members.

In the past 27 virtuous years Haarlem Model United Nations (HMUN) Security Council has been one of the most prominent and well-respected committees and therefore delegates are strongly urged to prepare thoroughly for the debate.

To the honorable presidency

The 2024 United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will be led by two first-rate and exceptional experts in the field. Pieter van Lelyveld and Toon van der Struijk have served many honorable positions in the last 5 years, ranging from organizational to presidential. With a combined track record of over 40 conferences, we will bring experience, wisdom and intelligence to the table.



Fig 1, Left to right: T. van der Struijk, our academic hero, P. van Lelyveld

Alongside our many great qualities we are also known for our enormous sense of modesty.

To the issue at hand

The issue at hand is taking place in the Jammu and Kashmir region, which is well known for the territorial dispute that has been taking place there for the last decennia. The people of India, Pakistan and the People's Republic of China (PRC) and a small part of Afghanistan have been the very victim of political and military geopolitical dispute. Much has been written and said about this issue and in order to fully grasp it and ultimately find a binding resolution one must really dive into the historical, political and cultural forces that have shaped the destiny of the region.

The fight about the region is rooted in 1947 after partitioning of British India. These two nations, Pakistan and India, were born on the same day and both became independent of British Empire. Both countries tried to establish the status of the Kashmir region, which they sought for

themselves. The beautiful valleys, pure lakes, and stunning mountains covered with snow of Jammu and Kashmir have over the years turned into a geopolitical conflict ground where the interests intertwine between India and Pakistan as well as the wishes of their own population. These are the very ingredients that serve the recipe for this conflict, the constant struggle between independence and governmental control.

This HMUN research report will investigate the conflicts in detail, revealing the political subtleties, historical grudges and socio-cultural dimensions. As great history is hidden behind the issue, the only available solution can come from deep understanding of both sides of the conflict. Therefore, delegates must remember to look upon this topic whilst prioritizing being unbiased. After all, it is essential to recognize the human features that form its essence – inestimable pain of those who call Kashmir their home.

Definition of Key Terms

BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party

Hindu-nationalist party in India. This party has a rich history of governance. Since 2014 the BJP has been the most prominent political party in India under the leadership of the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP is a right-wing party and aligns itself with Hindu nationalistic ideologies.² The BJP is very intertwined with the issue, with one of their campaign promises to get full control over the Kashmir region. In 2019 the BJP shocked the international community by announcing to revoke Article 370³ in the Indian Constitution by Modi's presidential order. This Article granted autonomy to the Jammu and Kashmir region, giving them their own constitution, flag and administration. This sovereignty was of uttermost important to the people of Kashmir. Article 370 also defined that the Jammu and Kashmiri inhabitants lived under a different set of laws but were still part of India. The BJP has received an enormous amount of backlash regarding this decision.

Plebiscite

The direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question such as a change in the constitution. Normally plebiscite refers to a referendum.

² *Bharatiya Janata Party*, www.bjp.org/. Accessed 8 Dec. 2023.

³ *Kashmir: The Effects of Revoking Article 370 - The House of Commons Library*, commonslibrary.parliament.uk/kashmir-the-effects-of-revoking-article-370/. Accessed 7 Dec. 2023.

Power Vacuum

A political term referring to the occurrence that takes place after decolonization, a power vacuum is defined by the attraction of various nations or states to a decolonized nation in order to instill presence and secure influence in the region before its development is completed. These nations are attracted by the political instability of the newly established nations. A power vacuum occurred in the Kashmir region when India was decolonized in 1947, which led to Pakistan taking control over Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in 1947, and later to China over Aksai Chin in 1962.

For those among the readers that have yet to acquire a basic understanding of the issue at hand, the secretariat has requested a set of examples within the rich history of international relations. Prominent examples are the aftermath of the assassination of Julius Ceaser, the well-known defeat of France in the 1870 Franco-Prussian war and a personal favorite: the 1876 Mexican Revolution after the so-called Porfiriato coined by the infamous Mexican historian Daniel Cosío Villegas.

Princely State

A state ruled by a prince, a monarch. In the Indian subcontinent, that included any of the states that were ruled by an Indian prince before the Indian Independence Act of 1947. These states were not directly ruled by the British but rather subject to the British crown.

Proxy War

A war where the two major parties do not fight in themselves. These states operate through a third party. Nations often resort to proxy warfare to avoid negative international reactions from allied nations, profitable trading partners, or intergovernmental organizations like the UNGA or UNSC.

Riparian Zone

The interface between land and a river or stream. In legal context it's often used to refer to a situation on the banks of a river.⁴

The Line of Control (LoC)

⁴ "Riparian Adjective - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes: Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com." Riparian Adjective - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com.
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/riparian>.

The Line of Control (LoC), formerly referred to as the Ceasefire Line before the Shimla Agreement, delineates the geographical boundary between the territories controlled by India and Pakistan in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The portion under Indian control is officially recognized as the state of Jammu and Kashmir, while the land administered by Pakistan comprises Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, previously termed the Northern Areas. The line was implemented on the 2nd of July 1972 in the Shimla Agreement. This agreement clearly states that "*neither side shall seek to alter it unilaterally, irrespective of mutual differences and legal interpretations*"⁵, along with that a UN Military Observer Group was established to uphold this agreement. It is crucial to note that the LoC functions as a de facto boundary and lacks legal recognition under international law.



Fig 2, A map of the LoC, India Today

General Overview

Geographical context

The Kashmir conflict takes place in a region marked by complex geographical issues. Located in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent, Kashmir borders India, Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. The Himalayas flowing through the region present natural barriers and strategic challenges. The rugged terrain and harsh weather conditions pose challenges in terms of access and security, especially in higher border areas. As said before the focus of the controversy is the Kashmir Valley, fenced by the Pir Panjal range and the Great Himalayas, setting the stage for this conflict. It is important to note that the 1972 LoC is a de facto border, but tensions remain till this very day, making Kashmir one of the most militarized regions in the world. Because Kashmir is right on a feared mountain borough the Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world, adds another factor to this conflict, showing strategic operations and control of key military positions. It is safe to say there has never been a conflict akin to the Kashmir conflict. River systems, especially the Indus, also play an important role, as Indus Strait emphasized in the Indus Water Treaty (1960). This 1960

⁵ "Conflict between India and Pakistan | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan.

treaty facilitated by the World Bank regulates the water-distribution within the region. The geography of Kashmir, with its challenging topography and strategic significance, underpins the complexities and enduring tensions in this protracted conflict.

The beginning of the conflict

The Kashmir conflict stemmed from violent incidents related to the partition of British India in 1947. With the independence of the subcontinent, Jammu and Kashmir, a princely state under Maharaja Hari Singh, became a focal point of controversy. The religious beliefs and ideals of the inhabitants of the region did not align with that of Maharaja. The violent nature of the British partition created an atmosphere of hostility and suspicion between India and Pakistan that affects their relationship to this day. The partition resulted in over 1 million deaths. In the face of Pakistan-sponsored tribal aggression, Maharaja Hari Singh sought military assistance from India in order to enter the newly created state. This led to the deployment of Indian troops and the beginning of the war.

1st Indo-Pakistan war (1947 - 1948)

1947 was the year when tribal invasion and internal conflict engulfed the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir to birth First Indo-Pakistani War or also referred to as First Kashmir War. Overwhelmed and unable to resist Maharaja sought military help from India. The help, however, was not free of strings; accession came with a provisional stipulation that required post-conflict referendum. Fighting in the conflict were volunteers from the National Conference and the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces as well as Pakistani tribesmen. Pakistan however became an official participant in the war that began May 1948, but the situation settled down when a binding ceasefire was officially pronounced on 31st of December of the same year. The outcome remained ambiguous, yet most scholars concur that India emerged triumphant – owners of the Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh constituting control over approximately two-thirds area. The United Nations invited for an independent referendum in the region after 1st Indo-Pakistan war but the vote was never casted within the UNGA.

2nd Indo-Pakistan war (1965)

The Second Indo-Pakistani war took shape as Pakistan launched “*Operation Gibraltar*”⁶ in a bid to invade Jammu and Kashmir and lead to local uprising against the Indian government. From 1965 on the United States and Soviet Union started to pay closer attention to this conflict, but sadly these states could not succeed in resolving the Kashmir issue. In August the Pakistani Army tried again to take Kashmir by force but failed. It turned out to be a 17-day war and more than thousands of people from both sides were killed in this fighting episode. Finally, the call for international intervention was heard and the United Nations made a ceasefire that stops hostilities and gives an international accent to the regional conflict.

3rd Indo-Pakistan war (1972)

1971 saw the third Indo-Pakistani conflict, during the Bangladesh Liberation War from December 3 to December Gradually trailed off. The first regional conflict in East Pakistan became a full-scale Indo-Pakistani war after India assisted the Bangladeshi separatists. This war was categorized by its sheer size, nearly a million soldiers were involved. The conflict

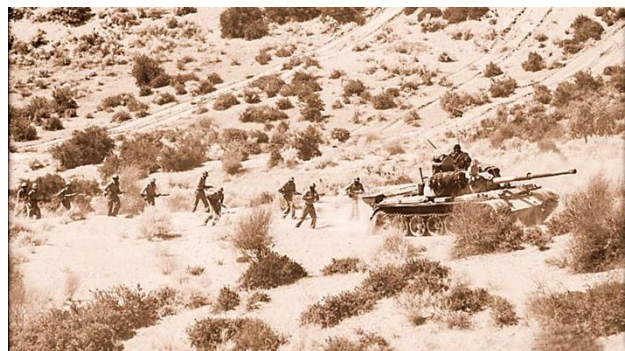


Fig 3, A picture from 1972, Indian Media Assc.

reached its peak when Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender – a written document that assured surrender of the Pakistani Armed Forces. 1971 was a historic year when this agreement led to formation of a new nation Bangladesh which used to be known as East Pakistan. The decisive Indian intervention in support of the Bangladeshi cause was also the critical pivot point that led to the establishment of an independent nation of Bangladesh and a thorough change in the geopolitical landscape of the Indian subcontinent. Just like previous conflicts India emerges victoriously on the Eastern front. India gained an immense 15,010 km² in the west, but returned it in 1972 under the Simla Agreement as a sign of goodwill. The third Indo-Pakistani war, therefore, forms a prominent chapter in the history of that region with lasting effects for the countries involved.

The rise of separatism

Increased separatism in Kashmir increased as different groups demanded autonomy or independence from Indian rule. Chief among these groups is the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), founded in 1977. Another influential group that advocated full autonomy for the

⁶ U.S. Department of State. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/india-pakistan-war>.

Kashmir Valley, Hizbul Mujahideen, in the 1980s particularly wanted Kashmir to be annexed to Pakistan. Different teams worked with different objectives, reflecting diversity within the broader divisional movement.

Pakistan's support for these separatist groups complicated the Kashmir conflict fairly. Islamabad provided material and moral support, fueling the insurgency. Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's intelligence agency, played a key role in aiding and abetting these groups, further exacerbating tensions in the region. This support included training, weapons and sanctuary, and it led to continued violence.

As the conflict progressed, extremists in the separatist movement turned to violent tactics targeting Indian security forces. The emergence of groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) signaled a shift towards a more militant ideology. Groups allegedly linked to transnational terrorism have escalated the conflict with guerrilla tactics, bombings and attacks on military bases. The nuclear crisis escalated over the Kashmir conflict because of the nuclear capabilities of India and Pakistan. The 1999 Kargil War, a limited battle fought in the highlands of Kargil district in Kashmir, highlighted the gravity of the situation. The possibility of nuclear power aroused international anxiety, prompting diplomatic intervention from the international community.

4th Indo-Pakistan war (1999)

The fourth Indo-Pakistani war in 1999 took place after immense heightened tensions in the already unstable Kashmir region. Many refer to this war as the War of Kargil. The violence continued, with the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001 acting as a bright spot. Alleged attacks by militant groups in Pakistan escalated the conflict and prompted India to mobilize its troops. In response to the prevailing situation, both countries engaged in a fierce military confrontation reminiscent of the Kargil conflict. The threat of nuclear proliferation was high, causing international concern. The United States, led by President Bill Clinton, played a key role in the escalation of the crisis, urging Pakistan to reduce and withdraw its troops and follow the Simla Agreement.⁷ Eventually, the ceasefire brought an end to this intense hostility. Despite the cessation of direct military intervention, underlying issues and historical grievances persisted, contributing to the conflict as a whole.

⁷ "Kargil War: All You Need to Know about Kargil War." The Economic Times, n.d. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/all-you-need-to-know-about-kargil-war/kargil-vijay-diwas/slideshow/59772216.cms>. Fareed, Rifat. "20 Years of Kargil War: India, Pakistan Remain Tense over Kashmir." India News | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, July 26, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/20-years-kargil-war-india-pakistan-remain-tense-kashmir-190725205420082.html>.

Ongoing political situation

The Kashmir conflict exists as a long-term issue, and India and Pakistan maintain their respective positions. The LoC remains heavily militarized and erratic incidents of violence, border clashes and militant activities are still being reported in the region. Efforts to reach a diplomatic resolution have met with difficulties, and between the two countries conversation is developing haphazardly. The region has seen changes in its politics, such as regime change, with the the government of India repealing Article 370⁸ and revoking the special autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir in March 2019. This announcement led to backlash from the UN, leading to the UNSC expressing its concern over the autonomy and sovereignty of the region. All over the world protesters advocate for a just and lasting solution respecting the rights and aspirations of the people of Kashmir. As said many times before: the well-being of the Kashmiri people should be the number one priority whilst solving this issue. To this day, the Kashmir conflict is a geopolitical challenge with enormous historical roots and the search for a lasting and binding solution remains a complex process.

The other side: what do the Kashmiris want?

What do the inhabitants of this region want? Their needs center around economic stability, job opportunities to combat the high unemployment rate, and a desire for freedom from pervasive military presence. The call for a referendum reflects the desire for self-determination and a democratic say in their political future. Additionally, a stabilized economy is vital for improved living standards. These aspirations collectively echo the Kashmiri people's quest for a better, more autonomous, and economically secure future.

Timeline of Key Events

Date

1849

Event

The Kashmir region came under British rule after the Second Sikh War. The British used this region as a buffer between their Indian territories and the Chinese and Russian empires.

1947

Partition of India from the British Empire.

⁸ "Article 370: What Happened with Kashmir and Why It Matters." BBC News. BBC, August 6, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-49234708> .

22nd October 1947	Pakistan-sponsored tribal militias invade Jammu and Kashmir.
31st December 1947	The UNSC intervenes, leading to a ceasefire.
21st April 1948	UN Security Council passes Resolution 47 ⁹ , calling for a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. It also calls on Pakistan to withdraw its troops and for India to lower their military presence.
1951	This year elections in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir result in favor of accession to India. India says this makes a referendum in the Kashmir region unnecessary. The UNSC and Pakistan state that a referendum needs to consider the views of voters throughout the former princely state.
1957	The constitution of the Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir now clearly states that it's part of India.
1962	China is now controlling part of north Kashmir, Aksai Chin, after winning a short war against India.
1965	Another short war between Pakistan and India results in the same ceasefire deal.
1971	Another Pakistani-India dispute began resulting in the creation of Bangladesh. With this conflict Pakistan lost its Eastern territories.
1972	The Simla Agreement was signed; the Kashmir ceasefire line is now referred to as the Line of Control. It is the basis for Pakistani-India relations henceforth.
1974	The Opposition Plebiscite Front in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir stop the demand for a referendum in the region, in return for autonomy in an agreement with the Indian government. At the same time Sheikh Abdullah becomes Chief Minister,

⁹ "Kashmir Profile - Timeline." *BBC News*. BBC, 21 July 2017. Web. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-16069078>>

	and later on his political dynasty will continue to dominate the National Conference.
1977	The Pakistani prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was arrested.
1984	The Indian military seizes control of the Siachen Glacier, this is an area not demarcated by the LoC.
1987	A disputed election resulted in a pro-independence insurgency centered around the organization Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). At the same time India accused Pakistan of surpassing the LoC with military forces.
1990	The Indian Army kills over 100 unarmed demonstrators in Gawakadal Bridge leading to India imposing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Jammu and Kashmir.
1998	Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill) was officially launched by the Indian army in Jammu and Kashmir.
1999	The War of Kargil.
13th December 2001	The Indian parliament was attacked. 9 civilians were killed, excluding the 5 attackers. This led to increased tensions, later resulting in the 2001-2002 India-Pakistan standoff with mass military mobilization on both sides.
2003	A ceasefire agreement was reached.
2010	Major protests erupt after the Indian military killed an unarmed protester.
2011	The Indian military kills three Pakistani soldiers in firing across the LoC. India accuses Pakistan of opening fire first.

2014	India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi accuses Pakistan of conducting a proxy war against India in Kashmir.
25th November 2014	The 2014 state election in Kashmir saw the highest voter turnout in 25 years. Indian authorities claimed that this was a vote of the Kashmiri people in favor of the democracy in India.
2016	Violent protests broke out in Kashmir following the killing of Burhan Muzaffar Wani. Ninety people were killed, and the Indian forces launched <i>Operation All-Out</i> . This resulted in curfews throughout Indian-administered Kashmir.
February 2019	The Indian parliament was attacked; forty people are killed. India responds with air strikes in the region.
5th August 2019	India revokes Jammu and Kashmir's special status by Presidential order by introducing the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act. This resulted in the region being locked down with over 600 people being detained.
June 2020	India and China clash over the border of Ladakh; twenty Indian soldiers die. This happened again later in 2022.
2022	Indian authorities permanently closed the Kashmir Press Club as many refer to as a persistent crackdown on journalistic freedom within the nation.
2022	Indian prime minister Narendra Modi visited Jammu, repeating his promises to deliver economic investment and development in the region.
2023	Freedom House ranked the Indian-administrated Jammu and Kashmir as "not free" with a 27/100 score. ¹⁰

¹⁰ "Indian Kashmir: Freedom in the World 2023 Country Report." *Freedom House*, freedomhouse.org/country/indian-kashmir/freedom-world/2023. Accessed 11 Dec. 2023.

2023

The Indian and Pakistani Foreign Ministers clash over the Kashmir conflict at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. The region is still heavily mobilized and militarized, and the Kashmiris are still fearing a two-front war in the region.

11th December 2023

The Supreme Court ruled for local elections and the revoking of Article 370.

30th September 2024

The Supreme Court of India orders that local elections regarding autonomy shall be held on the date.

Major Parties Involved

India

Currently, India claims that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Republic of India and strives to incorporate this region into national fabric. India also accuses Pakistan of the instigation of civil war to destroy India's international reputation in Kashmir and reaffirms its peaceful position in the region.

Recent events suggest that India is trying actively to control Kashmir, positioning it as part and parcel of the rest of the nation.

Besides the action of India, the violation of human rights by Indian troops in Kashmir has been condemned by many human right organizations and NGOs. India questions the

Line of Control (LoC), saying that Aksai Chin is actually part of Kashmir, making it even more complicated in regard to whose piece of land this indeed is. India's approach to the Kashmir conflict includes diplomatic activities, internal development initiatives, and ways of addressing allegations of rights abuses all while preserving its position on Kashmir being a state under Indian union.

11th December 2023 was the time when the Indian Supreme Court gave orders that in 2024 there shall be local elections in Kashmir. 5 Supreme Court judges also supported Government's decision to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, declaring that Article 370 was only a stop-gap arrangement. BJP's Modi described it as *"a beacon of hope, a promise of a brighter future"*. While



Fig 4, A picture of the Indian Supreme Court, Indian Press A.

the former president of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (JKPDP) Mehbooba Mufti commented on this ruling with saying *"The people of J&K are not going to lose hope or give up. We shall go on fighting for our honour and dignity anyway. This doesn't mean the end of the road for us,"*

This can also be seen as another turning point in the conflict overall.

Pakistan

This nation keeps stable claims over Jammu and Kashmir by referring its Islamic majority, Pakistan proposed a Pakistani rule would bless the interest of Kashmiri people. Many Pakistanis defend the so-called *'two nation theory,'* arguing that Kashmir should join with Pakistan because India has failed to resolve socioeconomic and humanitarian issues, most notably by its refusal to undertake a plebiscitary process giving the people of Kashmir an opportunity to choose their own state. This decision has received massive backlash due to its undemocratic rhetoric.

The *'two-nation theory'* suggests that Muslims and Hindus should live in separate nations, justifying the need to form a distinct nation of Pakistan for Muslim citizens. Pakistan strongly condemns India for disinterest in the plebiscite, which is a method that was introduced by the United Nations for Kashmiri self-determination. Pakistan contends that India's inactivity on this particular issue demonstrates its lack of regard for the will of Kashmiri people.

Secondly, Pakistan goes against the leader Maharaja as an unpopular despotic ruler who ruled over his people using force. These claims serve as the basis of Pakistan's narrative in the Kashmir conflict, pursuing historical grudges and religious debates to justify its position on region.

The People's Republic of China (PRC)

The PRC lays claim to the Aksai Chin area in the North and thus considers it as an important part of Chinese territory. The Tibetan insurgence added to the already frosty diplomacy between China and Indian Jammu and Kashmir. Although a UN-sponsored ceasefire stopped hostilities between India and China, no peace treaty has been concluded in the region of Jammu and Kashmir, preserving a diplomatic conflict with it. This creates a growing fear of two-front wars with China and Pakistan. After the India's decision to revoke Article 370 China's Foreign Ministry came forward calling for a peaceful solution in accordance with the UN Charter.¹¹ The Chinese claims over Aksai

¹¹ "After Supreme Court Order, China Reiterates Position on Kashmir." *The Wire*, thewire.in/world/after-supreme-court-order-china-reiterates-position-on-kashmir. Accessed 14 Jan. 2024.

China is still a large factor in the ongoing geopolitical tension in regards to the Kashmir conflict.

Past attempts at solving the issue

Here are some relevant resolutions, treaties and agreements that have attempted to solve the issue.

- UNSCR 38 (1948), *called for the first ceasefire within the region right after First Kashmir war*
- UNSCR 39 (1948), *similar to UNSCR 38 it aimed at securing peace*
- UNSCR 47 (1948), *this resolution called for plebiscite within the region*
- UNCIP Resolution (1949), *the establishment of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) in order to implement UN resolution and mediate discussions*
- UNSCR 1172 (1998), *condemns nuclear tests within the region*
- Shimla Agreement (1972)¹², *peace agreement signed after the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971*
- The Dixon Plan (1950)¹³, *calls for a sovereign administration to control Jammu and Kashmir made by UN Rep. Sir Owen Dixon. The plan failed miserably.*
- Establishment of UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer Group in India & Pakistan)¹⁴, *this one kind of speaks for itself but I was asked to elaborate by the Secretariat: An establishment made in 1949 by the UN to supervise ceasefires within the region.*
- The Tashkent Declaration (1966)¹⁵, *after the Indo-Pakistani war of 1965 the Pakistani and Indian presidents signed this declaration restoring economic and diplomatic ties.*

¹² "Kashmir Issue Should Be Resolved through UN Resolutions, Shimla Agreement: China to Pakistan - Times of India." The Times of India, n.d. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/kashmir-issue-should-be-resolved-through-un-resolutions-shimla-agreement-china-to-pakistan/articleshow/70610618.cms> .

¹³ The Dixon Plan, n.d. <https://frontline.thehindu.com/static/html/fl1921/stories/20021025002508200.htm>. Facebook. "Scanning The Dixon Plan." Insights, n.d. <http://insightskashmir.blogspot.com/2015/02/scanning-dixon-plan.html>.

¹⁴ "Background." UNMOGIP, July 5, 2017. <https://unmogip.unmissions.org/background>.

¹⁵ "MEA: Statements : Bilateral/Multilateral Documents." Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, n.d. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/5993/Tashkent+Declaration>. Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Tashkent Agreement." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., n.d. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Tashkent-Agreement>.

Possible Solutions

A long and complex story, the Kashmir conflict has defied resolution for decades, touching the lives of millions and creating geopolitical conflict. Many possible solutions have been proposed, but finding a lasting solution which, requires a delicate balance of political, economic and human rights. One approach involves diplomatic dialogue between India and Pakistan, which are key stakeholders. Resuming and maintaining meaningful dialogue can pave the way for things to build trust and mutual understanding. Engaging in open and transparent dialogue can help address historical grievances and territorial disputes that fuel conflict. International mediation has been proposed as an alternative solution. It can facilitate normal negotiations with neutral persons or international organizations, under a framework acceptable to both countries. Historically, involved in Kashmir, the UN plays a providing role improvement in facilitating negotiations and managing potential alliances.

The key to a comprehensive solution is to meet the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The right to self-determination, as emphasized in UN resolutions, can be recognized through a fair and transparent referendum. Allowing the people of Kashmir to express their political aspirations democratically would help in achieving a lasting and just solution. Economic growth and regional integration hold promise. Investing in regional economic prosperity can alleviate socio-economic challenges, create opportunities for communities, and reduce the appeal of conservative ideologies. Cross-border projects, cooperation in trade, tourism and cultural exchange in 2014 could generate goodwill and build trust between India and Pakistan. Finally, any solution must be inclusive, respecting the diversity of perspectives in the field. This requires engagement with human rights, including addressing allegations of rights violations, and genuine efforts to reach consensus. The road to resolution is challenging, but a more peaceful and stable future for the region is not out of reach, focusing on political will, international cooperation and the well-being of the Kashmiri people.