



Security council

Topic 2: The Kashmir issue

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1. Introduction

The Kashmir region, also known as Jammu and Kashmir, is a piece of land shared by India and Pakistan. Both States are nuclear powers and claim the region for themselves. This issue has been a source of tension and conflict between these countries for more than 70 years, as three wars have been fought, and due to the lack of a permanent solution it is not unlikely



that the tensions will not decrease, but rather remain stable or even escalate in the years to come, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

2. Definition of key terms

Kashmir: Kashmir is a disputed region in northern India (north east of Pakistan) which is divided in three sectors: the biggest one, controlled by India, the northwestern one, controlled by Pakistan and the northeastern one, controlled by China. It is one of the most militarized areas in the world, with a population is of 12.55 million, 68% of whom are muslim, and with a further 28,4% identifying as Hindu. This region is known to have beautiful lakes and valleys.

Maharaja: 'Great ruler' or 'king' in Indian.

Pashtun tribesmen: Pashtun tribesmen are an ethnic group native to South Asia, who share a common history and culture, living in Afghanistan, where they are the majority, and in Pakistan, where their main hub is Peshawar.

Pogrom: An organized massacre of large group of people because of their ethnicity or religion.

Aksai Chin: the section of the Kashmir region controlled by China, which considers it to be part of the Xinjiang region.

Azad Kashmir: the section of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan

3. Major parties involved

The three main countries involved in this dispute are Pakistan, India and China.

○ Pakistan:

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the sixth most populated country in the world with 212.7 million people. Its capital is Islamabad, the official language is Urdu and the State religion is Islam, which is practised by 96% of its inhabitants. Roughly 30% of Kashmiri land is under Pakistani control. Although it has experienced an economic growth, the country's international reputation crumbled after Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden was found and killed by the US military, with strong suspicions that Pakistan may have been harboring terrorists.



- **India:**

The Republic of India is a country in South Asia. It is the second most populated region in the world with 1.339 billion people, the official language is Hindi, while the most practised religions are Hinduism (80%), and Islam (14%). India's capital is New Delhi, and it is currently governed by the right wing Hindu nationalist BJP party, whose initiative to exclude muslims from the illegal migrants eligible for citizenship purely on the basis of their religion has sparked outrage and protests. India controls the biggest part of Kashmir.

- **China:**

The People's Republic of China is the most populated country in the world, with 1.3 billion people. Its capital is Beijing, the official language is Mandarin and it is one of the most industrialized countries in the world, on its way to become one of its biggest economies. China is also involved in this dispute because it controls a part of Kashmir: Aksai Chin.

4. Timeline of events (background information)

In 1947 India and Pakistan, formerly part of the British Raj, became independent. The process began with the British Government leaving India, and dividing the country into two different States. The northwestern and northeastern areas, the ones with a muslim majority formed the State of Pakistan. On the contrary, the areas with a Hindu and Sikh majority formed modern India.

This partition caused major migrations because of the different religious backgrounds, causing the death of 200000 to 2 million people. Families would leave their homes with almost nothing and travel for days, many women were raped, while children were kidnapped.

Kashmir is one of the northernmost regions in the Indian subcontinent, bordering both India and Pakistan. When England left the ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, was given the choice of either opting for independence or joining one of the two States.

Kashmir has a Muslim majority and many cultural aspects resembled those of Pakistan, therefore, at the time, the State of Pakistan considered Kashmir to be a prolongation of its own territory. Pakistan tried to persuade the King of Kashmir to join their cause, but he decided to remain independent.

Maharaja Hari Singh, kept the region independent for over two months, but because of a muslim revolution in the west and the intervention of Pashtun tribesmen, he was forced to take a different stance. In October of 1947, Kashmir signed an “Instrument of Accession” to India. As a result, Pakistan intervened claiming that Kashmir was part of its own territory, while india defended the validity of the annexation. This triggered a war between the two countries, which is regarded as the beginning of the Kashmir conflict.



In April 1948 the UNSC passed Resolution 47 urging a ceasefire, asked the two countries to reduce the presence of armed forces to a minimum and drew a line of control that split Kashmir into two regions. The western part was controlled by Pakistan, while India retained control on the eastern one. When the ceasefire was enacted in January 1949, both States had failed at demilitarizing the zone, having however increased the troops in the region.

Owen Dixon, the successor of the UNCIP (United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan), proposed to set up a plebiscite to determine whether the Valley of Kashmir would have belonged to India or to Pakistan. This was known as the “Dixon Plan”. Jammu and Ladakh were in favor of India, while Azad Kashmir and other northern areas were in favour of Pakistan which left the Valley in a very unstable position. Neither India nor Pakistan agreed to this plan so it was never implemented.

In 1950 Pakistan called for the UNSC to intervene as India had added troops to the Indo-Pakistan border, accusing them of violating the ceasefire. On the other hand, India accused Pakistan for warfare propaganda and passed Article 370.



China also borders Kashmir and has always had some interest in this conflict, as it wanted a passageway to connect India to Tibet. In 1962 it declared war on China, seeking the annexation of Aksai Chin, the north eastern part of Kashmir. China won the war and succeeded in taking control of it.

In 1965 Pakistan launched Operation Gibraltar. The goal was to send troops to Jammu and Kashmir, which was against the Indian rule. India responded by directly attacking Pakistan. This war lasted 17 days and ended with a cease-fire called by the United Nations. This war was fought mostly in Kashmir but also in the borders of India and Pakistan.

The 1971 Bangladesh Genocide, a crackdown on Bengali nationalist sentiments, was the main cause of the War of Independence, which resulted in the secession of East Pakistan from its western counterpart.



That same year, the Third Indo-Pakistan war began when both troops found each other in the border of West Pakistan and India. The brief war ended when the Chief commander of the Pakistan army signed an Instrument of Surrender. This was the third and last war in the Indo-Pakistan border. Pakistan had suffered a lot that year with these two wars.

During the 1980s, an increased presence of the Indian Army in Kashmir caused the uprising of militias trying to resist its control, and the conflict between the insurgents and the Indian government escalated up until the mid 1990s.

Both countries were proclaimed to have nuclear weapons in 1999, and were at the same time on the verge of having another war because of the attempt of Pakistan to attack India.

In 2007, it was stated that 800 people died in Kashmir for the aggression from soldiers, and although the tension persisted, with protests and elections which reshaped Kashmir and several skirmishes and standoffs between India and Pakistan, there were however some accomplishments that happened during this century. In 2005 travelling by bus between the two regions was allowed, and in 2008 commerce between the two countries was initiated for the first time since 1947.

The latest standoff occurred in February 2019, when a suicide bomber caused the death of over 40 Indian soldiers, and a series of preemptive airstrikes led to the capture of an Indian



pilot, which was taken prisoner and then released after two very tense days. That same year, the Article 370 was abrogated.

To this day, India's part of Kashmir had over 600,000 troops deployed, and tensions have not been solved yet, making it the most militarized zone on Earth. India has 55% of the land with 70% of the population, Pakistan controls 30% of the land and the remaining 5% is under Chinese jurisdiction.

○ **Timeline:**

- 1947- India and Pakistan become independent
- 1947- Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession
- 1947- First Indo-Pakistani war
- 1948- UNSC passes Resolution 47
- 1949- End of the First Indo-Pakistani war
- 1954- Article 370 is enforced
- 1962- Sino-Indian war for Aksai Chin
- 1965- Operation Gibraltar
- 1965- Second Indo-Pakistani war
- 1971- Pakistani civil war
- 1971 - Third Indo-Pakistani war
- 1999- Both countries are verified to have nuclear weapons
- 2005- Travel by bus between the two countries is allowed
- 2007- 800 people killed by soldiers
- 2008 - Commerce between the two countries is allowed
- 2019 - India repeals Article 370



5. UN involvements

Throughout the years, the UN Security Council has had more than 20 meetings about the India-Pakistan question.

These are the resolutions passed by the UNSC since the dispute as begun:

- Resolution 38 (resolve the dispute over the region of Kashmir)
- Resolution 39 (both countries agree to the cease-fire)
- Resolution 47 (Restore peace under the region of Kashmir)
- Resolution 51 (Accomplish the duties of Resolution 47)
- Resolution 80 (Demilitarization of the Kashmir region)
- Resolution 91 (Extent of the Demilitarization Zone)
- Resolution 98 (Remain in Cease Fire)
- Resolution 122: (Kashmir could not constitute a solution)
- Resolution 209 (Call upon an immediate ceasefire and return to their sides of the region)
- Resolution 307: (Maintain the Cease Fire line)

6. Official documents and treaties about this issue

- **The Indus water treaty:**

This treaty involved the use of water in Pakistan from the rivers of India. This treaty was initiated by the World Bank. It was signed by the Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the President of Pakistan Auyb Khan on the 16th of November in 1960. The water given to Pakistan came from 3 main rivers in West India: Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum. However, sharing these rivers was complicated since Pakistan received more water than India. To this day, there were no wars about this topic. Most disputes about this issue have been solved thanks to diplomacy.

- **Article 370:**



This article states that Jammu and Kashmir is a Region administered by India as a state. This article was enforced from 1954 to October of 2019. Until 1954, Kashmir was a semi autonomous State, able to create its own laws and non residents were prevented to buy property. Narendra Modi, the leader of the nationalist party Bharatiya Janata Party. Vowed to revoke Article 370. Later that year, the promise was fulfilled and article 370 was repealed.

○ **Instrument of Accession:**

It's a legal document signed in Delhi by the ruler of Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh in 1947, who stated to accede to the Dominion of India, and was one of the main causes of the First Indo-Pakistani War.

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