

Committee: GA4: Special Political & Decolonization

Agenda Item: The question of Kashmir

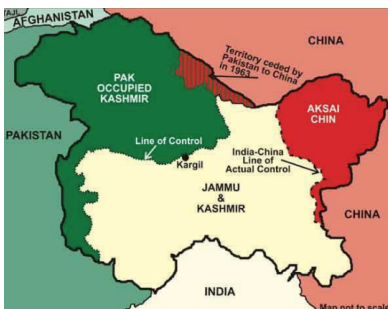
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Introduction

The question of Kashmir is currently the oldest unresolved international conflict in the world. It is a mountainous region bordered by Pakistan to the west, India to the south and east, and China to the north; three nuclear powers that no one wishes to see go to war. Constant tensions between India and Pakistan have conflicted Kashmir. Currently, Kashmir has become a sanctuary for extremist groups. The local population's lives are at stake since India has over 500,000 soldiers stationed. The origins of this started back in 1947 when the British left India resulting in its partition into India and Pakistan.

The former provinces and princely states were given an ultimatum. Most chose based on the preferences or political leanings of their rulers, but in the case of Kashmir, it was different. Kashmir and Jammu sat right on the border. Most people there were Muslim, but a Hindu king ruled and wanted to stay independent. When conflict broke out, the king joined India in search of aid from their army. It was agreed that people in Kashmir would get to vote to decide where they wanted to stay. The UN stepped in around 1948 stating there should be a vote, yet it never happened. Hence the issue is still unresolved. China wasn't involved initially until about 15 years later. India and China fought over their border in 1962. China took over Aksai Chin, a mountain area. India never agreed and still believes it's under their sovereignty. Then, in 1963, Pakistan

granted China another part of Kashmir, called the Trans-Karakoram Tract, to improve their relationship with them. According to India this was wrong given that Pakistan didn't have the right to give away that land. These incidents ultimately led to over seven decades of fighting.



Definition of Key Terms

Instrument of Accession (IoA): The Instrument of Accession (IoA) is a legal document executed by Maharaja Hari Singh, the then ruler of the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir, on October 26, 1947, declaring that the state accedes to India. The IoA gave India's Parliament the power to legislate in respect of Jammu and Kashmir only on the matters of defence, external affairs and communications. Apart from defence, communications and external affairs, the IoA mentions ancillary subjects that include elections to the dominion legislature and offences against laws with respect to any of the said matters.

Princely States: A princely state was a nominally independent part of the British Indian Empire ruled by an Indian ruler instead of the British. Princely states had one thing in common, they acknowledged the importance of the British Crown. They only had the freedom the British gave them, and the dominant power treated them like feudatory or inferior states.

Plebiscite: A plebiscite is a direct vote by a region's residents to determine a significant political issue, like which nation they want to be a part of. In the context of Kashmir, the word refers to the proposed referendum that would give the residents of Jammu and Kashmir the option of joining either Pakistan or India.



Line of Control (LoC): The Line of Control is a de facto (in practice) boundary separating the Indian and Pakistani armies in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The LoC came into being after the 1972 Simla Agreement and is a bilaterally agreed military line and not a legally recognised border. The LoC demarcates the points to identify Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and India's Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The Union Territory of Ladakh was created after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government. Before 2019, Ladakh was a part of Jammu and Kashmir.

Asymmetric Warfare: Asymmetric warfare is a type of conflict in which the opposing forces differ significantly in military power and capabilities, forcing the weaker side to rely on unconventional tactics such as guerrilla warfare, insurgency, and terrorism rather than direct confrontation. In the Kashmir context, this describes Pakistan's strategy of using non-state actors and militant groups to challenge India's superior conventional military strength, a doctrine often referred to as "bleeding India through a thousand cuts."

Insurgency: An insurgency is a national movement, uprising, or rebellion with the objective of overthrowing the government. For instance, Pakistan launched an insurgency in the 1990s by deploying its recently established militias to fight the local Indian administration in Kashmir.

Operation Gibraltar: Operation Gibraltar was a covert military operation. The operation was launched by Pakistan in 1965. The goal of the operation was to incite a rebellion. The rebellion was against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistani soldiers. The soldiers were disguised as Kashmiri locals. The soldiers were sent across the border. The border was into Indian-administered Kashmir. However, the operation failed due to several factors. The failure of the operation led to the outbreak of the India - Pakistan War of 1965.

The Line of Actual Control: The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is a demarcation line in the state of Jammu and Kashmir that was created after the 1962 Sino-Indian war and separates the region controlled by India from the region controlled by China.

Power Vacuum: A common 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. Under this definition, a power vacuum occurred in Kashmir when India was decolonized in 1947, which led Pakistan to take control over Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in 1947, and later to China over Aksai Chin in 1962.

Major Actors Involved

India

India is obviously one of the nations at odds over the Kashmir issue. A resolution outlining the conditions of the ceasefire between India and Pakistan was passed in 1949 following UN mediation. The disputed regions that were formerly known as terra nullius, a Latin phrase that means "land belonging to no one", were given to India as part of this agreement. Consequently, it complicated the already controversial position of Kashmir and worsened the territorial conflict between the two nations. Additionally, although it only has control over a portion of Kashmir, India asserts its sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir by the Instrument of Accession (IoA). Following British colonization, it became independent. India accuses Pakistan of supporting terrorist groups to defend its militarization of Kashmir and the Line of Control. Until Pakistan ceases to sponsor terrorism, India refuses to engage in talks. India has entirely militarized Kashmir and controls more area than Pakistan. Since Kashmir is governed by a Hindu ruler, India has helped the state by supplying the resources or military protection it needs in order to prevent Pakistan from attacking.

Pakistan

Regarding the situation in Kashmir, Pakistan has a more aggressive goal than India. From Pakistan's point of view, Kashmir should be fully under Pakistani administration, let alone be a part of Pakistan, given the majority of its population is Muslim.

Pakistan has gone to great lengths to initiate several operations against India in an effort to take back the state. They have also formed a number of militias and terrorist organizations under the leadership of self-governing Pakistani governments, all of which are intended to successfully complete the operations and provoke an uprising in the Kashmir region. Numerous UN Security Council resolutions called on Pakistan to withdraw its troops for a ceasefire, but despite Pakistan's final approval of these resolutions through the UN Commission for India and Pakistan Mediation, Pakistan never did so, further exacerbating the conflict and leading it to a new level of terror and political deadlock. Pakistan has carried out numerous ceasefires in the disputed territory of Kashmir and has fought four wars against India.

China

Aksai Chin is a disputed zone in northern Ladakh (India), and is controlled by China. Aksai Chin was part of Kashmir that voted to remain independent when the princely states joined either India or Pakistan. At the time, India shared a border with China's Xinjiang and claimed ownership of the Kashmir and Jammu region. China constructed a road through Aksai Chin to link Tibet and Xinjiang. During the Sino-Indian War of 1962, China had already established infrastructure in the area and India had already sent troops to Aksai Chin. China won and kept control of Aksai Chin, but India claimed it was still part of Ladakh. China and India's ties have improved since the creation of the India-China Line of Control. However China is currently Pakistan's ally in its oversight of Kashmir while mainly trying to avoid direct action.

USSR

India first contacted the government of the Soviet Union to seek military assistance against China in the Aksai Chin region during the Sino-Indian War. Viewing India's border politics as an effort for expansion, statesman Nikita Khrushchev agreed to supply the Indian forces with the ammunition needed. The decision of the Russian official was heavily criticised by Mao Zedong who believed that was an indication that Khrushchev was willing to defy communist principles in exchange for financial gain. Due to their complicated diplomatic relations with China and under the threat of the Cold War the Soviet Union did not deploy any military aid in the area.

UNCIP (United Nations Commission for India & Pakistan)

The United Nations Commission for India & Pakistan (UNCIP) was created with the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 39 (1948) and functioned as the first international contemplative institutive action for this dispute. At first both Pakistan and India opposed the mission and mandate of UNCIP thus, it was altered and executed with Resolution number 47 (1948). UNCIP's aim is to facilitate the negotiations between the conflicting states, India and Pakistan, and assist them in reaching an accord over Kashmir.

The United States

The United States has tried to play a fair role in this conflict since 1947. Its position has evolved over time depending on the alliances it forged during the Cold War and its relations with India and Pakistan. Between 1947-1950, the United States supported Pakistan to combat Soviet influence in South Asia. Then, between 1950-1970, they played a supporting role in the conflict.

They provided Pakistan with military forces to strengthen its army but above all, encouraged both sides to accept UN resolutions. However, during the fourth war between Pakistan and India, the United States progressively switched its allegiance to India due to their diplomatic relations. During the 1999 war, the United States pressured Pakistan to withdraw its forces from the region. After adopting a balanced approach in the 1990s, it ultimately supported India in the conflict. Today, the United States is encouraging Pakistan to fight terrorism and asymmetric warfare.

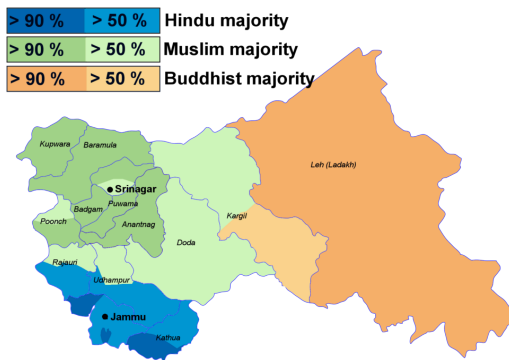
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

(UNMOGIP): After India and Pakistan's first war of 1947 and 1948, the UN Security Council attempted to resolve the situation by creating UNCIP. But it didn't really work, and the situation got worse. So, UNCIP established UNMOGIP to watch the new ceasefire line, also known as the Line of Control. Then, they had another war in 1971, which led to the Simla Agreement in '72. India and Pakistan stated they'd handle the LoC themselves. After that, India said it didn't think UNMOGIP should be watching the line, but Pakistan disagreed and let them keep working on their side. Today, UNMOGIP persists, but it has limited activity due to the fact that India doesn't recognize it, and it has little impact on the Kashmir conflict as a whole.

General Overview of the Issue

1. History

Before the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–1846), Jammu and Kashmir was home to many ethnic and cultural regions: the Hindu majority Jammu province, the predominantly Buddhist Ladakh province, and Muslim majority Kashmir province. The British Governor and two representatives of the East India Company signed the Treaty of Lahore, which put an end to the conflict.



Through the Treaty of Amritsar (1846), the King Maharaja Gulab Singh obtained control of the Kashmir Valley and its surrounding areas from the East India Company in return for a substantial payment from the Sikh empire. The Maharajas controlled Kashmir, which was regarded as the princely state of Kashmir and Jammu, until the Partition of India in 1947. Throughout this whole process of shifting power the voice of the Kashmiri people was not heard. The Treaty of Amritsar was primarily the outcome of negotiations and agreements between the then British government of India and Maharaja Gulab Singh. Based on the 1941 statistics of Jammu and Kashmir, Muslim citizens represented 77% of the population, Hindu citizens 20% and citizens from other religious backgrounds such as Sikhs and Buddhists 3%. Although it is clear that Islam is the dominant faith, the Dogra King accorded preference to the Hindu minority. Muslims from Kashmir experienced prejudice, poverty, and oppression.

Sheikh Abdullah (1905-1982), a Kashmiri politician, initiated the "Quit Kashmir" movement on May 15, 1946, which had a significant impact on Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape. The fundamental demands of the movement, which opposed the Dogra oligarchic authority, were the withdrawal of the Treaty of Amritsar and the establishment of a democratic form of government. However, the campaign did not attract the broad support



Abdullah had hoped for and numerous Muslim leaders denounced it as they considered that it divided the Muslim community.

2. Partition of India

In 1947, British rule ended, and India was divided into the Union of India (which had previously consisted of 562 princely states) and the Dominion of Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir, along with the other princely states, were offered the option of joining India or Pakistan or remaining independent, subject to certain conditions. That decision, however, was extremely difficult for the Hindu maharaja, Hari Singh, because the state of Jammu and Kashmir was administered by a Hindu minority while being dominated by Muslims. Thus, he postponed his decision in the belief that it would grant the State independence.



In the meantime, Pakistani authorities made several attempts to influence the Maharaja's choice. Pakistan, and more especially the authorities of Pakistani Punjab, the country's largest and most populous province, began blocking the supply of oil and other necessities to the state of Jammu and Kashmir after the different diplomatic channels failed to produce the intended outcomes. Furthermore, Pathan tribesmen began interfering in and eventually conquering Kashmir, allegedly with the help of Pakistani officials. The violence that followed these events added fire to the anti-Muslim narrative and the acts of violence against Muslims that followed.

3. Instrument of Accession and the First Indo-Pakistani War (1947-1948)

Maharaja's army, facing both the tribal invasion and internal conflict and greatly outnumbered, could not resist the attacks. As a result, the Maharaja wanted military assistance from the Delhi government. However, the Indian government refused to send soldiers until Jammu and Kashmir agreed to it, thus this aid came at a heavy price. Therefore, on October 26, 1947, the Maharaja signed an instrument of accession.

The fact that India included a phrase indicating that the admission was temporary and would be subject to a referendum following the conclusion of the conflict is an important aspect. This handed the decision to the people of Kashmir and the accession that the Maharaja signed was viewed by many as an emergency action rather than a completely political move. Following the accession Kashmir was legally deemed Indian territory.

Volunteers from the National Conference, the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces (later renamed the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles), and Pakistani tribesmen known as "raiders" or the "Azad Army" in the Kashmir Valley fought in the First Indo-Pakistani War. at first the tribesmen received weapons and ammunition from the Pakistan Army, and senior military officers were given permission by Pakistani authorities to lead the Azad Army. Pakistan entered the conflict in May 1948 on the objective of protecting their border. After an official truce was declared on December 31, 1948, the conflict ended on January 1, 1949.

4. The Indus Water Distribution Issue

Another issue emerged in the early years of independence: the Union of India had the ability to restrict the Central Bari Doab Canals' flow during Pakistan's planting season, severely damaging the country's crops. As a result, the World Bank president at the time offered to mediate and settle the dispute.

With the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which was mediated by the World Bank, the conflict was ultimately settled in 1960. According to the Treaty the rights for Jhelum, Chenab and Indus, the three western rivers of the Indus river system were exclusively granted to Pakistan and for the three eastern rivers, Sutlej, Ravi and Beas to India with the condition that India would not block or limit the Pakistani supply. In contrast of Pakistan's official attitude on the matter, conflicts over the Kashmir area during the early years of accession did not relate primarily to shared water difficulties rather than ideological and sovereignty issues.

5. The Sino-Indian War (1962)

The Sino-Indian War of 1962 began on October 20, 1962, following a series of devastating incidents involving the Himalayan boundary between China and India. The Sino-Indian conflict is mostly a boundary issue, but it was also sparked by the Indian government's decision to provide the Dalai Lama sanctuary during the Tibetan uprising in 1959.

The Chinese soldiers easily succeeded after taking the land of the Rezang La mountain in the west and the town of Tawang in the east. The war ended with a Chinese announced ceasefire on 20 November 1962. Since then the Aksai Chin border area remains under Chinese sovereignty. The most notable result of this conflict, however, was the creation of the LAC demarcation line and the separation of the Trans-Karakoram region between China and Pakistan as the LOC.



6. The Second Indo-Pakistani War (1965)

The second conflict between India and Pakistan took place following the Pakistani operation with the code name "Operation Gibraltar" to enter Jammu and Kashmir and to take control of the area by inciting a local uprising against the Indian government. The 1965 conflict did not resolve this dispute, but it engaged the United States and the Soviet Union.

Tension increased in August when the Pakistani Army attempted to capture Kashmir by force, and failed. The war lasted 17 days and caused thousands of losses on both sides. Finally, hostilities ended after a ceasefire was proclaimed by the United Nations.

7. The Third Indo-Pakistani War (1971) and the Creation of Bangladesh



The third Indo-Pakistani conflict began during the Bangladesh Liberation war in East Pakistan (3 December 1971 - 16 December 1971) when the Indian government started assisting the Bangladeshi separatists and the fight between East Pakistan and Pakistan changed into an Indo-Pakistani war. The war came to

an end when Pakistan signed the Pakistani Instrument of surrender, a formal pact that guaranteed the Pakistan Armed Forces' surrender and so created the new country of Bangladesh, formerly known as East Pakistan.ü

8. Terror and the Bilateral Nuclear Threats (1989-1999)

After the Simla Agreement (1972) the current issue mainly maintained until 1989. Following the 1987 state legislative assembly election many militant wings began to take form (predecessors of the Mujahideen insurgency continuing to this day)

)and several pro-independence and pro-Pakistan militants started taking over the Kashmir valley and chased away most of the Valley's Hindu inhabitants.

At the same time, the situation at the border became much more tense as Indian and Pakistani armed troops continuously fought. In an attempt to improve their nuclear weapon delivery systems, the governments of Pakistan and India tested their nuclear weapons, particularly missiles, between May 1998 and April 1999.

9. The War of Kargil (May-July 1999)

The War of Kargil between India and Pakistan took place in Kargil, a district of Kashmir, and along the LOC. The origins of the war can be traced back to a specific incident where Pakistani soldiers disguised as Kashmiri militants infiltrated the positions at the Indian side of the LOC.

The conflict represents one of the most recent examples of mountain warfare, as well as one of the few occurrences of direct conventional warfare between nuclear-armed governments. As a result, fearing that the Kargil war may escalate into a nuclear conflict, the United States, led by President Bill Clinton, urged Pakistan to retreat. The war ended with the withdrawal of Pakistani forces, and India took control of the southern and eastern LOC in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

10. The Al-Qaeda Involvement

Al-Qaida is an international terrorist network created by Osama bin Laden's (deceased) mentor, Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, as an organization to fund fighters in Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda's involvement in the question of Kashmir was not proved until 2002, when Osama bin Laden condemned the US government's backing for India on the Kashmir problem in his 'Letter to the American People', claiming it as another cause to fight the country.

Since then, Al-Qaeda members have publicly supported the Muslim residents of Jammu and Kashmir, advocating for independence or union with Pakistan. The terrorist group's troops have conducted multiple brutal attacks against Indian security forces.

The 2014 Legislative Assembly election was held in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir in five phases, from November 25 to December 20, 2014. Despite repeated boycott demands from separatist leaders, elections saw the highest voting in the last five years.

11. The 2019 Pulwama Attack

A suicide bomber targeted a group of security vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir on February 14, 2019. As a result, 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, including the attacker, were murdered. Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based Islamist militant group, claimed responsibility for the assault. India is reportedly blaming Pakistan for the strike. However, the Pakistani government has condemned the attack and renounced the terrorist group, while denying any involvement in the tragedy.

Timeline of Important Events

Date:	Event:
1858	India begins its colonial existence under the British Empire.
1947	India is decolonized, and British rule is ended, resulting in the creation of two independent states: India and Pakistan.
October 26th, 1947	War begins between India and Pakistan over the control of the princely state of Kashmir.
August 13th, 1948	The UN demands that Pakistan withdraw its troops from Kashmir. Though Pakistani troops remain, the war between India and Pakistan is terminated.

October 30th, 1948	A provisional government is installed in Kashmir to compensate for the departure of the prince.
January 1st, 1949	Pakistan and India agree on ceasefire terms, and bilaterally withdraw their troops from Kashmir. Kashmir is partitioned based on ceasefire lines.
1957	Kashmir becomes a semi-autonomous state under article 370 of the Indian constitution. China takes over Aksai Chin region of Kashmir, and is also leaving further territories in the northeast of Kashmir by Pakistan.
1999	Pakistani paramilitary forces cross the Indian controlled border, violating ceasefire regulations and resulting in a break-off of Pakistani-Indian relations.
2001	India and Pakistan resolve to continue relations and attempt to find a solution to the situation of Jammu/Kashmir.
2004	Growth in uprisings is exponential, and violence becomes increasingly prevalent amongst demonstrations.
2010	A Kashmiri citizen is killed by Indian security forces, sparking violent movements against the force. Prime Minister Abdullah secures measures to decrease the use of armed force.
2011	Indian armed forces kill three Pakistani personnel at the border.
2013	A particularly violent uprising leads to the death of eight Kashmiri citizens, and further deducts from the Indian public image.

September, 2013	The leaders of India and Pakistan convene to discuss measures to ensure peace in the region.
August, 2014	Peace talks between India and Pakistan are terminated by India due to an apparent infringement upon India's personal affairs. Threats of war are made by both sides. Conflict transpires at the border, leaving a dozen soldiers dead on both sides.
February 25th, 2021	India and Pakistan renew their ceasefire along the Line of Control by committing to keep the truce and maintain peace along the border with joint statements

Related Documents

Since India's division and the creation of Pakistan and India as sovereign governments, the United Nations Security Council has been focused on the Kashmir issue. The Security Council has passed and adopted many resolutions to address the question of Kashmir, but these resolutions are the most important: [The United Nations Security Council Resolution 39 \[S/RES/39 \(1948\)\]](#)

Titled "The India-Pakistan Question" and was adopted on January 20th 1948. The resolution created a commission of three members in order to facilitate the Kashmir conflict negotiations. One member would be chosen by India, the other one by Pakistan and the third one by the two selected members. The commission was named United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) and it functioned until the 9th of December 1949 until it presented its final report to the Security Council.

[The United Nations Security Council Resolution 47 \[S/RES/47 \(1948\)\]](#)

Titled “India-Pakistan Question” and was adopted on 21 April 1948. At first the resolution that was adopted consisted of two parts that increased the number of the Commission’s members from three to five and aimed to implement the Security Council’s recommendations via restoring peace and conducting a plebiscite following a three-step procedure. However, both Pakistan and India objected to the Resolution. On 13 August 1948, the commission amended Resolution 47 into three parts. First part of the resolution refers to the ceasefire order that called for a total end of hostilities and second part to the truce agreement. In detail it requested a complete abandonment of Pakistan's fighting forces and declared that the Kashmir territory would be administered by local authorities under the supervision of the Commission. Third and final part declared that after the truce agreement Pakistan and India would agree to enter into consultations with the Commission to determine fair and equitable conditions whereby such free expression will be assured. However on December 9th 1949 the commission declared its failure and followed its final report to the Security Council by proposing its replacement by a single mediator .

Past Solution Attempts

The Dixon plan (1950)

It was named after Sir Owen Dixon, the Judge of the Australian High Court. Sir Dixon proposed the plan when he arrived to the Indian subcontinent as a United Nations' Representative for India and Pakistan following the Security Council's Resolution 80 of March 14, 1950. According to his plan Ladakh would be assigned to India, Azad Kashmir and the Northern Areas to Pakistan and Jammu would be splitted between the two. Dixon’s plan also suggested a plebiscite limited to the Valley because he did not perceive Jammu and Kashmir as a homogeneous unit. Dixon’s plan also suggested a plebiscite limited to the Valley because

he did not perceive Jammu and Kashmir as a homogeneous unit. However, Pakistan did not accept this plan as Pakistani authorities believed that India should commit to a plebiscite for the whole state. In addition to Pakistan's refusal, Sir Dixon was also concerned about the fact that the Kashmiris were not very high-spirited people and they could be easily influenced or vote under fear. Consequently, he proposed that Kashmiri politician Sheikh Abdullah and his administration should be suspended during the plebiscite. This approach was not acceptable to India and once more the Dixon plan was rejected. Dixon strongly believed that a neutral administration would be essential for a fair plebiscite but both the Pakistani and the Indian government withdrew from the plan. Dixon concluded that in the absence of Indian demilitarization, the Pakistani forces would be unwilling to demilitarise the territory they controlled thus, it was impossible for a neutral government to be established and a free and fair plebiscite was beyond the bounds of possibility. Dixon declared failure and suggested that India and Pakistan should solve the situation on their own.

The Tashkent Declaration(1966)

The Tashkent Declaration (January 10 1966), is a peace accord signed by India's prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and Pakistan's president Ayub Khan that resolved the second Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 after peace had been secured via a ceasefire mandate by the United Nations and the intervention of external powers.

The Declaration takes its name from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan (then Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic) where the conference concerning the agreement was held. The Tashkent Declaration obliged India and Pakistan to accept Status quo ante bellum (the state existing before the war), to concede the regions that have been captured and to return to the 1949 ceasefire line. The agreement was criticized in India because it did not contain a no-war pact or any renunciation of guerrilla aggression in Kashmir.

The Simla (Shimla) Agreement

The Simla Agreement was signed on 2 July 1972 in Simla by the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. It followed the end of the 1971 war between India and Pakistan that led to the independence of East Pakistan and the creation of the state of Bangladesh. The agreement was an effort to end the hostilities between the two nations and served as a layout for the normalisation of bilateral relations and a basis for peaceful cooperation. Briefly, The Simla Agreement promoted the establishment of good faith between India and Pakistan and functioned as a guarantee about establishing durable peace in the area. In addition, the two states agreed to respect the LOC in Jammu and Kashmir with promises that neither of them would seek to make unilateral alterations and that they would refrain from using force aiming to alter the Line.

Possible Solutions

Despite the difficulty of facilitating a durable solution to the problem, these strategies may help to address specific difficulties in Jammu/Kashmir:

Since a ceasefire agreement signed by the governments of India and Pakistan has never been successful, imposing a ceasefire agreement on behalf of the United Nations may be the best option. If passed by a majority vote in the committee, this resolution has the potential to call the house's attention to the two nations, encouraging them to agree to it since it can always be reshaped by the right amendments.

If a ceasefire is not agreed upon, or if violence keeps increasing in the Jammu/Kashmir region, the United Nations could attempt to establish a UN Peacekeeper presence in the region in the hopes of decreasing violence on both Indian and Kashmiri fronts. Unlike other peace-keeping efforts before on behalf of the two governments, this approach may prevent a non-partisan group from causing future troubled events.

A UN-regulated referendum/plebiscite is the safest option to assess the will of the entire Jammu/Kashmir region and gather solid data for further action. The UN monitored process would ensure a safe, fair, and accurate outcome. It could inform future negotiations between India and Pakistan.

Useful Links

- ▶ Why was India split into two countries? - Haimanti Roy
- ▶ What's going on in Kashmir? | Start Here
- ▶ The conflict in Kashmir, explained
- ▶ Dr Muzzamil Ayyub Thakur argues Kashmir's fight for independence is as justified as I...
- ▶ Kashmir (Remaster)

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