



Forum: Sustainable Development Goals 16

Issue: The Question of India-Pakistan Conflict

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Introduction

Dispute after dispute, conflict after conflict, war after war: that is what the history of the India and Pakistan conflict looks like. The India-Pakistan conflict has been going on for years, and has been one of those conflicts that almost everyone has at least heard of; but more than that, it is one that has affected millions of lives till date. In the beginning, India and Pakistan weren't separate nations. They were both previously ruled by the British, and in 1947, the countries gained their independence and were separated, with Pakistan containing a majority of the Muslims and India containing a majority of the Hindus. Though their independence could've led to more peaceful and positive happenings, what happened was the opposite, especially with the situation regarding Kashmir. The independence of the countries has led to unending internal and external conflicts between the two, and though the situation was close to getting better a few years prior, it almost seems impossible to turn the two enemies in favor of each other.

Talking about enmity, it's not only the governments who are constantly causing issues for each other, but rather, the residents of the countries' have contributed majorly to the minor conflicts that have occurred. It is said that only 5% of the Indian population view Pakistanis positively, and only 11% of the Pakistan's population views Indians positively - shocking, right? Well, not for those who have been directly affected by these disputes and conflicts. Due to the unrest amongst the civilians, terrorist groups feel more encouraged to take the initiative and cause disruption in the opposing countries; though many believe that the best option would be for civilians to not interfere with the government's plans.

Factually, there have been a total of three major wars in the history of the conflict, and countless minor conflicts. The United Nations has had to intervene many times to resolve these wars, however, they are yet not able to prevent these wars from happening ever again. Despite ceasefires, agreements, and many other infinite attempts, will these two nations ever be able to be at peace?

Definition of Key Terms



Instrument of Accession

An agreement signed by the leader of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, on the 26th of October in 1947 to declare that Kashmir was officially joining the republic of India.

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution

Article 370 is a 70 year old provision that had given autonomy to the state of Jammu and Kashmir; it includes the Hindu-Majority area of Jammu and the Muslim majority Kashmir valley.

Line of Control (also known as ceasefire line)

This is the ceasefire line that was developed by the United Nations in the year 1947, as a measure to end the first war between India and Pakistan. This line divides the following: under the Indian control are Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh; and under the Pakistani control are

Jammu and Kashmir

The states in which both Pakistan and India laid claim to in the wake of the 1947 partition. Had a 77% Muslim majority in 1941. The people of Pakistan originally expected Kashmir to join Pakistan, however, the predominant political movement in the Valley of Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference) (that was not connected to religious beliefs) allied with the Indian National Congress.

Background Information

As mentioned earlier in the introduction, a lot has happened during the years long conflict between Pakistan and India, this includes quite a few minor incidents, and around three major incidents (wars).

The situation with Kashmir

Starting off with the roots of the whole conflict, it is believed that Kashmir is the reason why the countries originally started the war. Both the countries wanted to have Kashmir as a part of their dominion, however, the leader at the time refused to be a part of either (the princely territories had the option to choose which country they wanted to join). At the time of the separation of British-ruled India, Jammu and Kashmir was led by a Hindu leader, known as Maharaja Hari Singh. Kashmir, at the time, had a majority of the Muslim population (77%) along with a significant amount of Hindus (20%). In the month of October in 1947, Pakistani forces invaded the displaced territory of Kashmir, as after a few months of waiting for Kashmir to choose between their options, Pakistan thought it was time to take the initiative and invade Kashmir rather than wasting away more time. As a result, Maharaja Hari Singh



turned to India to ask for help and assistance to tackle the attack by the Pakistani forces. This is where the Instrument of Accession (key terms) comes in.

Due to the invasion by Pakistan, the leader chose to side with India and choose to be a part of India, and not Pakistan. They signed the instrument of Accession on the 26th of October, 1947. This tied Kashmir to India, as the first clause itself stated: “I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the governor-general of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of India, on the 15th day of August, 1947.”

However, the question comes up: what is Azad Kashmir and how did it form? To understand this, we must dive deeper into Maharaja's rule. Maharaja had ascended the throne in 1925, way before the partition took place. In the year 1947 itself, there was an uprising in the Poonch Jagir, which is an area that borders the Rawalpindi district of Punjab (west); the cause behind this uprising was due to the taxation policies that Maharaja had imposed upon the people of Kashmir. Although, when the individuals behind this uprising raised their points about becoming a part of Pakistan, Maharaja completely dismissed that option and even went as far as reverting to violence in order to silence the uprising. On the 24th of October, the Poonch rebels declared that they will be an independent state rather than siding with any of the two partitioned countries. It was the Poonch rebels that, along with the Pashtuns, invaded Kashmir, which led to Maharaja signing the Instrument of Accession. Once it was signed, Indian troops drove out the Pakistani forces from a majority of Kashmir, leaving out only a small section.

The war of 1947 (First Kashmir War)

Followed by the invasion of Kashmir by the Pakistani forces and Kashmir choosing to become a part of India, a series of conflicts arose, and eventually, a war erupted. With the Poonch rebels claiming Azad Kashmir, and Maharaja making Kashmir a part of India, a war was unavoidable. As soon as Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession, he gave the Indian troops the chance to directly fight with the Pakistani forces within Kashmir at that point. It is also important to note here that, it is still unclear as to whether Maharaja signed the treaty under military pressure by the Indian troops or independent of any pressure. Anyways, the war continued on throughout 1947, and officially ended on the 1st of January, 1949, due to the intervention of the United Nations. The ceasefire line (now known as the Line of Control) established by the UN at the time put a hold to the war, along with many other suggestions by the UN peacekeepers.



The war of 1965

The war of 1965 was the second war fought between India and Pakistan. This war, unlike the first war regarding Kashmir, was caused due to a clash between borders in April, in the Indian state of Gujarat. However, this was only a hint of the actual conflict, which occurred in August, when more than twenty six thousand Pakistani soldiers crossed the Line of Control (ceasefire line), while dressed up similar to Kashmiri locals, and indirectly invaded Jammu and Kashmir. It doesn't stop here. At first, the war started out locally as many minor attacks were made within Kashmir, however, in September, Indian troops crossed the Pakistani border (international, not the Azad Jammu and Kashmir border). Followed by this is the unleash of tanks (400-600) in the Sialkot region, and this is when the war is at its peak. Both the sides have invaded each other's countries, and are now fighting with the use of deadly weapons.

Once again, thanks to the intervention of the United Nations, this war is brought to an end. Although, this time, both the countries involved have control over the opposing country's territories. This was also resolved when both Pakistan and India removed their troops from the disputed territories in the month of January in 1966, in Tashkent.

The war of 1971

The war of 1971 started out as a civil war between east and west Pakistan. To understand the causes of this war, we need to first know the leaders: east Pakistan (now known as Bangladesh), was ruled by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; whereas, west Pakistan was ruled by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Yahya Khan. During the civil war, east Pakistan declared independence as the state of Bangladesh, while present day Pakistan used to be west Pakistan. However, during Bangladesh's war of independence, India decided to intervene. The Pakistani forces attacked along the western border of Pakistan which was shared with India, however despite Pakistan's determined efforts, India wasn't affected and prepared to respond to the attacks made by Pakistan. For approximately two more weeks, the fighting continued to get worse, with both nations attacking each other with equal ferocity.

It is essential to note here that in this war between the two independent countries, there were many casualties as well as injuries; in fact, this war saw the highest number of deaths compared to any other wars between the two nations prior to this one. It is said that Pakistan lost nearly ninety thousand military plus civilians combined in this war, and suffered a huge loss.

Kargil War (1999)



This war once again includes the Line of Control (LoC). During the first half of 1999, Pakistani forces decided to take some actions, and crossed the LoC, and it didn't stop there, not only they did cross and infiltrate India, they also attempted to take over Indian territory. This happened in the Kargil district, which is where the name associated with the war comes in from. Thus, India started with military attacks in efforts to kick the Pakistani forces out, and regain their territories, which India successfully did over the course of two months. That is, regaining their land. The Pakistani troops refused to leave the country, but eventually had to due to international pressure (many international countries and communities protested that Pakistani should leave the Indian territories), which is how the Pakistani troops eventually left. Once again, Pakistan suffered from a high number of casualties, but this time, their economy was also affected and weakened.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
August 1947	Pakistan gained independence, and was separated from British India; thus, India also gained independence as it was no longer ruled by the British.
October 1947 - January 1949	First war between India and Pakistan
August 1965	Second war between India and Pakistan
January 1966	Indian and Pakistani officials signed a declaration for peace, after the disputes that arose following the second war between the two countries.
December 1971	Civil war in Pakistan (between east and west Pakistan), which resulted in east Pakistan separating from Pakistan, and they were then recognised by the name 'Bangladesh'. This was followed by the third war between India and Pakistan.
July 1989	Complaints against the Indian rule started arising which led to further disputes between the two countries.
May 1998	Both India and Pakistan had now developed nuclear weapons, and had initiated testing them out close to their borders; this led to the countries' being condemned from performing these tests.



May 1999	Pakistani forces had entered Kashmir, which at the time had been administered by India, this resulted in India launching air strikes against the Pakistani forces.
December 2001	Nine people were killed in India by five armed terrorists who had infiltrated the Indian Parliament; India blamed Pakistan for this attack, which led to increased troops at the Indo-Pak borders.
February 2007	Sixty eight Pakistani Nationals were killed at Samjhauta express, though there weren't many speculations or any blames regarding the two blasts, this was an important moment as the Samjhauta Express was built in 1994 to help the families who had been separated during the separation of the countries in 1947.
November 2008	One hundred and sixty four people were killed in Mumbai, India, by Pakistani men who were associated with Lashkar e Tayyiba (a terrorist group); out of the ten men, only one managed to survive, and was also executed in 2012.
February 2019	A suicide car bomb attack took place in Kashmir in India, by the terrorist group, Jaish e Muhammad; upto forty members of India's paramilitary forces lost their lives during this attack. Soon after this incident, India retaliated with attacks (air strikes).
August 2019	India revoked the article which allows the Kashmir residents to self govern (autonomy); India's prime minister advised to avoid revoking this law and bring Kashmir on the level of the rest of India; throughout this, Pakistan did not say much however they did highlight the injustice that Kashmir had been facing recently.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- The India Pakistan Question, 17 January 1948 (S/RES/38)
- The India Pakistan Question, 20 January 1948 (S/654)
- The India Pakistan Conflict, 21 April 1948 (S/726)
- The India Pakistan Question, 3 June 1948 (S/819)
- The India Pakistan Question, 14 March 1950 (S/1469)
- The India Pakistan Question, 30 March 1951 (S/2017/Rev.1)



- The India Pakistan Question, 23 December 1953 (S/2883)
- The India Pakistan Question, 6 February 1956 (S/3546)
- The India Pakistan Question, 21 February 1957 (S/3793)
- The India Pakistan Question, 2 December 1957 (S/3922)
- The India Pakistan Question, 27 September 1965 (S/RES/214)
- The India Pakistan Question, 6 December 1971 (S/RES/303)
- Simla agreement, 1972
- Development of UNMOGIP and UNCIP

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

As obvious through the various resolutions that have been previously mentioned in the report, as well as agreement(s), there have obviously been many attempts at solving the issue. In fact, with the amount of time that has passed since the issue originated, and the impact it's had on the people and governments of India, Kashmir, and Pakistan, if there weren't any solutions, it would be quite shocking.

The UNCIP and UNMOGIP are a major part of the previous attempts of solving the Indo-Pak issue. They were ideas that were passed through a resolution, and were used to further improve the situation between the nations. The purposes of these two have been highlighted upon in the previous sections of the report. However, as mentioned earlier, the UNCIP was terminated soon after it was put into implementation, and instead the UNMOGIP was adopted.

The Karachi agreement is also one of the solutions that have been ongoing to this day, which basically established the Line of Control. However, this LoC has been infiltrated by both the sides before, which has led to wars. The UNCIP officials called for the representatives of both the nations to officially meet in Karachi and sign the agreement, and here is where we understand the reason why UNCIP was established and was, to a certain extent, successful in carrying out its purpose. The Liaquat-Nehru Pact of 1950 was another try at resolving tensions between the two countries. When the countries had separated, minorities in both were majorly affected, and thus they were suspected of doing riots, etc.. To avoid further discrimination, on 8th of April, 1950, both the governments signed the pact that talked about giving equality to the minorities in the countries in many aspects, such as religion, citizenship, etc.. Followed by this was the Simla agreement of 1972. The war of 1971 was a brutal one, and not only had Pakistan lost a part of itself (east Pakistan), but they also suffered from a huge loss with regards to their military. In June of 1972, after the war had subsided, the president of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan met and signed the Simla agreement, which asked for both the nations to proceed peacefully and helped them restore the diplomatic relations that they had lost during the war. Lastly, in a way, the



Lahore Declaration in 1999 happens to be the most recent effort towards peace between India and Pakistan. This agreement was short lived, however was signed to ensure peace and even to resolve the issue of Jammu and Kashmir once and for all.

Despite all of these, India and Pakistan continue to have weak relations. These are just a few of the agreements, though there have been considerably more, if researched upon.

Possible Solutions

Before anything else, it's imperative to understand that keeping in consideration how long the India/Pakistan conflict has been going, and how many countless attempts there have to resolve it, only an extremely unique and powerful approach can help the two nations.

The first thing either side will have to do is: become determined. When wanting to achieve something as precious and great as peace, there needs to be a large amount of effort contributed in. Both the sides will have to ensure that, if they sign another agreement, they need to be strong enough from either side in order to tackle it appropriately.

Next, both the countries will have to majorly focus on the terrorism factors within their countries. This can be done by implementation of strict laws and regulations, however this will take a long time. Why this needs to be done is because throughout the years, there have been attempts where the conflict could've been resolved entirely, if not for terrorist groups 'taking the initiative'.

Both the nations have suffered huge losses due to their long enmity, and only they would benefit the most if everything was solved. The countries need to understand and be empathetic towards each other, and provide support so that they can both improve and become better representatives of their populations.

Guiding Questions

1. Seeing as there have been various resolutions that have been passed before, how can the delegates come up with a resolution that can stop further conflicts between the two nations involved?
2. How can delegates come up with a solution for the issue of Kashmir, as it is extremely complex, especially all the insurgencies and wars that have taken place over it? What can this solution be?



3. How effective will the solutions that delegates provide be? How can delegates ensure them to be effective based on the disputes and the conflicts that have happened in history?
4. Do the delegates believe a peaceful solution is possible, keeping in mind that countless attempts have failed in the past, however the relations at the moment are somewhat controllable?
5. How can delegates ensure that their resolution has something different and unique compared to the previous resolutions?

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/3/1/timeline-india-pakistan-relations> (Al Jazeera)

Delegates can make use of this website by going through the timeline as it gives a detailed and structured view of the major (as well as a few minor) events that have taken place during the years this conflict has existed.

- II. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India-Pakistan_relations

Delegates can make use of this website by going through the timeline as it gives a detailed and structured view of the major (as well as a few minor) events that have taken place during the years this conflict has existed. Make sure that this website is used only to get an overview, as it does not ensure completely accurate information. Do not rely upon this website too heavily while doing research.

- III. Image:

Delegates can use this picture to understand the division of the various places that have been mentioned throughout the research report.

