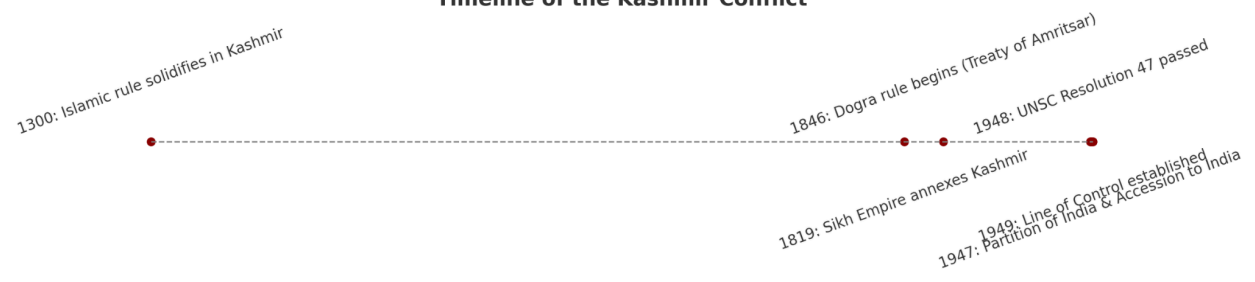


Committee Background: The United Nations Security Council was founded as a main organ of the United Nations in 1945, and has since worked to solve conflicts that threaten global peace. It functions through the powers granted to it by the United Nations Charter. These powers are binding, meaning all member states are obligated to follow decisions made by the Council. The council is composed of 5 permanent members with veto power and 10 temporary members elected by the General Assembly. The 5 permanent members are the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. Given the presence of three nuclear-armed states and a history of armed conflict, the Kashmir issue remains a critical concern for the Security Council's responsibility of maintaining global peace and security.

Topic Background: The story of Kashmir dates back to the 1300s, when centuries of Hindu dynasty rule switched hands as Islam took hold of the region. Kashmir would stay a Muslim stronghold under the Mughals until the Sikh Kingdom annexed it in 1819, and the Dogra Kingdom of Jammu annexed Kashmir in 1846. Over the next century, Kashmir found itself a buffer between the British Empire and the regional powers of Russia and China. The tense politics of the region became more clear after the Partition of India in 1947. Kashmir was about to explode.

Timeline of the Kashmir Conflict



While Kashmir never fell into British hands, the princely state remained a puppet on the global stage. The document for the Partition of India stated that the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, would be able to choose to join India, Pakistan, or stay independent. Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession, which allowed India to send military aid to counter insurgents and infiltrators. In addition, a plebiscite was promised. However, this referendum was never held, which more or less ignited the flames of war. Furthermore, Pakistan viewed Kashmir as a natural extension of their territory, and as such took action they viewed necessary. India and Pakistan engaged in localized warfare throughout the region soon after the partition, resulting in the First Indo-Pakistani War. The United Nations Security Council helped broker a ceasefire, and the resulting division left Pakistan with the Azad and Baltistan regions.

On the other hand, India retained control of Jammu, the Valley, and Ladakh.

Tensions continued to rise in Kashmir throughout the 50s and 60s. India's constitution was ratified in 1950, with Article 370 granting special autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. In 1954, Kashmir was formally established as a state of India, which was strongly opposed by Pakistan. 8 years later, during the first Sino-Indian war, the region of Aksai Chin was occupied by Chinese forces. Western nations viewed China as the aggressor, while Pakistan viewed India's policy of placing military troops in Chinese territory as the provoking act. China and Pakistan became regional allies to push India out of Kashmir. The stage was set for Round 2.

A weakened India no longer had the authority to lay claim to all of Kashmir. Now, Pakistan saw its chance, as it seemed the Kashmiri people were ready to rise up. The Pakistani government sent armed infiltrators to instigate rebellion, but it backfired. The Kashmiris didn't support the rebellion, and India attacked. India sent soldiers into key areas of Kashmir, and broke through to Lahore and Sialkot regions in September. The USSR mediated a ceasefire, resulting in the 1966 Tashkent Agreement, which didn't result in much significant change in territory. Both sides were left unsatisfied, and both sides saw their chance just 5 years later.

The Partition of India only paid attention to religious differences, while ethnic and lingual differences were left unrecognized. Pakistan at this time had the politically and economically powerful, Punjabi-speaking West Pakistan, against the more populous, Bengali-speaking East Pakistan. East Pakistan had faced years of less power, and when their Awami League swept elections in 1970, the majority party didn't allow them to meet, leading to the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence. After 9 months of fighting, India declared support for Bangladesh and joined the war on December 3, 1971. India helped the Bangladeshi Mukti Bahini (Freedom Fighters) gain their independence, and as a show of goodwill, returned all land gained to Pakistan in the Simla Agreement. Bangladesh had entered the Kashmir picture.

In the 1980s, a number of insurgencies rose to prominence in the Kashmir region. Some major ones were the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and the Hizbul Mujahideen. These insurgent groups decreased the stability of the region, and Kashmir became more and more tense. In 1999, Pakistani soldiers disguised as insurgents infiltrated the Kargil region, hoping to sever the connection between the regions of Jammu and Ladakh. Over the course of two months, the Indian Army forced the Pakistanis back, a humiliating defeat for Pakistan.

1999 was the last major war in the region, but conflict still remains for you to solve. Some more recent events include the 2019 revocation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, the shutdown of dissent, and more frequent border clashes.

On April 22, 2025, a violent instance of terrorism resulted in at least 26 kills and at least 20 injuries in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The next day, Indian Foreign Minister Vikram Misri declared India's intention to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 until Pakistan ceased to fund terrorist groups, accusing Pakistan based on previous incidents of Pakistani-backed cross-border terrorism. Pakistan denied any link to the Pahalgam attack, and suspended the Simla Agreement. A terrorist group known as Lashkar-e-Taiba initially claimed responsibility, but retracted their claim four days later. Pakistan and India opened border skirmishes, which raises fears of a larger war. What will the turnout be? You have the opportunity to write history.



Geography and Claims:

Kashmir is situated between India, China, Pakistan, and the Wakhan Corridor. Kashmir is occupied by India, China, and Pakistan, with all three claiming portions of the territory. China claims only Aksai Chin and the Shaksgam Valley, both of which they occupy. These

two areas comprise about 15% of Kashmir in total, but only 0.07% of Kashmir's population.

India occupies the areas of Jammu, Ladakh, the Kashmir Valley, and the Siachen Glacier. These territories consist of 55% of Kashmir, and 70% of the population. The Valley is majority Muslim, Ladakh is majority Buddhist, and Jammu is majority Hindu. India cites their claim to all of Kashmir on the 1947 Instrument of Accession.

Finally, Pakistan controls 30% of Kashmir with nearly 30% of the population. Pakistan controls Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. The Pakistani government believes that the overall majority Muslim population means that Kashmir is rightfully theirs. Pakistan doesn't lay claim to Aksai Chin due to the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Agreement, which effectively ceded the territory to China.

Previous Action:

The United Nations Security Council has played a vital role in shaping the dynamics of this conflict. Some major resolutions undertaken by the Security Council include:

Resolution 38 (1948)- This resolution urged both India and Pakistan to avoid worsening the tense situation. It additionally called for both nations to inform the international community of developments in Kashmir.

Resolution 47 (1948)- This resolution proposed a three-step process for determining the will of the Kashmiri people. First, Pakistan would remove their citizens from the region. Second, India would decrease their military presence in the region to the minimum for retaining order. Finally, the UN would conduct a referendum to determine the will of the people.

Resolution 91 (1951)- This resolution backed the three-step plan called for by Resolution 47, and stated that unilateral actions wouldn't affect the future of the region.

Resolution 122 (1957)- This resolution stated that any decisions made by the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly wouldn't apply to all of Kashmir.

Resolution 126 (1957)- This resolution stated the obvious by urging both nations not to escalate the already tense situation in Kashmir.

Previous propositions-

The status quo: India would be in favor of accepting the current situation as the official boundary, which divides Kashmir by the Line of Control. However, Pakistan and Kashmiris both want more control over the region, and as such refuse to recognize the Line of Control as the official boundary.

Kashmir annexed to Pakistan: Pakistan has repeatedly favoured this as the best solution to the Kashmir dispute, citing the majority Muslim population. However, this would overlook Hindu and Buddhist

majorities in Jammu and Ladakh, and India wouldn't accept this as a reasonable solution.

Kashmir annexed to India: The northern regions of Kashmir would most likely revolt at this solution, and Pakistan refuses to recognize this as a potential solution.

Independent Kashmir: This solution would most likely be denied by both parties as it requires both parties giving up land. While Kashmiri secessionists relish the idea, many Kashmiris have accepted their host country and would like to stay in their nation.

Smaller Independent Kashmir: Another proposition is for the Kashmir Valley and Azad Kashmir to unite as a smaller independent state. If India and Pakistan agree, which they so far haven't, the problem remains of creating a government and economy for the new state.

Independent Kashmir Valley: This has been suggested by many as a long-term solution to this dispute, but the question remains if the new state would be self-sufficient.

Chenab Formula: The Chenab Formula proposes dividing Kashmir on the Chenab River. This proposition is unofficially supported by Pakistan, while India wouldn't agree to ceding all the territory north of the Chenab River.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS IN THE KASHMIR CONFLICT (1947-PRESENT)



List of countries

1. United States of America
2. Russia
3. China
4. United Kingdom
5. France
6. India
7. Pakistan
8. Afghanistan
9. United Arab Emirates
10. Bangladesh
11. South Africa
12. Indonesia

13. Thailand
14. Brazil
15. Egypt