

Security Council

“Addressing the Situation in Kashmir”

Forum: Security Council
Issue: Addressing the Situation in Kashmir
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Context & Historical Background

In recent years, tensions have risen in Kashmir as a result of anything from increasingly more difficult diplomacy, as well as irredentism. Currently the region is divided into three regions: Chinese administered, Indian administered, and Pakistani administered Kashmir. Just like any arbitrary division of land, this comes with serious border disputes, enacted by governments and fueled by nationalistic populations in the region. Currently, the area is very diverse both in ethnicity and religion, with Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus having coexisted peacefully for centuries; today, this is not the case. With tourism becoming a vital export for mainly India and Pakistan, this makes Kashmir's attracting nature all the more harder to resolve. In addition, as the international community sees the water crisis becoming more and more severe, resources such as water provided in Kashmir making the region even more of a diplomatic minefield.



Figure 1: Jammu and Kashmir Conflict Map

In recent history, and with the collapse of the British Empire in South Asia in 1947, division of countries based on religious affiliation was seen. As a result of Kashmir's predominantly Muslim population, Pakistan invaded the region in 1947, laying their claims on such. Then Indian ruler, Hari Singh—imposed by the British Empire—signed the Instrument of Accession, as a means to protect the region from Pakistani invasion, turning over all foreign and military

operations to India: this set the tone and ground for conflict, not only in Kashmir, but also rising tensions between India and Pakistan. For the next two years, the two countries would go on to fight large scale battles, with no diplomatic effort being made until the late 1950s. In addition to governmental conflict, today we see militias—in all parties—such as the Indian-supported Ikhwan and Pakistani-supported Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) continue to clash.

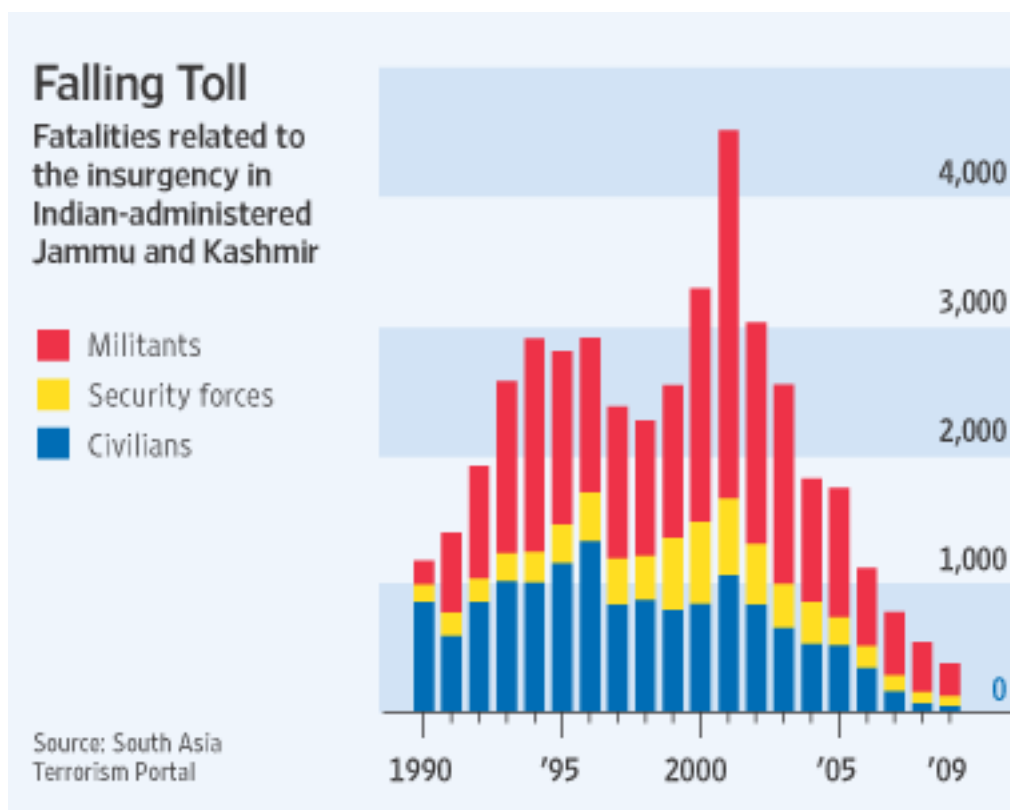


Figure 2

Fatalities related to insurgency in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir

Today, from a military perspective, we see a substantial presence of Indian soldiers on the border, with an estimated 600,000 troops. Pakistan on the other hand, mainly supporting Islamic militias has decreased it’s amount of soldiers from 10,000 troops in 1996, to a small 1,400 in 2015. In comparison,

however, both sides have indulged in unlawful shelling of each other: this not only rises tensions in the area, but inhibits many people of make a living or children from attending school. Overall, the ongoing conflict mainly encompasses the Indian army against Pakistani-supported militants: from one perspective, these militants ‘instigate’ conflict by attacking Indian army bases along the border. However, Indian repression has been frowned upon by external media sources: this includes shutting down shops, infringing upon civilian internet access, and sometimes fatally injuring peaceful protesters.

The international community, remaining relatively distant from this territorial dispute, should definitely begin to consider some options as to end the conflict diplomatically. Pakistan, India, and China are all nuclear power states with large and modern military capabilities: with the rate of acceleration in the conflict, the world could see a full-on war in the region, unless something is done. In addition to this, the human rights abuses committed by mainly Pakistan and India—infringing on basic fundamental freedoms to achieve political objectives—goes against the United Nations’ basic principles.

Our goal in this session of the Security Council is to investigate this issue from a modern standpoint, how both parties can favor from a solution, and in what ways the people in the region—despite different religious and political affiliation—can have their needs and wants satisfied.

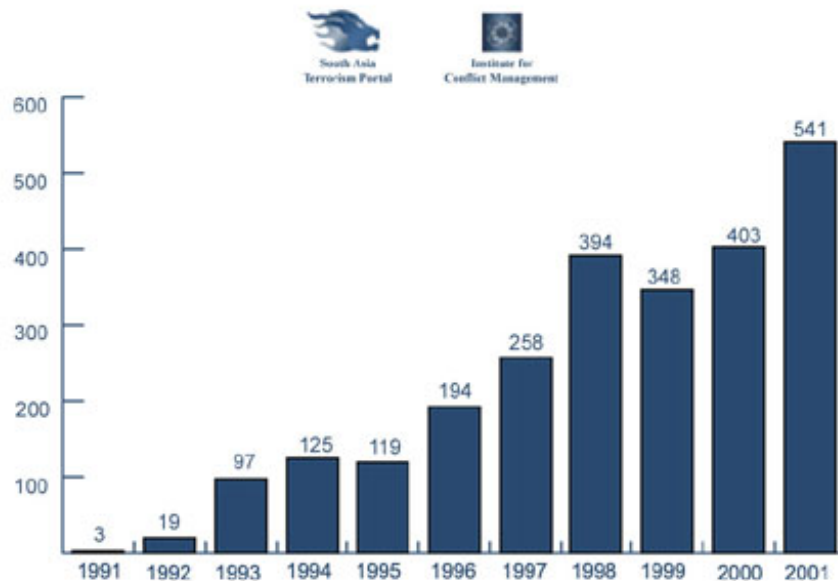


Figure 3
Foreign Militants killed in Jammu and Kashmir

Relevance

While the goal of this session of the Security Council is to resolve this issue, it is paramount to be cognizant of how it connects to the conference: the 8th annual session of the Maroc Model United Nations conference, the theme established is Combatting Climate Change: “It is one the most prominent issues being discussed around the world today and has already begotten considerable action from the international community. [...] The wide variety of perspectives on the issue from members of the international community and the efforts needed to address all aspects of the problem make the question of climate change a debate-worthy one. This year, the MaMUN 2018 conference will look at this issue from a renewed perspective by looking at different facades of it in each of its committees.”

In this session of the Security Council, our aim is to look at how environmental factors serve to catalyse armed conflicts. With this mind, Kashmir—as previously—holds a multitude of mineral resources, but also has large water reserves, mainly deriving from the Manasbal, Dal, Nageen, and Wular Lakes. Although the conflict is not explicitly rooted as a predominantly water conflict, it is definitely of paramount importance to recognize its significance and how it influences this situation in Kashmir.

United Nations Involvement

The United Nations has remained relatively seized upon this issue. Most prominently, it has sent the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to investigate and report the issue. However, as we have seen in other conflicts (such as the one in the Central African Republic), peacekeeping missions may not be as reliable, with a number of Human Rights Violations reported by organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This is why the United Nations encourages countries to send their own missions to the region to create their own dialogue and investigations upon the matter.

So far, one major Resolution has been passed regarding the situation in Kashmir: United Nations Security Council Resolution 47 was adopted in 1948 under S/726, in regard to *The India-Pakistan Question*. As this Resolution focuses on India and Pakistan as a whole and not just Kashmir, only a finite number of clauses actually address the issue: “The Government of Pakistan should undertake to use its best endeavours: to secure the withdrawal from the State of Jammu and Kashmir of tribesmen and Pakistani nationals not normally resident therein who have entered the State for the purposes of fighting, and to prevent any intrusion into the State of such elements and any furnishing of material aid to those fighting in the State;” and “The Commission should

establish in Jammu and Kashmir such observers as it may require of any of the proceedings in pursuance of the measures indicated in the foregoing paragraphs.”

Perspectives

In this section, the aim is to explore each of the claims and arguments raised by each of the three main parties in the current Kashmir conflict: the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the People’s Republic of China.

India

India asserts its claim over the entire region, and believes that military intervention in Pakistan-administered and Chinese-administered Kashmir is completely lawful. In addition to this, the country sees Pakistani-supported militants to be terrorists: “If indeed the desire of the world community is to ensure peace and stability and to permit the people of Jammu and Kashmir the right to determine their own destiny in an atmosphere of freedom, this can only be achieved under the democratic framework of modern India and not under the kind of extremist, obscurantist polity that the ideology of the terrorist and mercenary groups seeks to impose on the people of the State,” (Indian Embassy). Finally, India opposes a referendum in the region, seeing that it believes the only people who truly want independence or to join Pakistan are, again, terrorist militias.

Pakistan

Very contrary to India’s position, Pakistan believes that its military intervention in the region is merely for self-defense purposes against the Indian Army forces. In addition, the country believes that the belligerents supported by Pakistan are freedom fighters as opposed to terrorists: “India has tried to use the

global sentiment following the September 11 events to paint the Kashmiri freedom struggle as terrorism and its own repression of that indigenous freedom struggle as a means to fight against terrorism,” (Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Finally, Pakistan supports the idea of an internationally monitored referendum, and not just the prospect of a Pakistani Kashmir.

China

While China has remained a fairly neutral party in the conflict militarily, it has made its position clear to the international community diplomatically. Overall, China sees that the region has a right to self-determination, and just solely joining on of the three parties. However, Chinese foreign policy over the years has been more in favor towards Pakistan’s stance on the issue, rather than India’s, seeing that support in such will help the country maintain trade and strong relations. Finally, much like other international parties, China sees that— if this conflict continues to escalate—“the Kashmir issue may lead the [India and Pakistan] to the brink of a nuclear war,” (ICPS).

Questions to Consider

- To what extent do water resources affect geopolitical conflict?
- What are the primary motives for militias in Kashmir?
- In what ways can this issue be addressed diplomatically?
- How can militia groups be included in diplomatic meetings?

- How can the international community become more seized on this matter?

Key Terms & Phrases

- Kashmir

a region on the northern border of India and in northeastern Pakistan. Formerly a state of India, it has been disputed between India and Pakistan since partition in 1947. The northwestern part is controlled by Pakistan, most of it forming the state of Azad Kashmir, while the remainder is incorporated into the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Militia

a military force that is raised from the civil population to supplement a regular army in an emergency.

Terrorist

a person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

Freedom Fighter

a person who takes part in a violent struggle to achieve a political goal, especially in order to overthrow their government.

Line of Control (LoC)

refers to the military control line between the Indian and Pakistani controlled parts of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir—a line which does not constitute a legally recognized international boundary, but is the de facto border.

Self-Determination

the process by which a country determines its own statehood and forms its own allegiances and government.

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These are not only great sources to get started on researching the topic as a whole, but also your country’s position on such. If more refined information on your country is needed, please contact us using the emails provided on the committee page.