



Forum: Fourth General Assembly

Topic: Addressing the Impact of Colonization and Territorial  
Disputes on the people of Kashmir and Regional Stability in South

Asia

Chair

## Introduction

The recurring conflicts over the territory of Kashmir has been amongst the most tense conflicts in modern history. Kashmir is positioned in between India, Pakistan, and China, and has fueled numerous disputes over who owns the territory since the partition of British India in 1947. This partition directly resulted in vagueness regarding the borders in the Kashmir region, which led to quarrels over the Muslim-majority state of Kashmir.

The primary claimants to Kashmir, India and Pakistan, have turned the state into a battleground several times, and the third claimant being the People's Republic of China, has also contributed to multiple clashes in the region. This conflict is considered to be one of incredible volatility, as all three claimants to the region are in possession of nuclear weapons, which could lead the state down a very dangerous path. India has claimed the region as a state of its own, Jammu and Kashmir, whilst Pakistan claims control over the regions of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Additionally, China claims ownership over the Askani Chin region of Kashmir.

The conflict over the state of Kashmir is one of great international significance, as all claimants of the territory hold the power to deploy nuclear weapons, which could quickly erupt into a global nuclear war. Furthermore, the conflict has led to the death of thousands of people, countless human rights violations, and damaging the trade relations between the three claimants.

It is vital that the international community considers how the historical context of colonization, the urgency in finding a peaceful resolution, and the millions of people still living in the region can affect the creation of a peaceful resolution. The General Assembly must also consider the numerous human rights violations in the region, ranging from inhumane treatment to excessive use of force and more.

## Definition of Key Terms

## Colonization

Colonization is termed as the control of an indigenous section of the world by a foreign. It is characterized by settlement, economic exploitation, and even a change of culture or values. It often leads to development of social and economic systems of the affected area. With regards to Kashmir, British colonization of the Indian subcontinent created loose lines and lots of sovereignty ambiguities left to tackle during the withdrawal in 1947.

## Line of Control (LoC)

The Line of Control divides Indian-controlled and Pakistani-controlled regions of Jammu and Kashmir as a military boundary. This is not considered an international border. It was created after a United Nations mediated ceasefire in 1949 and is the primary dividing line in the conflict. Although not recognized in law, the LoC remains a conflict zone, hosting frequent skirmishes and battles.

## Self-Determination

Self-determination is both an international law and political theory principle that underlines the right of distinct peoples to choose their political status and development from an economic, social, and cultural perspective. It is usually associated with dealing with colonized or subordinate people. For Kashmir, the issue of self-determination remains crucial for the Muslim-majority population concerning the debate on whether the territory should join India or Pakistan, or become independent.

## Territorial Dispute

A territorial dispute is a disagreement between two or more states regarding a certain piece of territory that is claimed by each of them. Such disputes stem from certain historical reasons, borders defined during colonial eras, or geopolitical concerns, and they mostly result in persistent conflict. This is displayed in Kashmir, where India, Pakistan and China consider themselves as part of the region which makes it one of the most complicated and dangerous territorial disputes in the world.

## Ceasefire

A ceasefire is a halt of hostilities between warring parties, typically implemented as a prelude to peace talks or to stop the conflict from escalating. Ceasefires could be formal or informal, and are often arbitrated by either international institutions, or a third party. In Kashmir, ceasefires have been utilized several times, however, they are constantly broken, and do not result in a permanent resolution.

## Claimant

A claimant is an entity claiming a piece of territory as its own, and often controlling a certain part of it, or the entire territory. Claimants often face conflict when arguing with other claimants over who should own a certain piece of territory. China, India, and Pakistan are claimants to either the entire state of Kashmir or a certain part of it, and have fought each other several times over the territory in the past.

## Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are bombs or missiles which utilize nuclear energy to explode. They are considered many times more powerful than traditional explosive devices, and have the capability to pulverize cities and shatter entire countries. As of 2025, there are nine countries with access to nuclear weapons. Nuclear war is often seen as an end-of-the-world scenario, due to the destructive potential of these weapons. In Kashmir, all three claimants to the territory have access to nuclear weapons, which results in the conflict being very volatile and sensitive.

## General Overview

### Historical Background and Colonial Legacy

The origins of the Kashmir conflict date back to the conclusion of British colonial governance in the Indian subcontinent in 1947. After achieving independence, British India was divided into two countries: the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan. The princely states, semi-independent areas under British control, had the option to join whichever nation they desired. One of these regions was Jammu and Kashmir, a Muslim-majority area governed by a Hindu Maharaja, Hari Singh. In October 1947, when tribal militias from Pakistan invaded Kashmir, the Maharaja agreed to the Instrument of Accession to India for military protection, which led to the First Indo-Pakistani War (1947–1948).

The United Nations was notified about the conflict, leading to a mediated ceasefire in 1949. This created the Line of Control (LoC), a boundary separating Kashmir into areas controlled by India (Jammu and Kashmir) and Pakistan (Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan). Nevertheless, no conclusive agreement was achieved, and the LoC was never meant to act as a lasting boundary. In 1962, China became involved in the conflict by seizing the high altitude Aksai Chin area, which it still governs today. These initial incidents established the foundation for years of turmoil and unrest.

## Military Conflict and Territorial Disputes

The conflict over Kashmir has ignited several deadly conflicts since the division of British India in 1947, chief among them being in 1947, 1965, and 1971, which all caused a large amount of damage to the region. The first conflict in 1947 happened very shortly after the partition, as Pakistan-backed tribes deployed their militias to invade the state of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the first Indo-Pakistani war. The war concluded in 1949, by way of a ceasefire arbitrated by the United Nations. In addition to ending the war, a Line of Control (LoC) was created, which split Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Another war erupted in 1965 as a result of Pakistan once again deploying a military assault to seize Kashmir. After 17 days of fierce fighting, Indian troops were able to repel the attack and keep the region under India control. This war ended with the Tashkent Agreement. Six years later, a conflict involving the struggle for independence of East Pakistan (currently Bangladesh) influenced the growth of tensions in Kashmir. This war concluded with an Indian victory, subsequently leading to the creation of Bangladesh.

In 1999, the Kargil War broke out, which saw Pakistani soldiers, and affiliated militants crossing the LoC and occupying mountains of high strategic significance in the Kargil sector of Indian-administered Kashmir. India deployed plenty of military resources to regain control of the region, and the conflict screeched to a halt when pressure from the international community, especially the United States, led to Pakistan withdrawing its forces from the heights. The Indian Ministry of Home Affairs reports over 41,000 people dead as a result of territorial dispute related violence in Jammu and Kashmir since 1989, however human rights organizations estimate this figure to be much higher, particularly claiming far more civilian deaths and disappearances.

China also holds a part of Kashmir, namely the Askai Chin region which it gained in 1962, and the Shaksgam valley, which it acquired from Pakistan as a result of a treaty in 1963. Although each of the three claimant countries hold a sector of Kashmir, all three assert their control over the full region.

## Civilian Impact and Human Rights Concerns

Human rights concerns have been raised by numerous international organizations, including arbitrary detentions, curfews, internet shutdowns, use of pellet guns, and restrictions on freedom of speech and movement. The number of human rights concerns multiplied as a result of the Indian government's decision in August 2019 to revoke Article 370, which granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. The state was placed under lockdown, internet access was cut off for months, and political leaders were detained. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been at the forefront of institutions claiming human rights violations in the region, releasing reports in 2018 and 2019 documenting abuses in all of Kashmir, including the Indian and Pakistani controlled regions.

## Religious and Cultural Identity in the Conflict

Kashmir, being predominantly Muslim in a Hindu-majority India has been a key part of conflicts, especially in 1947, when a Hindu Maharaja was placed as the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir. This has led to many Kashmiri Muslims showing more affinity for the possibility of joining Muslim-majority Pakistan rather than India.

A large amount of religious conflict has occurred in the region, primarily conducted by Pakistan-backed Islamist militant groups, which have led to the displacement of thousands of Hindu Kashmiri Pandits. Whilst many Kashmiris have supported Pakistan in the conflict due to their religion, others have noted that they wish for an end to the violence, regardless of if they join Pakistan or not. Additionally, a large amount of Kashmiri traditions have eroded over time, including literature and art, as a result of the ongoing conflict.

## Major Parties Involved

### The Republic of India

The Republic of India (India), is one of the primary claimants of Jammu Kashmir, and controls the region of Jammu, Ladakh, and the Kashmiri Valleys. It has shown determination to control the entire region, and has fought numerous wars with Pakistan over land, as well as small skirmishes with China. In 2019, India voted to revoke Article 370, which led to the removal of Kashmiri autonomy under India and the splitting of the region. India has opposed all international intervention in the issue of Kashmir and has consistently opposed an intervention by the United Nations.

### The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan) controls the northern and western parts of the region, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan claims the entire region of Kashmir as a disputed territory and has repeatedly called for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 47 (1948), which called for a plebiscite to allow the Kashmiri people to determine their political future. Pakistan argues that as a Muslim-majority region, Kashmir should have been part of Pakistan under the logic of partition in 1947.

## The People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China (China) became a third claimant to Kashmir following its 1962 war with India, after which it gained control of Aksai Chin, a strategically important part of Kashmir. China also controls the Shaksgam Valley, which was ceded to it by Pakistan in a 1963 border agreement not recognized by India. China's involvement has grown more visible in recent years, especially after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, which led to heightened tensions with India.

China maintains a strategic partnership with Pakistan and has expressed concern over India's actions in Kashmir, particularly the changes made in 2019 that altered the status of Ladakh, which borders Chinese-controlled territory. China has blocked several attempts by India at the UN Security Council (UNSC) to label certain Pakistan-based individuals and organizations as terrorists, citing geo-political neutrality. However, it has also pushed for peaceful resolution and dialogue, though primarily from the perspective of maintaining border stability.

## The United Nations (UN)

The United Nations has played a significant role in the conflict for Kashmir. It has been far less involved the longer the conflict has gone on for, as India continues to oppose and deny every resolution the United Nations has proposed. Earlier in the conflict, the 1948 UN Security Council meetings led to the creation and adoption of Resolution 47, which recommended a ceasefire, the withdrawal of Pakistani and Indian troops, and the organization of a free and impartial plebiscite to determine the will of the Kashmiri people. The plebiscite was never held, however a ceasefire did occur. Pakistan has continued to support resolution 47, believing that the Kashmiri people would side more with them rather than India. In 1949, the UN established the

United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOGIP) which was sent to monitor and enforce the ceasefire along the newly created LoC. Little United Nations involvement occurred after this, with the exception of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) releasing documents regarding human rights violations in Kashmir.

## Timeline of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1947 October	Tribal militias supported by Pakistan invade Jammu and Kashmir, prompting Maharaja Hari Singh to sign the Instrument of Accession to India.
1947 - 1948	First Indo-Pakistani War over Kashmir.
1948 April 21	United Nations Security Council Resolution 47 calls for ceasefire and plebiscite in Kashmir.
1949 January	Ceasefire agreement established; Line of Control (LoC) set between Indian and Pakistani-administered Kashmir.
1962 October - November	Sino-Indian War results in China occupying Aksai Chin region.
1963 March	Pakistan cedes Shaksgam Valley to China in a border agreement.
1965 August-September	Second Indo-Pakistani War, initiated by Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar to infiltrate forces into Kashmir.

1971 December	Third Indo-Pakistani War primarily over East Pakistan (Bangladesh); Kashmir tensions persist.
1989 December	Armed insurgency begins in Indian-administered Kashmir, leading to intensified conflict.
1990 January	Mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits (Hindu minority) from Kashmir Valley due to militant threats.
1999 May - July	Kargil War: Pakistani soldiers and militants infiltrate Indian positions in Kargil sector.
2003 November	India and Pakistan agree to a ceasefire along the LoC.
2008 July	Protests erupt in Kashmir following the Amarnath land transfer controversy.
2016 July	Killing of militant leader Burhan Wani triggers widespread protests and violence in Kashmir
2019 August 5	Indian government revokes Article 370, removing Jammu and Kashmir's special autonomous status; region placed under lockdown and internet restrictions.
2020 June	Deadly Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh region.

## Attempts to solve the issue

Whilst the United Nations attempted to solve the conflict early on, India continued ignoring and blocking all resolutions, which led to less and less being made over time. The United Nations Security Council have been the primary organization attempting to solve the issue, however most of their resolutions have not been strong enough to make change.

#### [The India-Pakistan Question, 1948/01/17, \(Resolution 38\)](#)

Urged both India and Pakistan to avoid actions or declarations that might worsen the Kashmir situation and requested regular updates to the Security Council. This was the first formal UN acknowledgment of the escalating conflict.

#### [The India-Pakistan Question, 1948/01/20, \(Resolution 39\)](#)

Established the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate the conflict. This commission laid the groundwork for future UN efforts to resolve the issue.

#### [The India-Pakistan Question, 1948/04/21, \(Resolution 47\)](#)

Called for a ceasefire, withdrawal of Pakistani and Indian troops, and the holding of a free and impartial plebiscite to determine the future of Jammu and Kashmir. This remains the most significant UN resolution on Kashmir, though never fully implemented.

#### [The India-Pakistan Question, 1950/03/14, \(Resolution 80\)](#)

Suggested simultaneous troop withdrawals by both nations and recommended appointing a UN representative to assume UNCIP's responsibilities. India objected to its national forces being treated equivalently with Pakistani-supported forces.

#### [The India-Pakistan Question, 1957/01/24, \(Resolution 122\)](#)

Declared that unilateral actions, including elections or constitutional integration by India, could not substitute for the agreed process of a plebiscite. It reaffirmed the international character of the Kashmir dispute.

## The India-Pakistan Question, 1957/12/02, (Resolution 126)

Requested that both nations avoid actions likely to escalate the conflict, and instructed the UN Representative to visit the region and report back with suggestions for peaceful progress.

## Possible Solutions

### Establishment of a Joint Kashmir Peace Commission

Create a permanent Joint Kashmir Peace Commission composed of representatives from India, Pakistan, and Kashmiri civil society, with oversight from a neutral international body such as the United Nations. This commission would be tasked with facilitating ongoing dialogue, coordinating humanitarian aid, monitoring human rights, and implementing confidence-building measures like prisoner exchanges and ceasefire verification. It would serve as a trusted platform for resolving disputes incrementally and maintaining communication during crises.

### Joint India-Pakistan-Kashmir Economic and Infrastructure Development Council

Establish a tripartite council focused on economic cooperation, infrastructure development, and environmental management in the Kashmir region. This body would include representatives from India, Pakistan, and Kashmir and work on joint projects such as healthcare, education, tourism, and natural resource management. By fostering shared interests and cooperation, this solution aims to reduce hostility and create practical incentives for peace.

### Phased Demilitarization of the Line of Control

Implement a step-by-step withdrawal of heavy military forces and weapons from sensitive civilian areas along the Line of Control, under the supervision of UN peacekeepers or

observers. This demilitarization would reduce violence and mistrust, create a safer environment for cross-border communication, and build momentum for further negotiations and cooperation.

## Kashmir as a UN Trusteeship Special Administrative Zone

Transform Kashmir into a special administrative region temporarily governed by a UN trusteeship council, comprising representatives from India, Pakistan, Kashmir, and the international community. Security would be maintained by a neutral peacekeeping force, while political reforms and institution-building take place. This transitional period would prepare the region for a fair, inclusive decision on its permanent status through an internationally supervised process.

## Guiding Questions

1. What is my country's historical and current relationship with India and Pakistan regarding the Kashmir conflict?
2. Has my country officially recognized the territorial claims of India, Pakistan, or China over Kashmir? If so, what statements or policies reflect this?
3. What has been my country's voting record on Kashmir-related resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly or Security Council?
4. Does my country participate in or support any regional organizations (e.g., SAARC, OIC) that take a position on Kashmir? What is the stance of these organizations?
5. Has my country offered diplomatic mediation, hosted peace talks, or played a role in conflict resolution efforts between India and Pakistan?
6. What are my country's official policies or public statements on human rights in Kashmir?
7. How does my country balance its economic, political, or military ties with India and Pakistan in relation to the Kashmir issue?
8. Does my country have a significant diaspora community from Kashmir or South Asia that influences its foreign policy on this topic?
9. What are the key security concerns my country associates with the Kashmir conflict, such as terrorism, cross-border violence, or nuclear escalation?

10. How does my country view the role of international organizations like the UN, OIC, or EU in resolving the Kashmir dispute?
11. Has my country proposed or supported specific solutions or initiatives to address the Kashmir conflict?
12. What impact does the Kashmir conflict have on my country's regional stability, trade, or geopolitical interests?

## Appendix

- <https://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/resolutions>
- <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmogip>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Countries/IN/KashmirUpdateReport8July2019.pdf>
- <https://new.oic-oci.org/SitePages/LandingpageEN.aspx?lan=en>
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