

## Historical Security Council

Resolving the situation between India and Pakistan



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**Forum:** Historical Security Council  
**Issue:** Resolving the situation between India and Pakistan  
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## Introduction

Little over a year ago today, the Indo-Pakistani war ended. Tensions between the countries are not gone, however, quite the opposite. Ever since the Partition, there has not been a clear answer as to whom the Jammu and Kashmir region belongs to. The region has attempted to remain impartial, however this idea quickly failed. As of now, most of the region belongs to India, but there have been many calls for a referendum or plebiscite to be held. This research report aims to inform delegates of the tensions between the two countries and provides possible solutions for the tensions.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Karachi Agreement

The Karachi Agreement was an agreement made on July 29, 1949, between military representatives from India and Pakistan regarding the establishment of a ceasefire line in the state of Jammu and Kashmir after the Indo-Pakistani war of 1947-1948. The talks were supervised by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) and it was agreed upon the ceasefire line would run from the southernmost point, west of the Chenab River, in an arc northwards and then northeastwards up to a point about 19 kilometres north of the Shyok river.

### Liaquat-Nehru Pact

The Liaquat-Nehru Pact was a bilateral treaty signed by India and Pakistan on April 8, 1950. In this treaty, the countries agreed upon allowing refugees to return to their property, abducted women and looted property were to be returned, forced conversions were unrecognised and minority rights were confirmed. Minority commissions were established in both countries in order to implement these terms. However, in the months following the pact, more than a million additional refugees migrated to West Bengal. The continuing struggle over Kashmir also strained relations between the two countries.



## **Minority**

A minority is a member of an ethnic, religious, linguistic, or cultural group, fewer in number than the rest of the population, whose members share a common identity and rights. Individuals who belong to these minorities may feel different and think and act culturally differently than majority groups. This may be reflected through religious and/or political affiliations, approaches to conflict management, kinship relations, and languages.

## **Radcliffe Line**

The Radcliffe Line was a proposed border line drawn by British lawyer Cyril Radcliffe in order to create a demarcation between Pakistan, the proposed Muslim State, and India, the proposed Hindu State. This line was drawn through the middle of the Punjab and Bengal states in order to separate the areas by religious majority. The line was finished on August 12, 1947, but it was published 5 days later, 2 days after both countries declared independence, fearing protest from both sides. The declaration of the Radcliffe Line triggered mass migration, as many Hindus and Muslims now found themselves a minority in their new country. It is estimated that by the time the great migration drew to a close, more than 15 million people had uprooted their previous lives and over 2 million were dead.

## **Refugees**

Refugees are people forced to flee their own country and seek safety in another country. They are unable to return to their own country because of feared persecution as a result of who they are, what they believe in or say, or because of armed conflict, violence or serious public disorder.

## **Background Information**

As with many issues this important, it is of the utmost importance to first look at its past. How did this situation come to be? What created this conflict that is causing so much suffering, that is leaving so many people displaced, that has been raging on since 1947?

Since early times, the Indian subcontinent was comprised of many small kingdoms. The area appears to have provided a fine habitat for humans, Toward the south, it is sheltered by wide oceans, which meant it was effectively isolated before seafaring became popular. To



the north, the area is protected by the massive mountains collectively known as the Himalayas. This isolation of sorts helped create the culture we know today.

However, this isolation was not eternal, as, on the 24th of August 1608, the first British ships landed in Surat, India. After this, British ships frequently visited the subcontinent, and the trading was done in a fairly peaceful manner. It was not until 1757 that the British wanted more than just goods and they started to seize parts of the land. This started with the battle of Plassey, fought around Palashi in Bengal. The conflict was sparked by the continuous misconduct of the East India Company, and the British victory ultimately resulted in the start of the Crown's rule in India. Between 1770 and 1773, roughly 10 million people died. This was the consequence of the increasing taxation, leaving many without money for food or water. After this, the British continued to mistreat the local people, resulting in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. This major uprising, started by a mutiny in the army, forced the British to reorganise the army, the financial system and the administration in India. This reorganisation is marked by the passage of the Government of India Act 1858, officially transferring control over the area from the British companies to the Crown.

During this rule, the Indian people were educated on British customs, and they discouraged cultural practices. They also fueled the improvement of infrastructure such as rails, roads and canals, greatly improving the economic “efficiency” of the country. What they also fueled, however, was a divide between the Hindu and Muslim communities. After all, it is way harder to rule a united people than a people fighting amongst themselves over ethnic differences. Sadly, this tactic paid off and is one of the main reasons of today's conflict. Years ticked on, trade continued to flourish and hate continued to simmer.

At the start of WW1, many Indians were sent to fight alongside the British in the trenches. Some 1,5 million soldiers valorously fought for a war that had nothing to do with them. Because of this effort, many Indians expected to be rewarded for their service by a transition to self-government. Sharing those expectations was Mahatma Gandhi, who will play a crucial role later on. These expectations were not met, however, and the British required the help of the Indian army once again in 1939, during WW2. This time, the Indians were much more reluctant to go to war. Many spoke up against the war, but the British reacted by imprisoning many national and local leaders and placing sanctions on their supporters to coerce them into fighting.

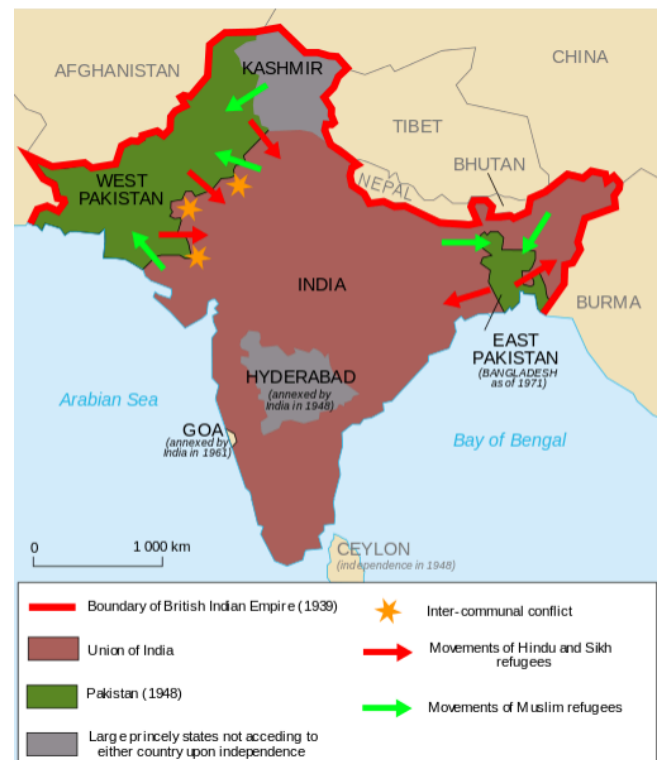


After the war, the British economy had sustained a heavy beating, and the Crown rule only cost money instead of gaining any through trade. This is why, overnight, the British decided to leave India. However, the amount of hate between the ethnic groups -Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims- proved too big for one unified country, so the British decided to divide the country. Representatives of all communities came together and came up with new borders, including the creation of the new Muslim state of Pakistan. On paper, the plan to create countries for the major ethnic groups sounded good, however, due to the great lack of time, things had to be hurried along. As mentioned, Pakistan was created for the Muslim population, while the Sikhs and Hindus lived in India, roughly according to the demographic spread of the cultures in the country. However, these borders were not perfect and still resulted in what is referred to as the Partition. During this Partition, the number of refugees was incredibly large, and up to two million people lost their lives due to the sheer chaos and violence caused by the messy situation. The streams of migration are displayed in the image below.

When the borders were drawn, the provinces were divided by the crown, but princely states were allowed to decide on their own. Whilst it was relatively easy for most princely states to pick a side, for Jammu and Kashmir it was not so easy. The region had a Hindu monarch but a Muslim population and would therefore join either India or Pakistan.

Because the monarch wanted to hold his position of power, he decided that Jammu and Kashmir would remain neutral. Pakistan however, believed that because the population was Muslim, the region should belong to them. In times of tension, the monarch decided to side with India, sparking the Indo-Pakistani war.

In October 1947, tensions in the disputed regions were high, fueled by the monarch's desire to remain impartial and the pressure put upon the region by both countries. The tensions sadly escalated into a clash and the Pakistani Army supported local Jammu and Kashmir freedom forces, encouraging them to combat local militias. The monarch, seeing no





other options, decided to request India's support, in exchange for control over the region. Through an instrument of accession, the Maharadja transferred power to India on 26 October 1947. India then provided the promised support, resulting in a full-scale war between the two nations. The war cost many human lives, Pakistani losses were greater though, and India emerged victorious, having gained larger territory. Pakistan also attested to the Instrument of Accession, creating an even more difficult situation. The war ended on January 1st 1949, with a United Nations ceasefire and a ceasefire border. At the time, both parties agreed upon a referendum to decide whether or not Kashmir should really belong to India. However, this referendum has still not been held. Recently, India has backtracked its promise of a plebiscite, and tensions are not gone.

## **Major parties Involved**

### **India**

India played a central and complex role in the India-Pakistan conflict marked by the aftermath of the partition, the First Kashmir War, and the efforts to establish stable relations between the two newly independent nations. Its main goals include establishing national and international stability and promoting a secular and inclusive nation.

### **Pakistan**

The role of Pakistan in the India-Pakistan conflict was marked by the challenges of its formation, territorial disputes, and efforts to assert its identity as a newly independent nation. Its main goals include establishing national and international stability as well as gaining international recognition in order to secure political and economic support.

### **United Kingdom (UK)**

The United Kingdom (UK) played a crucial role in the first years of the India-Pakistan conflict, particularly during the period of the Partition of British India in 1947. UK policy, such as the Radcliffe Line, led to mass migrations and many deaths and the UK faced criticism for not doing enough to prevent this. On the other end, after its military retreat from India in 1947, the UK kept good political ties with both India and Pakistan, getting major



powers to recognise their independence and promoting peaceful negotiations between the two nations.

**United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP)**

The United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was established in January 1948 with the Security Council adopting resolution 39. Originally established to investigate and mediate the dispute between India and Pakistan, the Council decided to enlarge the membership of UNCIP in April 1948 and to recommend various measures including the use of observers to stop the fighting.

**United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**

The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was established in January 1949 to supervise, in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the ceasefire between India and Pakistan and to assist the Military Adviser of the UNCIP. The group exists out of unarmed military observers and the tasks of the observers, as defined by the Military Adviser, were to accompany the local authorities in their investigations, gather as much information as possible, and report as completely, accurately and impartially as possible.

**Timeline of Events**

Date	Description of event
July 18, 1947	The Indian Independence Act is passed.
August 14 - August 15 1947	Pakistan and India both gain independence from the United Kingdom
August 17, 1947	The Radcliffe Line is published



October 22, 1947	The Indo-Pakistani war of 1947-1948 begins with the launch of a Pashtun tribal attack in the Muzaffarabad sector
July 27, 1949	The Karachi Agreement is signed, establishing a ceasefire line
April 8, 1950	The Liaquat-Nehru Pact is signed, recognising the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in both countries, among other things

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Government of India act
- Security Council Plan for the Creation of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (resolution 39)
- Security Council Resolution on Enlarging the membership of UNCIP (resolution 47)
- Jammu and Kashmir instrument of accession

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

### Liaquat-Nehru Pact

The Liaquat-Nehru Pact was a bilateral treaty signed by India and Pakistan on April 8, 1950. With this treaty, both parties agreed on refugees being allowed, among other things (for more information, see the Definition of Key Terms). The problem with this agreement was both parties not being able to keep up these promises, as well as the still ongoing conflict in Jammu and Kashmir straining the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

## Possible Solutions

### Plebiscite in Kashmir





One way of solving the territorial conflict in Jammu and Kashmir would be to conduct a plebiscite in Kashmir, allowing all residents to vote on the issue of whether to join India or Pakistan. This was suggested in Security Council resolution 47, though the plans never came to fruition.

### **Bilateral Talks**

Bilateral talks between India and Pakistan would involve the two nations negotiating directly, without any international mediation. This would allow the two nations to find mutually acceptable solutions without the pressure of external interference.

### **Maintaining the Status Quo**

A possible solution to the conflict could also be maintaining the status quo, making the ceasefire line as agreed upon in the Karachi Agreement part of the official border between India and Pakistan.

### **United Nations Mediation**

Another possible solution would be extensive negotiations between India and Pakistan under the supervision of United Nations member states. For these negotiations, the UNCIP could be utilised in order to make sure negotiations go by smoothly and the UNMOGIP observers could be utilised in order to keep the situation level in Jammu and Kashmir while these negotiations take place.

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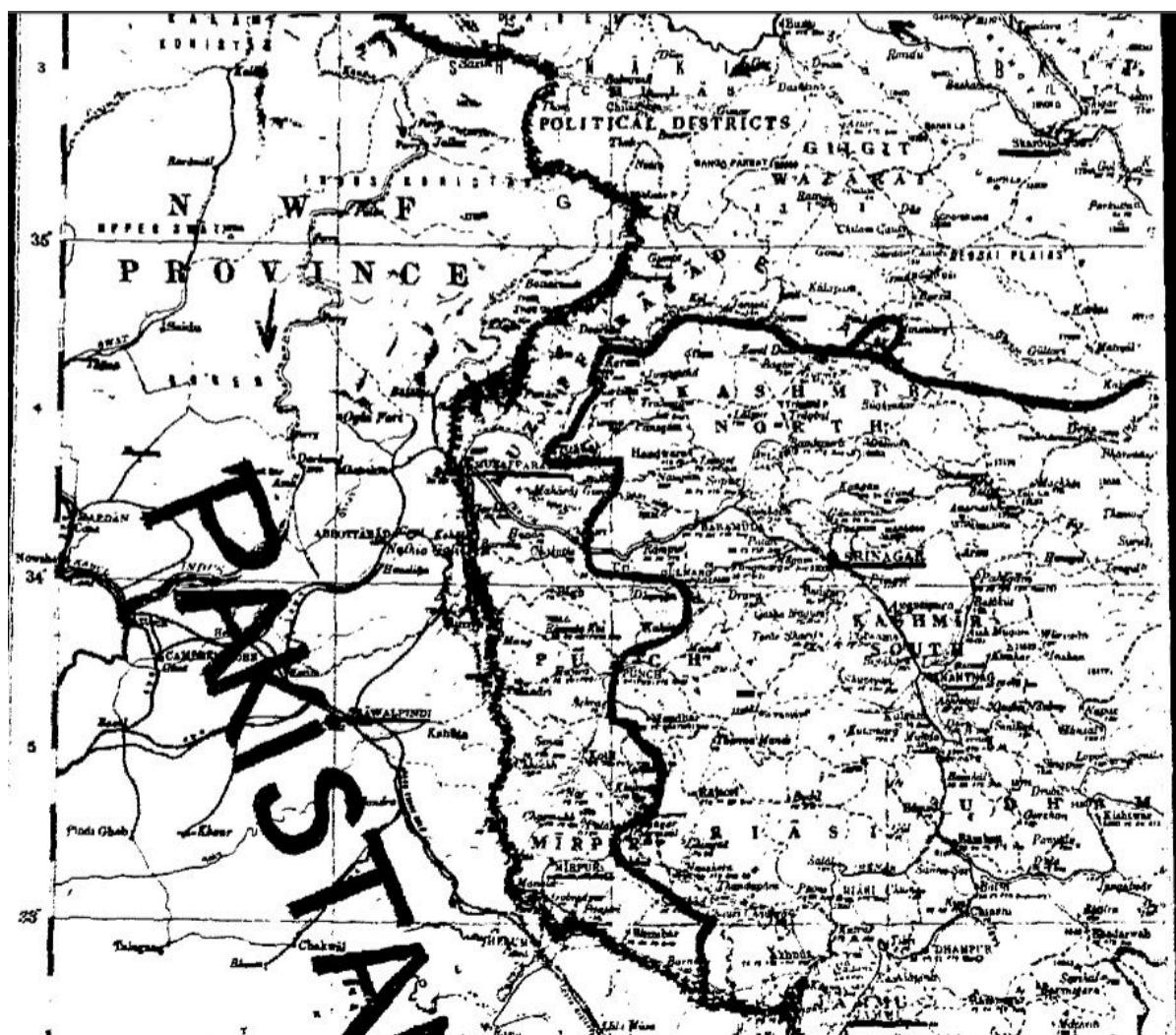
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## Appendix or Appendices



Map showing the cease-fire line that was agreed upon in the Karachi agreements (United Nations DAG Digital Library)