



The Hague International
Model United Nations

Forum: GA4

Issue: The situation in Kashmir

Student Officer: Ailin Weber

Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

The Kashmir conflict is one of the oldest unresolved international disputes.¹ Mainly bordered by India, Pakistan and China (see fig. 1), the region has faced nearly eight decades of violent conflict and political instability. Since the end of British rule in 1947, both India and Pakistan have claimed the entire region, while China has claimed the northeastern region. Meanwhile, self-determination of Kashmiris remains a contentious issue. The conflict has involved numerous wars, armed clashes and ceasefire attempts. The region is currently partitioned into three areas of administration (see fig. 2), a division stemming from the Line of Control between India and Pakistan established in 1972 and China's control over northeastern sectors following the 1962 Sino-Indian War and 1963 Sino-Pakistan Agreement.

The issue has become an international concern for its humanitarian impacts and the risk of nuclear warfare. The ongoing humanitarian crisis includes periodic violence and restrictions on freedoms for Kashmiri citizens in both Indian- and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. This has drawn international criticism for human rights abuses.^{2 3 4} Additionally, as India, Pakistan and China are all nuclear-armed states, the potential of the conflict escalating into nuclear warfare makes it a global security concern. Most recently, a fragile US-brokered ceasefire between India and Pakistan was implemented in May 2025, but recurring ceasefire violations, political unrest, insurgencies and cross-border firings remain.



Figure 1. Map of the Kashmir region on the Indian subcontinent.⁵



Figure 2. Map of the administrative division of Kashmir between India, Pakistan and China.⁶

Definition of Key Terms

Partition:

Division of a territory into separate parts.

Treaty of accession:

A formal legal agreement in which one state/territory agrees to join another.

Line of Control:

The de facto military boundary separating Indian- and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. It was established from the 1949 UN ceasefire line and formalized in the 1972 Simla agreement, but is not an internationally recognized border. It is heavily militarized and a frequent site of violent clashes.

Background Information

In 1947, following the end of British rule, the Indian subcontinent was partitioned into the Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan. The Muslim-majority Kashmir was free to accede to India or Pakistan. The Maharaja of Kashmir, the local ruler, initially sought independence but acceded to India in October 1947 in return for defense against the invasion of Pakistani tribesmen. This led to the first Kashmir war, taking place from October 1947 to January 1949.^{7 8 9}

Competing territorial claims

Competing territorial claims originate from the first Kashmir war, where India sought to confirm the act of accession and claim all of Kashmir while Pakistan argued that the accession was invalid and was made under duress. Pakistan believed that Kashmir should join it because of its Muslim-majority and geographic continuity with it.^{7 8 9} China later claimed northeastern regions on historical grounds, maintaining control over Aksai Chin since the 1962 Sino-Indian War and over the Shaksgam Valley following a 1963 agreement with Pakistan.^{8 9} India continues to claim both territories. Meanwhile, Kashmiri self-determination movements have emerged, including the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and political factions within the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC).

Insurgency groups

Insurgency in Indian-administered Kashmir began in the 1980s due to political grievances, socioeconomic dissatisfaction and demands for self-determination. Over time, the movement has evolved to include pro-independence militants and pro-Pakistan militants supporting accession to Pakistan, alongside the radicalization of some youth. These groups have repeatedly inflicted violence and terrorism in the region. India has implemented strict counterinsurgency measures, including heavy military presence, widespread surveillance and restriction of freedoms. These have faced criticism for fueling resentment and worsening human rights concerns.³

Humanitarian concerns

Counter-terrorism operations in Indian-administered Kashmir have drawn heavy international criticism. Reports have cited widespread human rights violations including torture, mass detentions without trial, incommunicado detention, discriminatory targeting of Kashmiri and Muslim communities and severe movement and communication restrictions. Civilians are subject to communication blackouts, extended curfews and heavy militarization.²³ In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, reports cite restrictions on freedom of expression and association, institutional discrimination against minorities, misuse of anti-terrorism legislation against political opponents and activists, threats to journalists and allegations of enforced disappearances linked to Pakistani intelligence agencies.² The persistence of humanitarian challenges in both regions has led to sustained international human rights monitoring and humanitarian advocacy.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

UN and International involvement

The UN has repeatedly undertaken mediation efforts, ceasefire negotiations and ceasefire monitoring to address the situation in Kashmir. In 1948, the UN established the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to negotiate and monitor peace after the first Kashmir war.¹⁰ In January 1949, the UN deployed the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to monitor the ceasefire line.¹¹ UNMOGIP remains in the region today, but has had limited success due to restricted access, a lack of enforcement powers and India's current non-recognition of its mandate. Outside of the UN, there has been international involvement from bodies such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and global human rights organizations. However, this involvement has been generally limited due to India's strong stance against international interference.

India

India claims the entirety of Kashmir and opposes external interference, framing the issue as being one of national security, counterterrorism and territorial integration. In 2019, under the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, India revoked Article 370, which had previously granted Kashmir special autonomy.¹²

Pakistan

Pakistan rejects 1947 accession of Kashmir and claims the entirety of the region, viewing it

as disputed territory. It supports Kashmiri self-determination, calls for international intervention and a UN-backed plebiscite and condemns India's human rights abuses.¹³ Pakistan is also accused of supporting pro-independence and pro-Pakistan insurgency groups and militants in Kashmir, allegations which it denies.^{14 15}

China

China controls Askai Chin and the Shaksgam Valley, rejecting any Indian claims over Chinese-administered regions and additionally claiming the Indian-administered region of Ladakh. It supports Pakistan diplomatically and calls for peaceful conflict resolution.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
October 22nd, 1947 - January 1st, 1949	The Maharaja of Kashmir signs a treaty of accession to India (October 26th). First Kashmir war takes place, ending in a UN ceasefire.
July 27, 1949	India and Pakistan define a ceasefire line, partitioning Kashmir.
October 20th - November 21st, 1962	China's incursion of Ladakh leads to the two-month Sino-Indian war. China gains control of Askai Chin.
July 2nd, 1972	India and Pakistan sign the Simla Agreement, establishing a framework for negotiation and conflict resolution while designating the Line of Control.
August 5th, 2019	India revokes article 370, ending special autonomy of Kashmir.
June 15th, 2020	First deadly India-China clash in over 45 years takes place in Ladakh.
May 10th, 2025	India and Pakistan agree on a US-brokered ceasefire.
January 26th, 2026	THIMUN begins!

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Attempts to address the Kashmir conflict have mainly included UN-led mediation, bilateral agreements and confidence-building measures. These have had limited success. Potential reasons for this include significant lack of trust between India and Pakistan, difficulty establishing

terms that both parties agree on and the exclusion of Kashmiri representatives in negotiations.

In 2007, a four-point peace plan was developed through secret talks between Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. This plan proposed self governance for each part of the region, freer movement over the Line of Control, establishment of a joint consultative mechanism for cooperation on regional issues and phased demilitarization. Proponents view this framework as the closest that the two countries have come to achieving lasting peace. However, the agreement was never finalized due to President Musharraf's loss of power and a lack of sustained political momentum.

Possible Solutions

Demilitarization and diplomatic dialogue

Gradual demilitarization could de-escalate tensions in Kashmir if gradually implemented through politically realistic, clearly regulated steps. Initial measures could include withdrawing heavy weaponry a set distance from the Line of Control and setting demilitarized zones in civilian areas. These steps could be paired with structured dialogue that avoids public mediation, which India opposes.

Confidence building measures

Practical cross-border cooperation can reduce mistrust and stabilize Kashmir. This could include restoring cross-border travel, trade and bus routes through phased reopening overseen by joint technical committees. This should be paired with the strengthened monitoring of the existing ceasefire.

Humanitarian response

Alleviating the humanitarian crisis should focus on protecting civilians and their access to basic human rights. This could include implementing recommendations from UN human rights bodies, investigating and monitoring abuses and applying UN pressure to ease current restrictions on freedom.

Limit violence by insurgency groups

The UN could support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs for militants in Kashmir. These would allow militants to surrender their weapons safely, receive incentives and reintegrate into civilian life. Limited diplomatic pressure on Pakistan could reduce the support of insurgency groups, though excessive pressure could risk further escalation.

Addressing Kashmir's political status

Long-term solutions to Kashmir could include holding a UN-backed plebiscite on self-determination, formalizing the Line of Control as an international border or establishing a joint mechanism for shared

governance of the region. An alternate approach could be combining regional self-governance with free movement over the Line of Control.

Endnotes

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Appendix or Appendices

Appendix I: [UN Documents for Jammu and Kashmir: Security Council Resolutions](#) - Security Council Report

Appendix II: [Kashmir](#) - Encyclopædia Britannica