

Date 18/09/2024

ENGLISH ESSAY

Pakistan and the Future of the
Kashmir Cause

Outline:

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview of the historical background of the Kashmir dispute

1.2 The role of Partition and the Princely State's accession in 1947

1.3 United Nations resolution and their significance in the conflict

Thesis Statement:

"Pakistan, being a key player in the Kashmir conflict, has an important role in guiding the future of Kashmir's cause through diplomacy, law and moral support, even with regional difficulties and changing global partnerships"

2. Pakistan's Historical Stance on Kashmir

2.1 Pakistan's early stance on Kashmir as an integral part of national identity.

2.2 Diplomatic efforts in global forum, (UN)

2.3 The importance of the 1948 UN Resolution and plebiscite demand

3. India's Position on Kashmir

3.1 India's Constitutional claim between Jammu and Kashmir (Article 370).

3.2 Recent changes post-2019.

3.3 India narratives of international security and integration

4. Legal Framework of the Dispute

4.1 The status of Kashmir under international law

4.2 United Nations resolutions and their binding nature.

4.3 Legal avenues available to Pakistan for contesting India's claim.

5. Pakistan Diplomatic Efforts on Kashmir

5.1 Pakistan's advocacy at the United Nations

5.2 Bilateral and multilateral negotiations with India

5.3 Role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

6. The Geopolitical Shift and Pakistan's Strategy

6.1 Pakistan's relationship with China and its strategic positioning with respect to Kashmir

Case study: South Asia politics by Ayesha Jalal.

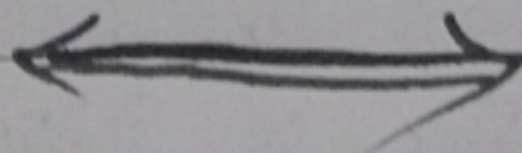
6.2 The role of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in shaping regional politics

7. The Role of Kashmir in Pakistan-India Relations

7.1 The centrality of Kashmir in peace talks and conflict between Pakistan and India

7.2 Potential for future dialogue and diplomacy of Kashmir.

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THE ESSAY

The Kashmir conflict is a long-standing territorial dispute between India and Pakistan, dating back to the partition of British India in 1947. The British decided to divide the subcontinent into two independent nations, India and Pakistan. The princely states given the option to join either of them or remain independent. Kashmir, a Muslim-majority state ruled by a Hindu Maharaja was caught in a dilemma. Maharaja Hari Singh initially wanted to remain independent but eventually acceded to India after tribal forces from Pakistan invaded Kashmir in October 1947. This accession led to the first war between India and Pakistan, resulting in the division of Kashmir into areas controlled by both nations known as Azad Kashmir (controlled by Pakistan) and Jammu and Kashmir (controlled by India). The conflict became the international level that India brought the issue of United Nations in 1948. The UN passed several resolutions, including one calling for a plebiscite to let the people of Kashmir decide their future, but it has never been implemented. These unresolved issues have caused multiple wars between two nations. Kashmir remains a flashpoint in South Asia with both India and Pakistan continuing to claim the entire region, making it a significant international conflict.

From the beginning, Pakistan has considered as an essential part of its national identity. Since Kashmir is a Muslim-majority region, Pakistan believes that based on the principles of the 1947 partition Kashmir should have joined Pakistan. This idea clearly defined as in the country's history and politics and it has remained a central issue for every government in Pakistan. For Pakistan, Kashmir is not just about territory, it is about supporting the right of the Kashmiri people to decide their future, which aligns with Pakistan's founding principles.

Moreover, Pakistan has worked hard to bring attention to the Kashmir issue in international forums, especially at the United Nations. After the first war with India and Kashmir in 1947-48, Pakistan approached the UN, asking for its involvement to resolve the dispute. Since then, Pakistan has continued to raise the Kashmir issue in global meetings, seeking international support for peace and implementation of UN resolutions. Diplomatically, Pakistan has positioned itself as a supporter of Kashmiri people's rights to self-determination urging a fair and peaceful solution.

One of the most important moments in Pakistan's stance on Kashmir is the 1948 United Nations Resolution. This resolution called for a plebiscite, allowing the people of Kashmir to choose whether to join India or Pakistan. Pakistan has always demanded that this plebiscite be held, believing it is the only fair way to settle the dispute. This resolution remains the foundation of Pakistan's position on Kashmir, reflecting its commitment to peaceful and democratic solution.

Furthermore, India's position on Kashmir has been divided in its constitutional claim between Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir's Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession in 1947, India accepted Kashmir as part of its territory. To ensure the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, India included Article 370 in its constitution. This article gave the region significant autonomy, allowing it to have its own constitution, laws and governance while India controlled only areas like defense, foreign affairs and communication. India has long argued that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of its nation, based on the legal agreement made in 1947.

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However, in 2019, India made a significant change by revoking Article 370. This decision removed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and brought it under direct control of the Indian government, like any other state or union territory. India also split the region into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. India's move has been criticized globally, but the Indian government argues that this step was necessary to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir into the country.

Hence, India's narrative for this decision focuses on internal security and national integration. The Indian government claims that the special status of Jammu and Kashmir had prevented its full integration into India and had fueled unrest and militancy. By revoking Article 370, India believes it can bring development and stability to the region, reduce terrorism and strengthen national unity. According to India, the change will help to ensure peace and security within its borders.

