

Discuss the Kashmir problem in its entirety; throwing light on its background and prospects of possible solutions to this core issue between India and Pakistan.

Introduction:

The issue of Kashmir is the major irritant in Indo-Pakistan relations. It has been on United Nation Security Council's table since 1948. Unfortunately, the talks between India and Pakistan have been stalled since then. Moreover, Pakistan has been repeatedly been accused of terrorism by India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this year:

"There will be no talks between India and Pakistan unless Pakistan stops planting terrorists in Indian side of Kashmir."

Historical Background

After the partition plan, the fate of a few princely states was left for India and Pakistan to decide. The British Secretary stated:

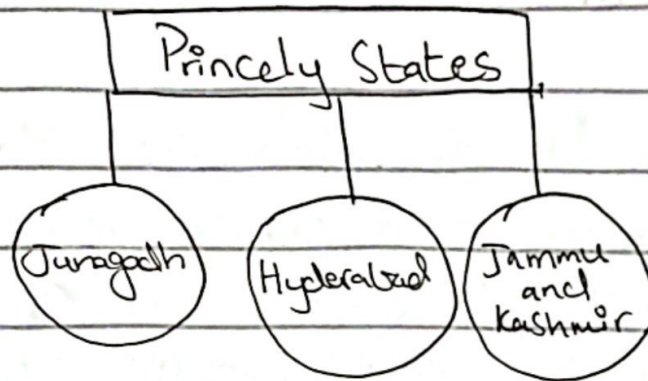
"We of course do not talk about providing independence to Princely States. The fate of these states will be decided by either annexing with India or Pakistan."

The major princely states decided to their fate depending upon their population, but sadly, India annexed some areas according to its choice.

The fate of princely states:

These were the three princely states who were still to decide their

future :



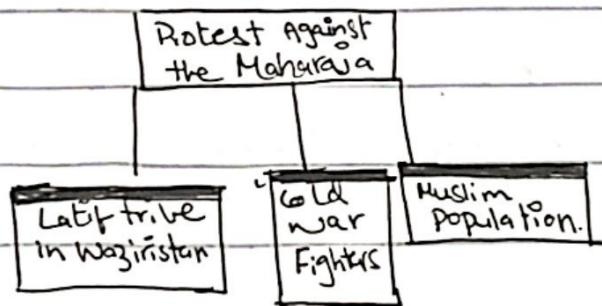
⇒ Junagadh consisted of majority muslim population but India through unfair means annexed Junagadh with itself.

⇒ Hyderabad wanted to be separated and become an independent state. Hyderabad met with the same fate and got annexed illegally with India in 1948.

⇒ Jammu and Kashmir is still a disputed land and both states claim it to be a part of their territories.

Maharaja Hari Singh and the Fate of Kashmir:

Maharaja Hari Singh, the Maharaja of Kashmir had other plans. According to ~~Dr~~ Abdul Sattar's book, "Pakistan's Foreign Policy 1947-2019", Maharaja Hari Singh decided to first delay the accession statement on India's command. Later on, he exterminated those Muslims who ~~were~~ wanted to become a part of Pakistan. Following people stood up against Maharaja Hari Singh:



Illegal Accession Letter:

After the Mehmal tribe of ~~the~~ South Waziristan marched towards Kashmir,

India backstabbed by ^{taking} illegal accession of Maharaja and made Kashmir a part of India.

Pakistan's Condemnation and the United Nation Security Council's Decision:

Pakistan condemned the actions of India and wanted to take the issue to UNSC. Before Pakistan took any ~~othr~~ action, India ~~set~~ took the matter to UNSC in 1948. ~~India~~ India and Pakistan were at loggerheads.

UNSC's Decision Regarding the Issue

UNSC made the following statement to solve the issue:

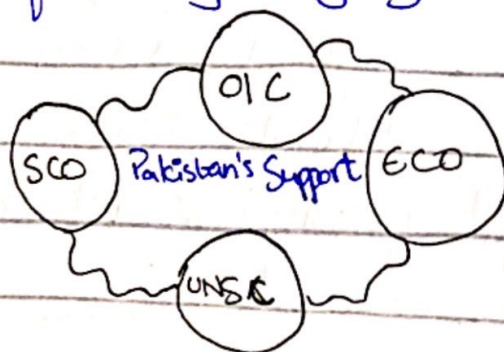
"The issue must be solved through plebiscite and peaceful negotiations between India and Pakistan".

Furthermore, UNSC was advised by Pakistan to create UN Commission for India and Pakistan to stop further violence in Kashmir.

Till date, the issue between India and Pakistan exists and is the major irritant between India and Pakistan.

Abrogation of Article 370(A) by India:

Dr. Shamsahad Ahmed, the author of the book, "Pakistan on World Affairs" has condemned the actions of India to revoke the special status of Kashmir. Moreover, Pakistan has highlighted the plight of Kashmiris after the incident in the following organizations:



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE ISSUE:

Both the countries need to look for solutions to halt any future aggression ~~between~~ between both the countries.

- Involving third party for mediation:

Both the countries need to look for a neutral party for mediation. They should talk to Russia for initiating negotiations as it is an ally of both the countries. For instance, ^{Iran} Pak-Saudi Rapprochement has been successful, according to Stimson Centre's ~~Dea~~ Research Associate Michael Kugelman. The main reason was the presence of China, a neutral party.

- Boosting trade between each other:

In order to solve illuminate the future of Kashmir, India and Pakistan should start cooperating in one

domain while putting apart their issues. According to Carnegie Endowment for Peace, trade between India and Pakistan shows blossomed between 1948-64 due to lesser tensions in between them.

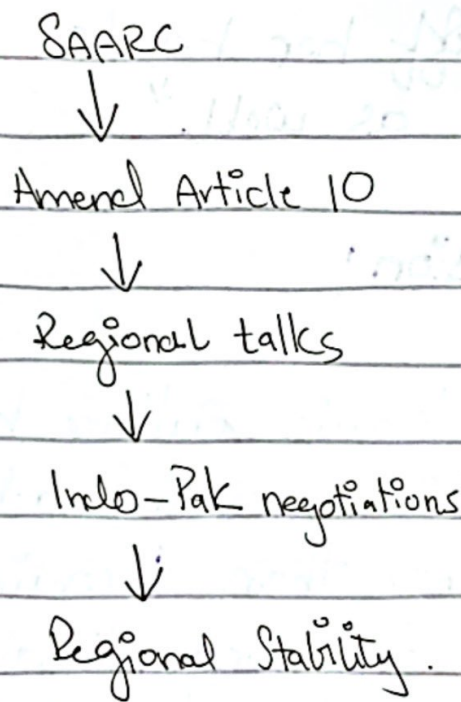
PAKISTAN + INDIA $\xrightarrow{\text{TRADE}}$ Solution to Kashmir Problem.

- Mutual Reduction of Forces:

According to a report published by Stockholm ^{International} Institute of Peace Research Institute, (SIPRI) Pakistan has 170 nuclear warheads due to its issue with India regarding Kashmir. Confidence building measures will help in reducing tensions.

- Efforts to Revive SAARC:

SAARC was the only platform where India and Pakistan could resolve their dispute. However, the Article 10 of SAARC's mandate proscribes bringing any dispute to the table. Therefore, this article should be amended and the issue of Kashmir should be brought to light.



Conclusion:

Therefore, India and Pakistan are the foundation of regional stability in

South Asia. Stable relations between India and Pakistan will ultimately ~~be~~ bring stability in Afghanistan as well. Moreover, the issue of terrorism which is being backed by India will ~~be~~ bring better opportunities for Pakistan as well.
