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Q. Analyze the evolution of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India in the post-independence period. How has the issue shaped bilateral relations and regional security in S. Asia? ~~Suggest a viable roadmap for its resolution in the light of recent developments.~~

The Kashmir dispute is one of the core reason of fragile relations between India and Pakistan. The hasty British withdrawal and lack of plebiscite led to an unending conflict between two nations. Despite being Muslim majority state, Maharaja Hari Singh decided to affiliate Kashmir with India - against the will of Kashmiri people. The Kashmir dispute is continue to evolve since 1947 and was the key cause of Indo-Pak wars. Kashmir is not just a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan, but a geopolitical hotspot that affects South Asian nations security and global politics. It could be resolved if India acts on UN Resolution 47 or may for short-term if Dixons or Musharraf plans were followed, otherwise it can lead to another Indo-Pak war.

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EVOLUTION OF THE KASHMIR DISPUTE POST-INDEPENDENCE

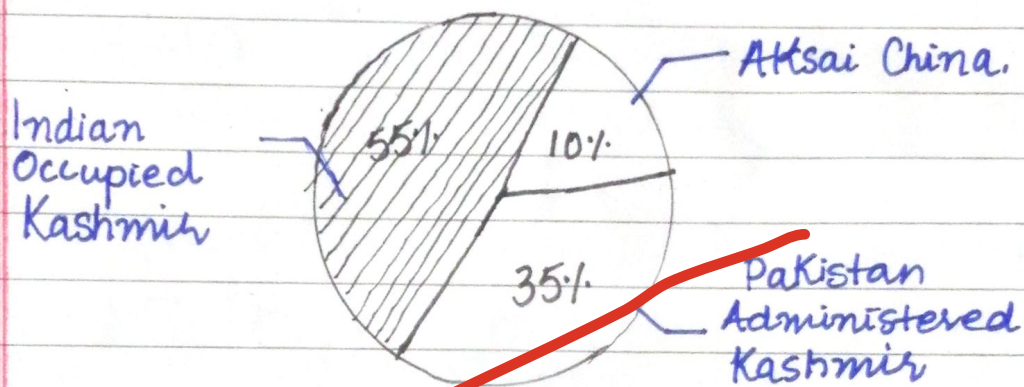
- Aug 15, 1947 - Partition of India; princely States, including Jammu & Kashmir
- October 1947 - ✓ Maharaja Hari Singh delays decision
- Oct 22, 1947 - Tribal forces from Pakistan enters Kashmir
- Oct 26, 1947 - Maharaja signs the instrument of accession with India
- 1947-48 - ✓ First Indo-Pak war over Kashmir
- 1948 - UN intervenes, leading to a ceasefire and the division of Kashmir into
- Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Pakistan-administered)
 - ✓ → Jammu & Kashmir (India-administered)
- 1956 - India declares Jammu & Kashmir as its integral part.

- 1965 - Second Indo-Pak War
- 1966 - Tashkent agreement
- 1971 - Third Indo-Pak war and creation of Bangladesh
- ✓ 1972 - Simla Agreement making Kashmir a bilateral issue.
- 1989 - Army insurgency in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir.
- ✓ 1999 Kargil war - Pakistan military forces occupy strategic positions in Kashmir
- 2008-16 - Mass protest in Kashmir due to human rights violation.
- ✓ Aug 5, 2019 - India revoked ~~the~~ Article 370, ending Kashmir's special autonomy.
- 2020-Present - Ongoing diplomatic efforts by Pakistan on International platforms to highlight Indian oppression.

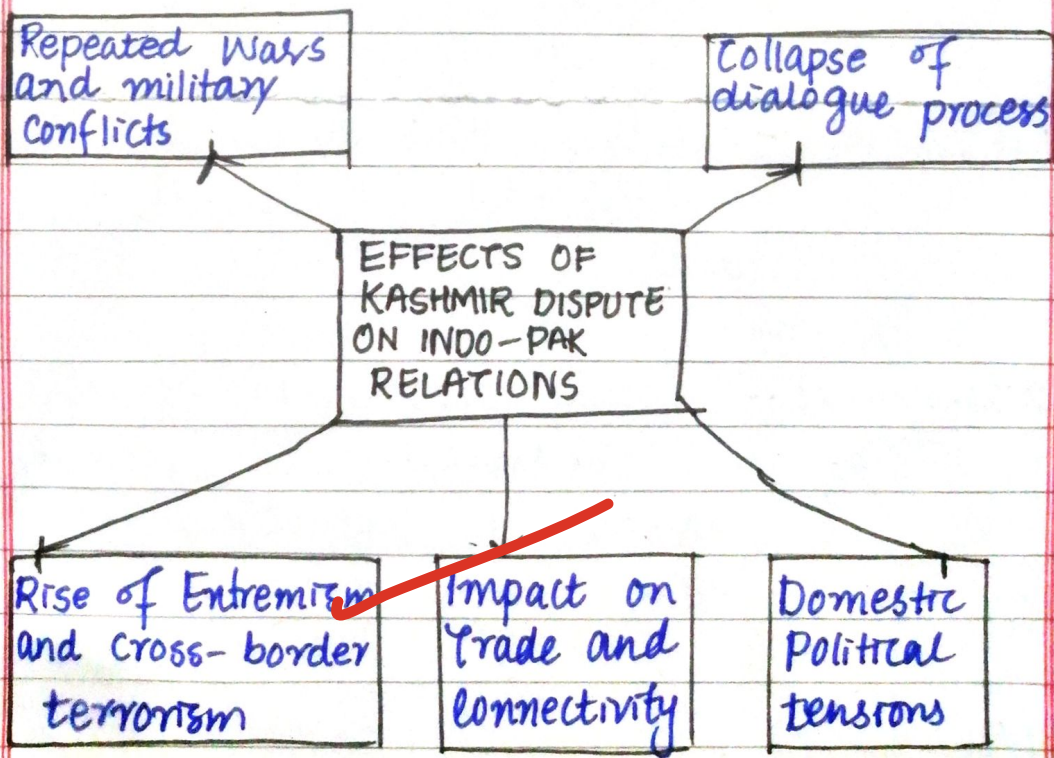
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EFFECT OF THE KASHMIR DISPUTE ON RELATIONS B/W PAKISTAN AND INDIA

Pakistan and India both claims Kashmir as their own territory and both wants to have access to 100% of Kashmir. At present, Kashmir is divided between China, India, and Pakistan.



This dispute between India and Pakistan has affected the relations between both nations.



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i. REPEATED WARS AND MILITARY CONFLICTS:

Since independence, Pakistan and India has fought many wars - 1948, 1965, 1961, and 1999 - because of Kashmir issues. Kashmir has become a flashpoint and both nations claim it as their territory. Due to this issue, ties between both countries could not grow.

ii. Collapse of Dialogue Process:

Pakistan and India has multiple times tried to sit on tables to foster their relations but everytime, due to differences on Kashmir issue, the all efforts went to vein. After revocation of Article 370, the dialogue process has been frozen.

iii. RISE OF EXTREMISM & CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM:

On both sides of the border, there is rise of extremism and cross-border terrorism. Both nations blame each other for this terrorism. India, has accused Pakistan many times for this. For example, the Pahalgam attack of 2019 and Pulwama attack of 2019 were accused to be done by Pakistani supported militants.

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iv. Impact on Trade & Connectivity:

Due to Kashmir issue, there is no ongoing trade between India and Pakistan directly. After the revocation of Article 370, Pakistan has suspended all kind of trade relation with India. On the other hand, according to the World Bank, there is ^{trade} potential of \$37B between India and Pakistan.

v. Domestic Political Tensions:

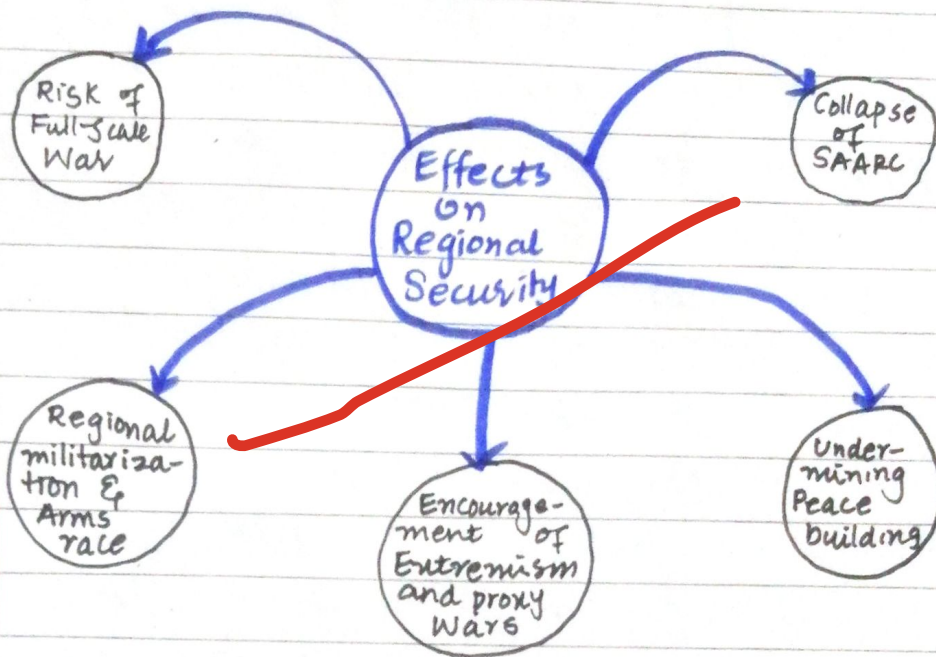
In both countries, politicians use anti-Pakistan and anti-India narratives and use Kashmir as a victim card to gain sympathy and votes. These actions spread hate between people of both nations for each other.

EFFECT OF KASHMIR DISPUTE ON REGIONAL SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA:

Kashmir isn't just a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan but a geopolitical hotspot of South Asia. It has become a flashpoint between these two rivals. Both can go to any point to have it. It has numerous effects

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on regional security.



i. RISK OF FULL SCALE WAR:

Pakistan and India have fought many wars—1948, 1965, 1971, 1998, and 2025—because of Kashmir issue.

Nobody wants to take back step from their stance on Kashmir. So, there are chances that a full-scale war can escalate between both nations for Kashmir. Moreover, this might be a nuclear war, as both countries possess nuclear weapons. If this happened, the whole region would have to pay the price.

ii. REGIONAL MILITARIZATION AND ARMS RACE:

In 1974, India conducted first atomic bomb test—Smiling Buddha.

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So, to maintain "Balance of Power" in South Asia, Pakistan started working on Atom Bomb. In 1998, Pakistan conducted Six Atomic bomb tests in response to India. Both nations became nuclear powers, and since then both nations are developing nuclear arms. Hence, a nuclear arms race has been started in the region. Moreover, there is huge spending on military on both sides of the border as they have deployed military in both sides of Kashmir.

iii. ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROXY WARS AND EXTREMISM:

The narratives has been spread through media that has fueled hatred among the people of both nations. India and Pakistan, both are victims of terrorism and extremism, and both blame each other for supporting militants. India has accused Pakistan of Pulwama Attack (2019) and Peshawar Attack (2025) but couldn't prove it through evidences and irony is that India launched missiles in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir. On the other hand, India is continuously supporting and funding insurgent

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groups in Balochistan. Kulboshan Jhadav-India agent, has himself accepted this fact.

IV. UNDERMINING PEACE BUILDING MECHANISMS:

Both nations have differences regarding Kashmir and they do not resolve it effectively. Pakistan has offered dialogue many times but India did not accept. Because of their differences, peace building in South Asia has become a difficult task.

V. COLLAPSE OF SAARC:

South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was established to promote peace and economy between South Asian countries. However, due to issues between India and Pakistan, it has collapsed. The last Summit of SAARC was conducted in 2014. Had they kept their issues aside, SAARC would have been successful like European Union.

CONCLUSION:

India and Pakistan are facing the Kashmir issue because of British colonial rule and flaws in partition planning. The Kashmir dispute

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has affected both countries in terms of politics, economy, ideology, and culture. This issue also has affect on regional security as both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons. Only a just and fair resolution would end a decades-old conflict and pave the way for more stable and prosperous South Asia.



good attempt!!!