



## **Background Paper**

**Committee:** Special Political and Decolonization Committee

**Topic:** Reviewing the Ongoing Crisis in Kashmir

**Chairs:** Francia Gamero Flores & Emilio Aguilar Arribas

Kashmir is a region found in northern India, southern China, and eastern Pakistan. Kashmir is experiencing one of the biggest conflicts in the Middle East, involving a dispute between powerful nations. India and Pakistan are the protagonists of this crisis, both countries seeking their only self-interests with the region. The Indus River is one of the main reasons the territory is essential for both countries. Such a river greatly helps the agriculture in these nations and is very significant for the creation of hydroelectric power. The Indus Water Treaty dictates a fair distribution so that both nations do not cut off water supplies, however, there is fear that this will happen. In this region there is a very important geographical location, as India strives for connections between Central Asia and Europe, conversely, Pakistan wants the connection between China to satisfy their interests, which are similar. As well as the resources of uranium, gold, natural gas and oil, this territory is of vital importance and that is why this dispute exists.

Many lives have been lost and could continue to be lost, as terrorist attacks in this region would increase. These nations have grown militarily as they both declared themselves powerful nuclear nations and also have the support of many nations. This is why the committee has to agree on a solution to this crisis before many lives are lost or worse, a nuclear war is generated, where very important nations will be involved since it will be a danger to global security.

In August 1947, Pakistan and India declared independence from Great Britain, at that time, some states could decide which nation to stay. In the case of Kashmir, the majority of the community was Muslim, which identified better with Pakistan, contrarily, the Hindu ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, preferred alliance with India. Since then, groups of Pakistan were formed to take out the city, to take control over it, and once this territory was totally part of India, the first Kashmir war was declared, meanwhile there was war, Pakistan soldiers entered to help their tribes. At the end of 1948, the two nations reached an agreement to divide this region, where India obtained two thirds of it and Pakistan the rest, causing wars and conflicts.

China became a tertiary in this dispute, taking control of 15% of the territory, besides it entered as an ally of Pakistan leaving total control of 45% of this region, while India has the other 55%. Three nations that have enormous power, both economically, militarily and politically at the international level. Evidently, the nuclear power they hold is outstanding, leading to a worldwide crisis alert.

In April 1948, the United Nations entered as moderators in this conflict. Security council adopted resolution 39, which consists of resolving the conflict peacefully and creating a committee made up of 3 members, one would have to be chosen by India, another by Pakistan and finally one would be chosen by both. In addition, they would have to prepare for a plebiscite to be able to decide what would happen in the region. Finally, three actions were proposed that could heal these tensions; first, Pakistani citizens who entered the fight will have to return to their country; second, India would lower its illegal force in that area and finally a representative of the one would stay with India. In the end, there was no agreement as Pakistan rejected the resolution, although India had accepted it. After many international negotiations, none accepted the terms and the military forces never withdrew. During all this time there have been three major wars for control of Kashmir, and also some small military confrontations, although there is currently no war, it could happen at any time, since these are nations with strong interests.

This dispute has gone on for far too long and looks set to continue as both nations seek total control of Kashmir. This region is very important regarding the economy of many countries, that is why it is something very precious to them. There was war, and if this problem is not resolved soon it could become a major conflict due to the amount of power involved in the conflict. Lately, both nations have fairly grown; the technological progress in military matters is impressive, since they came to the point of calling themselves powerful nuclear countries, and they have also allied themselves with extremely strong nations and with very large weapons capacities.

The conflict is of vital importance throughout the world since those involved are very important countries that are facing each other. Countries like China, Russia, the United States and several European countries have entered the topic to magnify the problem. The conflict is difficult to appreciate only on one side since both have their interests, but those interests could cross the line and cause a war and many lives would be lost. This committee must address this conflict in a diplomatic manner aiming to prevent possible future conflict.

## Works Cited

Asoori, P. (2020, October 7). *A look into the conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir*. E. Retrieved January 23, 2022, from <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/10/07/a-look-into-the-conflict-between-india-and-pakistan-over-kashmir/>.

BBC. (2019, August 8). *Kashmir: Why India and Pakistan fight over it*. BBC News. Retrieved January 23, 2022, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/10537286>

*UNSCR search engine for the United Nations Security Council resolutions*. UNSCR. (n.d.). Retrieved January 23, 2022, from <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions>

