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**Kashmir Issue**

**Kashmir** falls with in the north-western region of the Indian subcontinent. At present, it is the larger area of Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir comprising of the three divisions of Kashmir valley, Jammu and Ladakh. Kashmir shares its borders with China and Pakistan. Kashmir region has been a center of Hinduism, Buddhism followed by Kashmir Shaivism. Conflict between India and Pakistan of Kashmir began in August 1947 and also the specific geographic location and religious groups inside Kashmir has made it a zone of collapse of interests. This area is believed to be mainly inhabited by Muslims. Being situated between India and Pakistan brought tough fate to Kashmir after the Indian subcontinent`s independence. This continuous conflict is known as Kashmir issue. This rivalry between the two countries evolved over the years to succeed in present days, where it’s still a serious problem. During this point United Nations (UN) has tried to assist solving this problem but the countries cannot reach a conclusion.

The Kashmir issue started in 1947 with the partition of the British Indian Empire. The new-formed India and Pakistan were competing for dominance over the state because of religious issues. This became a major cause of the Indian-Pakistani conflict with proactive actions from both countries to become Kashmir`s dominions. India and Pakistan has had conflicts though the years till nowadays but the Kashmir issue remains the most severe one. United Nations took major part in trying to prevent the conflict to escalate in a nuclear war. However separatism of Muslim militants occurred, which was the root cause for terrorism in this region. The Kashmir issue has been having main impact in worsening the Indian-Pakistani conflict over the years.

Dr Ashiq explained in his article “Kashmir dispute: A brief history” , He said Most of the inhabitants are Muslims but a specific ethnic, called “Kashmiriyat”, can be noticed”. The land was bought is 1948 from the East India Company for the amount of Rs 75, 00,000. The purpose of it was to add it to Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu present lands ruled. Maharaja Hari Singh, who inherited Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu, was the last Maharaja of the state of Kashmir and Jammu in India.

The British Empire gave independence to India in August 1947. The Indian subcontinent was divided into West Pakistan, India and East Pakistan. Kashmir, like other 500 princely states was offered to choose between having Pakistan or India as its dominion. The decision had to be taken on the basis of the wishes of the population and geographical closeness. However the Maharaja, who was originally Hindu, was delaying his decision, dithering between remaining independent or joining India. Kashmir suffered an invasion from Pakistan from the west. Kashmir asked India for help in exchange of joining their union. The Maharaja handed control over Kashmir and Jammu to India. Pakistan asked for a referendum among the Kashmiri people but it was refused. The Pakistani army met the defensive forces of India. India suggested vote if Pakistan retrieves its army. Pakistan refused stating the people would not vote sincerely with the presence of the Indian army. On 1st January 1948 United Nations was involved. A year later UNCIP (United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan) suggested a referendum in the Kashmir valley to clarify its status as explained in “Part 3: Kashmir Issue – Its Current Status” which could be taken only without the presence of Indian or Pakistani armed forces. As in 1948 and 1949 both countries accepted but failed to come to an agreement due to differences. After the end of the war, India received the more productive part of Kashmir compared to Pakistan, as stated in “Role of United Nations In Kashmir Dispute”. Later special status and internal economy were guaranteed in the state with central control in the defense, the foreign affairs and the communication.

Line of Control was founded in the beginning of 1949 . The Line of Control divides Kashmir to Indian-administrated to the east and south and Pakistani-administrated to the north and west . Religion was one of the main causes of the Kashmir issue. More of half of the population of Kashmir is Muslim, which made it the only Indian state with such proportion of Muslims. The main conflict mainly comes from outside and it is more a religious issue than a territorial.

In 1947 was the year of the first collapse of the Indian-Pakistani relations, which evolved in two wars (in 1947-1948 and 1965) for Kashmir. Most of their battles ended without a winner. The only exception is the Bangladesh war in 1971 where Pakistan was completely defeated. In 1999 fight over Kashmir, known as Kargil conflict, led to a new conflict but it did not turn into a war.

In 1949, J&K's interim government and India's Constituent Assembly negotiated "special status" for the new state, leading to Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in 1950, the same year the document went into effect. The Article formalized the terms of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to the Indian Union, generally requiring the concurrence of the state government before the central government could make administrative changes beyond the areas of defense, foreign affairs, and communications*.* On August 2019, the Indian government announced that it would make major changes to the legal status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state, specifically by repealing Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and Section 35A of its Annex, which provided the state “special” autonomous status, and by bifurcating the state into two successor “Union Territories” with more limited indigenous administrative powers which was implemented on November 1, 2019. The former princely region’s sovereignty has been unsettled since 1947 and its territory is divided by a military “Line of Control” with Pakistan controlling about one-third and disputing India’s claim over remaining part of J&K .The United Nations considers J&K to be disputed territory, but India calls the recent legal changes an internal matter, and it generally opposes third-party involvement in the Kashmir issue.

Now as the Kashmir issue has been one of the largest conflicts since 1947. The Indian-Pakistani actions against each did not bring results. The geographical location and religious variety within the Kashmir valley make it an on-going issue. United Nation can only cool the conflict in order to prevent the world from a nuclear war, but are powerless in solving the main problem. By which the Kashmir has turned into a place of separatism and terrorism. Many terrorists attack India in direct and indirect ways to show the world that Kashmir is a part of Pakistan. Therefore the Kashmir issue remain unsolved after the United Nation has taken out of the list because of long-running conflicts. No bright future is expected in the Kashmir.

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