

## The Kashmir Covered Lens

Human beings, not only in a diplomatic sense, misperceive and make mistakes in the everyday world. When information is misperceived it makes people weary and act irrationally. India and Pakistan have gone through circumstances where their perceptions of their counterpart have harmfully impacted their people, mentality, and the possibility of a profitable future. This territory conflict has been in effect for over seventy years and has impacted violent militant outbursts, kidnappings, and nuclear threats.

During the first India-Pakistan War, the United Nations believed a referendum, also known as a plebiscite, should be held in the state of Kashmir, so they could determine their own political future. The United Nations told Pakistan and India that once all troops were withdrawn a referendum could be held. Unfortunately, this referendum was never happened. India refused to take part in the it. India believed that Kashmir was already a part of their country because they participated in their elections. This issue led to many years filled with distrust and uncertainty between India and Pakistan. Their cognitive bias made them close-minded to the possibilities of a better life for the Kashmir people and in turn more peaceful relations with neighboring countries.

In May 1989, during a time of cease-fire between India and Pakistan, India tested five nuclear devices and three weeks later Pakistan responded as a retort. By performing these tests, the cease-fire along the border was broken, and the firing between the Indian and Pakistani troops left over one hundred civilians dead. Due to the long-time dispute over this territory, Pakistan didn't have the complete information as to why India was performing these tests. They were led to the wrong conclusions because of their cognitive bias against India and uncertainty

of their intentions. While these two countries are fighting for this territory, hundreds of lives are lost. The threat of an arms race between them could potentially escalate the violence. If these two countries were more forthcoming with their intentions and their actions, it would create a stronger and more trustworthy relationship.

Many of the issues that arose between Pakistan and India could have been prevented with the proper diplomatic cooperation. Both countries will need to acknowledge their bias in order to overcome acts of aggression displayed towards each other. Pakistan and India need to let down their defensive walls and be subject to vulnerabilities from the opposing side. The United Nation could help this situation by setting up a diplomatic meeting between the two leaders of Pakistan and India. The U.N. would act as a mediator to help resolve the territory issue. They will discuss their past historical relationship to move forward from the violence and oppression in order for the the three territories to have friendly, non-threatening relations.

Human psychological makeup is primarily motivated by our tendencies to be focused strategically on ourselves and our benefits. Iran and Pakistan are no exception to the emotional rationalization of having a singular mindset. The Kashmir conflicts illustrate how two countries can go to war based on bias and their own gain. In order to move harmoniously forward, the two countries should set aside their personal gain for the benefit and profit for three separate countries and its people.