Tension Between India and Pakistan

Imagine a world where India and Pakistan are at war. That's the world we live in. It is in this world where, like many former European colonies before them, India and Pakistan struggle to reconcile modern borders with ancient identities. It seems as though India and Pakistan are no different than the many postcolonial states scattered throughout Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. Despite numerous attempts at peace and cease fires, the countries have reconciled little in the seven decades since independence from the British. Instead, they have moved in the opposite direction, creating national identities that do nothing but create tension. There are numerous sources of uncertainty between the two states. People in India's Kashmir territory have been starting militias and attacking Indian police and military. "India, and Pakistan are all pursuing new ballistic missile, cruise missile, and sea-based nuclear delivery systems." (Arms Control Association) These sources of uncertainty can cause both sides to continue fighting and misperceiving the other countries' intentions.

Ignoring the minority Hindus and Buddhists in Kashmir, Pakistan believes the region should give up its sovereignty primarily because Kashmir's inhabitants are predominantly Muslim. Its people share much more in common culturally (language ethnicity, religion) with Pakistan than India. Due to tension between the two states, war broke out. Months of fighting and thousands of casualties later, the two countries gave in to international pressure, and agreed to a United Nations controlled peace deal. A ceasefire led to the drawing of new national boundaries, and Kashmir was divided into two parts, which left many of the disputed region's fiercely devout inhabitants unsatisfied. Tensions between the Indian government and the citizens of Kashmir have risen over the past years because a large majority of people want to merge with Pakistan. The Indian government could misconstrue the information as an attempt from Pakistan to disrupt order and claim Kashmir for themselves.

According to the Arms Control Association, "Pakistan has been developing tactical nuclear weapons with capabilities to counter perceived Indian conventional military threats." At the present moment, Pakistan has possession of nearly one hundred and twenty nuclear warheads. India has possession of a nearly one hundred and thirty nuclear warheads. Both countries will continually strengthen their arsenals, which could lead

to a potential nuclear war. It is possible that one of the countries will misunderstand one another's attempt to strengthen their defenses as a sign of war.

Pakistan and India have had a long history of misunderstandings and conflict. A lot of this has to due with the British empire's separation of the land into two states.There are numerous sources of uncertainty between the two states. People in India's Kashmir territory have been starting militias and attacking Indian police and military. There is also a arms race between the two sovereign states. There are a number of ways this problem between the two states could be solved. One good idea is to allow the people of Kashmir to decide whether to stay a part of India or merge with Pakistan.