

Since 1947, India and Pakistan have had disputes over who exactly owns Kashmir. Kashmir's initial "alliance" with India was only for their own self-preservation: they wanted both independent autonomy and protection from stronger outside forces. Pakistan, however, did not fall back, eventually leading to a UN-monitored Line of Control, which effectively split Kashmir and partitioned it to each of the fighting sides. The two have no reason to trust each other, and the countries use Kashmir as a battleground for their disputes. The conflicts have since been unresolved, and tensions are still present, although some non permanent steps have been affected recently to aid in the long-awaited peace between the fighting countries. The uncertainty of Pakistan and India are seen especially in the call for a plebiscite and the uprisings of the Kashmiri, but we believe that by being the bigger men, India and Pakistan can both give up Kashmir and leave them independent, to where no overlapping rule is present. This will eventually lead to the least violent outcome.

When a plebiscite was proposed by the U.N. to resolve the Kashmir issue and then rejected by India, much uncertainty appeared on both India's and Pakistan's side. Since there would be a third party (the U.N.), there is a fear that it will not take into account all the information, due to the fact that they have not experienced the whole situation the way the main parties have. Some of Kashmir, as well as Pakistan, could see this decision as a way for India to keep an upper hand. Also, this option makes Kashmir think that they can get out of this situation as a sovereign independent state, which may incite rebellion towards the conflicting parties. Pakistan can also find uncertainty in this situation, seeing India as being power-hungry and not agreeing to comply with a resolution. They would have preferred a complete military takeover rather than constant "interventions" over India-controlled Kashmir.

Constant revolts in Kashmir also give these nations uncertainty. India feels like the MUFs who are advocating a Pakistani government give an impression that Pakistan is trying to take control of Kashmir. In addition more recent supplies sent (in the late 1990s) to Kashmiri people include guns and bombs, which to India makes it seem like Pakistan is trying to give the Kashmiri power to overthrow the Indian rule. Pakistan also has its doubts. The National Conference's supposed corruption and election rigging may tip Pakistan off and suggest that India is trying to completely take over Kashmir. It also did not help out either party that Kashmir wanted to become independent.

It seems like all this is happening because of India and Pakistan's intervention with Kashmir. This can be resolved by letting Kashmir be independent for a while. If they eventually want to be under the jurisdiction of one country or another, let it be their choice. Subjugation of an inhabited land almost never ends smoothly if the state being taken under control has no consent. In addition, it is best not to split up the country, as it hurts the state's integrity even more. In sum, whoever gets the country, gets the country, but just let Kashmir decide on the final outcome. This will ensure the most sound and least violent outcome from this conflict.