The India-Pakistan dispute over the Kashmir region created tension between the two neighboring states through controversial actions such as nuclear proliferation and military demonstrations. Through the blatant rigging of governmental elections, the National Conference Party seized power and subsequently arrested members of the MUF, or the Muslim United Front. The group arrest of MUF members prompted several Pakistani military groups to lash out at the Indian government. The methodology of the attacks varied in severity from coordinating bombings of government buildings and assaulting members of the government to nonviolent techniques such as boycotting national and local elections. These groups also went as far as to abduct Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed’s daughter, who was used to force the government to return five detained militants. This all caused a massive backlash upon Pakistani groups, further escalating the tension between the groups.

Another issue in the fight for the Kashmir region was the introduction of nuclear programs within both of the states. According to Human Rights Watch, on May 11 and 13 of 1998, India began testing newly developed nuclear devices. Pakistan took the nuclear testing as a sign of aggression, and three weeks later Pakistan responded with the development and testing of their own nuclear devices. The two states interpreted this increase in security as an act of aggression towards each other. Due to the nuclear proliferation that ensued as a result of misinterpretation of intention by both parties, both countries escalated the conflict by stationing hundreds of thousands of troops along the border of the Kashmir territory. Less than a decade apart from the end of the Cold War, the likelihood that the governments of both countries had studied the implications of nuclear warfare is exceedingly great. Because a nuclear assault by one nuclear-capable country on another guarantees mutually assured destruction, it is probable that the two countries intended to use their nuclear weapons as objects of intimidation, not as active weapons, meaning that any ensuing conflict as a result of the nuclear proliferation was without legitimate reason.

The military action by both parties aptly demonstrates another medium of misinterpretation by the governments of the two countries. The Simla Accord, an agreement between the two nations to promote peace in the Kashmir region, failed to effect tangible change in the region because of the nations’ inability to respect the agreement. The issue itself stems from a general lack of trust between the two governments. Although trust could potentially open one country up to attack by the other, a pattern of trust and cooperation could lead to meaningful change that would present economic and social benefits to both nations. A cessation of military operation in the region would solve most immediate problems between the two countries, paving the way for long-term issues to resolve as tension de-escalates over the course of time.