What can cause a game of cricket to scare a nation or a people, in general? This may seem to be an absurd question, but it is a relevant one to the people who call the region of Kashmir home. According to Al Jazeera, an Arabic media network with Muslim bias, “Police in central India have arrested 15 Muslim men and charged them with sedition - punishable by life in prison - for celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in the Champions Trophy cricket final’ on the word of a Hindu man. The police stated they were scared for their safety because they had no evidence that could point the finger at why these fifteen Muslim men were celebrating Pakistan's victory, they stopped this act of simple celebration because it could light the powder keg of immense tension that has been lit before, which has caused 2 million people to be killed.

One would think that sharing an anniversary of independence from an oppressive regime would bring people together but the religious dissonance among the Hindu and Muslim people have lead to bloodshed which “officials in both Pakistan and India worry that the legacy of this violence may lead to renewed sectarian violence at anniversary celebrations throughout both countries. Additionally, Indian officials worry that the anniversary may be used as an excuse for a terrorist attack by Muslim groups such as the Hizbul Mujahideen.”Besides the religious differences, disputed Kashmir is claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan and has been a flashpoint for more than 60 years, sparking two wars between the countries. Finally, to be the last crescendo of this whole acord the fact that why the officials in both Pakistan and India worry that the legacy of this violence may lead to renewed sectarian violence at 70th anniversary celebrations throughout both countries. In the back of the officials minds on both of the sides is their great fear of repeating the past.

So, how can the people of this region make headway towards peace and reconciliation? As discussed in Friday’s lecture, people can only try to overcome these obstacles through examine historical relationships, acknowledge bias in all parties, interpret signals and motivations. Recognizing fear plays a very important role in this because most of the time we think the worst in people. That also deals with anything where people come together in doing like in international affairs. War itself is the result of failing of human communication in the undisputed fact we aren’t perfect and the fear of losing one’s identity.

The most important of the mentioned steps in overcoming obstacles for this particular situation is acknowledging bias in all parties on cultural and religious aspects. This is difficult due to the nature of the religions themselves which are not lenient or accepting of other faiths. These conflicts have littered history of every place and people such as the Middle East conflicts, North Ireland and Great Britain, and many others. With that being said, if people acknowledge their own biases and find value in others’ way of thinking and their human dignity, then there can be progress to peace and progress into a better way of life.