



FORUM: Security Council

QUESTION OF: Addressing the territorial conflict in the Kashmir-Region

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POSITION: President of the Security Council

INTRODUCTION:

Ever since India and Pakistan have gained independence in 1947, there has been a dispute over the Kashmir-Region. Both governments claim territory for their respective country, however at the moment it seems like there is no solution of this conflict, which both parties are content with. Today, there are existing borders in the Region of Kashmir, separating three areas, which are controlled by India, Pakistan and China, nevertheless the two parties primarily conflicting are India and Pakistan.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM:

The conflict about the Kashmir Region has first been established when the Indian subcontinent has gained independence from British Rule. From that point on, there has been a division into the countries of Pakistan and India, which was based on religious reasons: The country of Pakistan consisted of mainly Muslim citizen, whilst India was mainly inhabited by the Hindu people. The Kashmir Region, which is located between the two countries, now had to choose,



which of them it was to join. The current ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, was Hindu, however most of his citizen were Muslim, therefore he remained neutral in the beginning.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT:

In October of 1947 he was forced to decide because Muslim tribesmen from Pakistan started intruding into the Kashmir Region, he thus requested military aid from India. He then signed the Instrument of Accession, officially ceding Kashmir to India, which led to the first war over the Kashmir Region, lasting roughly a year until the UN set up a resolution, asking both India and Pakistan to remove their forces from the conflict area. Pakistan however held on to their portion of the region under their control and kept fighting, until a ceasefire was established on January 1, 1949. The Line of Control, which was constructed for the ceasefire, remains the contemporary border until today.

The second Indo-Pakistani war began in 1965, and it was basically an escalation of conflict between the two nations. The culmination of skirmishes caused thousands of casualties until ceasefire was established under the Tashkent Agreement in January 1966.

In 1971, when hostilities continued and a war broke out in current East Pakistan, the Pakistani Air Force struck the Indian fields in the Western sector, which resulted in the Indians declaring war on Pakistan. It only took the Indians two weeks to march into Dhaka and the Pakistanis surrendered, however Indian troops were already 50 kilometres into the Pakistani territory when a ceasefire was established. It was one of the shortest wars of history, however the result was the formation of a whole new country: Bangladesh.



The conflict that was located around the city of Kargil in the Indian territory of the Kashmir region, has not officially been declared a war, however it definitely was a war-like situation. Hostility was a lot greater than usual, Pakistan had their artillery fire across the Line of Control and shot down Indian aircraft, nevertheless the fact that both nations possessed nuclear weapons by the time and the fear of a full-scale war seemed to hold both of the governments back.

KEY TERMS:

-Kashmir-Region: Northernmost geographical location of the Indian sub-continent. Denotes an area comprised of Indian administered territories, Pakistani administered territories and Chinese administered territories.

-Partition of India: Division of British India into two independent Dominions the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan.

-Muslim: A person who follows or practices Islam, one of the monotheistic Abrahamic religions.

-Hindu: A person that regards themselves culturally, ethnically or religiously adhering to Hinduism. Has been used as a geographical, cultural and religious identifier for people indigenous to the Indian sub-continent.

EXPECTATIONS FOR POSITION PAPER:

You are expected to write a Position Paper that is a minimum of two pages long. The Position Paper should contain general information on the issue in relation to your country and specific policies your country introduced to act upon this issue.

Further questions you could also consider during your research:



USEFUL LINKS/SOURCES:

The Instrument of Accession (1947),

Tashkent Agreement (1966),

Simla Agreement (1972),

Instrument of Surrender (1971)