

Kashmir-The origin of INDO-PAK Conflicts (War, Peace and Dialogue)

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Abstract

This is an attempt to highlight the INDO-PAK Conflicts. There are many disputes between India and Pakistan such as Water dispute over Baghlihar Dam, siachen Glacier, Smuggling across borders, Migration etc. Apart from these disputes, there are three important issues these two countries face in their bilateral relations:

1. The differences in world views,
2. The problem over Nuclear confrontation and
3. The dispute over Kashmir

The dispute over Kashmir had a major impact on both the countries-INDIA and PAKISTAN. Several times both the countries fought many wars .If this core issue is solved there will be peace and stability in the region.

Keywords: Kashmir, Indo-Pak, War, Conflicts, Plebiscite

Introduction

The origin of the Indo-Pak conflict have been traced to many sources-The failure of the British to manage a peaceful and politically acceptable Prartition;The deeply rooted political rivalries between the subcontinent's major religious communities-Hindus 'Sikhs and Muslims; the struggle for control over Kashmir;Kashmir's importance to the national identities of both states; and the greed or personnel short sightedness of leaders on both sides of the border.

Poverty, underdevelopment, illiteracy and arms race are the outcome of conflicts in both the countries which have a bad effect and greater impact on their Economies .Both India and Pakistan should take steps and confidence building measures to solve the problems once for all and then there will be development ,trade transfer of technology and peace in the region.

Objectives:

1. To examine the major core issues of conflict between India and Pakistan.
2. To highlight the status of J&K before 1947.
3. To ascertain the impact of conflicts between India and Pakistan on their bi lateral relations.
4. To highlight the major wars.
5. To highlight the major treaties and dialogue between the two countries.

Methodology

For the purpose of study, both published and unpublished secondary data has been utilized. The data of Indo-Pak conflict in the contexts of Kashmir were also analyzed. The data is collected from various Journals of Political studies, Peace and Democracy in South Asia, Economic and Political weekly etc.

Discussion:

India and Pakistan are two major neighboring nations of the subcontinent. Their relations are based more on hatred and hostility than on meaningful cooperation. In 1947, India got political freedom along with the partition of the country; Pakistan was created on two nation's theory. As a result, thousands of innocent people were butchered and millions rendered homeless. Thus the Indo-Pak relations have their roots in hatred and enmity. These have worsened with the passing of time.

The history of Kashmir is well known and can be briefly narrated here. Before 1947 Kashmir was a princely state. The princely states at the time of independence were advised by the British for merger with India or Pakistan, all though theoretically the option of independence was available. Two principles were recommended in deciding which country to choose: geographical contiguity and the religion of the majority community in the state. JAND K had a Hindu ruler with Muslim majority, but three additional features. First despite its Muslim majority, J and K had three very different areas merged into one state-Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh. Secondly, like Hyderabad and Junagadh, opted to decide its future as to whether to join India or to merge with Pakistan. In case of Hyderabad and junagadh ,the Indian government took steps to ensure that the wishes of the

overwhelming local Hindu populace were respected and hastened the process of merger of these two states in the Indian union. Kashmir had a peculiar problem. It had distinct distribution patterns of population, with the Ladakh area being predominantly Buddhist, the Jammu region Hindu and the Kashmir valley Muslim. Thirdly, a popular movement led by Sheikh Abdullah had developed against the autocratic rule of the Maharaja. Because of its secular character, encompassing Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. Sheikh Abdullah's movement was ardently supported by Gandhi and Nehru and strongly opposed by the Muslim league under Jinnah's leadership. Pakistan sought to force the pace of the decision making on Kashmir by permitting the 'irregular army' to enter Kashmir. Maharaja Hari Singh, realizing the potential problem, signed the instrument of accession with India.

As stated in the article 370 of the Indian constitution, the treaty of accession made Delhi responsible for Defense, Foreign affairs, Communications, otherwise J&K was autonomous. However, Prime Minister of India- Jawaharlal Nehru offered that Kashmir's accession to India would be submitted to a popular referendum later.

The first Indo-Pak war that followed the merger of Kashmir into India left the state partitioned. India took the matter to the United Nations and agreed to hold Plebiscite in Kashmir to ascertain the wishes of the Kashmir's. According to the cease-fire resolution adopted by the UN Security Council; the Plebiscite was conditioned upon the withdrawal of Pakistani troops from Kashmir and the restoration of the situation to the pre 1947 position. This condition was never met by Pakistan and the Plebiscite also never came to be conducted.

Apart from Kashmir issue, water dispute, Terrorism, Pakistan's support and abetment to the demand for Khalistan, the political shelter given to the hijackers of the Indian planes and arms race are major issues which have spoiled Indo-Pak relations.

Kashmir and Indo-Pak wars:

The problem of Kashmir arose because the ruler of Kashmir (Maharaja Hari Singh) postponed the decision regarding accession of state to India or Pakistan. Pakistan conceived a plan to secure Kashmir with the help of tribal raiders, however Maharaja signed the instrument of accession with India. Ultimately on January 1948 India took the issue to the Security Council and charged Pakistan with an act of aggression.

In 1965 India and Pakistan fought another war on Kashmir. This war as Pakistani Air Marshall Ayub Khan put it, was a war to solve the problem once for all. The Tashkent Conference (1966) also failed to provide any results. Though the 1971 war was more a war about the future of East Pakistan, and the creation of Bangladesh, it had a definite aspect of Kashmir about it.

In 1999 India and Pakistan came into conflict over an intrusion by Pakistan into Kargil was the crossing of the LOC (Line of control) by Mujahedeen's and the Pakistani troops. Finally India manages to push back the Pakistani infiltration.

Dialogue:

India and Pakistan have signed two important treaties after they have fought border wars. The Tashkent Agreement (1966) saw a meeting of Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and Pakistani President Ayub Khan. The agreement succeeded in freezing the Kashmir dispute but not resolve the problem. The Shimla agreement (1972) saw an interaction between Prime Minister Indra Gandhi and Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who eventually went on to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Shimla Agreement formalized the emergent situation on Kashmir. The Agreement sought to establish some basic principles of Indo-Pakistan interaction. The Agreement specifically refers to bilateralism and acceptance of durable peace as the framework of resolving future India-Pakistan problems. Perhaps the most well known meetings have been those between Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at Lahore in (1999) and Vajpayee's meeting with General Pervez Musharraf at Agra in (2001). The former saw the inauguration of the Delhi Lahore bus service and the signing of Lahore Declaration which reiterated the principle of bilateral approach to Indo-Pak problems, while the latter ended without any significant gains. In 2003 Prime Minister Vajpayee once again called for a comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan. This initiative saw some forward movement with the exchange of parliamentary delegations and some informal talks that began between the two countries.

Conclusion:

The fundamental diversity in the views of India and Pakistan manifests on the issue of Kashmir, an issue that has come to be identified by Pakistan as the core of the bilateral divide. Kashmir, like Junagadh and Hyderabad, opted to decide its future as to whether to join India or to merge with Pakistan. Pakistan sought to force the pace of the decision making on Kashmir by permitting the irregular army to enter Kashmir. Maharaja of Kashmir realizing the potential problems signed the accord. However Prime Minister Nehru offered that Kashmir's accession to India would be submitted to a popular referendum later. However Plebiscite was never held. From then India and Pakistan fought many wars over the Kashmir. Thus their relations from time immemorial have been full of bitterness and hostility many agreements have been signed to have better relations and to solve the issue but not yield any profitable results and it is still a problem or core issue between the two countries.

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