

# CANIMUN

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
COUNCIL

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## CRISIS IN KASHMIR

MARCH 14-17, 2019

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United Nations Association in Canada  
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

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## A WELCOME FROM THE DIAS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this background guide for this year's CANIMUN Security Council! This document will briefly cover the history, function, and powers of the United Nations Security Council as well as the background and special rules of the crisis. The last point is especially important as the committee operates differently than a traditional UNSC or Crisis Committee. *Crisis in Kashmir: 2024* is a limited crisis committee that will have the UNSC grappling with a growing conflict in the contested territory of Kashmir. While the crisis is the only topic that will be available for debate, when delegates are crafting solutions they should consider the status of Kashmir, security forces within Kashmir, and the role of paramilitaries and intelligence services within the conflict.

Kieran Scott is an undergraduate student at Carleton University. Born and raised in Ottawa, he brings with him over five years of Model United Nations experience. During this time he has authored and run several crisis committees with topics ranging from Ancient Greece to the First World War. Emphasizing the dynamic nature of Crisis Committees, Kieran seeks to use the format to encapsulate the rapid and often asymmetrical nature of international relations. If there is one thing that he has learned over the years, it's that in a Crisis Committee you can never be quite sure what will come next - or from whom. As the Director of *Crisis in Kashmir: 2024*, Kieran looks forward to delivering a realistic, challenging, and exciting Crisis Committee to CANIMUN 2019.

Patrick Langstaff is a fourth year student at Carleton University, studying European and Russian Studies, History, and Classical Civilizations. He has grown up and studied in Ottawa all of his life before spending half a year studying at Germany's Universität Konstanz in 2018. Patrick began MUN in his second year of university, participating in both of Carleton's in-house conferences, Queen's QMUNI, and McGill's McMUN. His experience meeting delegates from around the world and engaging in passionate debate on contemporary global topics inspired him to continue with Model United Nations.

Audrey is a first year student studying Political Science at the University of Ottawa. She has grown up in upstate New York and has been participating as a delegate in Model United Nations for six years, attending over eight conferences throughout her high school career. Audrey has received recognition at the following conferences, two Honorable Mentions and two Outstanding Delegate awards at North Country Model UN and winning two Honorable Mentions and one Outstanding Delegate at Harvard Model UN. Audrey has also chaired a committee at this past CAPMUN 2019 conference. She is hoping to work in International Law at the United Nations.

The entire staff of *Crisis in Kashmir: 2024* hopes that you find this background guide helpful and look forward to seeing the creative solutions you put forward.

Sincerely,

Kieran Scott  
*Director*

Audrey Roy Patrick Langstaff  
*Chairs*

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## COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

For better or for worse, when people think of the of the United Nations they think of the United Nations Security Council. It is the most prominent and, at least in traditional terms, the most powerful organ of the UN. Few images quite declare “United Nations” quite like that of the blue helmets.

### HISTORY

The United Nations Security Council, and the United Nations as a whole, trace their roots to the ill fated League of Nations. After the devastation of the First World War, nations of the world wanted to create an international body for the resolution of inter-state disputes.<sup>1</sup> This body would be able to resolve some minor conflicts during the Interwar period and create some international agreements that would be absorbed into the United Nations.<sup>2</sup> However it would ultimately prove impotent in the face of belligerent nations who simply disregarded the wishes of the LoN.<sup>3</sup>

While the outbreak of the Second World War did not immediately dissolve the League of Nations, plans for its replacement were in the works as early as 1939.<sup>4</sup> After the war’s end, it became clear that the successor to the LoN would require an executive branch capable of fielding military sanctions. The United Nations Security Council would be the answer to this conundrum. The United Nations Security Council would include five members that would retain permanent seats on the council. These would consist of the “Big Four” (The United Kingdom, the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Republic of China) and the French Republic.<sup>5</sup> The United States initially tried to secure a seat for Federative Republic of Brazil but this was opposed by the UK and the USSR.<sup>6</sup> While the idea of a veto for the permanent five was accepted from the beginning, the nature of the veto was hotly debated. The USSR argued that the veto should extend to procedural matters while the UK argued that states shouldn’t be able to veto resolutions to which they were a party.<sup>7</sup> However it was agreed at the Yalta Conference that the permanent members could veto any substantive matter but not procedural.



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<sup>1</sup> Kennedy, P. M. (2007). *The Parliament of Man: The United Nations and the Quest for World Government*. London: Penguin.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Hoopes, T., & Brinkley, D. (2000). *FDR and the Creation of the U.N.* New Haven: Yale University Press.

<sup>5</sup> Meisler, S. (2007). *United Nations: The First Fifty Years*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

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While the United Nations Security Council has deployed peacekeepers throughout its history, this role would see a large expansion after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Sixty of the UNSC's seventy-two peacekeeping missions, ongoing or completed, commenced in 1991 or after.<sup>8</sup>

## **ROLE AND POWERS**

Officially speaking, the role of the United Nations Security Council is "the maintenance of international peace and security."<sup>9</sup> To this effect, the UNSC is the only organ of the United Nations that is capable of levying sanctions, economic or military, and passing binding resolutions that all members must abide by.<sup>10</sup> Chapters VI and VII of the *Charter of the United Nations* outline the many responsibilities and powers of the UNSC.

## **CHAPTER VI "PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES"**

Under Chapter VI member states have several obligations to international security. First, parties to a dispute that is "likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security," must seek mediation at the regional or bilateral level and the UNSC can call upon these parties to do so.<sup>11</sup> During this period, any member state may recommend the matter be referred to the UNSC.<sup>12</sup> If the aforementioned resolution does not bring peace to fruition, the matter will be referred to the UNSC.<sup>13</sup> At this point if "the Security Council deems that the continuance of the dispute is in fact likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security," then it will decide to take action or recommend terms of settlement.<sup>14</sup>

## **CHAPTER VII "ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THREATS TO THE PEACE, BREACHES OF THE PEACE, AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION."**

Chapter VII is where the true powers of the United Nations Security Council are laid out. These are found in Article 41 and 42. They state:

### Article 41

"The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations."<sup>15</sup>

and:

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<sup>8</sup> Where We Operate Peacekeeping. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/where-we-operate>

<sup>9</sup> United Nations. Charter of the United Nations. Chapter V Article 24. Retrieved from:

<http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html>

<sup>10</sup> United Nations. Charter of the United Nations. Chapter V Article 25.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, Chapter VI Article 33

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, Article 35

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, Article 37

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, Chapter VII Article 41

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#### Article 42

“Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.”<sup>16</sup>

Within these relatively vague articles lie the entire bedrock of the UNSC’s enforcement capacity and the very foundations of collective security for the entirety of the United Nations.

## **MEMBERSHIP RULES**

The United Nations Security Council is made up of fifteen total members. The five states with a permanent seat on the Security Council, and therefore a veto, are; the United Kingdom, the United States, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, and the People’s Republic of China.<sup>17</sup> The remaining ten members are elected on rotating two year terms by the General Assembly.<sup>18</sup> These seats are further allocated by geographical groupings to ensure global representation. These groupings are: the African Group (three seats), Asia-Pacific (two seats), the Latin America and Caribbean Group (two seats), Western Europe and Others (two seats), and Eastern Europe (one seat).<sup>19</sup>

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN 2024**

#### The Permanent Five

- Russian Federation
- People’s Republic of China
- French Republic
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

#### African Group

- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Ethiopia

#### Asia-Pacific

- Vietnam
- United Arab Emirates

#### Latin America and Caribbean Group

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid, Article 42

<sup>17</sup> United Nations. Charter of the United Nations. Chapter V Article 23.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Resolutions Adopted on the Reports of the Special Political Committee. (1991). Retrieved from [https://undocs.org/A/RES/1991\(XVIII\)](https://undocs.org/A/RES/1991(XVIII))

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- Colombia
  - Cuba

#### Western Europe and Others

- Sweden
- Australia

#### Eastern Europe

- Armenia

#### Invited Non-Council States (No substantive votes)

- India
- Pakistan

## **KASHMIR CONFLICT: HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The mountainous region of Kashmir has been a centre of immense contention and conflict between Pakistan and India since both of those countries gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1947. As such Kashmir joins the ranks of places such as Northern Ireland, the Palestinian Territories, and Cyprus as one of the most hotly contested disputed territories of the post-war 20th century.

In the interceding seventy-two years, there has been three full scale wars and innumerable smaller skirmishes. These three wars were in 1947, 1965, and 1999.<sup>20</sup>

### **FIRST KASHMIR WAR 1947-1948**

During British colonial rule in South Asia, the territories that today make up Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar were administered by a dual system of direct British administration and indirect rule of “Princely States”; vassal states led by indigenous nobility.<sup>21</sup> About 40% of British South Asia was administered under princely states.<sup>22</sup> Upon the partition of the British Raj into the Union of India and the Dominion of Pakistan, the princely states were given the option to join either state or remain independent. This third option was is where the issue for Kashmir first arises.



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<sup>20</sup> Kashmir: Why India and Pakistan fight over it. (2016, November 23). Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/10537286>

<sup>21</sup> Cahoon, B. (Ed.). (n.d.). Princely States of India A-J. Retrieved from [http://www.worldstatesmen.org/India\\_princes\\_A-J.html](http://www.worldstatesmen.org/India_princes_A-J.html)

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

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The Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, as it was known during colonial rule, was majority Muslim but ruled by a Hindu Maharaja; Maharaja Hari Singh. Hari had intended to remain independent, citing the majority Muslim population and desire to protect Sikh and other religious minorities as rationale for refusing accession to India and Pakistan, respectively.<sup>23</sup> However after a popular Muslim uprising and repeated incursions by Pashtun tribesmen supported by Islamabad, the Maharaja acceded to India in exchange for military assistance.<sup>24</sup> Pakistan refused to recognize the ascension and the First Kashmir War began shortly after.

The war between the two states would last for just over a year until both sides agreed to a U.N mandated cease-fire, establishing the still *de facto* border: the Line of Control.<sup>25</sup> This resolution also obliquely called for a referendum on the future status of Kashmir.<sup>26</sup> No such plebiscite has been held.

## SECOND KASHMIR WAR 1965

Not even twenty years later the two countries would be at war once again. Pakistan had launched *Operation Gibraltar*, an attempt to infiltrate Pakistani regulars into Indian administered Kashmir in order to ferment an insurrection.<sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> The plan was a dismal failure and prompted an Indian military response when it was discovered. Only lasting just over a month, the conflict ground to a standstill and resulted in no territorial changes. Under pressure from the United Nations, United States, and Soviet Union, the *Tashkent Declaration* was signed; a status quo ante bellum peace treaty.<sup>29</sup>



While no territory changed hands, this war marked a shift in both Indian and Pakistani foreign policy away from the United States and United Kingdom and towards China and the Soviet Union. This is due to the perceived lack of support and military aid embargo placed on both India and Pakistan by the former pair of nations.<sup>30</sup> This shift drew the People's Republic of China further into the Kashmir Conflict and can still be felt to this day.

## THE KARGIL WAR 1999

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<sup>23</sup> Ankit, Rakesh (May 2010). Henry Scott: The forgotten soldier of Kashmir. *Epilogue*. 4 (5): 44–49.

<sup>24</sup> Prasad, S.N.; Dharm Pal (1987). *History of Operations in Jammu and Kashmir 1947–1948*. New Delhi: History Department, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. (printed at Thomson Press (India) Limited). p. 418.

<sup>25</sup> *Resolution adopted by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan on 13 August 1948*. (No.1100, Para. 75). (August 13, 1948).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Snedden, C. (2003). *Kashmir - the Untold Story*. HaperCollins India.

<sup>28</sup> Karim, A., Maj. Gen. (1994). *Kashmir: The Troubled Frontiers* (B. Verma Capt. & M. Singh, Eds.). New Delhi: Lancer.

<sup>29</sup> Bajwa, F. N. (2014). *From Kutch to Tashkent: The Indo-Pakistan war of 1965*. New Delhi: Pentagon Press.

<sup>30</sup> McGarr, P. M. (2015). *The Cold War in South Asia: Britain, the United States and the Indian subcontinent, 1945-1965*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

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The most recent major confrontation between the India and Pakistan over Kashmir was in 1999, what would later become known as the Kargil War. Similarly to the 1965 war, the Kargil War was instigated upon the discovery of Pakistani Army infiltrators on the Indian side of the Line of Control, specifically around the village of Kargil.<sup>31</sup> The plan, dubbed *Operation Badr*, was similar to *Operation Gibraltar*, but intended for a larger role to be played by Pakistani paramilitaries and regulars.<sup>32</sup>

The war lasted only a month before Pakistani forces were either driven out of or withdrew from Indian administered Kashmir. This decisive Indian victory resulted in humiliation for Pakistan and led in part to the 1999 Pakistan Coup d'Etat.

The Kargil War would be the most recent all out conflict between the two countries. It is also notable for being one of the few examples of large scale conventional warfare between nuclear weapon states.

## KASHMIR CONFLICT: CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

As illustrated above, Kashmir has been a source of conflict between the states of India and Pakistan since their independence. However the prize of Kashmir lies in its symbolic value, rather than material. Its mineral worth consists of traces of gypsum, sapphire that's too cost prohibitive to mine, bauxite that's too high silica content to be used, marble that no-one has bothered to mine in years, and limestone reserves that can't even cover Kashmir's own demand.<sup>33</sup>

Furthermore, the two are not the only claimants to the region. The People's Republic of China also controls part of the region, most notably Aksai Chin. Aksai Chin may seem like nothing more than a desert however the area is of strategic importance to the Chinese as a line of communication between Tibet and Xinjiang.<sup>34</sup> After a brief war in 1962 the region was placed firmly under Chinese control where it remains to this day. Despite the strategic value of this territory both India and Pakistan seem relatively satisfied, alongside the Chinese. So much so that Pakistan ceded part of Kashmir to China for a more preferable southern border and to placate the northern superpower.<sup>35</sup>

Aside from the international considerations, Kashmir remains internally volatile. While anti-Indian sentiment had been common in Indian administered Kashmir, the 1980s saw a rise in



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<sup>31</sup> Kapur, V., & Narang, V. (n.d.). The Fate of Kashmir. *Stanford Journal of International Relations*.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> *Jammu and Kashmir Development Report* (Rep.). (2014, September 18). Retrieved October 10, 2018

<sup>34</sup> Scott, D. (2008). Sino-Indian Security Predicaments for the Twenty-First Century. *Asian Security*, 4(3), 244-270

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.



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militant activities by and support for both the separatist *Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front* and pro-Pakistan Islamist groups such as *Hizb-ul Mujahideen*.<sup>36</sup> This was due to a combination of a political invigoration of Muslim youth caused by the success of Afghan Mujahideen and of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and by increasingly aggressive responses by the Indian state to protests over even simple economic demands.<sup>37</sup>

While this insurgency is home grown, India also alleges that it is supported by the Pakistani foreign intelligence service, *Inter-Service-Intelligence*.<sup>38</sup> An allegation confirmed by former President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, in a 2015 interview, "We supported them and trained them as they were fighting in Kashmir at the cost of their lives."<sup>39</sup>

## 2016-2017 KASHMIR UNREST

In 2016 the region saw the highest levels of unrest in the contemporary era. After the death of *Hizb-ul Mujahideen* commander Burhan Wani at the hands of Indian security forces, large scale protests and strike actions. However these protests quickly descended into violence creating a situation that some observers have dubbed "Kashmir's intifada."<sup>40</sup>

Kashmir protesters met the Indian security forces with stone pelting and the security forces met the protesters with pellet guns, rubber bullets, and tear gas.<sup>41</sup>

While triggered by the killing of Burhan Wani, the unrest was in a response to a myriad of complaints held by the Muslim majority Kashmiri populace. Economic hardship, persistent militarization, human rights abuses by security forces, a desire for self-determination and by the highly controversial *Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act* are all underlying causes of the unrest.<sup>42</sup> Despite the quelling of the unrest in 2017, these issues have not been resolved in earnest.

## ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) ACT

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<sup>36</sup> Sikand, Y. (2002). The Emergence and Development of the Jama'at-i-Islami of Jammu and Kashmir (1940s–1990). *Modern Asian Studies*, 36(03).

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ali, M. (2006, October 09). South Asia | Pakistan's shadowy secret service. Retrieved from [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/6033383.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6033383.stm)

<sup>39</sup> Press Trust of India. (2015, October 27). Pakistan supported, trained terror groups: Pervez Musharraf. Retrieved from [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-supported-trained-terror-groups-pervez-musharraf-11510280015\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-supported-trained-terror-groups-pervez-musharraf-11510280015_1.html)

<sup>40</sup> Hussain, T. (2016, July 19). Two centuries of oppression in Kashmir. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/07/centuries-oppression-kashmir-protests-india-pakistan-160719122312549.html>

<sup>41</sup> Bukhari, F. (2016, August 17). Protests intensify in Indian Kashmir, security forces kill five. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-kashmir-idUSKCN10R0VQ>

<sup>42</sup> Barry, E. (2016, August 28). An Epidemic of 'Dead Eyes' in Kashmir as India Uses Pellet Guns on Protesters. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/29/world/asia/pellet-guns-used-in-kashmir-protests-cause-dead-eyes-epidemic.html>

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The *Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act(s)* are a set of legislation that grant Indian security forces special powers in “disturbed areas”. The *Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir)*

*Special Powers Act, 1990* grants Indian security forces the following powers in the state of Jammu & Kashmir:

- The use of force, up to and including deadly, against any person who
  - is acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in the disturbed area
  - [may use this force for] prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons
  - the carrying of weapons or of things capable of being used as weapons or of firearms, ammunition or explosive substances
- Arrest, without warrant, any persons who has committed an offence or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed or is about to commit an offence.
- Enter and search without warrant
- Stop, search, and seizure, suspected of committing an offence or carrying arms.<sup>43</sup>

This act has proven highly controversial and has even drawn condemnation from the United Nations Human Rights Committee.<sup>44</sup>

#### UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN (UNMOGIP)

Since the ceasefire of 1949 the United has deployed a peacekeeping force to the region in an observational capacity. Its objective is to monitor the *Line of Control* and investigate reports of ceasefire violations.<sup>45</sup> While an important tool of the Kashmir peace process, UNMOGIP consists of merely forty-four peacekeepers and seventy-four civilian staff.<sup>46</sup> It is likely that in the event of a major confrontation between India and Pakistan they would be able to do little than relay partial information to the United Nations Security Council. With that being said, their value as an asset on the ground should not be overlooked or underestimated.

## 2024 IN CONTEXT

### SOUTH ASIA FINANCIAL CRASH

A series of political events, global and regional, will shift the course of South Asia over the future five years. First and foremost of which is the *South Asian Financial Crisis*. In late 2019 a private engineering conglomerate started a bid to modernize India’s rail infrastructure. This proposal, while not solicited by the government, attracted large numbers of private investors from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and around the world who were seeking to invest in the largest, and potentially most profitable, infrastructure project of the decade. However a year later it would become clear that this conglomerate was little more than an elaborate Ponzi scheme that funnelled

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<sup>43</sup> Republic of India, MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE, Legislative Department. (n.d.). *THE ARMED FORCES (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) SPECIAL POWERS ACT, 1990*.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations, United Nations Human Rights Committee, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner. (n.d.). *Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kashmir: Developments in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir from June 2016 to April 2018, and General Human Rights Concerns in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan*.

<sup>45</sup> UNMOGIP, Military Tasks. (2017, July 05). Retrieved from <https://unmogip.unmissions.org/military>

<sup>46</sup> UNMOGIP, Facts and Figures. Retrieved from <https://unmogip.unmissions.org/unmogip-facts-and-figures>

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money out of the region and dispersed it through innumerable laundering channels. By the time the extent of the fraud was discovered, an estimated \$200 billion USD had simply evaporated from the region.

This sudden monetary crunch stalled South Asia's markets and ultimately cascaded into a regional recession. Unemployment soared while inflation crept up on the weakened *Rupee*; both Pakistani and Indian. This would come to be known as the *South Asian Financial Crisis*.

## **POLITICAL CHANGES**

The political aftermath of this crisis within India and Pakistan were twofold. First it resulted in a strengthening of the *Bharatiya Janata Party* at both the state and federal levels. This gain was further cemented by the successful disruption of a brief, small, resurgence of a violent Khalistan separatist movement. While this movement consisted of no more than a few hundred at any given moment, it no less emboldened the Hindu-nationalist wing of the *BJP*. As 2024 approached, this party would adopt a harder line on insurgents, Kashmir, and especially; Kashmiri Insurgents.

The second political effect was the polarization of Pakistani politics. The largely centrist *Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf* lost significant ground to the *Pakistan Peoples Party* on the left and, to a lesser extent, *Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal* on the right in the National Assembly. The *Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)* suffered greatly in this realignment. In an attempt to shore up support in the assembly, the *PTI* government begins to adopt a more irredentist and bellicose orientation towards Kashmir.

From 2021-2024, diplomatic relations between the two states nearly broke down entirely. Both sides unilaterally withdrew from the *South Asia Free Trade Agreement*, diplomatic incidents occur on an almost weekly basis, and membership in the *Shanghai Cooperation Organization* is reduced to nominal at best. Small skirmishes frequently occur along the *Line of Control*.

## **KASHMIR INSURGENCY AND HIZB-UL-MUJAHIDEEN**

Particularly hit hard by these events was the region of Kashmir. Already weak in terms of economic base, the large, young, predominantly Muslim populace found itself 25% unemployed and mostly ignored by an increasingly suspicious New Delhi and bankrupt Islamabad. Most of Indian spending in the region went to security forces and Pakistan shifted its focus toward the Pakistani heartland and Balochistan. These created the perfect conditions for radicalization. Between 2019 and 2024 the ranks of militant groups began to swell in Kashmir. While all nature of groups sprung up and attracted members the two largest groups by 2023 were the, recently remilitarized, separatist *Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front* and the Islamist *Hizb-ul-Mujahideen*.



However this state of affairs would change in late 2023 when a brief war between the *JKLF* and the *HuM* and their Islamist allies. While the *JKLF* would survive the encounter they would be significantly weakened; leaving the *HuM* as the heir apparent of the Kashmiri insurgency.

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The speed and firepower brought by *Hizb-ul-Mujahideen* during the *JKLK-HuM War* has led many observers, especially Indian ones, to suspect *HuM* has been receiving material support from the *Taliban*, *Al-Qaeda*, and Pakistan's *Inter-Service-Intelligence*. Pakistan vehemently denies this allegation.

### THE HAFIZ MATTU INCIDENT

On February 27th, 2024, Muslim Kashmiri taxi driver Hafiz Mattu in Srinagar got into a dispute with members of the *Indian Rashtriya Rifles* at a checkpoint. The cause of the dispute is unclear but it resulted in Mattu being shot by three of the soldiers. While this was not the first case of a Kashmiri civilian being killed by security forces, the killing of Hafiz Mattu led to wide scale protests and strikes; originally just in Srinagar but spreading to the whole of Indian administered Kashmir after the incident spread on social media. This unrest quickly spiraled into riots that Indian security forces struggled to contain.

*Hizb-ul Mujahideen* quickly pounced on the opportunity to launch a coordinated insurgency across the whole of Indian administered Kashmir. Much like during the *JKLF-HuM* war a year prior, *Hizb-ul Mujahideen's* offensive shocked the world with its effectiveness and firepower. So much so that *HuM* was able to remove Indian security forces from the cities of Kargil, Poonch, Rajouri, and several smaller villages and swathes of the countryside. Additionally, *HuM* was able to secure portions of Srinagar and Jammu.

This state of affairs would not last long as the Indian military has launched a bloody counter-offensive that is still ongoing. At the time of committee, *HuB* is still in complete control of Poonch and the Srinagar downtown core.

During this time, the Indian government began to openly accuse Pakistan's *Inter-Services-Intelligence* of supplying *HuB* and instigating the unrest. Skirmishes also broke out along the *Line of Control*; most likely due to the proximity of the conflicts to the *LoC* but intentional attacks cannot be ruled out.

This would be compounded by a series of "surgical strikes" conducted by the *Indian Air Force* on the Pakistani side of the *LoC*; targeting *HuB* positions and infuriating Pakistan. Pakistan then began moving large military units to positions along the entirety of the Indo-Pakistan border. India responded in kind.

Pakistan and India both accuse the other of "aggressive behaviour" and "war mongering" as the *Shanghai Cooperation Organization* releases a memorandum stating that "the *SCO* will not intervene in the conflict at an organizational level." The vague wording implies freedom of action for members within the alliance.



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Quickly after this skirmishes break out along the entirety of Indo-Pakistan border. Fearing an escalation of a conflict between two nuclear states, an emergency session of the *United Nations Security Council* is called to reach a solution. India and Pakistan are both invited to plead their case.

## **SPECIAL PROCEDURE**

For the most part, *Crisis in Kashmir 2024* operates as a normal Security Council committee. However there are some special procedures that delegates must know.

### **LIMITED CRISIS ELEMENTS**

*Crisis in Kashmir 2024* is, as the name suggests, a crisis committee. However, as a delegate you will not have full portfolio powers as you would in other crisis committees. As a delegate you are still merely an ambassador to the United Nations from your host nation. You will, via crisis notes, be able to recommend courses of action to your governments. However there is no guarantee that they will oblige and they will most likely be constrained by geopolitical realities. With that being said, your home governments shall be mostly receptive to your suggestions.

### **INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

The delegates representing Pakistan and India have slightly different constraints than that of the other fifteen members of the committee. Firstly, these two delegates will have a more direct line to their home governments, allowing for them to influence their actions. However this comes with limitations. India and Pakistan are not members of the United Nations Security Council proper but rather are invited nations. This brings two complications. Firstly, the states of India and Pakistan may not vote upon substantive matters of the committee. They may, however, submit draft proposals to the committee. Invited states may not sponsor draft proposals and must have their drafts put to the committee by an elected member.



### **THE PRESS AND NGOS**

The International Press Forum and Non-Governmental Organizations will be very flexible and reactive bodies within the crisis. It is recommended you cooperate with them fully. It is not unlikely that they will have access to information before you, as a delegate, do.

### **UNSC PROCEDURE**

It is important to note that the roll call of “Present and Voting” will be strictly enforced. Think carefully before casting your vote, especially if you are representing a Permanent Five member.

The delegates of India and Pakistan will not be able to vote on substantive matters. They will, however, be able to vote on procedural matters as if they were an elected member of the Council.

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As is custom, and in accordance to the rules of the United Nations Security Council, a vote of Nay from the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the French Republic, the People's Republic of China, or the Russian Federation, shall result in a failure if substantive matters.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

While the most pressing concern of the committee will be to bring a peaceful solution to escalating conflict, delegates may want to discuss the following when trying to build a long lasting solution.

### THE KASHMIR QUESTION

At the heart of this conflict is the volatile status of Kashmir itself. Kashmir is currently claimed in whole or in part by India, Pakistan, and China. What courses of action can the United Nations take to resolve this dispute? Partition is clearly not working. Should the UNSC retry a plebiscite in the region? How/Who will administer that? How will that be enforced? How does the UNSC ensure the nations involved respect the result of such a plebiscite?

Or should a more radical approach be taken; either by reviving the United Nations Trusteeship system or even an independent Kashmir? If the later, how will the international community protect this new nation from threats from within and without?

No matter how the current conflict ends the steps taken to ensure another one never takes place will be as difficult as they are vital.

### SECURITY IN KASHMIR

The origins of this and conflicts demonstrate that security forces throughout the entirety of Kashmir is in need of reform. From military presence to the constabularies, these forces are a major source of contention in the region, have dubious human rights records, and often find themselves as the spark of conflict. What steps can be taken that both respect of human rights is improved while law and order is maintained? What might security service reform look like? Could an independent force be used to ensure law and order in the region? How would this force be established and whose law would be enforced. Should the Indian Government repeal the *AF(SP)A*?

Law and order cannot be abandoned and a large security presence is necessary but this presence cannot be allowed to continually spark conflict.

### INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND PARAMILITARIES

Both the Pakistani Inter-Service Intelligence and Indian Research and Analysis Wing conduct extensive organizations in Kashmir. Both conduct intelligence and counter-insurgency operations in addition to providing support for militant groups within the region; the ISI through Operation Tupac<sup>47</sup> and RAW through Operation

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<sup>47</sup> Khan, M. A. (2009). India's Sikh Militants Forming Ties with Lashkar-e-Taiba and Pakistani Intelligence. *Terrorism Monitor*, 7(1).

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Chanakya.<sup>48</sup> This is clearly a destabilizing force in the region. If the influence of ISI and RAW is to be reduced in Kashmir, how does the international go about that? How does any agreement force the withdrawal of these agencies and how would such agreement monitor this withdrawal?

In addition to this, there is a dozen militant paramilitary groups operating within Kashmir. The disarmament of these groups will be essential to a long lasting peace. However it is unlikely that they will lay down their arms easily. How would the United Nations Security Council convince these groups to disarm? How would the UNSC ensure that the disarmament is permanent? What steps is the UNSC willing to take to facilitate this disarmament?

This aspect, while perhaps the most difficult, may be the key to ensuring lasting stability in Kashmir.

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<sup>48</sup> Göçebe. (2014, May 07). Why RAW succeeds and ISI fumbles? – Göçebe – Medium. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/@gocebe/what-isi-can-learn-from-raw-274e67674f48>

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