



## **PRESENT SCENRIO OF INDO-PAK RELATION**

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### ***ABSTRACT***

*Despite the fact that Pakistan and India are geographically close and share many cultural traditions with one another, tensions between the two countries have persisted throughout history. Three major wars have been fought between the two countries over the territory of Kashmir. While there have been some positive steps toward mending strained ties, the root causes of the lingering animosity between the two countries have yet to be addressed. While Pakistan has always been eager to offer solutions, India has rarely been receptive. More than seventy years after their respective countries' independence, Pakistan and India still haven't made any headway on resolving long-standing disputes like the Kashmir dispute or the water dispute. The two big countries are the key to a peaceful and stable South Asian region. Given their inability to resolve their differences peacefully, the two major actors in the South Asian area have a negative impact on the region's overall security architecture.*

**Keywords:** - India, Pakistan, Relation, Conflict, Region

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

India and Pakistan's relationship is still one of the world's most tense bilateral rivals. Since 1947, both nations have fought several wars and attempted to outmaneuver one another diplomatically. Since the late 1990s, both nations have participated in conflict behavior on various levels, from nuclear threats to conventional war and sub-conventional methods like terrorism, all while being armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons and more sophisticated delivery systems. The politics of India and Pakistan have always been complicated by the involvement of non-regional big powers like the United States, the Soviet Union (during the Cold War), and China. Although there have been suggestions for settling the conflict from time to time, there are enough spoilers on both sides to prevent a peaceful resolution. The stability of Asia and the international order as a whole are at risk if ties between India and Pakistan are not managed appropriately.

This chapter breaks out the connection into three distinct sections. As a starting point, it analyzes the factors—such as identity-based conflicts, territorial conflict, foreign great-power intervention, and internal politics on both sides—that have contributed to India and Pakistan's long-standing rivalry. Second, it examines the current dynamics of the relationship with regards to economic power, military might, and public opinion.

## **II. THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF RIVALRY**

Identity (and ideology), geography, geopolitics, and internal politics are all factors in the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan. The first two factors serve as the foundation of the rivalry, while the later two have had fluctuating impacts, at times easing tensions and at other times increasing them.

### **Consciousness and Philosophy**

An identity-based ideological construction dating back to the 1930s, when India was still under British colonial authority (and Pakistan did not yet exist), is at the heart of the conflict between India and Pakistan.<sup>1</sup> Its proponents, who coined the term "two-nation theory," contended that South Asia's Muslim and Hindu populations were effectively two separate countries coexisting in the same region. In this religiously grounded idea of nationhood, centuries of shared language and culture between Hindus and Muslims played a secondary role. The Muslim League, a political party in British India, was a vehicle for the political expression of this philosophy. Members of the organization's leadership, including Muhammad Iqbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, were concerned that an independent India headed by the Hindu-dominated Indian National Congress would be counterproductive to Muslim interests. Their concern was not about preserving Islamic beliefs and institutions so much as it was about the future of Muslims and non-Muslims in India after independence. It was the "discourse of power within a marginalized group."

### **Territory**

An enduring rivalry is defined as "more than two decades with several militarized inter-state disputes punctuating the relationship between," and this definition now applies to the conflict between India and Pakistan. While religious identity-based ideology might provide light on the causes of Partition, it cannot, on its own, account for the ongoing hostilities between India and Pakistan, especially in light of the conflict's extreme asymmetry. Pakistan, which is less strong than India in conventional terms, has gone to considerable lengths to counter India by enlisting other big countries (namely the United States and China) and keeping a massive defense budget and nuclear weapons. It is generally agreed that Pakistan's position is being driven by the Kashmir problem, and that the ideological components of this issue help to provide light on why the war persists.

## **Geopolitics**

While religious ideology and territorial dispute are at the root of the India-Pakistan rivalry, the geopolitical scenario the two nations found themselves in after independence, i.e. at the start of the Cold War, might be viewed as a proximal factor. Pakistan has quickly become a U.S. ally in an effort to offset what it sees as India's military superiority. Islamabad had a role in the formation of MEDO, a US-backed coalition that lasted only a few years but established the framework for the Baghdad Pact in 1955, as early as 1952. Military funding from Washington to Islamabad has been consistent since the mid-1950s, when Pakistan first expressed interest in joining the Western bloc. Nehru had been told by US President Eisenhower that these weapons would not be used against India, but in 1965, Pakistan launched attacks against India in the Rann of Kutch and in Kashmir using weapons supplied by the US.

## **The Home Front**

If it weren't for internal political concerns on both sides, but notably in Pakistan, that militate against peaceful solutions to the India-Pakistan rivalry, geopolitical causes would not have been as harmful. In the end, it all comes down to a matter of perspective, and whether or not you believe that the majority of people in the world share your views. Pakistan and India's governments have been increasingly legitimated by religious ideology as time has passed. While religious division and the growth of Hindu nationalism have transformed Pakistan into an Islamic state, secular nationalism in India looks to be on the decline.

### **III. CONTEMPORARY DYNAMICS**

The territorialization of an identity dispute over the control of Kashmir is what sparked the war of words between India and Pakistan. 'Territory is a sine qua non of the state and can be an essential

component of ethnic group identity,' Monica Duffy Toft argues, making territorial conflicts particularly intractable. Given the centrality of Kashmir in the national identities of both India and Pakistan, territorial partition concessions are extremely unlikely to be reached. Proximate variables, including as the global politics of great-power struggle and internal political events in both nations, contribute to the underlying causes of identity and territorial conflict. The present situation of India-Pakistan relations is analyzed in this part from three perspectives: economic capacities, military capabilities, and public perceptions.

### **Potentials in the Economy**

Building a long-term grand strategy based on bolstering physical force capabilities and diplomatic leverage in global capitals requires a strong economy that is experiencing consistent expansion. Because of these strategic considerations, the competitive tensions between India and Pakistan continue to be heavily influenced by the two countries' economic standings. According to the numbers, India has achieved more success in this area than Pakistan has. The Indian economy has been expanding at a high rate for almost two decades, beginning with a 'pro-business drift' in the 1980s and continuing through liberalization and deregulation in the early 1990s. India's GDP increased at an annual pace of 6.8 percent between 1991 and 2015, whereas Pakistan's only grew at 4 percent. Moreover, after falling behind for nearly three decades, India finally caught up to Pakistan in terms of per capita GDP in 2009, and the gap has only grown wider since then. If we compare India's 1.25 billion people to Pakistan's 182 million, we may get a sense of the scope of this economic change.

### **Public Opinions**

Public opinion in Pakistan and India is still largely unfavorable toward each other despite repeated requests for more friendly bilateral relations from NGO activists and celebrities in both countries. A 2011 Pew study, for instance, indicated that only 14% of Pakistanis had a positive view of India, while 75% had a negative view. Eighty percent of Pakistanis surveyed put India on par with the Taliban and Al Qaeda as their greatest security concern. Sixty-five percent of Indian respondents had a negative view of Pakistan, while just fourteen percent had a positive view. Nonetheless, overwhelming majorities in both nations want better relationships with the other, approved of escalating trade, and approved of continuing bilateral negotiations.

#### **IV. KASHMIR AS AN UNRESOLVED ISSUE AND DECIDER FACTOR**

Since India and Pakistan's independence, Kashmir has undoubtedly been contested territory between them. Kashmir, however, has been a constant sore spot between India and Pakistan. JandK maintained its sovereignty during the division. As a Muslim majority area, this land was claimed by Pakistan, a newly formed state, and thus invasion had begun. When Kashmir ran into problems with Pakistan, its leaders made the decision to unite with India. Since then, Kashmir has played a crucial strategic role for India as a component of the Indian Union. India and Pakistan reached a ceasefire deal on January 1, 1949, 15 after their first battle over Kashmir in 1947 and 1948. India and Pakistan went to war again in 1965 over Kashmir, and the ensuing line of control split the former Jammu and Kashmir into four separate sovereign entities.

- i. Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir Valley (Indian-occupied Kashmir);
- ii. Azad Kashmir (Pakistan occupied Kashmir);
- iii. the Northern Area, administered by Pakistan; and

iv. Aksai Chin, controlled by China<sup>16</sup> as the Map 1 is showing. Beside this Indian and Chinese troops clashed in the 1962 Sino-Indian War, leading to the swift annexation by the Chinese of Aksai Chin and the demarcation of the line of Actual Control between Pakistan, India and the Trans-Karakoram tract, now also claimed by China<sup>15</sup> always worried India.

## V. CONCLUSION

Thus, it is determined that the tension and disputes between India and Pakistan are historical, but that they may be remedied by the formation of bilateral, multilateral, and unilateral connections and the continuation of peaceful conversation between the two nations. Kashmir's geo-strategic location makes it the deciding factor in whether or not Indo-Pakistani relations will stabilize or deteriorate in the future, but it is a difficult task to investigate the peaceful and confidence building solutions for two nuclear-armed powers in South Asia. As the conflicting situation and communal antagonism of the region create space for external powers, it is clear that these powers have taken advantage of the Indo-Pak dispute for their own selfish interests not only during the cold war period but also today, as the US, Russia, and China have all experienced a significant shift in their policies toward the region since the end of the cold war. Despite this, several attempts have been made to date to restore ties between India and Pakistan, with little result. Together, the two countries can eliminate internal roadblocks and create the conditions in the area that everyone wants without having to rely on any outside party. If this comes to pass, it will be a historic high point for South Asia.

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