

A Historical Overview of Indo-Pak Conflicts and its Impacts on their Relations

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Abstract

Subcontinent was divided in two parts in August 1947 by the British when they decided to quit this region. Therefore, two independent states i.e. Pakistan and India came into being. This division gave birth to a serious of conflicts between the two newly emerged states. Their conflict and differences were started from the accession of states and reached to several full-fledged wars. Hindu considers British India as their mother land therefore strongly opposed the partition. This is the core reason behind each and every conflict arose between India and Pakistan. Relations between the two states always remain restrain due to these conflicts and leading to oppose each other everywhere. Both the neighbouring state continuously suffering by security dilemma which compelling them to have alliance with big powers in order to get help in time of need and get assistance to modernize their defence capabilities. The durable solution of Indo-Pak conflicts is, to stop propaganda against each other, continuously maintain the bilateral composite dialogue and above all resolve the Kashmir issue as soon as possible. The core objective of this paper is to

know about the Indo-Pak conflicts and analyse its impacts on their relations.

Keywords: Pakistan, India, conflicts, implications, composite dialogue.

INTRODUCTION:

The direction of a nation and state is forever a product of its past, which set up their future. Pakistan and India came into being as a result of British India partition in August 1947.

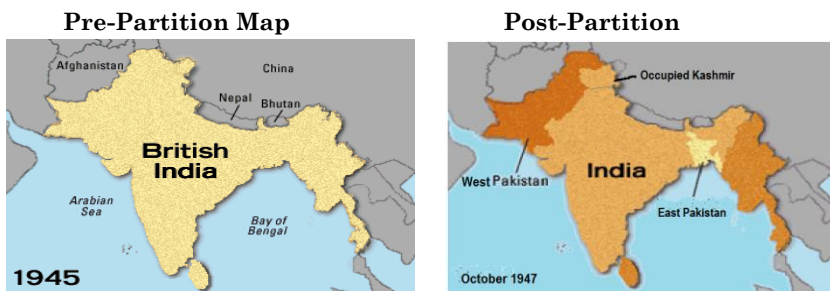


Figure 1: Map of Indian Subcontinent

Every year 15 August represents two facets. It was the day of the most horrible communal riots ever recorded in human history and at the same time, it was the day of the freedom of Sub-continent from British rule. The Indian Independence Act 1947 comes as a reward and penalty to its citizens. The following partition of the British India displaced 12.5 million people of Sub-continent, with one million humans lost their lives. Hindu considers British India as their mother land and did not accept the partition of their motherland. It is the core reason behind every conflict arose between India and Pakistan. While Muslims on the bases of two nation theory advocates the partition of British India. They believe that the two-nation theory was the forming base of division of India.

Soon after independence, both the state established diplomatic relations but the unfair partition and various territorial clashes overshadow their bilateral relations and ultimately lead to fought three major wars, an undeclared war and have been engaged in many

armed standoffs and confrontations till today. The Kashmir issue is the key indication of all of these clashes except the 1971 war which caused in the separation of East Pakistan. Though disputes and conflicts among Muslims and Hindus in Subcontinent were witnessed since the formation of British regime, but after division of British India the Kashmir issue became the main irritant in their bilateral relations. They went to war three times over this issue but could not solve it till today.

Indian Independence Act 1947:

The most significant turning point in the history of Sub-continent was the historical proclamation of Governor General Mountbatten of the announcement of date of British departure from India. It was an act which gave independence to British India and paved the way for partition. As a result, two independent state i.e. Pakistan and India emerged on the map of world. This partition gave birth to a serious of grave problems both administrative as well as political which are still unresolved and badly restraining the relations of Pakistan and India since that time even fought full-fledged wars. The conflicts are;

Accession of Princely States:

There were 562 princely states at the time of British India partition. They were bound with British government through agreements which permitted them absolute authority in the ruling of their inhabitants. British crown was only nominal head. The British authority over the princely states also fall dawn on 15th August 1947. In this regard, Indian Independence Act 1947 gave three options to the rulers of the princely states. Firstly, they could join India. Secondly, they could join Pakistan. Thirdly, they could decide to remain as independent entities (Mir, 2014, p. 104). Therefore, all the princely states join either India or Pakistan on the bases of geographic location but the issue of accession of three princely states i.e. Junagarh, Hyderabad and Kashmir gave birth to rivalries between India and Pakistan. These three exceptions were important which further restrain the already gloomy relations between the two newly founded States.

The ruler of Junagarh state which was near to the south eastern border of Pakistan acceded with Pakistan and Pakistan accepted, but population of the state was mostly Hindus therefore they started agitation and ultimately acceded with Indian in February

1948. It was stated that this was the desire of the majority of its inhabitants (Basrur, 2008, p. 59). Hyderabad which had Muslim ruler and Hindu majority population showed desire for remaining independence but faced more confused condition as it was surrounded by Indian lands and sign one year stand still contract with Indian. The Indian government landed troops into the state and launched a “police action” by saying that we want to restore law and order. Then Hyderabad was compelled to accede to the India” (Mir, 2014, p. 102).

Kashmir Dispute:

Historically, “Gulab Singh purchased Kashmir from the Britishers under the “treaty of Amritsar” for the sum of 7.5 million rupees in 1846” (Rashid, 2007, p. 206). It was also a princely state but Kashmir has turn into the most severe conflict not only in South Asia but also in the world due to Indian independent act of 1947. It is situated at the intersection of Pakistan, China and India which giving it a very important strategic importance. It is also known to the tourists as Switzerland of the East. “The total area of the Kashmir was 86,023 square miles. According to the 1941 census total population of the state was 4.02 million, in which 77 percent were Muslims and 20 percent were Hindus. Kashmir is physically closest to Pakistan as well as its majority population was also Muslim but through force without the consent of Kashmiri people India occupied it. At present 45.62 percent of the territory is occupied by India, 35.15 percent is with Pakistan and on 19.23 percent is with China. The Line of Control (LoC) divided Kashmir between India and Pakistan (Cheema, 2015, p. 45).

After departure Britishers Hari Sing showed plan of accession with India despite the fact that territory is adjacent to Pakistan and majority of population is Muslim and they want accession with Pakistan. In the months of August and September 1947, the condition gets worse quickly because the Muslim inhabitants of Kashmir started agitation against the decision followed by repression of Hari Sing. On the other hand on October 26, 1947 Hari Sing announced his succession with India and requested India for urgent dispatch of forces and therefore on October 27, 1947 India quickly attacked Kashmir and deployed 100000 troops (Rashid, 2007, p. 409) and thus war between both the states provoked.

On January 1, 1948 India submitted an objection against Pakistan in the UNO security council under Article 34, 35 of the UNO charter and on January 20, 1948 the UN Security Council set up the “UN commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP)” and send to Kashmir to study the ground realities and stop the war, and also to put forward some recommendations about how to solve the problem. The UNCIP call for urgent cease fire between the two states on August 13, 1948. Both the countries agreed to the ceasefire and the truce came into effect on 1st January 1949. It had also decided for a plebiscite to determine the future of the state under United Nation regulation and demilitarization of Kashmir. UNCIP sent a “Monitoring Group for India and Pakistan” to the area in order to observe the 840km lengthy ceasefire line across Kashmir. The cease fire line was later on became as “Line of Control” in the Shimla agreement between the two states in 1972 (Adhikari & Kamle, 2010, p. 75). Indian Prime Minister Mr. Nehru announced that the India is ready to conduct a referendum under UN auspices (Rashid, 2007, p. 410) but till today it could not take place. In December 1949 UN called for demilitarization for which Pakistan agreed but India refused to do so. Then UN Security Council passed a new motion to follow up on McNaughton’s suggestions on March 14, 1950 and appointed the renowned Australian judge Sir Owen Dixon as a United Nation agent to replace the UNCIP but failed to resolve the issue. Then Security Council appointed former US senator Dr. Frank Graham as United Nation agent in December 1951 (Mir, 2014, p. 104), but he also could not resolve the deadlock between India and Pakistan. All these initiatives failed mainly due to Indian uncooperative response.

Since 1947 Kashmir is a bone of contention between India and Pakistan. Its people are the victim of Indian cruelty and suffered a lot. It led to inter-state clashes and conflicts in the first and second and 4th Indo-Pak battles in 1947-1948, 1965 and 1998. All these wars were fought on the issue over Kashmir. This area also faced heavy battle in the third war of 1971.

It is “Two Nation Theory” upon which Muslims of Sub-continent laid the foundation of their demand for a separate state for Muslims. Pakistan demands and support the right of self-determination for the people Kashmir which is also recognized by the United Nation Security Council. Without a fair and proper settlement of this issue the 3rd June plan and relations between Pakistan and

Indian cannot be normalise. It is important due to production of timber, strategic location and as well as the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum rivers flows from Kashmir valley to Pakistan (Malik, 2002, p. 56). The agriculture and forming of the Sindh and Punjab is the backbone of Pakistan's financial system depends mainly upon the water of these rivers. This anxiety of Pakistan was stated by the first Foreign Minister of Pakistan Zafar Ullah Khan as, "if Kashmir acceded to India, Pakistan might suffer from both financial and strategic losses. The worry about the water problem boosted the importance of Kashmir more for Pakistan. Asif Ali Zardari, the then President of Pakistan also expressed serious concerns that if India continue the violation of the Indus Water Treaty provisions, by constructing dams on the rivers flowing towards Pakistan it would break the mutual ties, which the two states made over the years (Cheema, 2015, p. 45).

Siachen Dispute:

As the world's highest conflict zone, the Siachen glacier is known for its harsh weather and inhospitable terrain. It is situated in the Karakoram Range about forty-seven miles long and between four miles wide. Winter snowfall averages ten and half meters, blizzards can involve up to more than 170 miles per hour and the temperature remains in the vicinity of -240°C and sometimes much lower due to wind. These factors have given this region the title of the "third pole" (Mishra, 2010, p. 108). The UN demarcated Siachen glacier as a no-man's land. The UN ceasefire line was physically demarcated in accordance with the 1949 Karachi agreement up to the edge of the glacier region. From Siachen to Karakorum pass, recognised international practice was applied and the status quo was not disturbed even during the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971 (Chari & Cheema, 2001).

New Delhi first became suspicious in 1980 when an American map showed the Siachen and places like Lyogme and Lagongma as part of Pakistan. Subsequently Indian army come to know that Japanese mountaineer expedition team was seeking Islamabad's permission to scale certain mountain in the area. India launched operation Maghdoot on 13th April 1984 when her army and the IAF came into the glacier. Pakistan quickly responded and deployed its troops which gave birth to a race to the top. Within a few days, India

controlled most of the area and Pakistan was beaten to most of the Salto bridge high ground in a week. In 1987 Pakistan made an attempt to dislodge the Indian position but unsuccessful and position remained the same (Nayeer, 2003, p. 232).

Sir Creek Dispute:

Sir Creek is a 60-mile-long creek separating the Pakistan province Sindh from the India province of Gujarat. In 1965 after armed clashes, Pakistan asserted that half of the Rann is Pakistani territory. The matter was referred to arbitration and the Indo-Pak western boundary case tribunals award on February 19, 1968, upheld 90 percent of India's claim to the entire Rann and conceded small sector to Pakistan (Mir, 2014, p. 102).

Water Dispute:

Since the ancient times Indus river basin is using for irrigation of the areas of present day Pakistan. However, differences arose over the water issue between India and Pakistan after the partition. These clashes arose because in the division of Punjab province of British India, Radcliffe drew the division line in Punjab region in such a way which gave birth to differences over water sources between India and Pakistan (Nosheen & Begum, 2011, pp. 266-267). The newly independent two countries were at worse strange affairs over the issue how to distribute and administer water sources. After partition geographically most Indus basin Rivers are interring to Pakistan from India. Pakistan felt its livelihood threatened by the prospect of Indian control over the tributaries that fed waters into the Pakistani portion of the basin. Pakistan was in worry and still is, by a disagreement over the main resources of water for its cultivation of agricultural lands. Which is restraining Pak-India relations from time to time till to day. After one year of partition the Indus water was distributed accordingly an agreement of 4th May 1948 between the two states. According to that agreement India was required to release enough water to Pakistani rivers. This agreement was designed to meet urgent necessities and was pursued by negotiation for a more stable solution. The disagreement between the two nations was continued and ultimately "the then president of World Bank Eugene R. Black, visited the two states and recommend a working party of Pakistan, India and world Bank engineers to tackle the functional portion of

water shearing, both the states agreed to this arbitration and World Bank moved its own draft suggestions for the solution of water issue in February 1954 allocating 3 western rivers to Pakistan and 3 Eastern rivers to India. Ultimately “Indus Water Treaty” was signed by the then Pakistani president Ayoub Khan and the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Illif the then president of world Bank” (Sridhar, 2008). Out of the six rivers; three western rivers Chanab, Indus and Jhelum were given to Pakistan and the three Eastern rivers Sutlej Beas and Ravi to India. This accord also declared that India cannot decrease or delay of water supply to Pakistani rivers (Siddiqa, & Lall, 2012, p. 10), but India is still encroaching in Pakistani rivers which is leading to worst tensions again and again as India is constructing illegal dams on Pakistan rivers. Pakistan’s agriculture sector is contributing 23% to its total GDP and India slowly and gradually decreasing the flow of water towards Pakistan in occupied Kashmir and diverting the flow of water by many other means which is leading to effect the agriculture badly. Indian govt is building 33 multipurpose illegal dams (Avoiding Water Wars, 2011, p. 9). The most controversial are including the Wullar Barrage also called Tulbul Navigation Project, the Kishanganga dam and the Baglihar hydroelectric project. Many economist and water experts warn that rising insufficiency and security stem in part from the inherent limitation of water flow in the Indus River system and partly from the growing water demand associated with inefficient water use in the process of economic and population growth, is assuming grave proportion therefore Pakistan’s water clashes with India could inflame serious crisis and even lead to the severe military conflicts including nuclear war.

The Second Indo-Pak War 1965:

Since 1965 all efforts to peacefully resolve the Kashmir issue had failed therefore in 1965 the circumstances became deteriorated rapidly and on September 1, India army crossed the international border and attacked Pakistan. Indian forces started move towards Lahore and many other cities (Mir, 2014, p. 108). On the call of United Nation Security Council ceasefire took place on 6th September 1965. In the war U.S and USSR also supported India but later on Soviet Union mediated between Pakistan and India and succeeded to bring them to the arbitration table. On the invitation of the then PM of USSR Alexci

Kosygin on January 1, 1966 Pakistan's president Ayoub Khan and Lal Bahadur Shastari the Prime minister of India meet in Tashkent on January 10, 1966 and sign an accord called "Tashkent Declaration". This agreement determined that all armed forces of the two states shall be removed back no later than 25th February, 1966 to the position which they hold prior to 5th August 1965 and both the countries shall monitor the truce terms on the ceasefire line (Adhikari & Kamle, 2010. p. 80).

The Third Indo-Pak War 1971:

In 1971 India and Pakistan fight the 3rd war over the issue of Indian interference in East Pakistan internal uprising which resulted in the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan. In 1971 India started the assistance of East Pakistan rebellion to materialize as an independent sovereign country founded on its distinct Bengali nationalism and distinctive geographical diaspora that Pakistan had constantly ignored. At that time Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's party the "Awami Leagu" got victory in the general elections and thus insisted autonomy for East wing of Pakistan. This he initiated a wide range protest in East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh). India started both moral and material support of rebellions which ultimately led to the 1971 war. Sheik Mujib gave a speech on March 7, 1971 when he urged the people to turn all their homes into a fort of fight and gave ultimatum to transfer power to him before March 25, 1971. At the mid night of 25th March Pakistani army started operation to crush the Bengali's resistance. On 26th March, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested and wide range armed clashes started between the Army and the Bengali freedom fighters "Makti Bahani". The fighters of "Makti Bahani" were prepared and trained by the Indian Army. India provided them full moral and political support, logistic support, weapons and money. Indian army, Navy and Air Force battled side by side with Makti Bahani (Rahman, 2008, pp. 2-3).

India dynamically interfered in Pakistan internal affairs which ultimately lead to the separation of Eastern part of Pakistan. Indian army also opened war across the ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir. The war was ended after the surrender of the Pakistani army on December 16, 1971 in its Eastern part which is now called Bangladesh. In Kashmir the war come to an end on 17th December 1971 (Adhikari & Kamle, 2010, p. 82).

The Kargil War 1999:

In 1999, once again in Kargil at a height of more than 16000 to 18000 feet above the sea level, a bloody war started between India and Pakistan. On May 26, 1999 Indian forces started air attacks. As the fight turn out bloody and more forceful, the United States president Clinton intervened to resolve the armed crisis in Kargil. The war, code named operation Vijay began on May 26, 1999 and continued until July 11, 1999 (Adhikari & Kamle, 2010, pp. 71-91). On Kargil issue difference also raised between military and civilian government in Pakistan which ultimately resulted in 4th martial law in Pakistan on October 12, 1999.

CONCLUSION:

Hindu considers British India as their mother land and are not accepting the partition of their motherland. It is the core reason behind every conflict arose between India and Pakistan and still making relations restrain between the two sovereign states. While the Muslims on the bases of two nation theory advocates the partition of British India. According to Nation State system Muslim of British India had the right of a separate home land. Therefore, these two states have always been opposing each other and their citizens are continuously suffering by the security dilemma. This security dilemma also compels them to make alliance with such countries that help them in time of need and provide assistance to modernize their defence capabilities. The security issue also increased both countries dependency on developed countries. Pakistan interred into alliance with the United States soon after independence while India, despite proclaimed itself as member of the non-Aligned Movement, but got alliance with USSR and then US to get military assistance. At present, the most important issues between the two states are the Kashmir issue and the water issue. Both are very grave issues and any time can endanger international peace and security as both the states are nuclear powers and threatening one another of nuclear attack. Therefore, UN and international community should resolve both these issue on emergency bases.

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