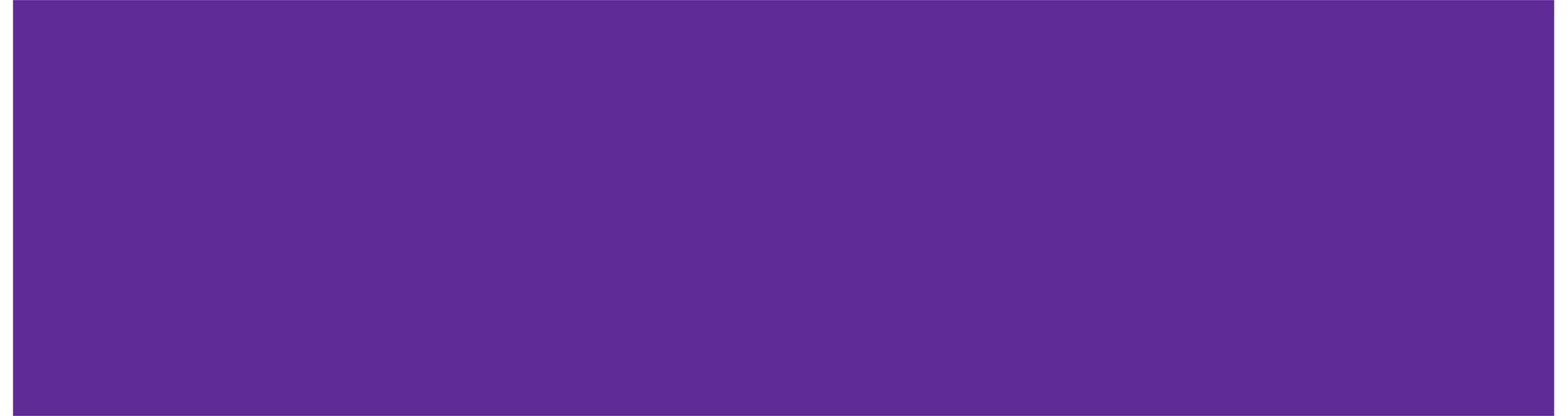


South Asia - India, Pakistan, and China(?)

Relationships & how the heck we got here



British & Imperialism

- From 1757 to 1947, India was a British colony; their “crown jewel.”
- It’s estimated that roughly \$45 trillion was siphoned out of India by the British Raj.
- In 1857, India tried to revolt against the British during the Sepoy Rebellion where they were handily defeated. Nonetheless, this marked the unofficial start of a burgeoning independence movement.
- During this period, religious violence began to become a larger cleavage as questions erupted over the role of religion in a hypothetically independent Indian state. Many Muslims feared living under a Hindu-majority state while other Indians feared that Muslims wanted to break up the country.

Getting Their Wish

- This culminated in a tense standoff in Calcutta on what is now called the Direction Action Day of 1946: 4,000 Hindus died and 100,000 evacuated within 72 hours.
- With religious violence on the rise, politicians like Muhammad Ali Jinnah--head of the Muslim league--talked about having a separate Muslim state if the British were to ever leave. And India's prime minister--Jawaharlal Nehru--reluctantly agreed. Gandhi opposed it, but it was too late.
- In 1947, India officially got their wish.
- A mix of the aforementioned independence movement, religious tensions the British didn't want to deal with, Clement Atlee's dominant defeat over Churchill's party in 1945, and the financial drain of WW2 led Britain to move out of India.

The Partition Plan

- A man named Cyril Radcliffe--someone who had never been East of Paris--was tasked with dividing up India into a secular state (India) and a Muslim state (Pakistan).
- Radcliffe was given 36 days, but finished 3 days ahead of schedule. He didn't quite finish though and didn't draw a line for Kashmir. I wonder what'd happen?
- Hint: a total crapshow.



Kashmir Question

- Under the partition plan provided by the Indian Independence Act, Kashmir was free to accede to either India or Pakistan.
- The maharaja (local ruler), Hari Singh, initially wanted Kashmir to become independent - but in October 1947 chose to join India, in return for its help against an invasion of tribesmen from Pakistan.
- Since then, opinion has changed. Keep in mind, [this poll is from 2007](#), but 90% in the region want independence.

Kashmir Continued

- Going back to the Kashmir question, Pakistan wasn't pleased Kashmir chose to join India. Accordingly, the first of three Indian-Pakistani wars broke out in 1947.
- The newly-formed UN was tasked with mediating the conflict. They recommended holding a referendum to decide where Kashmir should remain, but the two sides couldn't demilitarize the region and so the plebiscite never happened. Instead, the two countries agreed to draw a ceasefire line which ended the war.
- Indian losses in the war totaled 1,104 killed and 3,154 wounded; Pakistani, about 6,000 killed and 14,000 wounded. India gained control of about two-thirds of Kashmir; Pakistan, the remaining one-third.

The Return of the Sith: the Third War

- Highkey, the second war was irrelevant. Casualty-wise, there were a lot less deaths and there were no territorial changes, so we're skipping to the third war.
- In 1965, a couple thousand died on both sides & East Pakistan became the new nation of Bangladesh.
- The war lasted on 13 days and was a decisive victory for India. The point being this: while Kashmir is the "hot" area between these two nuclear rivals, there are lots of potential places for conflict to erupt.

Speaking of Nuclear Weapons...

- In the Spring of 1999, the Pakistani Army crossed the Line of Control and seized the strategically important posts in the Kargil district of Indian-controlled Kashmir. Keep in mind that India had abandoned the mountain-ridden outposts for the winter and moved quickly to retake the territory. The ensuing standoff became known as the Kargil Conflict.
 - This isn't officially a war, and is dubbed the Kargil Conflict for a reason.
- On July 4th, the PM--Nawaz Sharif (who doesn't hold responsibility, but was also pretty useless--flew to the United States to meet with Bill Clinton. The United States had been notified that Pakistan planned to mobilize its nuclear weapons and, appropriately, Sandy Berger (US Nat Sec Advisor) told Clinton this was the most important foreign policy meeting he'd ever endure.

The Challenge

- Clinton had to manage a strong response while not giving Pakistan a horrible deal that would make Sharif an exile. He recognized the existential threat of the situation and how enabling Pakistan's territorial accession could risk nuclear entanglement from India. As such, the United States threatened to cut a much needed IMF-loan package to Pakistan and used that as leverage to get a good deal. In return, Clinton promised to review the Lahore process and permanently resolving the India Pakistan border dispute. Crisis averted, but too close for comfort.

Kashmir's Special Status

- Kashmir has a special position within India, thanks to Article 370 - a clause in the constitution which gave it significant autonomy, including its own constitution, a separate flag, and independence over all matters except foreign affairs, defence and communications.

Kashmir (there's a lot to unpack)

On August 5th 2019, the BJP--India's ruling party--revoked that status. Telephone networks and the internet were cut off in the region in the days before the presidential order was announced. Public gatherings were banned, and tens of thousands of troops were sent in. Tourists were told to leave Kashmir under warnings of a terror threat.

Kashmir

This angered Pakistan, who viewed it as a threat to Kashmir's sovereignty and religiously-motivated. After all, the region is the only Muslim-majority state in India. Since then, we've seen hostile military standoffs (including a ceasefire violation just last weekend that injured 5 civilians).

Other Important Facts

CAB - bill that grants citizenship status & recognizes religious persecution except against Muslims. 2m in Assam alone.

Taliban factor - Housed Taliban in the past, including Osama. Been accused by US and India; Pakistan denies.

Ladakh: China and Kashmir too?!?

- First border clash in 45 years
- 1962 humiliating defeat for India
- Ladakh is a disputed Himalayan border area within Kashmir
- 20 Indian soldiers died; “beaten to death” & rocks and clubs
- India built new road recently

Potential Methods of Drawing Down the Conflict

- Confidence Building Measures
 - Exchange of military information, including weapons systems and budgeting
 - Requiring the interaction of defense officials and experts
 - Communication measures including “hot lines” and “cool lines”
 - Notification measures like notifying the other side about military drills
 - Inspection measures like observing nuclear facilities
 - Banning certain technologies (like a nuclear agreement)
 - Activity and deployment constraint measures
- International Negotiations
- Economic Cooperation
- The harsher approach if needed: economic isolation, revoking visas, sending the military, etc

Read and Summarize the Main Idea

<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/china-india-border-dispute-what-know>

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/06/17/as-india-and-china-clash-jfks-forgotten-crisis-is-back/>

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/inflection-points/india-pakistan-nuclear/>

<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/why-india-and-pakistan-are-fighting-over-kashmir-again>

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan>