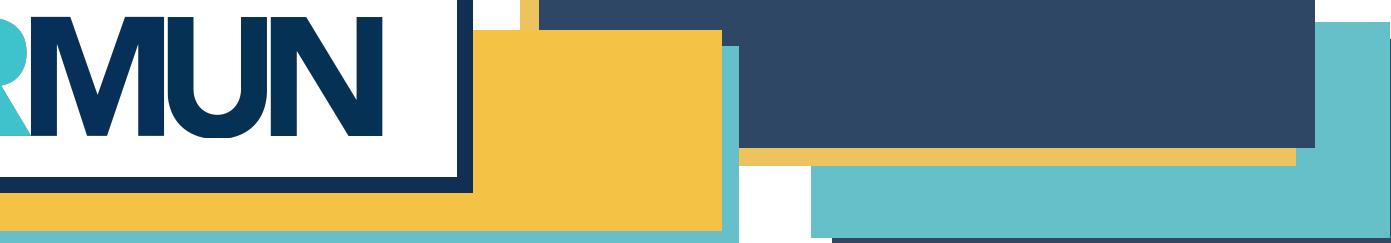


# ISRMUN



# HSC

United Nations Historic  
Security Council



SAN ROBERTO  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

**Committee:** United Nations Historic Security Council (HSC)

**Topic:** The situation in Kashmir (January 1990)

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## I. Committee Background

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was founded in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN). It was established to “maintain international peace and security” and “investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction.” The UNSC is unique as it is the only body within the UN system with the power to issue binding resolutions to member states. Moreover, it also has the authority to establish peacekeeping operations and enact international sanctions (Functions and Powers, UN, 2020). The committee consists of five permanent members (China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States) and ten non-permanent members that are elected every two years (Procedures, UN, 2020). The permanent members of the committee possess a special veto power as a method of blocking decisions on all substantive matters (Charter, UN, 2020).

## II. Topic Information

### A) History of the Topic

Kashmir is a territory that is located in the northernmost geographical region of the Indian subcontinent. Conflict arose in 1947 when British India was divided into two independent countries, Hindu majority India and largely Muslim Pakistan. This process was called “partition”. At the time of the partition, Kashmir was a princely

state which was not directly governed by Britain. Its leader, Maharaja Hari Singh, had the opportunity to decide to join either India or Pakistan, or remain independent. Singh wanted the territory to remain independent, however, the country came under immense pressure to ally itself with Pakistan due to its large Muslim population (Encyclopædia Britannica, 2019). In September 1947, Pakistan-funded rebel groups and Pashtun tribesmen invaded and took over large parts of western Kashmir. Unable to defend itself, Kashmir was forced to ask India for assistance. However, India would only help if Kashmir acceded to it. Left with no other option, in October 1947, Singh signed the Instrument of Accession, the document that aligned Kashmir with India. The document guaranteed Kashmir a special status within India, providing the territory with independence over all areas except communications, foreign affairs and defence (Blakemore, National Geographic, 2019).

Violence within the territory continued until 1948 when the United Nations intervened. The organization established a cease-fire that went into effect in January 1949. Later that year, India and Pakistan decided on a cease-fire line (the Line of Control) that divided the administration of the territory. However, Pakistan was unhappy with the territory assigned to it as it was underpopulated, inaccessible and economically underdeveloped. The majority of Kashmir's Muslim population was under Indian control (Encyclopædia Britannica, 2019). Moreover, both countries ignored the United Nations' resolution which called for a referendum in order to enable Kashmiris to decide their future for themselves. War broke out between India and Pakistan in 1965. The conflict started after India discovered Pakistan's plan to help militias infiltrate Indian Kashmir to promote an insurgency against Indian rule. Another war over the territory followed in 1972 (Tristam, ThoughtCo., 2019).

Unhappy with the lack of progress through peaceful and democratic processes, militant organizations began to appear in Kashmir in the late 1980s. These organizations operated with two main aims: to resist Indian government rule and gain independence. The Indian military responded by initiating a severe crackdown on freedom of expression and movement. This only fueled anti-India and anti-Hindu sentiment and forced Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus) to flee the territory. This situation was made worse when India appointed its own governor in Kashmir in order to suppress the population (Encyclopædia Britannica, 2019). Widespread protests broke out and in January 1990 culminated in the Indian military opening fire on unarmed Kashmiris. This event, which is known as the Gawkadal massacre, resulted in the deaths of at least 160 people (Mirza, BBC News, 2007).

## B) Current Issues

**China:** China has inclined to support Pakistan over the issue of Kashmir since the late 1950s. This is primarily due to the fact that China has been in an ongoing border dispute with India over Western Tibet and parts of Kashmir. China recognizes the eastern portion of Indian administered Kashmir, which is known as Aksai Chin, as being an “integral part of China.” As such, China has slowly begun to build roads and military buildings in this disputed part of Kashmir, blurring the borderlines between the two nations. Moreover, the territory is shown as belonging to China on government printed maps. Due to mountainous terrain, it is much easier for the Chinese to access Aksai Chin than the Indians. This has made it much more difficult for India to assert its claim to the territory (Fisher, Rose and Huttenback, Questia, 1963).

**India:** The Indian government claims that Kashmir is legally its territory due to the fact that the Instrument of Accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to the Union of

India, which was signed by Maharaja Singh, was done so legally and in line with international law. Furthermore, the document was unanimously ratified by the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. This is why India has rejected calls for Kashmir to become independent. The country firmly believes that the area would be stable and productive if Pakistan and the international community would stop “manufacturing” problems. Also, India has accused Pakistan of creating violence in the region due to its propaganda campaign of hate and violence against Hindus (Tripathi, The Economic Times, 2019).

**Pakistan:** Throughout the late 1980s, the government of Pakistan financially and physically supported indigenous Kashmiri militant groups such as the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. It provided fighters with weapons and training facilities (Blank, Foreign Policy, 2014). Furthermore, since widespread protests have broken out in Kashmir, Pakistan has allowed these groups to use its territory in order to illegally cross the Line of Control into Indian-administered Kashmir to launch attacks. Pakistan supports Kashmir's right to self-determination and denounces India's refusals to adhere to UN resolutions on the issue (Hashim and Fareed, Al Jazeera, 2019).

**United Kingdom:** Over half a million Kashmiris live in exile in the United Kingdom (UK). Due to this, a large resistance movement has formed in the country. This movement has made significant contributions to raising awareness about the conflict within the UK and around the world. The government of the UK has remained rather neutral in the conflict due to its former position as colonizer and participant in the partition which contributed to the conflict. That said, the UK has frequently denounced violence committed by India and Pakistan and has called for both nations to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict. As a member of the UN's Security

Council, the UK has voted in favour of resolutions which would enable Kashmir to have a say in its future (Shah, Foreign Affairs, 2016).

**United States:** Initially, the United States' (US) involvement in the situation in Kashmir was largely through participation in the United Nations. For instance, in 1948, the US was one of the five countries (along with Argentina, Belgium, Columbia and Czechoslovakia) to write a UN resolution calling for a referendum to decide Kashmir's future. While the resolution passed, it was never implemented due to India's refusal to work with Pakistan (Tristam, ThoughtCo., 2019). Since the 1980s, the US government has taken the stance that the Kashmir issue should only be solved through discussions and negotiations between India and Pakistan. So, it has become neutral and a non-participant in the conflict (Indian Express, 2015).

## C) UN Action

In January 1948, India asked the UNSC to intervene in the conflict in Kashmir. This led to the creation of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) in April 1948. Moreover, Security Council Resolution 47 established an immediate cease-fire, called Pakistan to withdraw its support for militant groups operating in the region and obligated India to reduce its military force to minimum strength. As previously mentioned, a referendum over the status of Kashmir was also proposed but never took place. In 1948 and 1949, the UNCIP made efforts to remove Pakistan-supported military elements from Kashmir through a two-part withdrawal process. India accepted the plan but it was rejected by Pakistan for being one-sided. In July 1949, the two nations signed the Karachi Agreement which established a ceasefire line to be monitored by the UN peacekeepers and observers. It also resulted in the formation of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Its functions were to "observe and report, investigate

complaints of ceasefire violations and submit its findings to each party and to the Secretary-General.” Following the 1965 war, the UN took further steps to guarantee peace within the territory. The Security Council formed the United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM), which was an administrative partner to UNMOGIP. Further resolutions demanding that both sides adhere to the ceasefire followed throughout the 1960s and 1970s (UN Peacekeeping, 2003). However, these were generally ignored by both sides. Since 1972, India has taken on a non-recognition policy towards third parties in its exchanges with Pakistan. It has also limited the ability of UN observers to gather information and investigate alleged ceasefire violations. On the other hand, Pakistan has continued to file ceasefire-related complaints with UNMOGIP (UNMOGIP, 2020).

### III. Essential Questions

1. How did the situation in Kashmir begin?
2. Is your nation involved in this conflict? If so, in which way?
3. What has the United Nations done to resolve the conflict in Kashmir? Has it been successful? Why or why not?
4. What consequences do India and/or Pakistan face if they violate the ceasefire or cross the Line of Control?
5. Which other organizations are involved in resolving the situation in Kashmir? How have they been involved? Have they been successful? Why or why not?
6. Which specific events lead to the widespread protests against Indian rule in Kashmir in January 1990?

## IV. Quorum

- Canada
- Colombia
- China
- Ethiopia
- Finland
- France
- Malaysia
- Soviet Union
- United Kingdom
- United States

## V. Resources

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