



Security Council: Jammu/Kashmir Crisis

I. Background of Topic

Since 1947, possession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been fought over between India, Pakistan, and China. Jammu and Kashmir, since Indian independence, has been ruled by a Hindu, while its population was predominantly Muslim. Due to this, Pakistan has claimed that the area rightfully belongs not to India, but Pakistan. India still holds claims to the disputed territory, and Pakistan has tried twice, unsuccessfully, to seize the area by force (1947 and 1965). A proxy war has developed in the area, where 26,226 lives have been lost between 1988 and 2000; and of these 40% were civilians. Some of the population of Jammu and Kashmir want an independent country, some want to be part of India, and some want to join Pakistan. This has caused great internal strife that has only led to even more conflict in the disputed territory. India, Pakistan, and China are directly involved in the disputed territory. All three countries have some claims to different parts of the territory, although India and Pakistan are the primary powers involved. Both India and Pakistan have gone nuclear in 1999. This, coupled with the strong animosity between them, lends this issue to global importance; should the crisis not be resolved, the two countries may feel the need to use their nuclear power against each other.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations' most significant resolution passed for Jammu and Kashmir, in 1948, states that Pakistan must evacuate its troops from the state. Organs, committees, agencies or NGOs of the United Nations that are involved in the Jammu and Kashmir Yateem Trust has been set up to help orphans in the region, which have been negatively impacted by the fighting in the area. The Society for Human Welfare and Education has also been set up to help the children of the area, primarily by providing education to children to enable them to be emotionally and economically self-reliant. Kashmir has also developed a large number of drug abusers, and consequently the H.N.S.S. De-Addiction hospital has been founded in order to help the situation, mainly through pioneering work in the field of de-addiction. United Nations action: resolutions passed, committees set-up, organizations established, peacekeeping forces, etc. The United Nations passed resolution 47 on 21 April, 1948. This resolution required an immediate cease-fire between the two nations and required Pakistan to withdraw all military presence. It also declared that Pakistan would no longer have a say in Jammu & Kashmir politics; instead, the "final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations."

II. Possible Solutions

To solve this issue, several steps could be taken. A plebiscite could be held, and the UN could force both India and Pakistan to uphold the decision. Also, the already segmented Jammu & Kashmir could be divided into parts, with each going to India, Pakistan, or China. This could



alleviate all unwarranted claims to the disputed region through sacrificing full autonomy of the territory for several territories under a larger control of its bordering country.

III. Bloc Positions

Asian Bloc: Asian countries are the most affected by the conflict, and thus have the most interest in seeing the conflict be settled. Kashmir is the key to peace in South Asia, and thus South Asian countries especially have interest in the dispute.

Latin Bloc: The Latin countries are extremely far from the conflict, and as such have little interest in the conflict. Therefore, these countries have no distinct position on the conflict.

European Bloc: The European countries urge India and Pakistan to hold talks to determine the outcome of Kashmir and Jammu, in the most peaceful way possible.

African Bloc: The African Countries, like the Latin American countries, are far from the conflict and are also plagued with internal strife, leading to an apathy towards the conflict.

Middle Eastern Bloc: The Middle Eastern bloc, including Pakistan, would most ideally like to see Kashmir given to Pakistan.

IV. Guiding Questions

1. What are some solutions to this issue?
2. What has your country done in the past to help resolve this issue?
3. Which NGOs can be utilized to help alleviate this conflict?
4. How can the UN help settle this conflict?
5. How can future conflict be prevented in the area?



Security Council: The 2011 Syrian Revolution

I. Background

From 1963 to 2011 Syria was under Emergency Law, effectively granting security forces sweeping powers of arrest and detention. The government justified this by claiming that Syria was at war with Israel and was necessary for the sure victory. Since 1963, Syria has been dominated by the Ba'ath Party, a political party mixing Arab nationalist and Arab socialist interests, opposed to Western imperialism, and calling for the renaissance or resurrection and unification of the Arab World in a single state. President Hafez al-Assad led Syria for approximately 30 years and has banned any opposing political party and candidates in elections. In 1982, Hafez al-Assad ordered for a scorched earth policy against the town of Hama to extinguish an imminent uprising by the Sunni Muslims. Thousands of people were killed in this incident, known as the Hama massacre. When the will of the Syrians was such to put al-Assad out of office, they prompted a movement that would be known as the 1999 Latakia incident: leading to an eruption of violent protests. These occurrences of course were a result of a feud between al-Assad and his younger brother Rifaat. A year later Hafez al-Assad died and was succeeded by his son, Bashar. Currently, activists are meeting and discussing ideas calling for a reform; asking for more democratic elections and eventually beginning a campaign of civil disobedience. Specifically the protest began on 26 January 2011, and escalated into an uprising by 15 March 2011. The current situation in Syria is one of great chaos and disarray where protestors are peacefully voicing their opinion while the Syrian military uses draconian methods such as the use of tanks and snipers to force people off the streets.

I. UN Involvement

NATO has stated that it does not plan to get involved in the issue, due to protecting the citizens of Libya. Certain organizations under the United Nations have condemned the violence as well as the government's response to the outbursts, and ultimately supported the rebels due to their beliefs of freedom of speech.

II. Possible Solutions

One possible solution to this problem could be granting the Syrian rebels their wishes to have a democratic reform. Seeing as their rights have been tossed aside, some may argue that they deserve to have their voice heard. Another possible solution may be creating sanctions for Syrian rebels. Since freedom of speech is highly valued, most view the rebels as justified. However, it is imperative to find a way to stop the violence. As members of the United Nations, your goal is to find a win-win situation that will satisfy both sides and bring peace to Syria.

III. Bloc Positions



Members of the United Nations have mixed feelings about the issue. Iran has vocally supported the Syrian government and has provided support with weapons and ammo. Iranian leaders have also accused Israel and America created the uprising. America has in turn accused Iran of secretly aiding the Syrian government. Turkey has provided refuge for Syrian dissidents. Keep in mind that countries currently involved in their own political problems (wars, political rebellion) and economic problems (mass debt, poverty) cannot aid in the issue as they have more important things at hand to deal with.

IV. Guiding Questions (5)

1. Who is to blame in this issue?
2. Are the Syrians justified in their rebellions?
3. What should be done about the violence?
4. Does the government have the right to infringe upon the citizens' rights?