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## Historical Analysis of the relation between India and Pakistan: A Realist Perspective

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### Abstract

*In this article, Analysis has been given of the reason for the conflict between India and Pakistan by understanding the historical events that have transpired between the two countries. Further, the contributing factors and the potential effects on the Indian economy and politics if a positive relationship is built between these countries have been dealt with. The cause of the separation of these countries and the ongoing conflict has been analyzed. Thereafter the wars that were fought between them and their effect on civil society were covered. What are the major contributing factors to the conflict and how peace can be achieved have been talked about in this article. To stop the conflict, it is very important to know what methods can be employed to build peace, and hence, in this article, a few factors that can aid in maintaining a peaceful relationship have been mentioned.*

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## Introduction

India and Pakistan have always been in conflict ever since their partition in the year 1947. Both countries have always tried to dominate each other. The fight started during the British era and is still going on. The whole world is well aware of this conflict and has always tried to figure out a possible solution, however, unfortunately, these attempts have ended in failure. The countries were one nation but never acted like that and now it's completely impossible to unite and perform as one nation; the countries can never become one nation again but can have a peaceful relationship.

On the other hand, many countries are trying to build a boundary-less world but India and Pakistan have still not figured out any solution for their conflicts that started many decades ago. The Realism theory talks about how countries will always look for their nation's security and will focus on maximizing their power first, and will not listen to international thoughts. The theory stands true in this situation as both countries lack trust and have always tried to protect their nations first rather than taking one step ahead and building a peaceful relationship. The main reason for the ongoing conflict is the lack of trust between the two countries. If the countries want, they can resolve their issues by peaceful means. Territorial issues and other issues too can be solved by peaceful means and negotiation.

### Historical overview over the relation between India-Pakistan

The Britishers started ruling India in 1858. Since then, India was trying to overthrow their rule and become independent. Every person during that era dreamed of an independent life and fought for it. During the early twenty century, India became more focused on finally throwing away the British rules and regulations. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi always fought peacefully by starting movements, such as the non-cooperation movement. Other great leaders also participated in the freedom struggle such as Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. B.R Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh. The main turning point for India's Independent movement was the Second World War. Due to Britishers harassing the Indian population at a large in their colonial regime, 'The Quit India movement, 1942' was initiated by the Indian National Congress which involved refusal to British Rules & Laws during the war and asking them to Quit India.

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After the Second World War, the British were defeated and all their resources were destroyed. On the other hand, the British also lost control over India as Indians' continued demand for Independence was growing so much that the British could no longer ignore it. Hence finally, in 1947 the announcement was made that India will be an Independent State.

But now the other issue raised up and that was the Hindu-Muslim religious conflict. Many leaders suggested having peaceful cohabitation between the two communities, but this could not help in controlling the conflict as it reached the point that the Indian Muslims start doing strikes and demanding the formation of an independent Nation. This led to India's division into two independent states, that were India and Pakistan. The Partition was not at all peaceful as it resulted in a mass killing of people. People lost their property, thousand and lakhs of women were raped and killed and much more. It did not end here.

The separation gave birth to a never-ending conflict between India and Pakistan some of which are mentioned below in the timeline:

- ❖ **August 1947<sup>2</sup>:** In this year India finally become Independent but India was divided into two independent nations: India and Pakistan. This separation was not at all peaceful as it caused the loss of many lives and property.
- ❖ **October 1947 to January 1949:** As India had many princely states it was up to them to decide whether they wanted to emerge in India or in Pakistan. Every princely state made its decision except for Kashmir which chose to remain independent. Pakistan then attacked Kashmir and tried to control it, but Kashmir did not want to merge with Pakistan and so in the need of protection they handed their control to India and this led to the first Indo-Pakistan war.
- ❖ **August 1965:** To protect Kashmir, India made a border named the Line of Control (LoC). But, in 1965, the Pakistani soldiers tried to cross the line and this led to the second Indo-Pakistan war. It was resolved at the end of 1966 by signing a declaration to maintain peace.
- ❖ **December 1971:** Pakistan gained Independence in 1947 but it was divided into two parts known as East Pakistan and West Pakistan. Pakistan then went into a civil war between the east and west, because East Pakistan wanted to become an independent nation. Thus, East Pakistan asked for protection from India and this led to the third Indo-Pakistan war. In this war, West Pakistan

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<sup>2</sup> Abby Pokraka, *History of Conflict in India and Pakistan* (November 26, 2019) <https://armscontrolcenter.org/history-of-conflict-in-india-and-pakistan/>.

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lost and East Pakistan became an independent nation which came to be known as Bangladesh on 6th December 1971.

- ❖ **July 1986:** The conflict started with Kashmir with respect to the election of 1987. They were of the opinion that the elections were dishonest and unfavourable to them. Some of the Muslim communities stated that they wanted to be a part of Pakistan while some stated that they want to remain in India. This issue was supported by Pakistan and put forth at the United Nations. India told Pakistan to stop its terrorism-related activities.
- ❖ **May 1998:** India conducted nuclear testing near the Pakistani border and due to the aggression, Pakistan also tested its nuclear weapon. This situation got condemned by the international community and they requested both countries to stop the testing.
- ❖ **May 1998:** 'No First Use' Policy was adopted, according to which a State could not attack any country with a nuclear weapon first.
- ❖ **May 1999:** Pakistan entered Kashmir and this led India to launch strike against Pakistan; this resulted in a huge conflict between the two countries.
- ❖ **December 2001:** This was the most disturbing attack on India as 5 terrorists attacked the Parliament building of India and killed 9 people. India believed that this was done by Pakistan.
- ❖ **February 2007:** Bombing on Samjhauta Express which killed 68 people.
- ❖ **November 2008:** This was the most horrifying attack on India in which 10 Pakistani men along with the Lashar-e-Tayyiba a terrorist group attacked many buildings in South Mumbai and killed 166 and more than 300 were injured.
- ❖ **February 2019<sup>3</sup>:** Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistani terrorist group, attacked Kashmir causing the death of 40 members of India's Paramilitary force. This raised the tension between both nations.
- ❖ **August 2019:** Revocation of Article 370.

This was a short timeline between the countries. The situation has not yet improved as no one knows when the countries will go to war or remain peaceful. But the fact that both countries must solve their issue peacefully remains true.

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<sup>3</sup> Subhan Ullah, *Decoding Recent Indo-Pak Peace Gestures* (April 12th, 2021) <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2021/04/12/decoding-recent-indo-pak-peace-gestures/>.

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## Contributory factors for the conflict

India and Pakistan are neighbouring countries and have many things in common such as history and language but still, both countries have always fought. The fights mainly occur due to the territorial issue of Kashmir. Though the whole administration is in control of India, Pakistan still claims Kashmir to be its part. The other main reasons for the conflict are religious differences, water issues and many more. The countries have always tried to maintain peace between themselves but unfortunately, they have somehow failed. Some of the major issues are being discussed below<sup>4</sup>:

- I. **Territorial issue:** The territorial issue of Kashmir is the main cause for all the wars that happened between India and Pakistan. Kashmir was a princely state but after the attack from Pakistan, it surrenders itself to India in need of protection. It is clear that Kashmir should be part of Indian territory but still, Pakistan claims Kashmir. Kashmir is totally under the administration of India and follows Indian rules and regulations, but some of its citizens want to be part of Pakistan. Pakistan thus supports the claim of the citizens who want to be part of Pakistan. This issue was brought up in the UN but no permanent solution was found.
- II. **Religious differences:** Religion is close to every theist person as their religion teaches them how to live their lives and follow a particular lifestyle that will make their God happy. For example, in particular religions, some rituals may be banned but on the other hand, the same rituals might be celebrated in their religion. As most of India's population follows Hinduism and most of Pakistan's population follows Islam, there is always a conflict between the countries. Hindu and Islamic beliefs might not be completely different but have some differences which always lead to conflict between Hindus and Muslims.
- III. **Lack of trust:** Pakistan has always claimed Kashmir to be its part and has always fought for it. Many attacks have been made by Pakistan to destroy India and so even though many peace treaties have been signed, they have not been effective. This whole situation has caused a lack of trust between both countries toward each other.
- IV. **China's manipulation:** As *Kautilya* has rightly said, an enemy's enemy is our friend. This theory has always been followed by China as China supports every harmful decision that

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<sup>4</sup> Global Conflict Tracker (October 29, 2021) <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker> .

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Pakistan makes toward India. India and Pakistan have a history of conflict. Keeping this in mind, China has always tried to maintain good relations with Pakistan to manipulate it to act against India. China has always tried to suppress India's rise as a superpower. Because Pakistan has great financial support from China, it always neglects the idea of peaceful existence with India.

## How peace can be built

South Asia is the most populated region of the world but, has the least integration because of territorial conflicts and poverty. In Asia, countries are really focused on dominating each other rather than growing together but now, it is the right time for all the countries to focus on economic growth rather than focusing on geopolitical dominance.<sup>5</sup> There is no such person, community or State which does not want peace and peaceful existence without any fear of getting attacked by others.<sup>6</sup> However, this simple thing many times seems to be impossible. Similarly, if India and Pakistan want, they can resolve their issue very peacefully by having a face-to-face dialogue, but just having a conversation won't help, now is the right time to take some action and act according to the set parameters. Below mentioned ways might help in maintaining peace:

- I. **United Nations:** The UN has always been an important force in maintaining peace between India and Pakistan. The issue of Kashmir has been brought to the table of the UN and the UN has also responded positively by establishing the UNC (United Nations Commission) for Pakistan and India. This has helped to investigate the issue peacefully. Further, United Nations has also formed UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan) to look into the conflict and so it can be said that the UN has the ability to build peace between India and Pakistan.
- II. **SAARC:** Organizations such as SAARC can be another helpful way to solve the hunger and territorial issue and so SAARC member countries should solve their issues and must really focus on economic and regional growth.

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<sup>5</sup> Donald Johnson, *India-Pakistan Relations: A 50-Year History* <https://asiasociety.org/education/india-pakistan-relations-50-year-history> .

<sup>6</sup> 79 / ASIA, *India/Pakistan Relations and Kashmir: Steps toward Peace* (24 JUNE 2004) <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/india-non-kashmir/indiapakistan-relations-and-kashmir-steps-toward-peace>.

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- III. **Media:** As most of the communication these days happens through the internet and media, it can play an important role in shifting the attention in a positive direction. Rather than just showing what happened, they need to show what should happen and how peace can be brought. As the media is a bridge between the government and citizens, they must provide them with essential information rather than dissing the opposite country and their governance. It is true that press conferences, interviews, widespread fake videos and messages can cause conflicts and grudge within the common citizens of each country and so it becomes very important to keep a check on the media platforms and take legal action against such malicious acts.<sup>7</sup>
- IV. **Religious Education:** As the whole conflict started because of religious differences, it is important to teach the similarities between the religions. Teaching people that we can grow peacefully even though we have different beliefs has become important. Teaching school-going children to respect one another's religious beliefs can help in building our future generation stronger.
- V. **Cultural similarity:** It can also be a plus point as India and Pakistan were one nation and have many things in common such as language, culture, outfits, and cuisines. This could be a point for integration. The entertainment industry also enjoys fame in both countries since many Indian films, celebrities, singers and comedians enjoy popularity in Pakistan. Language can play an important role in forming a strong relationship between countries as India and Pakistan have similar languages, it may help them to form a good relationship. Geographical location is another important factor while forming a strong relationship between India-Pakistan as they are close neighbours.
- VI. **Climate changes:** Climate change cannot be controlled by one country. It needs the support of every region. Every country must unite and work on it. The growing population and decreasing resources have caused much destruction. According to a 2021 report of the most polluted cities in the world, India has 19 cities and Pakistan has three cities. Taking this report into consideration, both countries' governments must have a peaceful talk and work together to find a solution.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Zahid Yaseen and Muhammad Muzaffar, *Pakistan and India Relations: A Political Analysis of the conflict* (2016) <https://www.gprjournal.com/jadmin/Auther/31rvIolA2LALJouq9hkR/d3IKiqgiZH.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Anwar Akhtar, *10 Reasons for Peace between India and Pakistan* (Apr 22, 2021) <https://www.salzburgglobal.org/news/latest-news/article/10-reasons-for-peace-between-india-and-pakistan>.

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**VII. Increasing Trade:** Trade for any country is the most essential element. According to a report given by World Bank in 2018, if India and Pakistan form a peaceful relationship and remove the restriction, the trade profit could shift from \$2 billion to \$37 billion. Removing restrictions on the border could also help other small-scale trade and help in improving the economy and unemployment of both nations.

### **Effects on Indian politics and Economy if the conflict settled peacefully**

Everything has both positive and negative sides; it's similar in this case. If India and Pakistan form a good relationship, it will surely be beneficial to national security and the economy. With every positive thing, negative things come along. Similarly, if we remove the restrictions on cross-border trade, Terrorism and Cybercrime will be at their peak. It is really hard to form a peaceful settlement when a country has territorial and religious conflicts but still, India and Pakistan have always tried to resolve their issues. Both the countries are quite aggressive toward each other but recently, the scenario has changed as India's and Pakistan's Director-General of Military Operations gave a statement to re-commit to the 2003 Ceasefire Agreement. This will help to maintain peace near the Line of Control in Kashmir. Pakistan's Army Chief, in his speech, stated that it is now time to maintain peace in all directions. This action of Pakistan shows its willingness to form a peaceful relationship with India. Also, on 20th March 2021, the Prime Minister of India showed a caring gesture towards the Prime Minister of Pakistan by sending him the best when he tested positive for corona. No one knows for how long this friendly gesture will remain the same but it's always great to at least have a state. If his gesture continues then most probably both countries will have a summit of SAARC which has been pending since 2016 This negotiation will surely help India in geo-political and geo-economic development.

Currently, India is thinking of using Iran's port to connect with other Asian countries, but this route is lengthy and will cost more time and money. If India and Pakistan form a good trade relationship, a direct route through Pakistan can reduce cost and time as it only takes a day to travel from Amritsar in India to Jalalabad in Pakistan. This unity can also help in dominating China's power in South Asia. But as India and Pakistan's relations were not good from the start, either country may betray the other. Forming a good trade relationship and relaxing the security on the borders may somewhere help uplift the economy and reduce the unemployment rate but, it will also increase the threat to national security. The fight between India and Pakistan has

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benefited many countries especially, China. From a political perspective, this collaboration will surely help in the development of SAARC and might reduce the dominance of other countries.

## Conclusion and Suggestions

India and Pakistan have been in controversy since their partition and have always fought over territorial issues, differences of opinion and religion. The governments of both countries have always tried to dominate the other country in the field of economy and in international politics. It is not like they have never tried to resolve their issues but every time they do so they have always failed to maintain peace. This conflict is going on since their separation and has not benefitted anyone but has caused harm to many citizens and the military of both countries. According to me, this is the right time to understand that the ongoing conflict is not beneficial to any country and so the countries must start to resolve their issue by peaceful means, at least for national security. Just signing a treaty will not help now, actions are required and this can only happen through peaceful negotiations and people-to-people contact. India and Pakistan need to understand that their good relationship can help them to maintain a good position in international politics and help in their economic development.