

# **Kashmir Conflict Resolution**

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## **Abstract**

Kashmir is beautiful valley on the earth and has a natural accession with Pakistan owing to its river flows. It is an age back issue that is keeping two South Asian powers, India and Pakistan, at daggers drawn for more than a half century. This research paper is all about the ongoing debate on resolving Kashmir issue. It will explain different options gathered from diverse segments of society along with personal opinion based on objectivity render to the solution of Kashmir dispute. Historical and analytical methods are used to underscore the real facts. This is an age of globalization where every thing is calculated and measured through profit maximization and other material advantages. The international community does not like war or quarrel with other nation states to rescue itself from any economic loss. Former president Clinton called Kashmir “A nuclear flash point” during his visit to South Asia in 1999. Let’s have a geographical out look of Kashmir to better understand the resolution of this issue.

## **Geographical outfit of Kashmir**

Region of Kashmir and former princely state comprises of 85,714 square miles (222,236 sq km). It is bordered on the west by Pakistan, on the south by India, and on the north and east by China. The region is divided between the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir (2001 provisional population 10,069,917), 39,179 square miles (101,437 sq km), with its summer capital at Srinagar, the historic capital of the state, and its winter capital at Jammu; the Pakistani-controlled areas (1981 estimated population 1,980,000) Azad Kashmir, 2,169 square miles (5,619 sq km), with its capital at Muzaffarabad, and the Northern Areas, 27,991 square miles (72,496 sq km), with its capital at Gilgit; and the largely uninhabited Chinese-controlled areas, 16,481 square miles (42,685 sq km), within Xinjiang and Tibet.

## **Theoretical Perspective**

The geographical outlook reveals that both Pakistan and India does not afford any further war on Kashmir- they had already fought three wars (1947, 65, 71) on this issue. It is an ideal time to resolve this issue as both conflicting nations are having progressive and liberal minded leaders and intended to solve it precisely. Theoretical perspective shows that both Pakistan and India want to have a just solution of Kashmir. It is historically proved that the UN had passed two resolutions in 1948 and in 1949 for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir; therefore, self determination was a born right of the Kashmiris. The Indian act 1935 categorically explains that Muslim majority provinces should have an accession to Pakistan and Kashmir was a predominantly Muslim province. Owing to the dishonesty of Radcliff Award and obstinacy of the first premier of India, Jawaharlal Nehru- left the fruit basket at fire.

## **Operational Framework**

Pakistan president Pervaiz Musharaf has recently given a bold statement in October 2004 for the resolution of Kashmir problem. Here are the actual suggestions made by the Pakistani president. The suggestions announced at a gathering of editors and senior journalists on Oct 25, 2004 were: the de-militarization of Kashmir and granting the area autonomous status; putting the disputed region under the joint control of Islamabad and New Delhi; and dividing certain parts of the territory between the two states and allowing the Kashmir Valley to either become autonomous or be put under the UN supervision. Musharaf proposals provoked a cool response from Indian officials who stated that resolutions on Kashmir issue should be discussed through bilateral channels instead of in media. That has raised many eyebrows in the Pakistani parliament also; especially religious parties are suspiciously looking on the prevailing circumstances.

After calling for a national debate on Kashmir issue, Musharaf officials had to give many clarifications about the sincere intentions of the president. Even Pervaiz Musharaf himself made it clear that he had no specific agenda, proposal or plan in solving the Kashmir dispute that was why he called for an open transparent debate that no one could raise fingers on solving this age back issue.i Being impartial one should not doubt on the former president's intentions, it is quiet apparent that his suggestions do not target any specific aim, but he intends to get people out of any fear and wish to give them confidence and make them sure that they have the full right to participate in solving this issue by making debates, holding seminars, conferences, and having dialogues, etc.

Former Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri says that the Kashmir formula furnished by President Pervez Musharraf was not new and is open to alterations and changes; he calls for flexibility from both sides to resolve the Kashmir issue.ii

Kasuri once stated on his way back home from Malaysia, that there was nothing new in the formula suggested by Musharraf proposing to divide Kashmir on both sides of the LOC

into seven regions and then demilitarise them and change their status. He further added that various options were considered for finding a final solution to Kashmir issue during the Agra summit.

He was quoted by the state run PTV as saying “[Musharraf]'s proposal was meant to invite a debate to resolve the issue. Nothing is final and it is open for alterations and changes.”

Noting that both countries should demonstrate flexibility to resolve the Kashmir issue, he said India and Pakistan would have to move from their stated positions to carry the process forward or else Kashmir issue cannot be resolved even in the next 100 years.

He said, "If neither of the parties shows flexibility in their stance there will be no solution of Kashmir for another 100 years," He reiterated that any solution acceptable to both Pakistan and India should also reflect the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. “Kashmiris and their leadership should be taken along as far as this peace process is concerned,” he said, “We hope this is just the beginning. It's a positive development and a step in right direction,” Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said when his comments were sought on the figure quoted in a section of the Indian media the other day.<sup>iii</sup> India's Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) announced on Tuesday that troop reduction in Jammu and Kashmir would start from Wednesday, the day Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh begins his first visit to the disputed region.

The de-induction will begin from Anantnag, the constituency of Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. Dr Singh was also likely to announce a major economic package and a speeding up of the proposal to start a Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.<sup>iv</sup> Military experts estimate India has about 250,000 troops in Kashmir. A military official says that "About 20,000 soldiers will be pulled out in a phased manner and systematically,”

According to Kashmiri leaders, the Indian government has deployed around one million troops in the disputed territory since 1989. The figure that Pakistan has been quoting is 700,000.

There is a big dispute about the number between the Pakistani and Indian civil societies. While members of the Indian civil society put it at between 300,000 to 400,000, the Pakistani civil society puts it at between 700,000 to 800,000.

Realistically, Musharaf's proposal was not welcomed by Indian media specially. Pervaiz Musharaf also furnished this proposal before the Kashmiri leader Waiz Umar Farooq in Amsterdam in September 2005. He was agreed on this proposal because it was not new for him, as former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief had also made this proposal to his Indian counterpart Mr. Wajpai during his tenure. This old saga was popularly known as Chanab Formula. This scheme was first of all put fourth by UN's Australian representative Owen Dix in 1950. It was proposed in this formula that River Chanab should be as divided that Hindu majority regions in state of Jammu and Kashmir could get accession to India and Muslim majority regions to Pakistan.

In 1990, Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir revealed in a press conference at Lahore that American Congress member Stephan Solars had proposed him that Jammu and Laddakh should be given to India while Azad Kashmir and northern areas should remain with Pakistan and valley of Kashmir be made autonomous.

In 1994, Indian parliament passed a resolution and rejected the Chanab Formula and Solars Plan by declaring Jammu and Kashmir as jugular veins of India that again prevailed a status quo on this disputed territory.<sup>v</sup>

In June 2001, Chief Minister Pervaiz Ilahi again talked about these formulae before Agra talks. Indian press wrote much about these schemes during Agra talks. Hamid Mir, a

known journalist says that Abdul Ghani Bhut and Sayyed Ali Gillani told him that Musharaf-Wajpai talks also discussed the same formulae but L.K Advani rejected the formulae.vi

Imran Khan Chairman of Tehreek-i-Insaaf has also supported the demilitarization of Kashmir and underscored for its interim control of the UN for a specific time.

It is for the first time in the history of Pakistan India relations that both countries are willing to solve this issue. Different things are being said on the solution of Kashmir issue, some people are emphasizing that it is America who is going to solve this age back issue for its vital interests pertains to its easy approach to Central Asia and china. Some people are of the opinion that it is just a pressure of America upon India as Pakistan supported the melting pot (America) during its war against terrorism. Some are thinking that by normalizing Pakistan-India relations America wishes to develop a permanent alliance in South Asia to check Chinese influence in the region. Whenever, anything happen new in the world conspiracy theory always seems in action. But the considerable thing is this if all is true so what. Kashmir issue should be solved at any cost. It is very unfortunate that until now Kashmiris people are not included in this discussion and they have not shown any reaction upon it. It will be a gross infringement of international law if any solution comes out from Washington or Delhi. It should be purely with and of the consent of Kashmiris. Pakistan and India should encourage Kashmiris for negotiations and commenting on this issue comprehensively.

In our view point Kashmir is a real ‘nuclear flash point’ in the South Asia and India has realized this grave situation. There are some factors that make sense that why India is willing to solve this issue. India has an example of Russia where disintegration was never in front but that happened with a superpower therefore same was the case with India where different communities are feeling detachment with the system and reacting against accordingly. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Tamils are very furious communities as their rights are not being delivered. The system capabilities are at the state of abeyance that are indispensable for keeping a system dynamic. Almond and Powel have explained system capabilities as Extractive capability, Regulative capability, Distributive capability, Symbolic capability and Responsive capability.vii Extractive capability means that a political system should have the ability to extract its economic and natural resources at domestic and international levels. For example, collection of taxes at home and to bring more investments from abroad depicts that extractive capability is active. Regulative capability stands for the regulation of resources extracted both at home and abroad. Whereas distributive capability denotes the equitable distribution of the resources in the society, obtained through extraction and regulation.

In the ‘global village’ environment this aspect of distribution resources is more attractive for direct investments from abroad and the quantum of exports, which indicate the effectiveness of distributive capability, symbolic capability, likewise, exposes the integration of a state through symbols, monuments, slogans, words and achievements. Whereas, responsive capability relates to the output function and demonstrates the system’s response to the influx of demand coming from the public sector. This responsiveness is always subject to the first four capabilities. If those capabilities are utilized timely and effectively, the response to the incoming demands will be adequately positive. But since all the capabilities relates to ever-changing domestic and global environments, they have their own implications making them variable.

In the perspective of these capabilities it becomes easier to derive that India wishes to integrate itself to attain world power status. Members of American Congress are also supporting Indian permanent membership in the Security Council so it is in favour of India if Kashmir issue is solved at this time. India could show itself a progressive, liberal, peace

loving, democratic, and secular country among the community of nations as it is a prerequisite for having a permanent membership in the Security Council. On the other hand Pakistan president Pervaiz Musharaf is seeking legitimacy of his rule under the umbrella of governance and sustainable human development if Kashmir issue is solved during his rule he will become hero in the history of Pakistan.

### **Kashmir Issue in Post Musharaf Era**

Although Zaredari government has won the 2011 general elections in Kashmir yet it is facing legitimacy crises. It is very unfortunate that a representative government lacking authority and legitimacy among masses. This government with the support of the people needs the U.S. and its allies to contain AlQaida activities in Afghanistan and northern areas of Pakistan.

The first lady foreign minister of Pakistan Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar has assumed her office and can make the difference in the foreign policy of Pakistan. She can resolve the Kashmir issue with her wisdom and rationale. A peaceful subcontinent is indispensable for the U.S. to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan.

The Mumbai attacks in 2008 and in 2011 are all efforts of the invisible hands that are unwilling to see both neighbouring countries in peace. Those elements intend to keep both India and Pakistan under their influence. They have to be prudent and resolve their boundary issues for a better economy. If India can resolve its boundary issues with China, and Nepal why not with Pakistan?

Therefore, it is international environment that determining the fate of Kashmir. It had been happened many times in history that international environment gave birth to many countries. We know after the Second World War in 1945, many countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America came into existence owing to the bad economic condition of Europe it became very difficult for the imperial powers to keep colonies in tact. So they opted the policy of divide and rule. Hence again American support for solving this issue has the same intentions of divide and rule as newly independent country in the form of Kashmir will directly go in the lap of America for its economic, political and military sustainability.

### **Consolidation and Conclusion**

Kashmir crisis is an old saga. It should be solved now. Kashmiris have given many sacrifices of their children, wives, sons, men etc. therefore, Kashmiri' opinion and consent is sine qua non in solving this issue. This is the only flaw that we can underscore emphatically. It underlies the hawks to resist the ongoing peace process in the subcontinent. There are different strong factors that underpin the resolution of this age back issue.

This may be considered a golden period for the conflict resolution between India and Pakistan. Hence both parties along with international political actors are also willing to solve Kashmir issue. Therefore any further delay may cause harm to Kashmir and Kashmiris. Pakistan has to look upon all other outgoing disputes and should not let those disputes unsolved. Bhagliar Dam is an invalid call on the part of India as she knows that it is a gross infringement of Indus Basin Water treaty of 1960 where the western rivers (Chanab, Indus, and Jehlum) lie in the jurisdiction of Pakistan. Therefore India should come out with positive frame of mind and it will be pity if any party conditions the construction of said dam with the solution of Kashmir issue. The solution of Kashmir issue is in the favour of all parties residing in this part of the world. The above mentioned arguments hold water and economic interests are the most indispensable factor for India and Pakistan. India should learn out of Russian example and let Kashmiris be peaceful and independent rather hostile and abducted. It will enhance India's status as a peace loving state in the world.

Pakistan and India are nuclear powers and have responsibility on their shoulders to keep this part of the world integrated, peaceful and prosperous that is only possible when both major actors (India -Pakistan) in South Asia are good friends and respect each others' sovereignty and integrity.

## **Endnotes**

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i Askari, M.H. (2004.). "Ho November 05,.

2 *India Express Bureau*, 22.44 IST 28th Oct 2004.

3 *The Dawn*, 17 November 2004 Wednesday.

4 Ibid.

5 Mir, H. (2004). "Bush, Musharaf Aur Kashmir," *The Daily Jang*, Monday, November 8.

6 Ibid.

7 Almond, A Gabriel. and Powell, G. Bingham Jr. (1966). *Comparative Politics: A Development Approach*, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, pp. 190-212.