Security Council:
The Conflict in Kashmir

Chair: Vedika Sharma ‘20
Rapporteur: Claire Masiée ’21
Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Security Council at CAMUN 2020! My name is Vedika Sharma and I will be your chair for this committee. I am a senior at Concord Academy, currently living in Newton, MA, but I grew up in Singapore and India. This is my third year on the staff of CAMUN’s Security Council. We will also have the fantastic Claire Masiée, a junior at CA, as our Rapporteur.

Both Claire and I are excited to welcome you to this committee, which promises to yield a fast-paced and interesting day of debate and diplomacy. Our topic will be the current crisis in Kashmir and a discussion of India, Pakistan, China, and other countries’ role in the conflict. The conflict has been going on since the partition of India all the way back in 1947. In the years since then, it has left more than 40,000 dead due to three wars, countless riots, and militant and government actions. The negative implications of this conflict will continue to be felt worldwide.

We have chosen this topic because we believe it will give you all an opportunity to discuss and contemplate complex solutions to a pressing issue. The lack of peaceful solutions put into place by the powers involved has left Kashmir and its people in devastating circumstances. Needless to say, it will require cooperation between each of you in the committee to find long-term solutions to arguably the biggest problem facing the Indian subcontinent. Because there are new developments in this topic every day, we ask that you stay up-to-date with news updates regarding Kashmir.

This committee will run using standard UNSC procedure as you work towards passing resolutions. There will also be crisis events to simulate the fast-paced and ever-changing nature of the Security Council, and crisis notes will be permitted. Please be aware of the special powers the Security Council holds, described below, in order to act most efficiently in committee.

If you have any questions before the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are happy to answer any questions about the conference or topic. Also, in order to help debate be as productive as possible, all delegates should email us a researched position paper prior to the conference. If you would like feedback on yours, please submit it earlier.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

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Role of the Security Council

As established in the United Nations Charter, the Security Council is one of the UN’s six primary organs. As outlined in the UN’s founding document, the committee has four main objectives: (1) to ensure security and peace internationally, (2) to maintain relations between countries, (3) to solve international conflicts and protect human rights, and (4) to create harmony among the actions of member nations.1 Since its first meeting in 1946, the Security Council has worked to uphold this mission while appeasing all countries represented. The committee has fifteen representatives at any given time, five of whom are permanent and ten who rotate. Non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly and serve two-year terms. For the success and productivity of debate, we have replaced the United Kingdom and France with India and Pakistan for veto power. Since these two countries are the most involved and influential in this conflict, giving them higher status in this space will allow member nations to hear their concerns and discuss solutions. So the five members with veto power will be India, Pakistan, the United States, China, and the Russian Federation. We moved France and the United Kingdom into the ten rotating members, replacing Niger and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the current members of the Security Council least connected to the Kashmir conflict. Therefore, the ten rotating members are Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, South Africa, Tunisia, Vietnam, France, and the UK.

How the Conflict Started

The proposal to partition British India on religious terms was suggested in 1940, seven years before the partition. Eleven provinces were divided into Hindu-majority and Muslim-majority areas.2 The Hindu regions remained with India and the Muslim regions with Pakistan. Millions of people who enjoyed internal autonomy within India had to learn to make their own decisions without British rule. Kashmir was British India’s only Muslim-majority state ruled by a Hindu despot. Its desirable location, with China to one side and central Asia to another, were sought after by both India and Pakistan. Kashmir had great mineral and hydroelectric resources along with beautiful scenery. With thousands of Muslims fleeing to Pakistan and Hindus fleeing to India, the border became an area of conflict and violence. Pakistan was claiming Kashmir because of its Muslim majority. However, the Kashmiri king Hari Singh was indecisive about how to act. When tribal militias from Pakistan’s Northwestern Frontier Province attacked Kashmir in October 1947, he became more decisive. Singh asked India for help in exchange for Kashmiri’s autonomy with the Indian Union, including its own constitution and flag. Article 370 was born, giving Kashmir a separate constitution, a state flag and autonomy over the internal administration of the state.

1http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/
2https://daily.jstor.org/how-did-kashmirs-72-year-old-conflict-begin/
Abrogating Article 370

Currently, India has two major political parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC). In early August of 2019, India’s BJP-led government stripped Kashmir of autonomy after seven decades, effectively ending the terms of Article 370. They claimed to be correcting a “historical blunder.” During this time, many Indian troops appeared in Kashmir, schools were closed, and phone and Internet services were shut down. The people were shocked when the government shared that they would be revoking Article 370 in almost its entirety. Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Hindu nationalist BJP claimed that their actions were based on the hope of integrating Kashmir into the rest of India. Many Kashmiris believed that the goal was rather to change the demographics of the Muslim-majority state by allowing non-Kashmiris to reside there. Now, Kashmir will run under India’s constitution, India’s laws will apply to Kashmir, and people from outside the region can buy land there.

India-Pakistan Wars

The India-Pakistan Wars were three conflicts between India and Pakistan following the partition of British India in 1947. The first war arose because Maharaja Hari Singh did not want Kashmir to join India or Pakistan—he wanted independence. Therefore, Pakistan invaded Kashmir, leading the Maharaja to sign the union with India subsequently gaining defense from them. This inconclusive fighting lasted from 1947 to 1949 when the UN Security Council ordered a ceasefire through UNSC Resolution 47. Kashmir was left partitioned.

The second war arose in the spring of 1965, after Pakistani military crossed the border of Rann of Kutch illegally. The court verdict favored Pakistan. They were awarded 906 square km of land. Due to Pakistan’s victory and India’s losses from its war against China in 1962, Pakistan decided to infiltrate guerrilla forces to spark an uprising in the state. The infiltrators were found and delivered to Indian authorities, who then initiated the second war.

The third war was rooted in a civil war between East and West Pakistan in 1971. The Awami League was in favor of independence for East Pakistan and the People’s party was against it. The rebellion was silenced, but 10 million refugees migrated to India in fear. India eventually supported the independence of East Pakistan in order to get the refugees to return to Pakistan. India created an allegiance with the Soviet Union, one of peace and mutual gain. Indians mercilessly attacked Pakistan and took over East Pakistan, which is now modern-day Bangladesh.

Current Situation

On August 5, 2019, the central Indian government divided Kashmir into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Mobile and SMS services were restored, while Internet services remained blocked. Narendra Modi’s team said the online blackout “is a necessary security measure in the face of growing unrest in the region triggered by a change in Kashmir’s status under the Indian constitution.” The government feared mass violence and protests as a result of a media frenzy over Kashmir’s autonomous status being revoked. However, the Indian government has recently been pressured to review its suspension of Internet access in Jammu and Kashmir by the Supreme Court. The court argued that the blackout was a violation of Indian telecommunication laws and Internet access should be guaranteed under the Constitution to allow freedom of speech and expression. In the words of justice N.V. Ramana, “freedom of Internet access is a fundamental right.” Modi’s government has previously restricted Internet access in times of protest against government policy. However, the five month blackout in Kashmir is the longest ever in India or any other democracy. The blackout was hard on the Kashmiri people who lost contact with friends and family, and it devastated businesses that work in or around regions of Kashmir.

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Questions to Consider:

1. Should Kashmir be made an independent country? Or join Pakistan, or India?
2. Was the revoking of Article 370 a move to gain more control over India’s only Muslim-majority state?
3. How can the border established by the Line of Control be modified? Will that be for the best?
4. Should external parties (UN organs, foreign nations, etc.) intervene? What is the best approach?
5. What actions can be taken to support the real losers of this conflict, the Kashmiris?
6. If the suspension of mobile and Internet devices is considered a violation of human rights by the UN Human Rights Council, what repercussions should India and Pakistan face?
7. Is the force used by authorities in Kashmir too aggressive?

Resources for Further Research

History of the Issue:

- [https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/03/kashmir-conflict-how-did-it-start/#close](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/03/kashmir-conflict-how-did-it-start/#close)
- [https://www.britannica.com/place/Kashmir-region-Indian-subcontinent](https://www.britannica.com/place/Kashmir-region-Indian-subcontinent)

Article 370:


Indian News Sources:

*The Times of India:*


*Hindustan Times:*

- [https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/govt-working-on-framing-domicile-norms-for-j-k/story-vpFJpm7Hcf6LmSbnwSMFhN.html](https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/govt-working-on-framing-domicile-norms-for-j-k/story-vpFJpm7Hcf6LmSbnwSMFhN.html)
- [https://www.hindustantimes.com/columns/the-assertion-of-indian-federalism-gives-hope/story-wQiZTrNKZM3qGrC9X1PMAJ.html](https://www.hindustantimes.com/columns/the-assertion-of-indian-federalism-gives-hope/story-wQiZTrNKZM3qGrC9X1PMAJ.html)
Pakistani News Sources:

Business Recorder:

Dawn:

Opinion pieces:

The Atlantic:

The New Yorker: