

## Dealing with a rogue neighbour (Kashmir and the Pakistan problem)

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### ABSTRACT

*The Kashmir issue has remained a thorn in Pakistan's flesh as the very name of the country was supposed to be an acronym for the regions that it would include. Pakistan supposedly stood for p =Punjab, A=Afghanistan, K =Kashmir, Istan for Balochistan. Thus, the region of East Bengal was not a part of the original scheme of things. But as history would have it, Raja Hari Singh of Kashmir decided to remain independent and did not merge with India or Pakistan. This was a big blow to Jinnah's scheme in which the Muslim-majority Kashmir was considered to be a natural inclusion of the newly born nation.*

*On one hand, East Pakistan was far apart from the Mainland and posed a tactical challenge in maintaining harmony between the two regions, widely apart in Language, culture and religious make, as Hindus constituted a sizable minority about 22% in 1947, on the other Jinnah's dream of having Kashmir to himself also received a rude jolt due to Hari Singh's decision to remain an independent state.*

*So, Jinnah decided upon a clandestine military operation with the help of the Pathan tribals to take Kashmir by hook or crook. This resulted in the first war between the two newly emerged countries. The issue has not been resolved till date and has dashed all hopes of normal relations between the two countries.*

*This paper would take a look at the historical events leading to the Kashmir conflict and try to analyse how the conflict has kept the South Asian subcontinent on the edge since the partition of 1947.*

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Pakistan, the name of which has become synonymous with terrorism and all that is utterly dubious and perverse in the world. Despite losing 4 wars with India, it has kept up the bogie of Kashmir and has overtly and covertly continued to support the Jihadi elements in the valley.

The international community also turned a blind eye to the plight of Kashmiri Pundits who are a victim of genocide and forced migration from the valley. But the attention of the world turned to the scourge of terrorism and its worldwide ramifications after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in the United States. The world has increasingly become more and more unsafe and dangerous ever since. There is hardly any country in the world which is free from the risk of terrorism which has acquired more and more lethal forms and is challenging the world peace and order like never before.

The fact is that the seeds of all terror related incidents originate in Pakistan somehow or the other. It is not only Pakistanis who are carrying out attacks in different parts of the world, but citizens of other nations are also getting radicalized after traveling to the country which has become the terror factory of the world.

India has long been the victim of terrorist violence. First it was the Pakistan-sponsored Sikh unrest in Punjab in 1980s and 90s. It resulted in thousands of deaths not only in Punjab but also in the Indian capital city of Delhi and its surrounding areas of Haryana. The assassination of our former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, by her Sikh bodyguards on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1984 resulted in large-scale mob violence in the following months all across India and it drove a further wedge in the society giving rise to communal antagonisms between Hindus and Sikhs.

#### The Kashmir story:

Kashmir has been a thorn in Pakistan's flesh for long, actually Pakistan is not a name but only an acronym for a country, which had an unsound foundation and a manufactured idea of a Muslim state, insisted upon carelessly and without a heed to the future of the subcontinent by none other than Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the wily, wicked lawyer, who had nothing of a Muslim in him, was miles away from Islamic preaching and practice and was an opportunist of the worst kind. According to popular sources the term "Pakistan" was first coined by **Choudhary Rahmat Ali** in a pamphlet entitled 'Now or never'. He emphasized the need for a separate land for the 30 million Muslims living in the north and north western part of the undivided India, the acronym

Pakistan stood for “Punjab, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Sindh and Balochistan” whereas other sources say **Ghulam<sup>1</sup> Hassan Shah Kazmi** in 1928, coined the term for a newspaper called *Pakistan*.

Thus the ‘East Bengal’ was not part of the original scheme of things, Kashmir was one of the most important territories on which the Muslim League politicians had their eyes set.

However, the Hindu Maharaja of Muslim majority Kashmir wanted to stay as an independent state. Thus, Raja Hari Singh insisted upon this status and did not accept the advice of the English to choose the sovereignty of Indian or Pakistani state.

This was not acceptable to the newly formed state of Pakistan which thought itself incomplete without Kashmir. According to some analysts like Minhas Merchant, it is not Pakistan’s love for the Kashmiri people that drives their policies on Kashmir. Rather Kashmir is viewed by Pakistan as a lifeline for its water security<sup>2</sup> since 3 of the major rivers supplying water to the country either originate or pass-through Kashmir. This argument seems very plausible taking into account the reactions of the Pakistan Government on the possible abrogation of the Indus Water Treaty IWT by India.

In the month of September 1947 Jinnah embarked upon the covert military adventure with the help of the Pathan tribals of the Northwest frontier province, who were little more than organized blood thirsty bands of dacoits who regularly engaged themselves in plunder, lute and rape of helpless innocent women and children, for carrying out surprise attack and capture of Kashmir.

The events from 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1947 to 24 October 1947 took place in quick succession. The Maharaja of Kashmir had little inkling of what was coming and was quite taken aback when the enemy forces had already travelled deep into Kashmir after blasting the Mohra power plant plunging the valley into darkness.

Jinnah had never reconciled himself with the pro-independent stand taken by Maharaja Hari Singh. He wanted to take Kashmir by hook or crook. A secret meeting took place, chaired by Pak Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, in which selective Pak military officers participated. It is important to mention that the British chief of military

<sup>1</sup>:<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/the-name-pakistan-was-coined-by-a-kashmiri-journalist-and-not-choudhry-rahmat-al/310008>

<sup>2</sup> K Sharma, Conflict over water between India and Pakistan: Fear and hopes? The Indian Journal of Political Science Vol. 73, No. 1 (Jan. - March, 2012); <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41856568>

command was carefully excluded in order to thwart any attempt on his part to stop Pak aggression on Kashmir because the two British military chiefs of India and Pakistan were making all efforts to prevent any escalation of hostilities between the two new-born nations which were already reeling under large-scale internal disorder and communal disturbances.<sup>3</sup>

It was of utmost importance that secrecy of the Kashmir mission was maintained at all costs. The decision was taken to the effect that the Pathan tribals would attack Kashmir backed by strong support from the military forces. In fact army jawans would be an integral part of the invading forces as irregulars. Besides all those who had been dismissed from military service due to indiscipline, were given the opportunity to rectify their misdeeds by helping in the annexation of Kashmir.

The circumstances forced Maharaja Hari Singh into signing the treaty of accession with India on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1947. He had to hurry out of Srinagar and left for Jammu in a convoy into the dead of the night at 2 A.M.

The incidents leading to the defense of Kashmir by the Indian Army were interesting and clearly denote the pervert intentions of the Pakistani aggressors regarding the Kashmiri people. It has been clearly documented how the Pathan tribals were offered the prospects of plundering the valley and taking the women and children as booty and as a reward for their adventures.

The government of Pakistan also found an excellent opportunity to *kill two birds with a single stone*. The Pathan Tribals of the Frontier province were posing a big security challenge to the law-and-order situation in Pakistan. These people had traditionally been very aggressive and were feared all over the subcontinent. It was a big challenge for the Pakistani government to keep them under control if they were to be idle. On the other hand, if some opportunity of aggression, lute and plunder could be afforded to them, they could be kept quiet at home. So the Pakistani establishment decided to use these Pathans for their dirty mission in Kashmir.

The dreams of beautiful women and the opportunity to loot the bazaars of Srinagar were presented to them as rewards for helping the Pakistani cause. Reward of beautiful *Hoors* of heaven had often been a more potent tool for enlisting their support for *Jehad* compared to religious preaching.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1947 Pak forces commanded by Sehrab Hayat Khan entered the Kashmir valley virtually

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in “Freedom at midnight. By Collins, Larry and Lappiere, Dominique.

unchallenged as the 135-mile-long road from Muzaffarabad to Srinagar was almost unguarded. This distance could be covered well before dawn and the Pak forces could capture the palace and Maharaja easily as the valley was in complete darkness and there was no information about the advancing forces.

However, due to the wild savage nature of the *Pathan Kabailis* They freely engaged themselves in looting the Hindu bazaars of the town and were nowhere to be found when Sehrab Khan commanded them to move. It was to the good fortune of the Maharaja that the enemies failed to cover the distance in time and in fact the advance was considerably delayed. The bandits of the Pak forces could not move forward an inch without engaging in loot and rape. They took 48 hours to cover the distance of 75 miles to the Mohra power plant.

The news about the Pakistani attack did not reach New Delhi until 48 hours after the commencement of the attack. Due to the secrecy of the Pakistani plans, The English commanders of the Pakistani armed forces were totally in the dark about the Kashmir adventure. So as soon as they came to know about it through intelligence sources, the information was passed to the British commander of the Indian armed forces. The British commanders of both the armies did not want the crisis to escalate into a full-blown war. But the Indian government was very particular about providing help to the Maharaja of Kashmir in fighting aggression. PM Nehru made it very clear to Lord Mountbatten that India could never allow Pakistan to have Kashmir to itself.

Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Treaty of Accession<sup>4</sup> on 27/10/1947 and the Indian forces were flown to Srinagar airport which was the only way India could keep Kashmir under its belt.

We should also remember that the Pathan Kabailis' failure to reach Srinagar in time was also one of the good fortunes of India helping in saving Kashmir from the clutches of Pakistani forces of sin. The day Indian forces were busy strengthening their hold over Srinagar airport, these Pathans were busy looting the Franciscan of Mary<sup>5</sup> mission church in the town of Baramulla. All the patients of the small hospital run by the 14 foreign nuns from France, Scotland, Spain, and Belgium were mercilessly butchered and the helpless messengers of peace were brutally raped, tortured and killed. This sacrifice of the sisters of the mission gave much needed time to the Indian forces which repelled the attackers and

<sup>4</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instrument\\_of\\_Accession\\_\(Jammu\\_and\\_Kashmir\)#:~:text=By%20executing%20an%20Instrument%20of.Lord%20Mountbatten%20accepted%20the%20accession.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instrument_of_Accession_(Jammu_and_Kashmir)#:~:text=By%20executing%20an%20Instrument%20of.Lord%20Mountbatten%20accepted%20the%20accession.)

<sup>5</sup> Andrew Whitehead, "For the Conversion of Kashmir": the massacre at St. Joseph's mission hospital in Baramulla' (pp.195-212)

drove them back towards the bridge they had so easily captured just 5 days back.

Lord Mountbatten, who was the Governor General of India at that time had served as the commander of the Allied forces in Southeast Asia during World War II. He quickly began to plan the strategy for dealing with the Kashmir crisis. However, He prevailed upon Nehru to add in the Accession treaty the clause that India would conduct a referendum in Kashmir at a later date to ascertain the acceptance of Kashmiri accession to India by the Muslim majority.

PT. Nehru could not anticipate the negative connotations of this act. The United Nations ignored the aggressive intentions and covert military actions of the Pakistani establishment. This became a bone of contention which has kept Kashmir boiling ever since. Both India and Pakistan have the territories which had been under their control in 1948.

Jinnah could not take the failure of Kashmir adventure lightly and ordered Pak soldiers to join the Jihadis in the garb of Pathans. Thus, the first war between India and Pakistan lasted quite long until the dispute reached the United Nations.

The Indian government took the dispute to the UN Security Council<sup>6</sup>. It wanted Pakistani forces to withdraw from Kashmir. After prolonged deliberations UN Resolution 47 was passed by the Security Council which called for the Pak forces to withdraw from Kashmir as a prerequisite for creating favourable circumstances in which plebiscite could be conducted.

Pakistan has been crying about the implementation of this UN resolution but has itself not adhered to its provisions by continuing to illegally occupy parts of Kashmir namely Gilgit Baltistan. Pakistan also ceded Ladakh territory under its occupation to China unlawfully.

Today the issue of Kashmir provides fodder to the disruptive forces in Pakistan to promote and carry out its terrorist agenda not only in Kashmir, but throughout the world. In fact the Pakistanis have created a Frankenstein monster which is ready to consume the whole of Pakistan itself.

### Steps for tackling Pakistan:

But the question is how India can deal with its rogue neighbour which continues to be a thorn in our skin since its creation as an independent country. Pakistan was created on the foundations of hatred and frenzy and it's difficult to

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.mapsofindia.com/on-this-day/26th-october-1947-maharaja-hari-singh-agrees-to-the-accession-of-jammu-and-kashmir-to-india>

change its basic character. Moreover there is great danger of Pak nuclear weapons falling into the hands of the terrorists who may blackmail the subcontinent in particular and the world in general for their dirty mission.

1. Many options have been suggested by different scholars on Pakistan but the foremost idea that occurs naturally is that India must first of all, reduce its foreign mission presence in Pakistan to a bare minimum and force Pakistan to follow suit. There is hardly any point in continuing diplomatic relations with a country who has a totally hostile intent.
2. India has successfully cornered Pakistan in the international arena for an inclusion among the SAARC region. But at the same time it must clearly specify in concrete terms what steps it wants Pakistan to take so that dialogue can be resumed and must show its commitment for the peace in South Asia.
3. India must make full use of its quota of water under the Indus Water Treaty and must not be over generous. India is allowed to store and use 20% of the water of the Indus River This would contribute to the development of Kashmir and adjoining areas. However, India has so far left its quota of water unused by not constructing storage and dam facilities on the Indian side.
4. India must open informal channels of communication with the Pak Military brass. It is ultimately they who will determine Pakistan's foreign policy as the civilian leadership has proved incapable in all aspects. The Pak Politicians have proved ineffective and incapable of adopting any bold stance vis-à-vis India. So, there is little point talking to them.
5. India must either conclude a full-fledged military agreement with the United States for ensuring its support in the event of hostility with Pakistan or China. Otherwise, India would do well not to make a complete drift towards the US. Russia has been an old friend and we must be weary of antagonising her.
6. We must keep talking to China with utmost seriousness. We'll have to make them realise the economic importance India has in the world. We must also strengthen our industrial base so that we can threaten Chinese dominance in the economic sphere. This will deter China from taking India lightly.
7. India must support the Free Balochistan Movement by providing asylum to their leaders living in exile. Balochistan lies at the heart of the \$46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC. This will put a lot of pressure not only on Pakistan but also China.
8. India must support dissidents in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan which is legally Indian territory. Its people are constitutionally Indian citizens. The CPEC passes through Gilgit-Baltistan – a violation of Indian sovereignty by Pakistan and China which can be challenged in international fora.
9. India must withdraw Most Favoured Nation status for Pakistan which has not been even reciprocated by Pakistan. The impact on trade would not be much. But it would send a clear message of India's hard-line posture.

Thus, India can use its diplomatic, economic and military muscle to bring Pakistan to the negotiating table for resolving all issues with serious intention.

Thus, it can be safely concluded that whatever the situation in Jammu and Kashmir exists, is the result of the negative anti India stance of the Pakistan Founder Mohd. Ali Jinnah. The very idea of Pakistan failed the system of logic, as a large number of Muslims chose to remain in India. The supposed reason of Partition remained mired in controversy as It has often been attributed to the personal ambitions of Jinnah.

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