

Indo-Pak Relations (1947-1985): An Overview

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ABSTRACT

Finally, in 1947, two separate countries were established in India and Pakistan. Back to the establishment of these two countries, where the concept of Two Nation Theory is concerned, the ambition of political leaders is somewhere else. These people were formed because of religion, race, culture, traditions, etc. of people of both the countries. Both the countries of India and Pakistan had to give a positive atmosphere to the people of Hindu and Muslim people to develop them. But the issue of religious intolerance played a key role in creating and spreading communal feelings in both countries, whose damages are being lauded by the people of both countries. The issue of Kashmir in India and Pakistan is still burning. The eyes of the whole world stand firm on this issue. Both countries are at full swing at all times to occupy Kashmir. Thousands of people have been killed due to such feelings of the two countries. SAARC is a major platform with all regional organizations established to solve regional problems in the world. Because of its wars and tensions between India and Pakistan, this institution did not fulfill the objectives for which it was established. Through this research, an attempt has been made to find out the reasons of conflicts between India and Pakistan before the formation of SAARC. So that new ways can be found out by resolving the major issues of conflicts and by improving relations between India and Pakistan, to put the SAARC on the steps of success.

Keywords: Indo-Pak Conflicts, Kashmir Issue, Indo-Pak war (1947, 1965, 1971), Bangladesh Independence war, SAARC.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Two-nation theory created such a crack in the mutual Hindu-Muslim unity of one thousand years, which could not be filled up even after India and Pakistan became two countries in 1947. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan gave birth to two nation theory. He was the leader of the Muslim community, who founded the Aligarh Muslim University and launched an awareness campaign to develop two nation theory within the youth. They said that there are religious and cultural differences between Hindus and Muslims, where linguistic, eating, drinking, writing and speaking art etc have been introduced the small countless differences by making them bigger. Popular poet, Iqbal, was the first who used the word 'Pak' first time, while presiding the Muslim League session in 1930. They believed that for Muslims, the 'Pak' meaning 'holy' separate region should be established so that people of the Muslim community could develop themselves further.

Practical framework for building Pakistan was created by Muhammad Ali Jinnah who proposed to form Pakistan strongly in the Lahore session of the 1940s. This proposal is also known by the name of Lahore Resolutions. It is worth mentioning that there was no mass movement to form Pakistan before the 1940s, but the proposal to make Pakistan in 1940 made it a point in the minds of the Muslim people that they could develop apart from the Hindus. Though the Congress leaders did not want to be in favor of this, on the other hand, they wanted to build a powerful Center. The Muslim League's victory in Muslim areas in the 1946 Assembly elections made Mohammed Ali Jinnah a more convincing proposal to convert the Muslim population into a separate country of Pakistan. On 16 August 1946, Direct Action Day was celebrated on the demand for making Pakistan from Jinnah. This led to tremendous riots in many areas ^[1]. Finally, India and Pakistan were made two countries by passing the India Independent Act by the British government in July 1947.

During the exchange of population, that is Hindus to India and Muslims to Pakistan most of the Muslims stayed back in India and their population, who left Pakistan for India, were primarily not received as Hindus but as Pakistani refugees. Similarly, the Muslims from India to Pakistan were, basically and primarily not received as Muslims but as Indian refugees (Mohajir), though the country was partitioned on the basis of two-nation theory Hindus and Muslims. When India was partitioned it was expected that the relations between India and Pakistan would be normal and cordial because the partition was affected with the consent of the leaders of the two areas. The people of the two areas had shared a common history for centuries and the economies of the two countries were complimentary to each other but unfortunately that did not happen ^[2]. Two major reasons for constant conflict between the two States were identified as follows ^[3]:

Partition was affected in haste without formulating suitable and detailed rules for the game. The result was mass exodus of population for each country, large-scale killings, and abduction of women, forced conversions, problem of recovery of evacuee property and many such other problems. This caused bad blood between the two countries and things could not be forgotten for long.

Basis for the partition was not laid down in unambiguous terms. Pakistan's leader advocated and accepted partition on the basis of 'two-nation' theory. In contrast, while Indian leaders accepted partition, they never approved of two-nation theory. They accepted partition on the basis of some type of territorial self-determination and more on account of compulsions created by the prevailing situation of widespread riots and the unhealthy intentions of our British rulers.

Our relations with Pakistan have been particularly unhappy. There have been constant threats of war. Between the two countries there are some major problems and disputes from partition. The following major issues and problems determined the nature of Indo-Pak relations:

- Transfer of population and problem of religious minorities
- Problem of recovery or compensation for abandoned property of refugees in India and Pakistan
- Division of State assets at the time of partition
- Canal-Water Disputes
- Boundary Disputes
- Issue of Integration of Princely States

The relations between India and Pakistan, the two main powers of south Asian region are not good. Both of these countries have similar history. Its economics are dependent on one another. But these differences are high. Kashmir is the focal point of the conflict between India and Pakistan. Due to mutual tension on this issue, the two countries have failed to make efforts to improve SAARC. The interesting thing is that despite Pakistan being located in South Asia, it is more than willing to cooperate with Western Asia. Pakistan has relations with the United States and China. There is a hindrance in this way of the SAARC.

This paper has been divided into four sections. The major wars (1947-1985) held between India and Pakistan has been discussed in section 2. The formation of SAARC and its objectives have been given in section 3. At last, in section 4 a conclusion has been made on the findings made through this research.

2. CONFLICTS BETWEEN INDO-PAK (1947-1985)

2.1 KASHMIR WAR (1947-48)

There was a history behind the Kashmir Issue. On the partition of India in 1947, Dogra King Maharaja Hari Singh refused to stay with both the countries of India and Pakistan. He said that I want to remain neutral and I dream that I should make Kashmir as the Switzerland of South Asian country, meaning that it will not be involved in any war. When Maharaja Hari Singh was speaking of impartiality, the National Conference Party, under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah, started a struggle. They demanded to establish a democracy in Kashmir. He was struggling for the rule of the people from 1931, which was fully supported by the Indian National Congress.

British divided India in 1947. Based on the two nation theory, India and Pakistan are made up of two countries. Muslim League leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah said that India and Pakistan are two separate countries, In Kashmir, 77 per cent of the population belonged to the Muslims. Because of which Jinnah had been told that a Muslim majority Kashmir should be included in Pakistan. Raja Hari Singh of Kashmir wanted to remain neutral by not joining any of them. He did a Stand Still Agreement with Pakistan, which meant that Status Quo Trade, communications and roads would remain open with Pakistan, but Kashmir will not be included in Pakistan. Agreement of this kind also wanted to do with the Maharaja of India. It was a kind of economic agreement. There were some incidents which started the fight.

There was a British Army in Poonch district who rebelled against Hari Singh. In response, the Maharaja's army fired in with this, resulting in the death of many soldiers. This led to rebellion in Poonch district. The situation was very poor during the partition of India and Pakistan. Rioting started in the whole country. In Jammu and Kashmir, due to the deteriorating situation, Muslims were killed, due to which thousands of Muslims left Jammu to go to Pakistan. This kind of Communal Violence was going on. Pakistan sent Tribal Fighter to these two causes. These were Pashtun Fighter. These were given special training and weapons. On October 22, they attacked the valley of Kashmir. During this attack, Maharaja Hari Singh sought help from India. India replied in the reply that if you want help, then you will have to join India. On October 26, 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh made Instrument of Accession. This meant that Maharaja Hari Singh decided to join India. Pakistan rejected Instrument of Accession. Because they said that this is the decision taken by the Unpopular King, so that the subjects do not agree. In this decision the desire of the people was not shown. According to the rules made by

the British during leaving India, the king of Kashmir is independent, who, according to his wish, can live with either India or Pakistan. According to these rules the decisions taken by Maharaja Hari Singh were absolutely correct. Sheikh Abdullah, who was demanding democracy in Kashmir, also agreed with this decision. It was also decided that after the peace, people's opinions would also be taken. Sheikh Abdulla was made the head of the government to look after the administration of the temporary government. The Maharaja took control of the administration. After this decision, Hari Singh left Srinagar. Sheikh Abdullah had the responsibility of the administration here. Thus India sent its army to Srinagar. Due to lack of roads, India has to send its own military squad. Indian army overtook Pakistan's army. This is called the first battle of Indo-Pak or Kashmir's first battle. Poonch, Rajouri and Kashmir valley were captured by the Indian Army. On this battle occasion, the Azad Kashmir government was formed in the western region. Pakistan occupied Azad Kashmir. In this way, the administration of Azad Kashmir was run by Pakistan.

From 1948, India and Pakistan went to the United Nations. United Nations created United Nation Commission for Indian Pakistan. This commission had five members, who visited Kashmir and made recommendations and tried to resolve the matter could not succeed.

2.2 SECOND WAR ON KASHMIR ISSUE (1965)

The second major conflict between Pakistan and India was the 1965 War. The war was the result of number of border skirmishes between both states from April and September 1965. The War was fought for twenty two consecutive days and ended after the intervention of international community. The official end of the war was considered after the signature of Tashkent Agreements between both states. This war saw the largest tank battle of the world since World War II. The real reason of this war was once again the issue of Kashmir which remained unresolved even after this major war. The War of 1965, highlighted the capabilities of fighting, training and weaponry of both states from which both states started to enhance their military powers to new level to keep the balance in the South Asian Region ^[4,5]. The war was fought between the armies, air forces, and navies of both countries and both nations sustained heavy losses. Though deemed inconclusive, the war was seen as a strategic defeat for Pakistan which not only revealed its military inadequacy but also failed to garner any international support for its cause. One of the fallouts of the war was that strong ties developed between Pakistan and China and between India and Russia. Having faced embargoes from the US and the UK respectively, Pakistan and India started to look towards their Asian neighbors for support and military supplies. The signing of the Tashkent Declaration on 10 January, 1966, forced an uneasy truce between the countries ^[6]. This peace would not, however, last for even a decade.

2.3 BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE WAR (1971)

In 1971 India and Pakistan fought a third war over Bangladesh's independence in which Kashmir dispute was only a peripheral issue. But Kashmir was not left untouched by the escalation of this war ^[7,8]. The Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 was for independence from Pakistan. India and Pakistan got independence from the British rule in 1947. Pakistan was formed for the Muslims and India had a majority of Hindus. Pakistan had two parts, East and West, which were separated by about 1,000 miles. East Pakistan was mainly the eastern part of the province of Bengal. The capital of Pakistan was Karachi in West Pakistan and was moved to Islamabad in 1958. However, due to discrimination in economy and ruling powers against them, the East Pakistanis

vigorously protested and declared independence on March 26, 1971 under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But during the year prior to that, to suppress the unrest in East Pakistan, the Pakistani government sent troops to East Pakistan and unleashed a massacre. And thus, the war for liberation commenced. India helped East Pakistan to emerge as an independent sovereign state based on its distinctive Bengali cultural and unique geographical personality that Pakistan had consistently ignored.

The Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won a landslide victory in the national elections in 1971 and demanded autonomy for East Pakistan. The party won a 160 seats and a majority in the national assembly. This victory also gave it the right to form a government, but Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party refused to let the Sheikh become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. This initiated the war. The Sheikh gave a speech on March 7, 1971 when he urged the people to turn all their homes into a fort of fight. He demanded transfer of power to the elected representative before the assembly meeting on March 25. Tikka Khan, a West Pakistani general, flew to Dhaka to become the Governor of East Bengal. But, the East Pakistani judges denied him entry. Thereafter, on the night of March 25, the Pakistani army tried to violently crush the Bengali's opposition. Residence halls of the Dhaka University were viciously attacked. On March 26, the Pakistani forces arrested Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the same day, he signed an official declaration for the independence of Bangladesh. M. A. Hannan, an Awami league leader, is said to have been the first person to read and announce the Declaration of Independence over the radio. Political events approached a climax. The war between the Pakistan Army and the Bengali freedom fighters, the Mukti Bahini, began. The head of the Mukti Bahini was General Muhammad Osmani. The Mukti Bahini were trained like guerillas. India gave shelter to the refugees and trained the Mukti Bahini. India also helped with ammunition and its own soldiers. They attacked the Pakistani army. During the training period of the Mukti Bahini, the Pakistani Army encouraged Razakars, the Bengalis who did not want Bangladesh to become an independent country, to suppress the rebellion. The Pakistani Army faced problems as the monsoon came. This helped Mukti Bahini because they could counter the moves of the Pakistanis. India assumed an active role. Indira Gandhi ordered air and ground attacks. India, having superior equipment and forces, mounted a three-pronged movement on Dhaka from the Indian province West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura. The Indian soldiers, Air Force, and Navy defeated the Pakistani army, while the Bangladeshi Navy helped India. On the ground, three groups of Mukti Bahini and Indian forces fought the Pakistanis. The Pakistanis tried to fight back, but failed to resist them.

On December 16th, 1971, Dhaka fell to the Mitro Bahini, the elite forces of the Mukti Bahini and the Indian army. An "Instrument of Surrender" was signed by the defeated Pakistani General Niazi and by the Indian commander General Aurora at 16:31 Indian Standard Time. Indian army during the Bangladesh war had opened fronts along the ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir as a strategic tactics and entered occupied Kashmir across the ceasefire line. The war came to an end in Bangladesh following the surrender of the entire Pakistani army to Indian army on December 1971, and on the western front (especially in Kashmir) the war come to an end following the unilateral declaration of cease fire by India on December 17, 1971^[8].

3. SAARC AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in April 1947, the Baguio Conference in the Philippines in May 1950, and the Colombo Powers Conference in April 1954 were important steps towards SAARC ^[17].

In 1980, South Asian countries were facing grave problems like poverty, unemployment and hunger etc. So the President of Bangladesh, Ziaur Rahman presented the idea of South Asia cooperation. He said that there is a link between social, cultural and historical traditions in the countries of South Asia. About 180 million people live in this area and are the world's most populous regional organization. They traveled to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives and Pakistan, after discussions of common problems and prepare the baseline for the South Regional Organization ^[18].

The first meeting of foreign secretaries of 7 countries was held from 21 to 23 April 1981 at the Colombo, to discuss the development of South Asia Regional Cooperation. These countries included India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. The main objective of the meeting was to consider the proposals presented by the Bangladesh. The official letter which Bangladesh had prepared was emphasized on the economic sector. Finally, the countries of South Asian have agreed to agriculture, rural development, public relations, weather science, literature and population.

The second meeting of Foreign Secretaries took place from 2nd to 4th November, 1981 at Kathmandu. The report of the committee which had been appointed in the first meeting was considered in that meeting. It was decided to develop cooperation in South Asian areas in the transportation, post office and technical sector ^[19].

The Foreign Secretaries met in Islamabad on 7 to 9 August 1982. It was recommended that the 7 countries Foreign Ministers seek cooperation in South Asian countries and presented these recommendations collectively as a report for this purpose. Foreign ministers of 7 countries have a meeting in Delhi. The announcement of the South Asian Cooperation was approved in this. The fourth meeting of foreign secretaries was held in 1983 in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. It was decided to appoint permanent committee in this meeting. South Asian cooperation in New Delhi was held on February 27, 1984, in which representatives of countries participating in South Asian cooperation included the delegation and discussed for strengthening mutual trust and cooperation.

South Asian region cooperation meeting was held in the famous city Malé of Maldives in February 1985. It was recommended to set up a Council of Ministers for South Asian Regional Cooperation so that their mutual support could be institutionalized. The foreign ministers agreed to this suggestion.

Head of 7 countries gathered in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka to formally inaugurate SAARC and heads of these seven countries took part in SAARC's first summit. The SAARC's 10th Standard Charter was accepted in this convention. The Charter clearly states that neither bipartisan questions will be raised in it nor there will be discussion on any politics. In November 2007, Afghanistan became a member, with the number of SAARC member countries being 8.

3.1 OBJECTIVES OF SAARC ^[20]

- a) To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life.
- b) To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials.
- c) To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia.
- d) To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems.

- e) To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields.
- f) To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries.
- g) To strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests.
- h) To cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.

4. CONCLUSION

SAARC is a major platform with all regional organizations established to solve regional problems in the south Asian Region. Because of its wars and tensions between India and Pakistan, this institution did not fulfill the objectives for which it was established. Through this research, an attempt has been made to find the root causes of conflicts between India and Pakistan that were present before the formation of SAARC. It is found that Kashmir Issue is the root cause of conflict. India and Pakistan should resolve their bilateral relations on priority and strive to join the developed countries. By adopting advanced thinking, like EU and ASEAN, the purposes of SAARC should be met. Pakistan should renounce its narrow mind and open all the paths to move trade relations with India to strength. With this, the business opportunities will grow in both the countries and will also be beneficial for the SAARC countries. The main reason for SAARC failure is terrorism. If Pakistan stops terrorist activity in its field by adopting a positive approach, it will be able to strengthen the bonds of shared harmony and relationships between the two countries, which is the main requirement of the time for SAARC's success.

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