

CULTURE OF FEAR IN WORLD POLITICS

Origin and Ramifications



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Indo-Pak Bilateral Relations on Kashmir as the Neighbors and Rivals

Papia Deb

Abstract: *The road to freedom and partition of India and the creation of Pakistan was a long one and accompanied with fundamental social, economic, and political changes. Since then the Indo-Pak relationship is adversarial. This has been due to the legacy of a violent partition that witnessed inter-communal strife and it's been almost 73 years since the first shots were fired in the still unresolved conflict over the status of Kashmir. Neither country has benefitted in any concrete term. They have only served to constrain the economic development. With continued violence in Kashmir and a heightened threat of terrorist activity by militant groups, tensions and concerns over a serious military confrontation between nuclear-armed neighbors India and Pakistan remain high. It may not be far from the truth to suggest that the lives of citizens of both the countries depend on the mood of the Policy makers and they are living a life of fear.*

Keywords: *Partition, unresolved conflict, economic development, military confrontation, life of fear. I*

The main reason for the bilateral conflict between India and Pakistan is the question of Kashmir in terms of national security, geography and resources. The Jammu and Kashmir region is a melting pot and geopolitical hotspot. Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Xinjiang and Tibet are in close proximity. Many races and cultures cross here. The region is also home to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and many indigenous spiritual traditions. The three countries that claim part of this region are all nuclear powers: India, Pakistan and China. At the moment, out of the original territory of Kashmir, India has control over roughly 55% of the total area, Pakistan controls 30% of the land and China controls 15% of it. This raises the specter of a truly catastrophic conflict.

There is a belief among the many Kashmiris that their region could be the Switzerland of Asia if the Indians and Pakistanis left them alone. Since 1953, their leaders also have been flirting with the idea of independence. China, Pakistan and India have this fear that the independence of Kashmir