

A REGION OF ENDLESS DISPUTE: AN ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT THEORY BY LEWIS A. COSER IN THE CONTEXT OF ISLAM IN KASHMIR

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to explore the causes of conflict and the state of Islamic civilization in Kashmir. The conflict between Pakistan and India in Kashmir is often fought over the Kashmir region, so Kashmir has become an area that is still disputed to this day. This type of research is descriptive qualitative research, namely the analysis and presentation of data in the form of sentences and a deep understanding of what it is. The method used is the historical method with the stages of source collection, source criticism, interpretation and writing. The approach used in this research is the conflict theory of Lewis A. Coser. The result of this research is the conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir because of Kashmir's natural resources which are very profitable for the country's economic income, both for India and Pakistan. The prolonged conflict has an impact on the political field, namely Kashmir losing the right to special autonomy and legal guarantees, religion, namely increasing discrimination, economy, namely the decline in the number of tourists, and education, namely the irregular education system.

Keywords: Kashmir; India; Pakistan; Conflict.

INTRODUCTION

The Kashmir issue appears to have no resolution in sight, with both India and Pakistan maintaining their claims to the area and insisting on maintaining sovereignty over it. In 1947 AD, hostilities between India and Pakistan initially broke out. Pakistan and India had recently gained independence from British colonial rule at that point. South Asia's Kashmir area offers great potential for both tourism and the economy. Because of its breathtaking natural beauty, it is known as "paradise" and is situated at the base of the Himalayas.

Before Islam, Kashmir was under the control of the Hindu and Buddhist populations. However, as these populations have grown, the region has become a source of conflict between the two groups. When Utsmani Turkey initially arrived in India, Islam made its way into Kashmir before spreading spontaneously. In Kashmir, Islam developed, and Muslims established a mosque and a meeting spot by the Jehlum River. The success of Islam was confirmed by Bilal Shah (Bulbul Shah) of Turkmenistan, who became the first Muslim ruler of Kashmir to oppose Sultan Sadr Ad-Din after Islamizing Rainchan Shah, the leader of the Hindu community in Kashmir.

In the time of its conquest by the British, Kashmir was known as "paradise on earth" because of its abundant natural riches and lush, river-fed terrain. Despite the majority-Muslim religious conditions in Kashmir, Muslims saw growing oppression under British rule, with restrictions placed on their religious practices. For the British, who mistreated the Muslims of Kashmir, this does not hold true. Thus, Muslims experienced double discrimination from both India (the Hindus) and England. When Kashmiri Muslims were most persecuted, it was because the British had sold Kashmir to the Dogra Hindus. Pakistani Muslims experience discrimination, particularly from women who wear the hijab and other religious symbols. They are also not allowed to worship as freely as Muslims in Indonesia (Fauzan & Setiawan, 2022). Furthermore, prejudice exists in religious practices as well, such as the ban on praying at the Jamia Mosque in the Sringar neighbourhood.

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Social reality is conflict, which can arise between individuals or groups of people. Conflicts can arise from a variety of reasons, including social, religious, territorial, and property ownership issues. The Latin word "confingere" (which means to hit each other) is where the term conflict originates. According to sociology, conflict is a social process in which two or more individuals attempt to damage the other in order to get rid of him.

According to earlier studies, racism has been an issue in Kashmir since Islam was first introduced to India, and this has contributed to the strife between Muslims and Hindus there. Racism is defined as the unfair treatment of various ethnic groups or nations depending on national descent (Febriyanto, 2021). The war in the Kashmir region stems from the fight for the region's natural resources, which hold great potential for generating state money for both Pakistan and India. This research focuses on this issue. Three of Pakistan's six rivers, the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab, have their origins in Kashmir, making the region lucrative for the country. This implies that Pakistan's route of survival passes through the Kashmir area. The Kashmir region is very beneficial to Pakistan's economy; without Kashmir, there would be no silk road linking Pakistan and China. Since most Kashmiris are Muslims, Pakistan and Kashmir have a similar culture. In contrast, India is a country where Hindus make up the majority of the population. Furthermore, Pakistan's territory can be shielded from military threats by Kashmir's strategic location (Putri, 2021).

In the meantime, India considers Kashmir to be a part of its territory in order to fulfil its ambition of ruling all of South Asia. Moreover, Kashmir's location at the border of Xinjiang and Afghanistan makes it the centre of Indian existence. Without Kashmir, India might lose its commercial advantages in Central Asia (Effendi, 2005). The state derives revenue from Kashmir, while India, with its vast population, benefits financially from the region's natural beauty. Of obviously, India needs a lot of resources to sustain its population. Every year, the allure of Kashmir can bring in \$400 million (Eko Wahyudi, Iman Manggala, Eni Rahman Ningsih, Rahmat Hadi, 2015).

Geopolitically, Kashmir is in the centre, making it very beneficial for India, which is why it continues to insist on fighting for the entire Kashmir territory. India can exert influence over other nations by fully dominating Kashmir, as it is regarded an access point to influence Afghanistan, Tajikistan, China, and Tibet. India also has direct borders with Tibet. In addition, India may utilise the Kashmir territory as a military bastion (Ayunda, 2017).

Kashmir will forever be governed by India (under the direction of New Delhi) as a result of the BJP Party (Bharatiya Janata Party) and the Indian government's decision to revoke the state's special autonomous status. Prior to this, Kashmir was a sovereign state that was managed freely. Naturally, Pakistan responded to this move. The removal of the special status infuriated Pakistan. Pakistan rejects India's territorial claims in Kashmir (Febriyanto, 2021). As a result, the war in the Kashmir area persists due to the competing interests of Pakistan and India, both of which claim sovereignty over the region.

This study attempts to ascertain the underlying causes of the conflict between Pakistan and India in the Kashmir region as well as the state of Kashmir in a number of domains, from the history of the introduction of Islam to the state of Kashmiri civilization in a number of other domains. Next, the research's problems must be stated in order to facilitate the formulation of answers: 1) How did the conflict in Kashmir start? 2) Describe the background and current state of Kashmir's Muslim civilization.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs descriptive-qualitative methodology, which aims to present events or situations exactly as they are. Sentences rather than numbers are used to represent data in qualitative research (Farida, Rochmiatun, & Kalsum, 2019). The data in this qualitative descriptive study are given in a descriptive manner. Analysing social phenomena, events, or situations is a common use for this kind of research. According to (Pambudi, Gusnandi, & Taufiq, 2022), the data results are presented just as they are, without any processing or other modifications.

The historical method is the research methodology that is employed. One approach to reconstructing historical events is the historical method (Fadli 2020). Louis Gottschalk defines the historical method as the procedure of gathering information, writing it down, and then critically evaluating and analysing historical documents and artefacts. All recorded information, both oral and written, was gathered, examined, interpreted, and then written in a methodical narrative (history) ("Cultural Expressions and Justice in Fighting for Environmental Rights for the Community Volume 3", 2020). Reconstructing the past by the arrangement of human thoughts, words, deeds, emotions, and experiences is the process of writing history (Gurdachi & Afabel, 2021). Utilising the historical approach helps researchers become more knowledgeable, which encourages them to be astute in their analysis, critique, and evaluation (Fauzan & Setiawan, 2022). Before beginning to write, one must complete these four steps in the historical method. Heuristics, verification, interpretation, and historiography are the four phases (Ama, 2017).

The word "heuristics" originates from the Greek word "heuristiken," which signifies gathering or analysing sources. The historical sources under consideration are a variety of dispersed historical items, including manuscripts, oral histories, and the ruins or remnants of prehistoric structures. Without historical sources, writing history is impossible (Sumargono, 2021). The books in libraries, books on the internet, ebooks, scientific journals, articles, and other sources were used as sources for this study.

Verification and source critique are steps in the process of determining the reliability and authenticity of a source. External and internal criticism are the two methods available for source verification or critique (Sumargono 2021). External and internal criticism are the two categories of source criticism. Questions like "when was it made?," "where was it made?," "who made it?" and "is the shape original or not?" can be used to formulate external critique, or criticism aimed at determining the object's authenticity (Rofiq, 2022). One way to conduct external criticism is to examine external sources, such as words, sentences, letters, and other visual elements (Nawawi 2021). External criticism is mostly concerned with the reliability of the source's content (Hana & Azis, 2023). Internal critique, on the other hand, is criticism aimed at determining its legitimacy (authenticity), and it can be achieved by posing queries like: How valuable is the historical evidence included within? Are the data points reliable and relevant? (Rofiq in 2022). Comparing the contents of one document or source with those from other sources allows for internal critique to be conducted (Nawawi, 2021).

The process of interpreting historical facts that have been found is called interpretation. Interpretation comes in two flavours: synthesis and analysis. Explaining anything through analysis is how historical facts are found. Concurrently, synthesis refers to the act of combining, specifically combining the outcomes of the data interpretation process (Dhesita, 2019). Writing comes in fourth. The last step in historical research is writing, or historiography. Following the phases of gathering information (heuristics), evaluating information (verification), and interpreting (interpretation). Thus, historical writing, or historiography, is completed at this point (Madjid & Wahyudhi, 2014). According to relevant scientific principles, the study findings are presented in this history in a methodical and sequential manner (Hana & Azis, 2023).

Lewis A. Coser's conflict theory approach was employed in this study. According to Coser, conflict is an effort to neutralise, harm, or eliminate rivals through a struggle over ideals and demands for status, power, and limited resources.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Kashmir's Geographical Position

Kashmir is a territory in South Asia on the Asian continent. The Kashmir region, which is at the base of the Himalayas, is referred to as "paradise" because to its lush vegetation, sparkling rivers, and lush land (Marsa, Saleh, & Sahfutra, 2021). The 222,000 km³ state of Kashmir and Jammu is disputed and has been split into multiple regions. Each of India, Pakistan, and China claims the Kashmir region; Pakistan has ruled 83,000 km² since 1947 AD, and China has ruled 83,000 km² of

the Ladakh Himalaya since 1950 AD. The Kashmir region lies between longitudes 74° and 80° E and latitudes 32° and 36° N. According to Wikipedia (2023), the region is 68,000 square miles (180,000 km²). Bimber, Jammu, Mirpur, Dadayal, Kotli, Muzaffarabad, and Rawalakot are the principal cities in Kashmir.

The Indian states of Kashmir and Jammu, as well as Azad Kashmir (Pakistan) in the Gilgit-Baltistan province, are included in the Kashmir region. Kashmir also includes the Chinese regions of Aksai and Trans-Karakoram. At the moment, the UN refers to the regions that comprise Kashmir as Jammu and Kashmir. Three nations—Pakistan, India, and China—control Kashmir. With 33,145 square miles (85,846 square km) in the northwest (Azad and the northern mountains), India controls the central region (Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh), covering 39,127 square miles (101,338 square km), and China controls the northeastern region (Aksai Chin), which is located in the south and spans 14,500 square miles (37,555 square km) (Briney, 2019). Only the Kashmir valley, out of the three areas under Indian rule, is predominately Muslim. While the Jammu region was formerly mostly Muslim due to communal strife in 1947 and 1948, the majority population today consists of Hindus. The Ladakh region is primarily Buddhist.

Jammu and Kashmir are former northern Indian states. Muslims make about 67% of the population of Kashmir. The others are Buddhist, Sikh, and Hindu. Kashmir, Jammu, and Ladakh comprise this region, which is a state of India. However, Kashmir and Jammu changed their status to become union territories after the reform law for the region was put into effect in 2019 AD (Pambudi et al., 2022).

The people who live in Kashmir still belong to an ethnolinguistic group that has a racial structure with the Indo-Greek population. The upper Punjab, Pakistan, and the Pothohar region are home to the native Kashmiris. While a small portion of Kashmiris reside in Indian territory, the bulk are found in the Doda, Khistwar, Ramban, and Kashmir Valley Thasils (Jammu). Kashmir is influenced by Central Asia and Persia culturally (Arora, 2019). According to population estimates derived from BBC statistics for the year 2015 AD, there were 16.3 million people living in Kashmir. Pakistan is the home of up to 99.5% of Muslims. In the meantime, there are Christians, Hindus, and Sikh in this contested territory (Fauzan & Setiawan, 2022).

The Story of Islam's Arrival in Kashmir

Hindu and Buddhist civilization existed in Kashmir prior to the introduction of Islam. The Kashmir region was ruled for a long time by Hindu and Buddhist dynasties. Since there are conflicts between Hindus and Buddhists, Kashmir has become a source of dispute (Muchsin et al., 2015). There are frequent skirmishes between Hindus and Buddhists. The Gonanda kingdom (5 AD), the Karkota kingdom (8 AD), and the Utpal dynasty (the final pre-Islamic dynasty) are said to have ruled Kashmir at one point, according to some. There are conflicting accounts on the existence of Hindus in Kashmir. For example, some claim that the last Hindu King was a woman who committed suicide. He thought that his people were not supporting him in his battle against the Islamic armies, which was the reason. In addition to Syah Mirza's (a powerful person in Kashmir) wish to wed her (Fauzan & Setiawan, 2022).

The Ottoman Empire, which initially arose in India due to commercial and political ties, brought Islam to Kashmir. Islam therefore evolved and naturally spread throughout the Kashmir region. Over time, the Islamic faith in Kashmir grew to such an extent that the majority of the people was Muslim. Nonetheless, Maharaja Singh subjugated Kashmir in the 18th century AD. Muslims in Kashmir were living in dejection because Singh, the Hindu ruler of Punjab, was anti-Islamic. For Kashmiri Muslims, Singh's rule was a terrible one since he slaughtered Muslims and set mosques on fire.

Howard Arnold Walter claims that during the reign of King Suhadeva, Bilal Shah (also known as Bulbul Shah) of Turkistan was the first preacher to introduce Islam to Kashmir. Sharaf-Ud Din is Bulbul Shah's true name. Syed Abdur Rahman Shah Nimatullah wali Farsi's spiritual mentor, Turkistani, belonged to the Suhrawardiyyah order. Babul Shah's straightforward preaching

impressed Rainchan Shah, the monarch of Kashmir at the time, who chose to follow Babul Shah's teachings and become the Muslim sultan Sadr Ud-Din. Islam therefore spread over Kashmir through nonviolent da'wah. After 4,000 years of Hindu domination, Islam was able to bring civilization to Kashmir. On the banks of the Jehlum River, mosques and gathering spots were built by 10,000 Kashmiris who reportedly flocked to become Muslims.

Even though Kashmir was home to a majority of Muslims, the British did not treat the region well; instead, Muslims faced growing oppression and restrictions on their activities when they arrived. This indicates that Muslims in Kashmir were subjected to discrimination, either from Hindu tyrants or from British imperialism. The height of Muslim oppression occurred when the British sold land in Kashmir to the Dogra Hindus (Muchsin et al., 2015).

The state of politics in Kashmir

The British split India in two at the beginning of it. Pakistan is predominantly Muslim and India is predominantly Hindu, although the partition did not include the Kashmir region. This indicates that Kashmir is unowned, which led to India and Pakistan's conflict over Kashmir, which ultimately resulted in war (Fadli, 2020). The Indian Independence Act of 1947 AD served as the basis for the region's partition; Kashmir was granted the option by the British to either become a part of India or Pakistan or to form its own state (BM, 2014). On August 5, 1947 AD, Kashmir remained an Indian state (Indian Princely States) at the time of the British offer (Ayunda, 2017). As per Briney's (2019) account, there was a conflict between India and Pakistan in 1947 AD over the Kashmir area, which led to the First World War, which raged between them from 1947 AD to 1948 AD. One of the reasons behind India and Pakistan's conflict is religious identity. The majority population in Kashmir is Muslim, although Singh, the leader, is Hindu (Monica Krisna Ayunda, 2017). Singh initially had no intention of joining either Pakistan or India and instead wanted to create a new, independent nation (Febriyanto, 2021). M Singh, however, had a change of heart on October 27, 1947, and chose to enter India against the wishes of the country's majority Muslim populace. A disagreement in the Kashmir region resulted from this unilateral action, which infuriated and was rejected by the Muslim-majority people in Kashmir (Ayunda, 2017).

Singh's decision to ally with India was motivated by their shared Hindu religion. Pakistan became enraged about this and intervened to support the predominantly Muslim region of Kashmir (Rosdiana, 2020). Even still, Pakistan has made an effort to convince Singh to join it. Pakistan even dispatched a force of Muslim tribesmen to Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir. Pakistan's attempts, though, were in vain. Singh, feeling unsettled, turned to India for assistance and, on October 26, 1947 AD, signed an accession deal. The conflict between Pakistan and India raged on for the next two years (Saifur Rauf, Komang Febriyanti Dantes, Si Ngurah Ardhya, 2022). The region of Kashmir is the area that both India and Pakistan disagree over. However, Hindu monarchs do not just control the Kashmir region; they also control Jammu, Ladakh, Baltistan, Hunza, Srinagar, and Kashmir (Kashmir valley).

A truce agreed upon by both parties halted the 1949 AD division of Kashmir into India and Pakistan. India and China fought over the Aksai Chin border region in AD 1962. China was able to prevail in this disagreement (Richard W. Mansbach, 2012). A ceasefire brought an end to the second conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir in 1965. The growth of Kashmiri nationalism, as seen by the creation of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, which aims to unite Pakistani and Indian-administered Kashmir to create an independent state. The separatist movement in eastern Pakistan was the real reason for the conflict between India and Pakistan in 1971 AD, not the Kashmir dispute. India at the time was aiding the Bengalis in their struggle to break away from Pakistan and establish the nation of Bangladesh. According to CNN Indonesia (2019), bombs were dropped into Pakistani territory by the Indian air force. With Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan at the end of the war, India and Pakistan signed the Simla Agreement in 1972 AD, formalising the ceasefire line as a monitoring line for the realisation of cooperation addressing border regional disputes. Dissatisfaction with the Indian government led to the Kashmir insurgency in the years 1980–1990

AD. There were also large-scale demonstrations this year, along with a rise in Pakistan-backed extremist organisations (BBC, 2019).

Pakistan also claimed the Siachen Glacier, a small, uninhabited region in the Karakoram Range that India had successfully captured in 1984 AD. Up to the 2003 AD cease-fire, the conflict persisted (BBC, 2019). The Kargil War in 1999 AD involved Indian forces fighting alongside Muslim militants with Pakistani assistance. India launched an air campaign and used heavy artillery. General Pervez Musharraf orchestrated the raid, which involved fighters from Pakistan and Islam, with the intention of garnering international support for the Kashmir dispute. After Pakistan was defeated, an agreement in the form of a ceasefire was established in 2002 AD. President Clinton of the United States put pressure on Pakistan to end the Kargil War, raising fears of a massive nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan. Following the terrorist events of September 11, 2001 AD in New York and Washington, the political landscape of South Asia underwent a significant shift. Warmer ties were quickly developed between the US and Pakistan after the US asked Pakistan to stop supporting Muslim separatists in Kashmir (W, L.Rafferty, & Asnawi, 2012).

For the first time in sixty years, trade between India and Pakistan passed the border security line in 2008 AD. 2010 saw over 100 young people killed in Indian-administered Kashmir as a result of anti-India protests. During the 2015 AD elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the Hindu Nationalist Party (BJP) of India became the dominant party for the first time in the area. At the time, the party and the Muslim People's Democratic Party in the Kashmir and Jammu regions established a coalition administration. In 2019, the Indian government removed Kashmir and Jammu's special autonomy status. Additionally, 40 Indian military men were killed in a suicide bombing in Kashmir in 2019 AD. Pakistan was held accountable for the incident by India, which maintained that the Jaish e Mohammad (JeM) insurgent group was responsible. India will respond to the onslaught with vengeance. India recently conducted airstrikes against the Kashmir region, hitting the JeM headquarters among other targets. According to India, hundreds of militants were killed in the strike. Pakistan maintained that it had nothing to do with the bombing and vowed to retaliate against any attack, including airstrikes, as India had crossed the air border.

India launched what it referred to as a "surgical strike" against the Kashmir area, which is under Pakistani control, in 2016. The attack happened two weeks after a militant group attacked an Indian military facility, killing 19 Indian military personnel. Pakistan refuted the occurrence and said it was not their fault. In addition, seven Indian military personnel were slain by a squad of militants posing as police. Terrorist organisations overran the primary military installation close to the Pakistani border (BBC, 2019).

In 2019 AD, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed Kashmir's unique autonomy status. The Kashmiri people had guarantees and legal protection in Kashmir for about 70 years prior to this withdrawal. However, Kashmir was no longer an Indian state but rather a union region ruled by India following the abolition of this unique autonomous status. The revocation contributed to an increase in Kashmir's violent and jobless rates; in 2019 AD, the rate was 16.3%, but by 2021, it had risen to 21.4% (Saju, 2022). Revocation of article 370 for Kashmir will have the devastating effect of depriving the area of its autonomy. Indian nationals are free to purchase land; prior to the removal of Article 370, this was illegal (Khairunnisa, 2021). An extremely negative effect on Kashmir, which is now ruled by India and allows citizens of other countries to work there despite having no distinct constitution. Because of the possibility of an invasion from Pakistan, Narendra Modi explained why Article 370 was revoked in order to shut the region and repeal autonomy. want to include Kashmir into India as a whole. The Indian government declared that this choice would spur regional development.

Pakistan and India are at odds over who should rule the Kashmir area, and the fighting is still going on. Nonetheless, the Indonesian government, speaking through a PLT spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressed this issue impartially and urged the two warring nations to exercise restraint and prioritise bilateral dialogue in order to resolve the conflict, despite the fact that both Indonesia and Kashmir have majority Muslim populations. The battle caused division among Kashmiris, with some supporting Pakistan, others India, and yet others desiring their own

independence. China, which backed Pakistan in an attempt to counterbalance India, and the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War were the other players behind this.

England also played a role within this. The route of survival for Pakistan lies in Kashmir. As evidence, consider the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers, three of the six rivers that traverse Pakistan, all have their source in the Kashmir region. Pakistan would be a desolate region without its rivers. In addition, the territory of Kashmir holds vital geographic value for Pakistan, not only for its military defence but also for its economic interests. If Kashmir hadn't existed, Pakistan wouldn't be connected to China via the silk trade route. The majority of Kashmiris are Muslims, which makes Pakistan feel more culturally connected to the region. As opposed to India, where Hindus make up the majority of the population, this is different.

In order to fulfil its goal of ruling all of South Asia, India views Kashmir as a part of its own territory. Moreover, Kashmir's location at the border of Xinjiang and Afghanistan makes it the centre of Indian existence. Without Kashmir, India might lose its commercial advantages in Central Asia. The state derives revenue from Kashmir, while India, with its vast population, benefits financially from the region's natural beauty. Of obviously, India needs a lot of resources to sustain its population. Every year, the allure of Kashmir can bring in \$400 million (Liliweri, 2005).

Given Kashmir's advantageous location in the midst of the geopolitical map, India is adamant on defending the entire province. Since Kashmir is immediately bordered by Afghanistan, Tajikistan, China, and Tibet, India may influence these nations by seizing total control over Kashmir, which is seen as an entry point. In addition, India can use the Kashmir territory as a military stronghold. Kashmir will forever be governed by India (under the direction of New Delhi) as a result of the BJP Party (Bharatiya Janata Party) and the Indian government's decision to revoke the state's special autonomous status. Prior to this, Kashmir was a sovereign state that was managed freely. Naturally, Pakistan responded to this move. The removal of the special status infuriated Pakistan. Pakistan rejects India's territorial claims in Kashmir.

Following India's August 5, 2019 AD revocation of Kashmir's special autonomous status, some of Pakistan's comments have been as follows: first, sending a letter to the Security Council of the UN. Shah Mahmood Quereshi wrote to the UN Security Council requesting a meeting to address ending the Indian government's policy of rescinding Kashmir's special autonomy status. The Indian government's harsh enforcement measures following the termination of Kashmir's special status also fall under this category. These measures include blocking internet and phone access, dispatching the Indian military to Kashmir, and placing a number of prominent locals under house arrest. The UN's duty to stop tragedies like the genocide in Rwanda and the Srebrenica massacre was also underlined by Pakistan in the letter. Secondly, halt trade negotiations. In protest of India's policies, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan halted trade with the country. Thirdly, halt train operations. On August 8, 2019 AD, Pakistan made the decision to halt train services to India. Samjhauta Express train services on the New Delhi and Attari lines in India and Lahore in Pakistan were suspended.

The conflict between India and Pakistan over the territory of Kashmir doesn't seem to have any conclusion in sight. These nations all make accusations and take offence at one another. All parties have different interests in Kashmir, hence the conflict will never end. Due to Pakistan's reliance on the natural world, particularly the rivers in Kashmir, the region owes a great deal to the homeland of Pakistan, as was previously said. Pakistan would not exist if Kashmir didn't exist. Pakistan's military defence is profitable, but without Kashmir, there would be no Silk Road trade, the commercial corridor linking the country with China and Kashmir. Moreover, trading with Central Asia is highly advantageous for India's neighbouring Kashmir, which shares borders with Afghanistan and China. One of the priciest spices in the world, saffron, is another product of Kashmir's fame. This will, of course, significantly increase national income. Kashmir is a fantastic tourist destination because of its natural beauty. Kashmir's abundant natural riches are the reason for all of this. Kashmir's natural riches are therefore very promising, which is essentially what started the conflict and turned Kashmir into a struggle between India and Pakistan. According to

Lewis A. Coser's conflict theory, conflict is about competing for scarce resources, position, power, and ideals while trying to eliminate rivals. This is consistent with what Lewis claimed.

The state of religion in Kashmir

Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism are the three main religions practiced in the Kashmir and Jammu regions. In the Kashmir valley, the majority of people practise Islam. The two most popular religions in Kashmir are Buddhism and Hinduism. In Ladakh (Kashmir and Jammu), there are Buddhists. The state of Islam in Kashmir is not as liberal as that of Indonesia; Muslims face frequent discrimination, particularly from women who wear the hijab or other religious insignia (Fauzan & Setiawan, 2022).

The Jamia Mosque in Srinagar is closed to Muslims during prayer times. When Muslims were scheduled to offer Friday prayers and evening prayers on the 27th of Ramadan, this prohibition was put into place. The reason is that it's regarded as a violation and there's a risk that following prayer, a sizable Muslim gathering will organise an anti-India protest. Police in the area are concerned that they won't be able to apprehend him. After India revoked the law on the special status of autonomy for Kashmir and Jammu on August 5, 2019 AD, the mosque was closed. The Indian government has been closing the mosque on a recurring basis for the past 15 years, having started the closure process during Singh's administration in 1819 AD and lasting 21 years. But since India and Pakistan annexed the Kashmir area after winning independence from Britain, this shutdown is the harshest that has occurred. India and Pakistan both claim the entirety of Kashmir (VOA Indonesia, 2021). The Indian government refuted this claim, though. The Indian side declared on August 19, 2019, that the region will no longer be closed to the Kashmiri people, allowing them to pray on Fridays as usual. As long as they stay in the neighbourhood and do not venture outside, Kashmiri residents are free to worship, according to Dilbog Singh, the director general of the Kashmir Police (Marsa et al., 2021).

The Indian government permitted Hindus to pray together during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Amarnath cave (in the Phalgam area) is open to Hindu worshippers. However, the number of Hindu visitors to the cave is restricted to 500 each day, with visits lasting between 42 and 15 days. Nonetheless, Muslims who are forbidden from praying in unison obviously feel injustice. Extremist Hindus encouraged the extermination of Muslims in India in addition to shutting down the mosque. To convert India into a Hindu nation, there is a call for the mass extermination of Muslims. Extremist Hindu groups began their campaign with threats and acts of torture. The call has still gone unanswered by the Indian administration. The head of the largest Muslim organisation in India, the Association of Indian Scholars, Maulana Mahmud Madani, responded to this call for genocide by demanding tough action against this radical Hindu party. Maulana initiated correspondence with the Home Ministry, the state chief minister of Uttarakhand, the National Committee for Minorities, the National Human Rights Body, and the Commission. The call by the Hindu extreme group, the BJP, Madani continued, might pose a threat to India's Islamic community. Mosques were labelled terrorists and some of them were physically demolished and attacked with cow excrement in addition to being closed. A campaign of genocide against Muslims in India also included acts of intimidation and persecution by Indian state officials, and Muslims were even forbidden from worshipping in public.

The state of the economy in Kashmir

In terms of the economy, Kashmir is involved in agriculture, which is dependent on rich soil, particularly in the Kashmir valley. The primary crops used to make cashmere are rice, wheat, maize, fruit and vegetables. Livestock and timber are also beneficial to the economy. Then, current crafts and tourism offerings support it as well. The only area in the region that produces saffron is the Kashmir valley. In addition, Kashmir is a producer of saffron, the priciest spice in the world that is used as a textile dye, culinary colouring, flavouring, and cosmetic ingredient (BBC, 2019). Kashmir is a globally recognised producer of high-quality wool. Wool from Kashmir is exported to other nations. The knitting, shawl, carpet, and pottery manufacturing skills of Kashmiri people are

extremely advanced. A superior quality of Kashmir wool is made from the inner layer of Kashmir goat hair. Kashmiri wool is highly valued due to its superior quality, smoothness, and softness.

The Kashmir region is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and impressive structures. Famous for their breathtaking beauty, the Himalayan highlands have blue lakes, breathtaking peaks, rivers, white water rafting, paragliding, eco-friendly lodging, and more (Chadha, 2022). Following the law on the special status of Kashmir's autonomy was repealed, the government paid several visits to visitors. They paid visits to tourists in the streets, at hotels, and on floating residences (boats). Citing risks of terrorism, they asked tourists to go from Kashmir. Consequently, there has been a decrease in the quantity of travellers visiting Kashmir. There were 1.3 million tourists there in 2012 AD, but by 2018 AD, there were only 850 thousand visitors (BBC, 2019).

The state of education in Kashmir

The protracted fighting in Kashmir has resulted in a disorganised educational system. Mental strain and despair are common among students. The well-off will send their kids elsewhere, while the underprivileged will always have to send their kids to overcrowded, outdated schools. It is not taken into consideration that teachers in both colleges and schools lack the definite scientific (expert) skills needed for instruction. Girls and students receive instruction from volunteers while attending alternate classes (Imran, 2018).

CONCLUSION

Kashmir is a frequent source of contention between India and Pakistan. Although there was a ceasefire within a few years, there is still fighting between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, which started in 1947 AD. The Kashmir region possesses incredibly promising natural resources, which is why this conflict started. Kashmir is a fertile territory with a very advantageous strategic location for both Pakistan and India in terms of economic and military defence. Conflict has an effect on politics, religion, the economy, and education because it happens frequently in Kashmir. Politically speaking, the Indian government and the Indian Hindu National Political Party (BJP), which is the ruling party in Kashmir, control the Kashmir area. Furthermore, since the Indian government has revoked Article 370, which deals with Kashmir's unique autonomy privileges, any Indian citizen can purchase land in Kashmir without any restrictions. Prior to this regulation, there were legal infractions related to religion, such as the ban on prayer and the treatment of people differently based on the symbols they wear. religious issues, like donning the headscarf and similar items, economic issues, like the drop in tourism, and educational issues, like the erratic system of instruction.

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