

A LOOK AT KASHMIR:

The Past, Present and Future

August 14, 2021



WHAT TO EXPECT

CONVERSATION FLOW

02

The SWK Story
Kashmir: Historical Refresher
Kashmir right now
Kashmir since Annexation
Get Involved & Show Support
Discussion & Resources



A Look at Kashmir: The Past, present and future.

ABOUT STANDWITHKASHMIR (SWK)

SWK serves as a centralized **hub for educational resources** and multimedia, action toolkits, and event & campaign organizing. Our mission is to **advocate for an end to the Indian occupation**, and the right to Kashmiri self-determination.

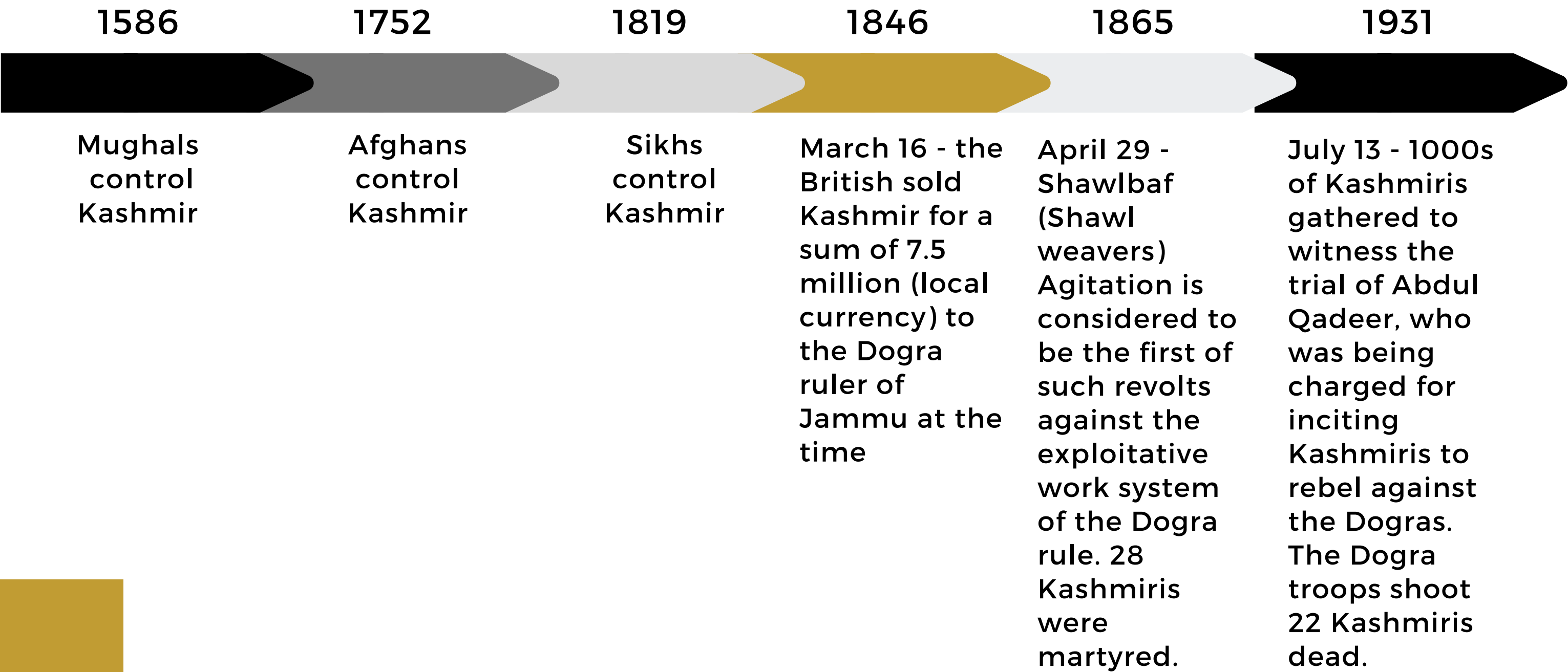
We **empower and inspire** regional groups, allied organizations, journalists, and activists to take action by providing updated information, content, access to experts and scholars, and volunteer support to **drive strategic mobilization efforts**.



THE SWK STORY

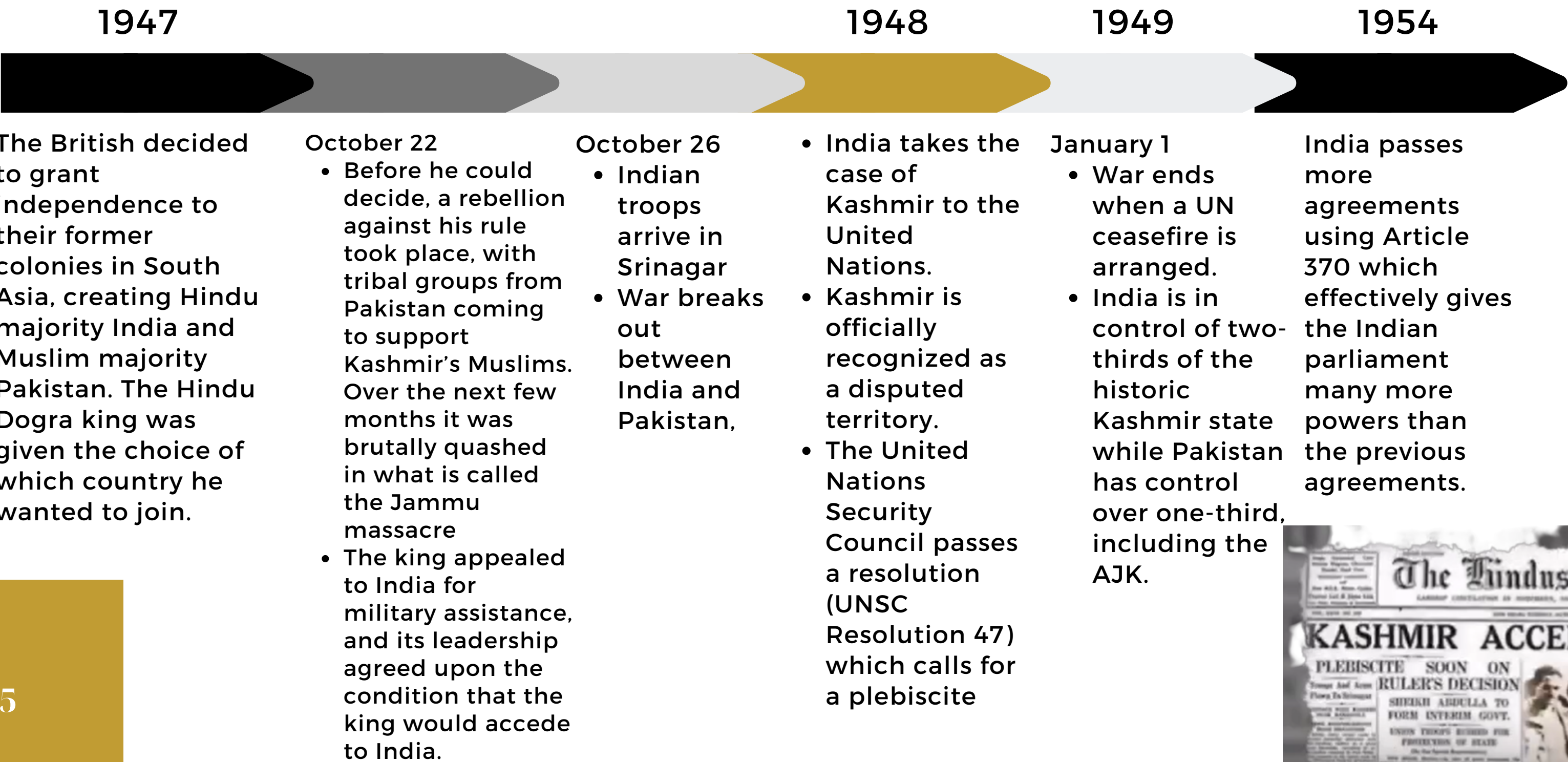
HISTORICAL REFRESHER

A Timeline of Key Political Events



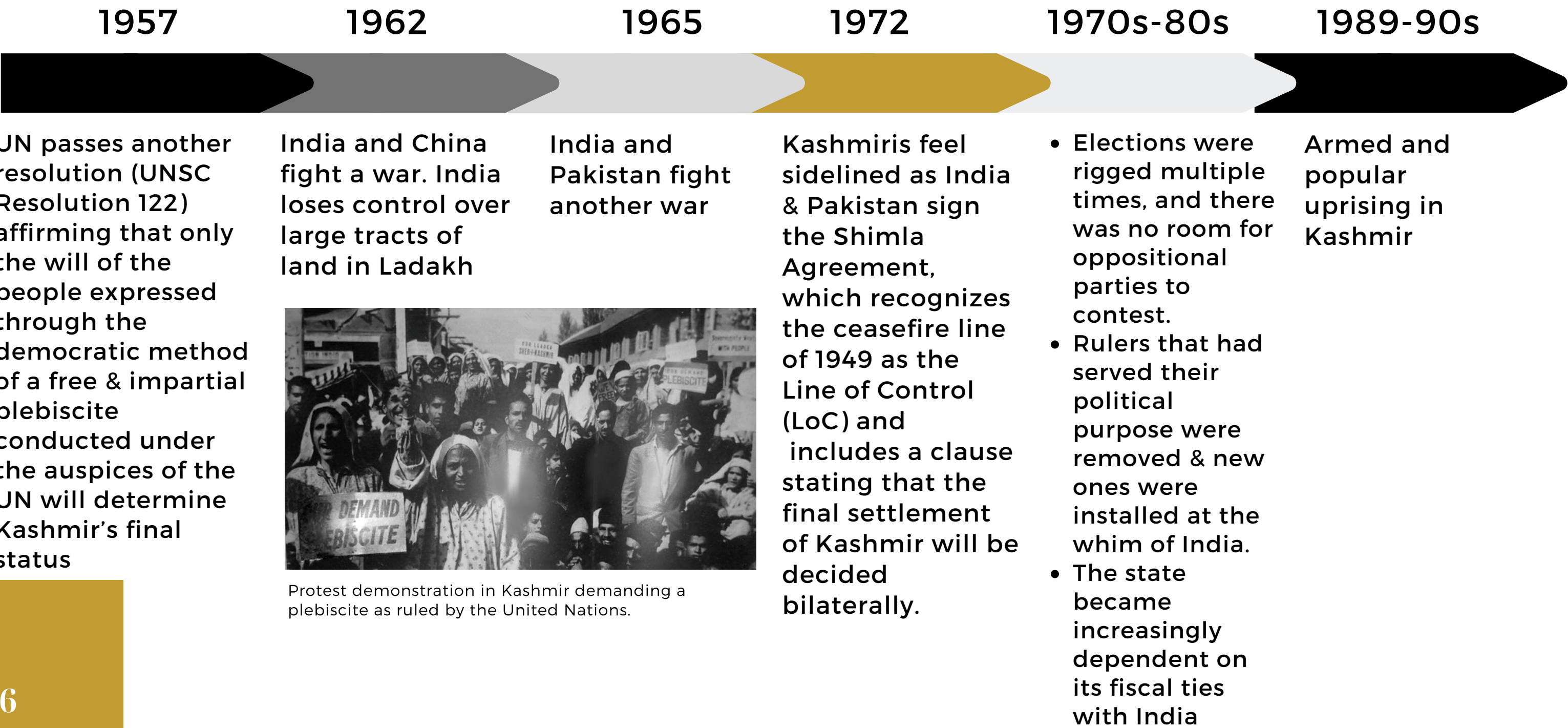
HISTORICAL REFRESHER

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HISTORICAL REFRESHER

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The Indian state retaliated to the popular uprising with direct force, The 90s were marked by massacres, arrests, extra-judicial killings, disappearances, rampant torture, killings and the departure of a vast majority of the Kashmiri Hindu community from Kashmir



Militarization of the 90s

Another war between India and Pakistan breaks out in Kargil, a border district on the LoC.

Discussions between India and the then pro-Indian ruling government in Kashmir, on land transfer to a non-native entity sparks protests. Even though the land deal was cancelled, it gave way to mass mobilizations and civil disobedience by a generation that has come to age under the gun.

A fake encounter and Killing of a 10-year old boy by Indian forces spark months-long protests. Kashmiri youth have taken on the Indian state, both online, and on the streets. Dubbed by analysts as the “New Intifada”



Youth protests

State-installed pro-India party in Kashmir (PDP) forms alliance with Narendra Modi’s Hindu nationalist BJP, Hindu nationalists have officially come to power in Kashmir

Indian forces kill a popular pro-freedom rebel, Burhan Wani in July. Kashmir erupts into protests. Indian forces kill dozens and blind hundreds of young Kashmiris.



HISTORICAL REFRESHER

A Timeline of Key Political Events

2018

2019

BJP exits the coalition with the PDP and the Indian governor acquires full charge. In November, the governor dissolves the Legislative Assembly.

The Indian government announced on August 5, that it would revoke Article 370, a special clause in the Indian constitution that gave Kashmir the ability to make its own laws and have its own constitution.

Though India has eroded Kashmir's semi-autonomy over the years, the removal of Article 370 is a brazen show of force and disregard for the political aspirations of Kashmiris who have been waiting for the right to self-determination since it was promised by UN Resolution 47 in 1948.

By opening up land and residency rights to non-Kashmiris, it also paves the way it also paves the way for India to mount a settler-colonial project in Kashmir and would mean an ethnic cleansing of Kashmir's Muslim majority. On August 15, Kashmir was placed on genocide alert by 'Genocide Watch



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A LOOK AT KASHMIR

74 YEARS

OF INDIAN
OCCUPATION
IN THE STATE
OF JAMMU &
KASHMIR

70,000+

CIVILIAN
DEATHS SINCE
THE ARMED
REBELLION
BEGAN IN 1989
AGAINST
OCCUPATIONAL
FORCES

6000+

UNMARKED
GRAVES

8000+

DISAPPEARED
CIVILIANS

80,000+

CHILDREN
ORPHANED

7000+

CUSTODIAL
KILLINGS

49% ADULTS

SUFFER FROM
POST
TRAUMATIC
STRESS



700,000+

INDIAN ARMED FORCES IN THE STATE,
MAKING IT THE MOST MILITARIZED ZONE
IN THE WORLD

INDIAN LAWS
GUARANTEE
ARMED FORCES
[IN KASHMIR]
**IMPUNITY FROM
PERSECUTION**

10:1 RATIO

FOR EVERY 10
KASHMIRI
CIVILIANS,
THERE IS ONE
INDIAN ARMY
PERSONNEL

SEXUAL
VIOLENCE IS
USED AS A
**WEAPON OF
WAR**

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KASHMIR RIGHT NOW?

Following the revocation, India started to **impose laws in the region that enabled bringing in Indian settlers**, facilitated a corporate take-over by Indian firms, and further criminalized any dissent against its rule.

Under international law, **changing the demographics of occupied or disputed territories is illegal**.

India's rapidly progressing settler-colonial project in Kashmir poses an **existential threat** to the Kashmiri right **to self-determination**.

“

On August 5, 2019, India launched the final assault on the homeland of Kashmiris. The plan is, and always has been, to rob Kashmiris of their land, flood it with settlers, and eventually render the natives into a disempowered minority that's not fully human, but human object, a thing. ”

(Muzamil Jaleel, Inverse Journal)

KASHMIR RIGHT NOW

WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE AUGUST 2019?

How Has India Advanced Its Settler-Colonial Project in Kashmir?

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

India has changed laws to extend residency rights to Indians, who can now reside in Kashmir as colonial settlers and buy land.

LAND GRABS

Kashmir is now advertised as 'investment paradise', India is identifying tracts of land for tourist ventures, Indian corporates, Hindu settlements, & housing for Indian laborers.

EMPLOYMENT

Indian government has used multiple strategies to remove Kashmiri Muslims from government jobs, ensuring that only Indian settlers and Kashmiris who comply with the Indian state's directives will have secure employment.

ECONOMY

Initial lockdown following August 5th, 2019 cost the region's economy at least 18,000 crore (2.4\$ Billion).

HINDU-IZATION

From calling Kashmir "predominantly Hindu," on a government website, when in reality the Kashmir Valley is 97% Muslim to prioritizing temple projects, the government has been busy with its re-engineering efforts.

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CRUSHING RESISTANCE

While the Indian state has left no space for a civil society in Kashmir, it hasn't ceased to target activists and organizations highlighting ground situation outside Kashmir and India.

CENSORSHIP

A fascist unit called the 'cyber police' has been arresting and torturing Kashmiris for being critical of the occupation. The Indian state crushes the very basic fundamental right of Kashmiris to exercise free speech.

NO FREEDOM OF PRESS

Journalists face attacks and beatings daily. They have been subject to draconian anti-terror laws simply for doing their job and have to adhere to the state's language to remain operational.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Kashmir has become a hotspot of illegal riverbed mining of beds auctioned to foreign companies. As a result, many rivers have run dry due to this illegal mining.

WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE AUGUST 2019?

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This list barely skims the surface of what is going on in Kashmir. All these changes have been happening in midst of an already **brutal military occupation** that continues to carry out **extrajudicial killings, home demolitions, fake encounters, daily harassment** via checkpoints and bunkers and use of preventive detention & anti-terror legislation to **detain, torture, & kill Kashmiris** without any due process.



Shariq Shah (@shariq_ibn_shafi)



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

AMPLIFY.
BE AN ALLY.
VOLUNTEER.
DONATE.
PARTICIPATE.

Center Kashmiri voices: those closest to the problem know it the best.
Be truthful about your position and privilege.
Engage in nuanced representation.


RESOURCES

StandWithKashmir



 standwithkashmir.org

Kashmir Scholars Consultative and Action Network

 kashmirscholarsnetwork.org/

Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons



 apdpkashmir.com

Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society



 jkccs.net

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Kashmir Bylines



Mountain Ink



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KEEP TALKING ABOUT KASHMIR

A Look at Kashmir: The Past, present and future.