A LOOK AT KASHMIR:
The Past, Present and Future

August 14, 2021
WHAT TO EXPECT

CONVERSATION FLOW

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

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**.
A Timeline of Key Political Events

1586  Mughals control Kashmir

1752  Afghans control Kashmir

1819  Sikhs control Kashmir

1846  March 16 - the British sold Kashmir for a sum of 7.5 million (local currency) to the Dogra ruler of Jammu at the time

1865  April 29 - Shawlbaf (Shawl weavers) Agitation is considered to be the first of such revolts against the exploitative work system of the Dogra rule. 28 Kashmiris were martyred.

1931  July 13 - 1000s of Kashmiris gathered to witness the trial of Abdul Qadeer, who was being charged for inciting Kashmiris to rebel against the Dogras. The Dogra troops shoot 22 Kashmiris dead.
The British decided to grant independence to their former colonies in South Asia, creating Hindu majority India and Muslim majority Pakistan. The Hindu Dogra king was given the choice of which country he wanted to join.

October 22
- Before he could decide, a rebellion against his rule took place, with tribal groups from Pakistan coming to support Kashmir’s Muslims. Over the next few months it was brutally quashed in what is called the Jammu massacre.
- The king appealed to India for military assistance, and its leadership agreed upon the condition that the king would accede to India.

October 26
- Indian troops arrive in Srinagar.
- War breaks out between India and Pakistan.

1948
- India takes the case of Kashmir to the United Nations.
- Kashmir is officially recognized as a disputed territory.
- The United Nations Security Council passes a resolution (UNSC Resolution 47) which calls for a plebiscite.

1949
- War ends when a UN ceasefire is arranged.
- India is in control of two-thirds of the historic Kashmir state while Pakistan has control over one-third, including the AJK.

January 1
- India passes more agreements using Article 370 which effectively gives the Indian parliament many more powers than the previous agreements.

A Timeline of Key Political Events

1957
- UN passes another resolution (UNSC Resolution 122) affirming that only the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free & impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the UN will determine Kashmir's final status.
- India and China fight a war. India loses control over large tracts of land in Ladakh.

1962
- India and Pakistan fight another war.

1965
- Kashmiris feel sidelined as India & Pakistan sign the Shimla Agreement, which recognizes the ceasefire line of 1949 as the Line of Control (LoC) and includes a clause stating that the final settlement of Kashmir will be decided bilaterally.

1972
- Elections were rigged multiple times, and there was no room for oppositional parties to contest.
- Rulers that had served their political purpose were removed & new ones were installed at the whim of India.

1970s-80s
- The state became increasingly dependent on its fiscal ties with India.

1989-90s
- Armed and popular uprising in Kashmir.
- Protest demonstration in Kashmir demanding a plebiscite as ruled by the United Nations.
HISTORICAL REFRESHER
A Timeline of Key Political Events

90s

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.

1999

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

2008

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.

2010

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”

2015

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.

2016

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

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

2019

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 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.”
A LOOK AT KASHMIR

74 YEARS
OF INDIAN OCCUPATION IN THE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

6000+ UNMARKED GRAVES

8000+ DISAPPEARED CIVILIANS

70,000+ CIVILIAN DEATHS SINCE THE ARMED REBELLION BEGAN IN 1989 AGAINST OCCUPATIONAL FORCES

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

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10:1 RATIO FOR EVERY 10 KASHMIRI CIVILIANS, THERE IS ONE INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS USED AS A WEAPON OF WAR

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

Stats on this page from JKCCS: Structures of Violence Report
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 it's 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)
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 it’s 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.
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

Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons
apdpkashmir.com

Kashmir Scholars Consultative and Action Network
kashmirscholarsnetwork.org/

Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society
jkccs.net