

## *Original Paper*

# Drama of Separatism

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### ***Abstract***

*Kashmir dispute is an extremely complicated phenomenon offering obviously an unmanageable challenge to contemporary conflict resolution methods and techniques. The research article attempts to investigate the relationship between the Hurriyat and unrest in Kashmir and in addition to this, it tries to examine the role of separatist powers in regulating the Kashmir unrest. The study is based on an argument that how the separatist parties are striking extremist politics on Kashmir issue and how they are preserving the power of separatism. The paper will examine the major reasons that are responsible for the growth of separatist forces, insurgency, unrest and how it gained momentum only after 1989. Finally, the paper will explore some of the contemporary trends prevailing in the Kashmir conflict.*

### ***Keywords***

*conflict, extremism, hurriyat, insurgency, JKLF, kashmir, new age militancy, unrest*

### **1. Introduction**

The conflict in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is one amongst the longest running of these days, although it will be thought that six decades of conflict is considered modest in a historical viewpoint. The conflict is often demarcated in terms of “enduring” and “protracted” defined by Paul as; “persistent, fundamental, and long-term incapability of goals between two states” (Paul, 2005, p. 4); this was additionally underlined by Wyman; arguing that the India-Pakistan rivalry is among the enduring rivalry dyads born feuding (Paul, 2005, p. 81). Beginning as a bilateral dispute over territorial claim stemming from India’s claim of management to the whole state of Jammu and Kashmir, and Pakistan’s irredentist claim to the Indian controlled of Jammu and Kashmir, the conflict has evolved on the far side interstate level. Growing widespread discontent throughout the 1980’s introduced new actors

similarly as a wider variety of aims and interests with the more and more advanced and multidimensional nature, the conflict has become more and more ideological on all sides.

As we all know that, India and Pakistan were founded as two separate states in 1947, the “Indian Independence Act” included a provision permitting 562 princely states to make a decision whether or not to join India or Pakistan and most states decided to stay within its respective national domains. A key foundation for the conflict may be derived from the region’s exceptional ethno-religious diversity being created up by four districts of the State viz., Kashmir, Jammu, Leh and Kargil. Of the four districts, Kashmir is mostly Muslim dominated, Leh and Kargil are largely Muslim and Buddhist dominated ones, while as Jammu region is predominantly a Hindu dominant one. The area is fundamentally conflicting prone (Ganguly, 1997, p. 39), although having a predominantly Muslim population; the region was governed by the Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh who strongly favoured Kashmir’s independence (Blank, 1999, p. 39). However, following an attempted invasion by Pakistani tribal forces, Maharaja Hari Singh; hoping to forestall a rebellion and a Pakistani-backed incursion saw no choice however to join India (Ganguly, 2006) (Paul, 2005, pp. 7-8). This was unacceptable for the Pakistani nationalist government whose leading frontrunner Mohammed Ali Jinnah who thought-about the absorption of Kashmir as very important by arguing that Pakistan would be “incomplete” without it, Jinnah decided to send troopers to the region. On the contrary, Indian nationalists view the unification of Kashmir as a demonstration that India could be a nation where all faiths may live together beneath the aegis of a secular state (Ganguly, 1997, pp. 8-10). Thus, losing Jammu and Kashmir would for Indian nationalists undermine its secular identity.

As both the nations chose to send troopers, the dispute intensified into a brief war, ending with a peace agreement in late 1948, leaving Jammu and Kashmir distributed into two-thirds under Indian rule and the rest under Pakistan and China (Paul, 2005, p. 8).

Jammu and Kashmir is currently divided between three Asian Countries viz. China, India and Pakistan, where India is controlling most of the people and Pakistan most of the Territory. The partition between them came during the 1947-48, as both the countries fought over the future of Kashmir, which was a princely State (Note 1). Major and minor clashes have been always there between the two counties, which also have resulted in three major wars between these two countries involving Kashmir in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971. Fighting has been always there between the two rivals, which sometimes results in the civilian casualties due to the exchange of firing, and artillery shelling from both the sides (Ganaie, 2017).



**Figure 1. Controlled Areas of Jammu and Kashmir by China, India and Pakistan**

*Map Source:* Google Images.

Pakistan Administered Kashmir or Azad Jammu and Kashmir lies west of the Indian administered State of Jammu and Kashmir and was earlier portion of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, which discontinued to exist as a result of the first Kashmir war that was fought between India and Pakistan in 1947. Azad Kashmir has a total area of 13,297 square kilometres (5,134 sq. mi), and a total population of 4,045,366 as per the 2017 Census.

State of Jammu and Kashmir that is often denoted by the acronym J&K is located in the Himalayan Mountains and sharing a border with the neighbouring states like Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. It is separated from the Pakistan administered Kashmiri territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan by the Line of Control. It has an area of 222,236 sq.km (85,806 sq. mi) and a population of 12,541,302 as per the 2011 census.

Aksai Chin or the Chinese occupied Kashmir a part of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir was occupied by China during the 1962 war that was fought between India and China. Aksai Chin covers an area of about 37,244 square kilometres (14,380 sq. mi).

The issues and problems that have swallowed the Kashmir valley have been intractable. Teresita Scaphaffer attributes it to, “the full panoply of issues that generate stubborn problems: national identity, ethnicity, religion, tension between central and local government, and territory” (Note 2). The recent uprisings like that of the 2016, which came after the killing of Burhan Wani who was an elite commander of Hizbul Mujahideen. Year 2010 uprising and the 2008 summer unrest that broke out after the transfer of land to the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, all these unrests and uprisings saw unprecedented demonstrations propelled by the separatists or pro freedom parties. The movements that were anti-governmental in nature resulted in the losses of civilian and damages to the public properties on a large scale. Conflict in the Kashmir can be viewed through various theories like, International Relations theorists claim that the intractableness of the Kashmir conflict is due to issues as varied as

“state repression, elite manipulation” (Ollapally, 2008), sovereignty (Bose, 2009), truncated power asymmetry between India and Pakistan (Paul, 2006), and political mobilization and institutional decay (Ganguly, 1996).

## 2. All Parties Hurriyat Conference

Hurriyat Conference commenced out as an organisational coalition of political parties and religious organisations in Kashmir intending at self-determination. They are the Kashmiri separatists who present the conception of an independence of Kashmir and its complete detachment from the union of Indian State.

Hurriyat conference is currently divided into two fractions in the form of Extremist as well as Moderate one. The Extremist one is led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani (Hurriyat-G) and the Moderate one is led by Mirwaiz Molvi Umar Farooq (Hurriyat-M) (Note 3).

All Parties Hurriyat Conference an alliance of 30 political, social and religious organisation whose foundation came on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1993 as a strong and united political front to raise the cause of the Kashmiri Separatism (Note 4). The separatist alliance that mainly came after the defeat from bogus election in the State was positively viewed and supported by the Pakistan as it contested the claim of the Indian Government over the State (Note 5).

**Table 1. Various Organisations of Hurriyat and Their Heads**

Serial	Name of the Party	Leader
1	Aawami Action Committee	Mirwaiz Umar Farooq
2	People's League	Sheikh Yaqoob
3	Anjamani Auqafi Jama Masjid	Mohammad Umar Farooq
4	Anjaman-e-Tablig-ul Islam	Syed Qasim Shah Bukhari
5	Ummat Islami	Qazi Ghulam Mohammad
6	Peoples Political Party & for Azad Jammu and kashmir in Pakistan chapter	Hilal Ahmed War Mian Muzaffar Shah
7	Anjuman e shari shiyan	Aga Syed Hassan al-moosvi Al-safvi
8	Jammu Kashmir National Front	Nayeem Ahmed Khan
9	All Jammu & Kashmir Employees Confederation	Ishtiaq Qadri
10	Jamiate Ulama-E-Islam	Abdul Gani Azhari
11	Jamiat-e-Hamdania	Moulana M. Yasin Hamdani
12	Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference	Abdul Ghani Lone till 2002 assassination

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13	Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front	Muhammad Yasin Malik
14	Jammu and Kashmir Human Rights Committee	Noor-Ul-Hassan
15	Jammu and Kashmir People's Basic Rights (Protection) Committee	Mufti Bahauddin Farouqi
16	Liberation Council	Azhar Bhat
17	Kashmir Bazme Tawheed	Tajamul Bhat
18	Kashmir Bar Association	Zaroon bhat
19	Muslim Khawateen Markaz	Zaid Bhat
20	Muslim Conference	Khokhar e aazam
21	Tehreek-e-Huriati Kashmiri	Saqib Bhat
22	Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Conference	Bilal Ghani Lone
23	Peoples Political Party	Eng Hilal Ahmad War
24	Imam Ahmad Raza Islamic Mission	Rafeeq Ahmad Mir
25	Saut-Ul-Aliya	Moulana Abdul Rashid Dawoodi
26	Jammu and Kashmir People's Freedom League	Muhammad Farooq Rehmani
27	Ittihadul Muslimeen	Maulana Mohammad Abbas Ansari
28	Dukhtaran-e-Millat	Asiya Andrabi
29	J & K Muslim League	Masarat Alam
30	Difa-e-Pakistan Council	Sami ul Haq

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*Source:* Ganaie, Nasir Ahmad. (2017). Instability and Unrest in Kashmir: A Case from Barriers of Optimism to Pellets. *International Journal of Modern Social Sciences*, 6(1), 51-93.

### **3. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)**

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) (Note 6), which emerged as the most prominent organisation among the separatist context that believes in the armed rebellion. This extremist group was in its peak action during the 1989 that saw the beginning of the new militancy age era in the State. This separatist extremist hardline group was founded in 1964 with a prevailing voice of Independence (Azadi) of Kashmir, with a vision of forming a separate country which shall comprise of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Azad Kashmir (Pakistan held Kashmir), Gilgit and Baltistan. The armed rebellion movement categorised itself as being anti-colonial national liberation movement that was much like the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front is a Kashmiri nationalist organization whose foundation was laid by the Amanullah Khan (Note 7) and Maqbool Bhat (Note 8). The body is actually a militant wing that believes in the extreme of extremism that came from the Plebiscite Front. JKLF up to 1994 was an active terrorist and extremist organization and in the beginning, it had established its branches in several cities and towns of the United Kingdom and in other countries of the Europe (Note 9), The United States and the Middle East. It had set up its branch in Pakistan administered Kashmir (Azad Kashmir) in the year 1982 and in Indian administered Kashmir its branch came in the year 1987 (Ganaie, 2017).

The JKLF in the valley of Kashmir under the leadership of the Yasin Malik declared an indefinite ceasefire and had taken off all of its military wings. The organization had committed itself to the political struggle for the attainment of its objective of independence for the entire region of the princely State of Jammu and Kashmir. The JKLF believes in the secular and independent Kashmir, which should be free from both India and Pakistan (Note 10).

JKLF has fragmented down into two fractions, one is led by the Yasin Malik himself on the Indian side of the Kashmir and the second one is led by Amanullah Khan on the other side of the border that is Pakistan administered Kashmir. In an Interview with the current JKLF Chief & Head Yasin Malik, he stated that the representation of the desires of the Kashmiri people is the only aim and Independence from both India and Pakistan is the motto of this organisation.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The security situation, particularly in the valley of Kashmir, remains always at a distressing Juncture. Series of past killings and frequent attacks on security forces always remains a hot issue. Apart from this, people thronging to encounter sites, the offering of gun salute by militants is always a cause for concern. Separatist forces and their parties are always there for making the issues more highlighted ones in order to make the issue more internationalized for a wider scope. Most importantly, the internationalization of the Kashmir issue should be checked and the integral parts of the Kashmir that have been retained by Pakistan and China should be brought into considerations.

New age militancy and modern forms of extremism should be checked always. Joining of the militant ranks should be taken into due consideration and we can learn a lot of lessons from the post-Afghanistan war situation, which has explored that, if a vacuum is allowed in the areas that are conflict-affected ones, then the radical groups operating there or who rule there with a religion and gun ideology will take enough advantage of those prevailing circumstances. If we will apply the same case in terms of Kashmir, we are having those all sides unrelenting in the conflict zone who are involved in the conflict but are without any solution to the problem. For the personal gains all the dominant parties whether political or separatist are in the valley they are only there for the self-benefits and they lack concrete objectives. There is no denial in the fact that longer the conflict continues more the sides involved in the conflict are subjects of polarization. The defeat of the fundamentalist forces in the

valley should be there who believe in terror as a solution to it, ideology of such groups should not be allowed to be grown there and most importantly, support to Kashmir conflict from foreign soils should be checked.

Increase in conflict in the valley of Kashmir will get diminished once all the factors that are giving rise and exposure to it should be checked, like joining of militant ranks, more increase in the unrest, proper check on separatist forces, restricting their programs, policies and tactics that they are utilizing for massive mass movements and last but not the least stable and cooperative government should be there in the state who should work for the welfare of the general public rather than for self-benefits and political uncertainties.

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**Notes**

Note 1. Bose, S. (2009). *Azad Kashmir—“Free Kashmir”, the more populated and nominally self-governing part of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir* (p. 193). *Contested Lands*, Harvard University Press.

Note 2. <https://jk.gov.in/jammukashmir/>

Note 3. Ganaie, N. A. (2017). Instability and Unrest in Kashmir: A Case from Barriers of Optimism to Pellets. *International Journal of Modern Social Sciences*, 6(1), 51-93.

Note 4. “Hurriyat: Its History, Role and Relevance”. *The Indian Express*. 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

Note 5. “All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC)”. *Kashmirherald.com*. Volume 1, No. 12, May 2002.

Note 6. For a brief overview of the JKLF, its origins, evolution, factions, etc., see K. Santhanam, Sreedhar, Sudhir Saxena and Manish, *Jihadis in Jammu and Kashmir: A Portrait Gallery*, Sage, New Delhi, 2003, pp. 162-174.

Note 7. The plebiscite front in Azad Kashmir referred as Mahaz-i-Raishumari was founded by the Amanullah Khan in association with the Abdul Khaliq Ansari and Maqbool Bhat in the year 1965.

Note 8. Interview with Yasin Malik, JKLF Chief, March 13, 2017.

Note 9. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (7<sup>th</sup> August 2003). “Pakistan: Activities of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF); whether the JKLF practices forced recruitment, and if so, whether this is done in collaboration with the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)”. UNHCR. Retrieved 13 January 2017.

Note 10. For the best account of the Indian position, see Prem Shankar Jha, 1996: *Kashmir 1947: Rival Versions of History* (OUP Delhi). The Pakistani perspective is best put in Alastair Lamb, 1994: *Kashmir: Birth of a Tragedy* (Roxford Books, Hertingfordbury).