

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Kashmir Conflict Between Pakistan and India and Its Impact on Afghanistan

Muhammad Sarwar Arooj ^a

Abstract: This paper examines the complicated effects of the Kashmir battle among India and Pakistan on Afghanistan's countrywide security, political environment, and local standing. The Kashmir difficulty is often visible as a two-sided territorial dispute, but it has essential strategic and safety effects that cross past its instant place, particularly in Afghanistan. using Realism, Constructivism, and local safety complicated idea (RSCT), the studies examine the influence of the Indo-Pak rivalry on Afghan domestic instability thru proxy wars, militant spillovers, and diplomatic entanglements. It evaluates Pakistan's quest for strategic intensity and India's counterbalancing projects thru development and security collaboration in Afghanistan. The examine additionally appears at how global and nearby powers, like China, the U.S., and Iran, were involved on this three-manner courting and the way that has affected Afghanistan's independence and ability to make its own overseas coverage decisions. in the end, the article says that Afghanistan is still a totally essential however now not properly-studied victim of the lengthy-jogging Kashmir war. It also says that there must be a full local verbal exchange to reduce the damage it does (Fair, 2014).

Keywords: Kashmir Conflict, Afghanistan Security, India-Pakistan Rivalry, Strategic Depth, Proxy Warfare, Regional Security Complex, Militant Groups, Foreign Policy, South Asia Geopolitics, Cross-Border Terrorism

Introduction

The Kashmir battle is one of the longest-lasting and most debatable conflicts in South Asia. The territorial dispute between Pakistan and India over the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir originated from the partition of British India in 1947, resulting in wars, border skirmishes, insurgencies, and extended geopolitical tension. Pakistan and India, the key gamers on this war, are nevertheless at a political and army standstill over the place. however, the outcomes of this struggle go some distance past their barriers. Afghanistan, a rustic that has been at struggle for decades and is politically volatile, is one of the bordering nations that feels the repercussions of this tension (Misra, 2010).

the connection between the Kashmir dispute and Afghanistan's protection state of affairs is complex. both India and Pakistan have sturdy strategic and ideological interests in Afghanistan, consequently occasions in Kashmir have regularly had an effect on how they deal with Afghanistan. Pakistan sees Kashmir as an unfinished issue of the partition and a key national hobby. then again, Islamabad sees India's growing presence in Afghanistan as a strategic encirclement. Afghanistan has been coping with cross-border terrorism, a massive variety of refugees, and the effects of competition among major powers. All of those issues are made worse by means of instability inside the relaxation of South Asia (Misra, 2010).

This looks at seeks to research the huge ramifications of the Kashmir dispute past the traditional India-Pakistan dichotomy, emphasizing its strategic, political, and safety-associated results on Afghanistan. it will assess the Kashmir dispute's function in fostering local instability, affecting Afghan national protection, and shaping overseas coverage alignments. With the Taliban's go back to Afghanistan and changing alliances

^a Student, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan.

in South Asia, it's more vital than ever to understand how this long-jogging battle influences the vicinity (Jalal Zai, 2021).

Literature Review

The literature on the Kashmir battle predominantly makes a specialty of its bilateral aspects involving India and Pakistan. Researchers like Misra (2010) and Ganguly (2001) have written about the records and strategy of the conflict, specializing in army, ideological, and territorial elements. honest (2014) broadens the exam to embody Pakistan's military doctrine, positioning Kashmir as important to its national safety approach. there may be also a variety of studies on Afghanistan's safety weaknesses. Rubin (2002) and Jones (2009) look at Afghanistan's inner disintegration and the effect of global operations. Jalal Zai (2021) concentrates on the Taliban's ascendance and its wider ramifications, especially following 2021. although, thinking about the interdependence of safety in South Asia, limited research carefully compares how the Kashmir conflict serves as a catalyst for instability in Afghanistan. The concept of "strategic depth," which Yusuf (2014) talks approximately, may be very critical. It explains why Pakistan wants to manage Afghan politics as a manner to shield itself towards Indian have an effect on. Tellis (2022) also appears at how India is trying to reach out to Afghanistan through infrastructure and diplomacy. although studies like Siddiq (2007) and Kapur (2005) have a look at overarching protection troubles in South Asia, they frequently fail to comprise Afghanistan as an oblique stakeholder in the Kashmir warfare. furthermore, a huge part of the present literature fails to hire a unified theoretical framework—Realism, Constructivism, and RSCT—to comprehensively observe regional protection interdependence. This observe addresses that deficiency via methodically connecting the Kashmir battle with Afghanistan's internal and nearby problems, highlighting the theoretical and empirical interconnections once in a while left out in the cutting-edge discourse.

Research Question

Number one research query: What effect does the Kashmir conflict among Pakistan and India have on Afghanistan's country wide security and its vicinity inside the area? (Misra, 2010).

Sub-questions

1. How do the safety troubles between India and Pakistan have an effect on Afghanistan?
2. How has the Kashmir warfare modified Afghanistan's political and diplomatic scenario?
3. How do militant businesses and terrorism across borders join the instability in Kashmir and Afghanistan?

Theoretical Framework

This takes a look at examines the have an effect on of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India on Afghanistan's country wide security the usage of three number one theoretical frameworks in global family members: Realism, Constructivism, and nearby security complicated idea (RSCT). These frameworks supply analytical gadgets to elucidate the energy dynamics, identity politics, and security interdependence that signify South Asia's nearby order and Afghanistan's susceptibility therein (Fair, 2014).

Realism: Power Politics and Rivalries Inside the Vicinity

Realism is the maximum common and traditional manner to observe international conflicts, specifically with regards to fights over land and competition among states. Realism essentially asserts that the international system is anarchic, with states because the primary actors, every striving to growth electricity and cozy their survival (Truthful, 2014).

The Kashmir struggle exemplifies this paradigm: India and Pakistan, both nuclear-succesful countries, are in a constant warfare for territorial supremacy, army preeminence, and nearby hegemony. according to realist theory, states just care about their personal pursuits and are prompted by means of

energy. For Pakistan, Kashmir is not just a trouble of Muslim cohesion; it is also a strategic buffer and a subject of country wide identity. Keeping Kashmir is ideal for India as it strengthens its geographical sovereignty and countrywide unity (Misra, 2010).

Afghanistan, at the same time as not a predominant participant inside the Kashmir struggle, is ensnared in the crossfire of those two regional giants. From a realist factor of view, Afghanistan is a part of a bigger geopolitical sport. Pakistan sees Afghanistan as a way to guard itself from an Indian onslaught from the east. Pakistan has lengthily sought to steer Afghan affairs, sponsoring groups like the Taliban, as part of its broader defense policy tied to the Kashmir dispute, with the intention to counterbalance India (Yusuf, 2014).

on the other hand, India has constructed relationships with Afghan governments through the years by using giving them navy education and help with improvement. Pakistan sees this as a risk to its western side. So, according to Realism, Afghanistan is a subsidiary theater inside the large Indo-Pak battle, a buffer quarter where proxy affect is used. This zero-sum thinking reasons the Kashmir warfare to unfold into Afghanistan, which hurts Afghanistan's sovereignty and balance (Fair, 2014).

Constructivism: Identity, Ideology, and Notion

Realism emphasizes fabric strength and strategic goals, but Constructivism introduces an extra size by using inspecting how countrywide identities, historical narratives, and perceived threats have an impact on kingdom motion. Constructivism posits that global politics is socially created, with states' interpretations of every other's movement being profoundly encouraged by means of their identities and historical contexts. (Honest, 2014).

Pakistan's country wide identification is basically based on its position as a domestic for Muslims from South Asia. Kashmir is frequently seen as a part of Pakistan's religious and ideological task because it's far generally Muslim. In this example, the struggle isn't always only over land however additionally about Pakistan's identification as a defender of Muslim causes. Pakistan's policy in Afghanistan is likewise based at the concept that it desires to prevent an Afghan authority that is favorable to India from forming, which might also result in encirclement.

India, however, talks approximately its function in Kashmir and Afghanistan in phrases of secular nationalism, democratic concepts, and balance in the region. Indian authorities see backing Kabul as a way to counter Pakistan's impact within the location and show India's smooth energy and leadership in improvement.

these stories approximately identification make people not accept as true with every different. Afghanistan's capacity to make its personal foreign policy is harm by using the ideological tug-of-struggle between India and Pakistan. Afghan leaders have lengthily stated that Pakistan's help for militant groups is bad for stability, even while they depend upon Indian cash and diplomatic help at the equal time. Afghan political identity, tenuous and contentious, is exacerbated by using its involvement in South Asia's ideological warfare.

Moreover, the life of radical Islamist corporations, which include Lashkar-e-Taiba (allow) and the Haqqani community, that function all through Kashmir and Afghanistan, exemplifies how ideological motivations—anchored in jihadist narratives—are concurrently formulated and strengthened by way of regional rivalries. those groups make Afghanistan's internal safety situation more complicated and tie its fate more intently to the Kashmir problem (South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP), 2023).

The Regional Safety Complex Principle (RSCT)

Barry Buzan and Ole Waever came up with RSCT, which adds to Realist and Constructivist thoughts through searching at things from a local factor of view. RSCT posits that safety regularly manifests regionally, with

countries in close bodily proximity cultivating interdependent security dynamics stemming from historic, political, and cultural connections. This attitude posits that South Asia, inclusive of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, operates as a nearby protection complicated.

RSCT says that the security of Afghanistan and the opposition between India and Pakistan are related. The Kashmir conflict makes Afghanistan even greater vulnerable via making the vicinity less stable. The Kashmir battle, however restricted in geography, reverberates throughout the area via fostering proxy battles, fingers races, and transnational terrorism (Ganguly, 2001).

Afghanistan, situated at the nexus of South Asia and significant Asia, serves as each a sufferer and a conduit of this protection interdependence. The movement of militants, intelligence marketers, and guns over porous borders is not a random event; it's miles part of a protracted-standing safety intent within the place. below RSCT, Pakistan's selection to again non-kingdom actors in Kashmir and Afghanistan are not only a depend on hazard; its miles built into the vicinity's safety system.

India additionally thinks that a comfy Afghanistan is important for restricting Pakistan's would possibly and maintaining corporations that could assault Indian pastimes from finding safe havens. The RSCT paradigm elucidates the cascading impacts of the Kashmir battle on Afghanistan's protection, bobbing up no longer just from direct violence but additionally from the systemic interconnection of security perceptions and behaviors within the area (Misra, 2010).

A Combined Analytical Method

These 3 frameworks paintings together to give a whole picture:

- ▶ Realism elucidates electricity rivalry and proxy conflicts (Fair, 2014).
- ▶ Constructivism emphasizes the significance of identity, ideology, and threat belief (Bose, 2013).
- ▶ RSCT shows why the instability spreads to Afghanistan and makes the complete area less safe.

This multi-theoretical method enhances our research through demonstrating that Afghanistan's insecurity is not simplest a byproduct of Kashmir tensions, however a systemic final results of deeply rooted local dynamics, strategic concerns, and ideological conflicts.

Strategic intensity and Afghan Proxy Politics

The concept of "strategic intensity" has been a key factor of Pakistan's regional protection coverage, mainly in light of its lengthy-jogging disagreement with India over Kashmir. Strategic intensity changed into first an army-strategic idea. It way a country can pass its troops and supplies around at some stage in a warfare without putting its shielding traces prone to falling apart. Afghanistan is an important place for Pakistan to construct buffer zones towards Indian affect and army benefit because it's far a small us of a this is surrounded by means of adversarial or unstable friends (Yusuf, 2014).

Pakistan's fear of India's navy strength lies at the coronary heart of this questioning. Pakistan's military established order sees Afghanistan as a fallback zone due to the fact India controls a whole lot of land and has higher traditional skills. This is not for army withdrawal, however, to hold a sphere of affect that could hold Pakistan from being surrounded by means of Indian-pleasant regimes (Fair, 2014).

Pakistan's Position in Afghan Politics: An Approach Primarily based on Kashmir

Pakistan's efforts to gain affect in Afghanistan are not just about gaining strategic depth; they are also about keeping India from doing the same. Islamabad has pursued a policy of big involvement in Afghan politics because it is afraid that New Delhi could construct robust diplomatic, financial, or maybe intelligence ties with Kabul.

Taliban as a Strategic Depth Device

A lot of people have written on Pakistan's help for the Afghan Taliban since the Nineties. Pakistan's Inter-offerings Intelligence (ISI) often set up this arrangement, which gave Islamabad energy over Afghan politics and land. whilst the Taliban had been in fee (1996–2001), Pakistan had extra got entry to and strength in Afghanistan than any other us of a, which made India's diplomatic missions, alternate routes, and soft strength efforts vain (Jalal Zai, 2021).

India's growing Presence in Afghanistan seeing that 2001: After the Taliban fell in 2001, India re-hooked up a big presence in Afghanistan through giving more than \$3 billion for development, infrastructure, and training. It additionally set up its consulates once more in important Afghan cities. Pakistan noticed India's expanding power as a strategic mission which can put its function in the Kashmir theater at risk by using enclosing Pakistan on two fronts. This made Islamabad even greater determined to help insurgency corporations that would prevent India from being too powerful (Jalal Zai, 2021).

Strategic Intensity and the Extension of conflict

Critics say that Pakistan's strategic depth policy is one of the key reasons why peace in Afghanistan changed into difficult to find for more than two decades. by means of backing non-state companies just like the Taliban, Pakistan made sure that any seasoned-India authorities in Kabul could usually be in threat, which stopped the status quo of a solid device that would work with India. This brought about: (Yusuf, M. (2014)) Political Instability: Afghan politicians like Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani often stated that Pakistan become protecting the Taliban leadership and making it harder to shape a strong government. (Jalal Zai, M. k. (2021)) nearby mistrust: The countrywide Directorate of protection (NDS) in Afghanistan and the ISI in Pakistan were still combating a secret intelligence battle, which made each aspect much less trusting of each other and made it harder for them to work collectively on protection problems (Truthful, 2014).

Double Edged Sword: Strategic depth vs. Blowback

The policy of the usage of Afghanistan as strategic intensity helped Pakistan ward off towards Indian impact within the short time period, but it had long-term outcomes: (Yusuf, M. (2014))

Militant Blowback: The Pakistani state becomes attacked via many militant organizations that had been supported for strategic motives. The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is a high instance. It started out in Pakistan's tribal areas and became one of the maximum dangerous threats to the United States of America's internal protection (Riedel, 2011).

Pakistan changed into criticized and remoted by the rest of the sector for playing a "double game" inside the conflict on Terror via being a best friend of the U.S. while nevertheless giving the Taliban secure havens (JALAL Zai, 2021).

Strategic intensity inside the publish-2021 generation (Yusuf, M. (2014))

Pakistan's strategic depth doctrine worked partly whilst the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan in 2021, and the Taliban took rate again. It got rid of a pro-India management and taken returned a party it had long supported. However, things are greater complicated after 2021 (Yusuf, 2014).

Unpredictable Taliban: The Taliban government now is less bendy than it turned into in the 1990s. It has proved that it may make its very own decisions and has even stated no to a few Pakistani requests, such putting up a fence on the Durand Line and going after TTP secure havens (Jalal Zai, 2021).

Continued Indian Engagement: India remains involved in Afghanistan thru humanitarian resource and diplomatic efforts, showing that it will no longer surrender its presence there completely.

Strategic intensity as a Kashmir-Pushed Necessity

Pakistan's preference for strategic depth in Afghanistan is in detail linked to its obsession with Kashmir. It sees controlling Afghanistan as extra than only a manner to defend itself; it sees it as a geopolitical want to hold Indian influence in test and the Kashmir the front apart. Afghanistan, thus, serves as a battleground for an extensive Indo-Pakistani competition, with Pakistan's moves being stimulated no longer by Afghan home occasions, but through its jap opponent (Yusuf, 2014).

This method has critically undermined Afghanistan's stability and independence. Pakistan's personal security is now at threat because of the unstable balance it tried to create, where neither India nor Afghanistan trusts its lengthy-time period dreams.

The Usage of Non-nation Actors and go-Border Militancy

The opposition between India and Pakistan over Kashmir has been mostly about the deployment of non-kingdom entities, which include armed companies, insurgents, and proxies. This thing of the war has now not handiest disrupted bilateral relations but has additionally notably altered Afghanistan's national protection environment, remodeling it right into a secondary arena of Indo-Pakistani hostilities (Riedel, 2011).

Militancy as a device within the Kashmir War

Pakistan has sponsored several militant corporations in Jammu and Kashmir because the overdue Eighties. these are some of them (Riedel, 2011).

- ▶ Lashkar-e-Taiba (allow) (South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP), 2023).
- ▶ Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) (South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP), 2023).
- ▶ Hizbul Mujahideen (South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP), 2023).

Pakistan calls those organizations a "freedom struggle," whereas India calls them "pass-border terrorism." they're regularly skilled and armed on each side of the road of control (LoC). This difference in terms indicates that there's still no settlement and that violence continues to be being justified, which has had effects past South Asia, mainly in Afghanistan (Ganguly, Š. (2001).

Afghan Soil as a Base for Proxies

The Afghan struggle has given each India and Pakistan room to install non-nation companies to accumulate electricity and hurt yet another:

Pakistan's strategy: Pakistan has been concerned for a long term that India's intelligence service, uncooked (research and analysis Wing), should use Afghan land to educate or guide Baloch or Pashtun insurgents and make Pakistan's western provinces less stable. Pakistan has tried to change the security situation in Afghanistan to its advantage, regularly by way of making pals with Afghan rebels.

India's soft power and Alleged Covert Networks: India has placed quite a few money into Afghanistan's schools and roads. Pakistan, on the other hand, says that behind this gentle electricity international relations is a mystery community that desires to harm Pakistani protection, mainly in Balochistan. This returned-and-forth involvement has harm Afghanistan's sovereignty and turned its land right into a battleground for a bigger war that Afghanistan isn't immediately concerned in (Ganguly, Š. (2001).

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Complexity of pass-Border troubles (Jalal Zai, 2021).

The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is one of the principal organizations that has pop out of this proxy method. They function from Afghan soil and have attacked Pakistan usually. Islamabad says that Kabul is hiding TTP fighters, but Afghan officials say that Pakistan is interfering of their domestic affairs with the aid of supporting Taliban companies that are towards the Afghan authorities (Jalal Zai, 2021).

The TTP problem indicates how using non-state actors would possibly backfire. while these actors are first used for strategic purposes, they often exchange their plans and come to be unmanageable and destabilizing for the folks that at first subsidized them (Jones, 2009).

The Indo-Afghan arena and global Jihad

Militant companies like al-Qaeda and, extra currently, Islamic nation Khorasan Province (ISKP) have taken gain of the tensions among India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to cause trouble and attract militants who're sad with their modern-day scenario. these businesses use the instability due to proxy wars and unresolved conflicts like Kashmir to sell extremist thoughts across borders (Jones, 2009).

ISKP has assaulted Indian hobbies in Afghanistan, consisting of the attack at the Kabul Gurdwara in 2020. The institution additionally threatens the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan, which makes it harder for anybody to combat terrorism.

Afghan Refugee and Militant Overlaps

The long-standing refugee disaster, which has left thousands and thousands of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, has created "gray zones" wherein extremist companies may additionally cover, recruit, and circulate humans. part of the cause Pakistan decided to deport Afghans who don't have papers and put up a fence alongside the border is due to the safety risk that comes from civilians and militants being together (Fair, 2014). Radical madrassas and seminaries in Pakistan, which have been previously used to recruit people for jihad in Kashmir and Afghanistan, have additionally helped to create a cycle of radicalization that makes the place less solid.

The Danger of Escalation and Spillover

The ongoing dependence on militant proxies entails sizeable hazards:

The warfare among India and Pakistan has gotten worse. The 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2019 Pulwama tragedy almost brought about battle between the 2 nuclear-armed international locations.

Nearby Spillover: more violence in Kashmir means extra Pakistani navy operations near the Afghan border. This influences exchange, pass-border travel, and members of the family with Kabul.

Undermining Peace in Afghanistan: Efforts to obtain peace in Afghanistan are frequently hurt by means of allegations of outdoor interference, in particular from Pakistan, which helps non-country groups.

The FATF Lens and Global Stress

Pakistan's backing for non-state actors has gotten a number of attentions from round the sector. The monetary action task pressure (FATF) placed Pakistan on its gray list because it wasn't doing sufficient to forestall the go with the flow of money to terrorists. This put pressure on Islamabad to shut down some proxy networks, but critics say that compliance has simplest been brief and selective.

India has attempted to make the Kashmir dispute an international trouble by tying it to the combat in opposition to terrorism round the world and painting Pakistan as a state that supports terrorism. This picture hurts Pakistan's recognition in Afghanistan and elsewhere (Misra, 2010).

Precis of outcomes on Afghanistan

Region of Effect: Result

Internal security, militant spillover, TTP activities, border instability, diplomatic autonomy, and foreign coverage restrained with the aid of the contention among India and Pakistan troubles with counterterrorism Pakistan and the Taliban and TTP have different goals that warfare with each different. delay in development projects that had been behind schedule or made political with the aid of outdoor have an effect on Tensions between ethnic organizations and tribes outside actors take gain of fault lines, making troubles with

governance even worse. Afghanistan is stuck in a militant proxy recreation that maintains occurring due to the unsolved Kashmir dispute and the India-Pakistan strategic competition. that is because Afghanistan is making an attempt to keep its independence (Jalal Zai, 2021).

Diplomacy within the area and modifications in approach

The Kashmir difficulty has long gone past the enmity among India and Pakistan and turn out to be an essential aspect in determining regional diplomatic ties and safety relationships. these realignments have had an instantaneous and indirect effect on Afghanistan's location in South Asia and crucial Asia, specially as the United States tries to balance its very own rebuilding with out of doors affects (Misra, 2010).

India's strategic Boom in Important and South Asia

India's policy in the vicinity, particularly with Afghanistan, is extensively encouraged through its opposition with Pakistan and the strategic effects of the Kashmir battle (Misra, 2010). India has promised extra than \$three billion to help Afghanistan develop. This cash might be used to create things like the Zaranj-Delaram expressway, the Salma Dam (additionally referred to as the Afghan-India Friendship Dam), and the new Parliament building in Kabul. This is not only for humanitarian reasons; it is also to offset Pakistan's strength and make India a stabilizer in the area.

India and Iran worked collectively to build the Chabahar Port in Iran, which gives people a way to get to Afghanistan without going through Pakistan. that is a geopolitical flow towards the China-Pakistan monetary corridor (CPEC) and gives India a keyway to visit Afghanistan and central Asia (Tellis, 2022).

India has also trained the Afghan country wide protection and safety Forces (ANDSF), which indicates that it is eager to tackle a larger function in regional security despite the fact that Pakistan is against it.

Pakistan's Strategic Depth Doctrine and Afghan Coverage

The concept of "strategic intensity" has lengthy guided Pakistan's mindset to Afghanistan. The intention is to have a friendly or submissive Afghan authorities that doesn't again Indian activities (Yusuf, 2014).

Assist for the Taliban

Pakistan has been suspected of giving the Afghan Taliban a secure area to live and assist for years, even though it has publicly denied it. that is seen as a way to guard itself from Indian affect in Afghanistan and as a way to stress Kabul (Jalal Zai, 2021).

Border diplomacy: Pakistan's attempts to fence off the Durand Line and make border controls respectable have generated problems with Afghan officials, who don't apprehend the line as valid.

Balancing overseas policy: Pakistan is getting in the direction of China, in particular through the China-Pakistan monetary corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and street Initiative (BRI) as an entire. This alignment affects Afghanistan's alternatives for trade and diplomacy with different international locations in the location (Tellis, 2022).

China's Twin Involvement in India and Pakistan

China has a unique position inside the strategic surroundings of the area:

Sturdy ties with Pakistan: The China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) goes thru Gilgit-Baltistan, that's part of the bigger Kashmir location that India claims. This no longer handiest makes Kashmir a global trouble, but it also puts Chinese pursuits on the middle of the fight (Tellis, 2022).

Pragmatic Engagement with India: China continues business and economic hyperlinks with India although there are problems along the border. This indicates that China can have both hostile and pleasant family members with India. but its help for Pakistan on Kashmir in multilateral boards has made it tougher for India to move diplomatically.

China has been running more closely with the Taliban because the U.S. left Afghanistan. this is as it wants to defend its financial interests and prevent radicalism from spreading to Xinjiang (Jalal Zai, 2021).

The Function of the U.S. and NATO in Strategic Balancing

the United States and NATO had been in Afghanistan for 20 years, at some point of which era: (Riedel, (2011). The Kashmir war made it harder for the U.S. to do diplomacy. Washington attempted to keep suitable members of the family with each India and Pakistan with the aid of not taking aspects on Kashmir, even though it needed Pakistan for deliver routes and facts (Misra, 2010).

Pakistan saw India and the U.S. operating together on protection, especially via QUAD and 2+2 talks, as a risk. This made Pakistan even greater depending on China (Riedel, 2011).

After the U.S. left Afghanistan in 2021, the strategic vacuum turned into filled by means of regional powers including Russia, Iran, China, and Turkey. Afghanistan became part of a multipolar geopolitical contention that changed into rendered greater risky by the conflict among India and Pakistan.

Responses from Iran and Relevant Asia

Iran works with both India (Chabahar) and the Taliban to protect its border and the Shia humans that live in Afghanistan (Jalal Zai, 2021). The principal Asian Republics, especially Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, are cautious approximately their relationships with India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan for you to guide projects in an effort to connect the two international locations, just like the TAPI pipeline. however, the Kashmir conflict and the competition between India and Pakistan sluggish down development within the region (Misra, 2010).

Afghanistan's Diplomatic Obstacles

Afghanistan's foreign policy is weak because it can't stay impartial inside the fight between India and Pakistan:

Reliance on external aid: both India and Pakistan supply useful resource and improvement cash, however they once in a while come with situations that are not inside the fine interest of the nations. This makes it tougher for Afghanistan to choose its very own protection priorities.

Fair (2014) says that acquaintances took benefit of internal divisions.

India and Pakistan have both tried to advantage electricity over unique Afghan ethnic businesses (as an instance, India with Tajiks and Pakistan with Pashtuns). This has broken apart Afghan countrywide identification and made it harder for the USA to work collectively diplomatically.

restricted regional boards: India and Pakistan's animosity has stored SAARC mainly inactive, which has made it tough for Afghanistan to participate in vital South Asian local diplomacy (Misra, 2010).

Adjustments in Regions and what would Possibly Manifest in the Future

What the Situation Approach for Afghanistan

India and Pakistan are becoming along higher over Kashmir. opportunity of stability in Afghanistan and cooperation amongst several nations Worsening of family members among India and Pakistan extra proxy wars on Afghan land, slowing off of progress China-brokered efforts in the place opportunity of infrastructural development, but at the price of independence The U.S. is getting involved within the place again. Balanced international relations, however, probably to begin proxy alignments again.

The Kashmir dispute has affected the overseas coverage of each India and Pakistan. It has also brought in worldwide and nearby forces in a geopolitical contention that is essentially impacted by using geography, ideology, and resource politics. Afghanistan, while now not a foremost birthday celebration to the dispute, is one of the most profoundly impacted 0.33-birthday celebration states, ensnared within the

diplomatic crossfire and realignment dynamics initiated by means of the protracted Indo-Pakistani struggle over Kashmir (Misra, 2010).

Conclusion

The Kashmir issue, formerly visible as a simple territorial dispute among India and Pakistan, has grown into a complex regional crisis with consequences that pass far beyond the 2 countries. Those implications are maximum reported and rarely tested in Afghanistan, a country whose strategic function and inner instability make it specifically vulnerable to the effects of this protracted battle (Fair, 2014).

The examination at some stage in the 4 main areas of this paper famous a constant and disturbing truth: Afghanistan has been an inadvertent but unavoidable sufferer of the India-Pakistan competition, especially because it plays out within the context of Kashmir.

Using the nearby safety complex principle as a place to begin, we will understand how security troubles that an effect on many nations have, like Afghanistan, may entice all of them in a system of instability. India and Pakistan were enemies for a long term over Kashmir, which makes it not possible for Afghanistan to live neutral or avoid the influences of their war. This interconnectedness suggests up in proxy wars, opposition between diplomats, and stalled progress (Rubin, 2002).

While looking at India's strategic position, it is glaring that its efforts in Afghan infrastructure, diplomatic outreach, and security cooperation are not just for the sake of assisting others; they may be additionally part of a bigger plan to challenge Pakistan's have an effect on. India's determination to the Chabahar Port and different regional gateways shows that it wants to exploit Afghanistan as a strategic transit and impact sector, heading off Pakistan completely. Those tasks are right for Afghanistan's growth, but they make the use of an even more caught up within the combat for energy among India and Pakistan. On the alternative facet, Pakistan's commitment is more often than not based on the way it sees its very own strategic depth and existence as a country. Pakistan has used Afghanistan as a buffer state to hold India from surrounding it by way of helping the Taliban and controlling the border. The concern of India being in Afghanistan whether real or imagined, has made Pakistan take movements that have made its neighbor much less strong even as claiming to defend its personal countrywide hobby (Yusuf, 2014).

Afghanistan has been harm with the aid of these rivals: it has emerged as greater divided, violent extremism has grown, local change has fallen aside, and it has not been able to create a clean overseas policy identification. Afghan governments, both earlier than and after 2021, have had to stroll a great line between receiving assist and backing from India and coping with Pakistan's aggressive diplomacy and involvement over the border.

China, the USA, Iran, and the imperative Asian Republics are all concerned inside the Kashmir dispute of their own approaches, which makes the local state of affairs even more complex. Those international and local stakeholders make things even greater complicated, and they often act as catalysts in preference to resolving conflicts.

In the end, the Kashmir dispute has made South and imperative Asia much less stable by means of making it harder for countries inside the place to paintings together, slowing down financial integration, and making neighboring countries even extra suspicious of every other. Afghanistan isn't directly concerned inside the Kashmir dispute, but the ongoing battle has a poor impact on its sovereignty, development, and countrywide safety (Misra, 2010).

In a global in which the whole thing is connected, policymakers must take into account that bilateral conflicts cannot be checked out in a vacuum. If the Kashmir trouble isn't handled via verbal exchange, international relations, and local frameworks, it'll preserve spilling over into close by nations, setting peace in South Asia at risk for future years. For Afghanistan to emerge as a stable and impartial player, regional conflicts ought to be resolved collaboratively, and the Afghan population need to stop to be pawns within the strategic rivalries of outside powers.

References

- Ahmed, I. (2020). *Pakistan's foreign coverage: A historic overview*. Lahore: leading edge Books.
- Bose, S. (2013). *Kashmir: Roots of warfare, paths to peace*. Harvard college Press.
- Truthful, C. C. (2014). *Preventing to the stop: The Pakistan military's manner of warfare*. Oxford college Press.
- Ganguly, Š. (2001). *struggle endless: India-Pakistan tensions due to the fact that 1947*. Columbia college Press.
- Jalal Zai, M. K. (2021). *The Taliban and the Afghan destiny: internal dynamics and nearby implications*. Paramount Publishing.
- Jones, S. G. (2009). *Within the graveyard of empires: America's struggle in Afghanistan*. W. W. Norton & agency.
- Kapur, S. P. (2005). India and Pakistan's unstable peace: Why nuclear South Asia isn't like cold battle Europe. *Global Protection*, 30(2), 127–152. <https://fsi-live.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/kapur.pdf>
- Krepon, M., & Thompson, J. M. (2011). *Deterrence balance and escalation manage in South Asia*. Stimson middle.
- Misra, A. (2010). *War and peace in South Asia*. Cambridge college Press.
- Riedel, B. (2011). *Lethal embody: Pakistan, the us, and the future of the worldwide jihad*. Brookings group Press.
- Eleven. Rubin, B. R. (2002). *The fragmentation of Afghanistan: nation formation and disintegrate within the international machine*. Yale college Press.
- Siddiqa, A. (2007). *Army Inc.: inside Pakistan's navy economic system*. Pluto Press.
- South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP). (2023). *Kashmir assessment – 2023*. <https://www.satp.org>
- Tellis, A. J. (2022). *India's emerging security approach within the Indo-Pacific*. Carnegie Endowment for international Peace.
- Yusuf, M. (2014). *Pakistan's foreign policy and Afghanistan: Strategic intensity and beyond*. America Institute of Peace.