

## Opponent Review Thesis

### **Kashmir, the Last Twenty Years: Moving Towards the Future**

**By Hrishabh Sandilya**

The thesis focuses on the major events that have occurred in Kashmir in the last twenty years and analyses the implications of these events for contemporary situation and for the possible development in the future. The main objective of this paper is to discuss the main disputed issues and lay a framework for the conflict resolution. The resolution would empower not only the region of Kashmir itself, but also the whole subcontinent. The author uses an analytical method and elaborates the development from historical and geopolitical perspectives. Particularly, the geopolitical dimension broadens the framework of analysis and enables to create a wider picture of impacts and consequences on the conflict. The Cold War worsened the antagonism between India and Pakistan as each of the players was supported by different superpower. That is why in the post-Cold War period there is a greater chance for a resolution. Therefore, the geopolitical perspective is an added value to the knowledge base of understanding of the conflict.

Regarding the evaluation of the content and literature, the author uses mainly secondary bibliography but primary sources are missing or not mentioned in the list. I would also suggest expanding on theoretical perspective and including a chapter on i.e. social constructivism as mentioned towards the end of the paper. Furthermore, the paper does not include China and its position and interests in the conflict. As China claims a part of Kashmir, its views and activities in the region should be elaborated.

Despite these reservations, the author's analysis of the conflict is adequately deep and shows an extensive knowledge of the topic.

To conclude, I would recommend the thesis for its defence with the following evaluation: "excellent".

3 questions for the author of the paper:

1. How did the Kashmiri people perceive the US role in the conflict?
2. Do you think that the Kashmir conflict might restart as a consequence of the Iraqi war and the unsuccessful ISAF operation in Afghanistan?
3. What is the UN current role in the conflict and how has its role evolved? (Compare the Cold War and post-Cold War period).

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Signature:

