

UN: The United Nations



When, and Why?

- **When:** April 25, 1945
- **Why:** It was one of the allies' goals during WWII to create an international organization to ensure global collective security.

Where?

San Francisco, California



Present Day: New York City



Who?

- He was determined to make the United Nations a strong organization by ensuring that all major powers be involved.
- **Discussed at the Atlantic Charter.**

Franklin D Roosevelt
Founder of United Nations Organisation



32nd President of the United States

In office

March 4, 1933 – April 12, 1945

It's Main Purpose (3.3.1)

1. Maintain international peace & settle disputes
2. Develop equal rights & national self determination
3. Solve social, economic & humanitarian problems

Some of it's basic Principles are:

- A. The equality of all members
- B. All members fulfill its UN obligations
- C. Settle disputes peacefully
- D. Refrain the use of force against any state
- E. Help the UN in any action it undertakes

Video:

- [United Nations Explained](#) (4:00)

Why did the League of Nations fail?



Download from
Dreamstime.com

This watermarked comp image is for previewing purposes only.



ID 22537418

© 2shoes | Dreamstime.com

Answer:

- The **League of Nations** had been too weak to stop aggression because major powers were unwilling to give up their self interest to such an international organization.

Challenges faced by the UN

- The main problem was how to accommodate the national self interest of large & small powers.
- What was needed was a formula that would give major powers a greater role in the United Nations while still recognizing the need of all countries to have a voice.

Answer!!!!

- To ensure American commitment the headquarters was put in the United States.
- To divide the UN into TWO parts:

1. General Assembly:

- All members met in the assembly to present their positions on issues.
- Each country has **1 VOTE** (most decisions are reached by a simple majority)
- On questions of peace or expulsion of a member, a majority of 2/3's is required.
- Critics say the General Assembly is an ineffective “**talk shop**” where nations simply play politics.



2. Security Council:

- The real power behind the UN is the Security Council, which is made up of **TWO** groups:
 - A. Five permanent members: **China, France, Britain, Russia** and the **United States**. Permanent members have veto power which is the right to stop any UN action.
 - B. Ten non-permanent members: elected for two year terms
- **The major responsibility of the Security Council is to maintain peace and security.**



Security Members - 2016

Note:

- It can order a ceasefire, impose economic sanctions and authorize the use of military force against an aggressor.
- Critics point out that the **VETO** power of the permanent members is a weakness of the UN.

- They argue that countries will use the veto to block any UN action that is not in their self interest.
- During the Cold War the Security Council was often deadlocked as the U.S. and Soviets often used the veto against each other.

- **It must be pointed out that the veto power ensured the continuing commitment of all major powers and that there has been no large scale wars since its creation.**

4.2.1 Terms:

- **Uniting for Peace Resolution:**

- U.N. resolution that gave the General Assembly power to deal with issues of international aggression if the Security Council is deadlocked.

- **Veto:**

- The right to reject a proposal or forbid an action.

4.2.3 Korea: Containment or UN

- What were the (a) underlying causes and (b) immediate causes of the Korean War?
- How did the U.N. become involved in the Korean War?
- Was the Korean War more a U.N. or U.S. military action (Fig.6.5 page 172)?
- What was the outcome of the conflict?
- Was the Korean War American containment or U.N. peacekeeping?

6.1.1 Terms:

- **Human Rights:**

- The freedom granted to all people protecting them from unlawful arrest, torture, or execution.

- **Ethnic Cleansing:**

- the displacement or murder of one ethnic group by another.

Peacemaker

- Involves **direct** military action; when an outside force intervenes in order to stop a conflict; usually requires a massive military intervention.
- Ex: Korea War 1950 - 1953

Peacekeeper

- Occurs when both sides of the conflict agree to stop fighting and accept a token force to **monitor** the ceasefire agreement.
- Their presence is mainly symbolic and therefore they are not heavily armed.
- Ex: Suez Canal Crisis 1956

6.1.2 Peacekeeping Roles

- **THREE** peacekeeping roles that UN forces are sometimes called upon to perform in trouble areas of the world:
 - A. Mediation of disputes between conflicting parties.
 - B. Deployment of military forces to maintain peace in civil or international wars.
 - C. Deployment of military forces to ensure distribution of humanitarian aid.



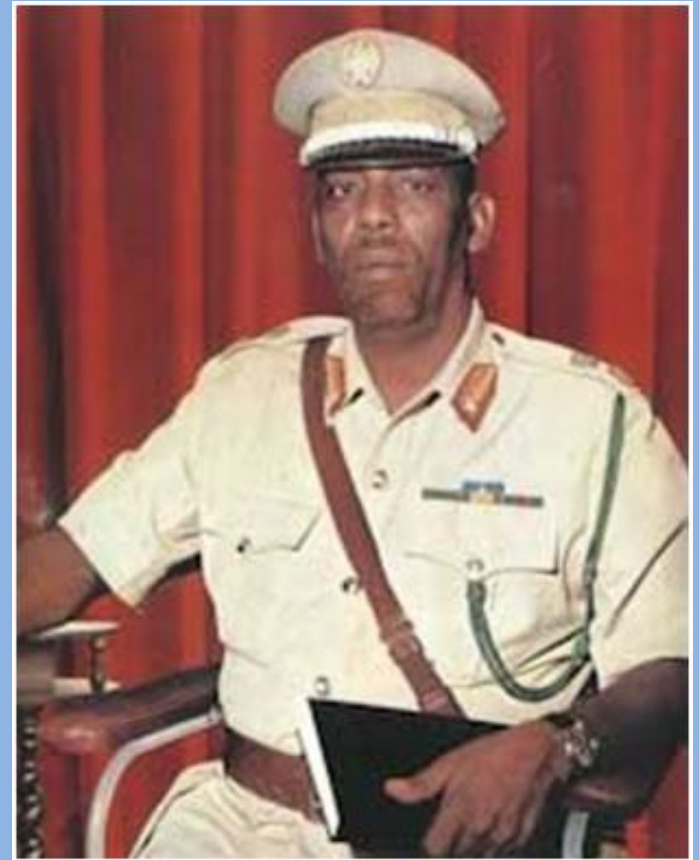
6.1.3 Examples of Peacekeeping

1. Somalia:



Background:

- The Republic of Somalia (Africa) was created in 1960; 9 years later there was a military coup.
- For the next 20 years under the rule of a dictator (**General Barre**) democracy was eliminated, industries were nationalized, and human rights were abused.



- In 1988, civil war broke out in the drought stricken country as Somali clans opposed Barre.
- By 1991, Barre had control of Northern Somalia but **WARLORDS** competed for political power in the South.

- Part of Mogadishu, in the South, was divided between Abgall (5000 guerillas) and Aidid (10,000 guerillas).
- Famine spread throughout Somalia and **300,000 to 500,000** people died.



UN Involvement



- Thousands fled to Mogadishu but the warlords controlled the **FOOD** (supplied by UN) only giving it to people who supported them.
- These warlords also opposed the idea of UN military forces entering the country.
- Despite the best efforts of groups like **UNICEF** and **Red Cross** food destined for famine victims continued to be looted and used by those engaged on the civil war.

- **By June 1992, 6 million faced starvation.**
- In 1992, with **Operation Restore Hope**, the UN authorized the use of military force to ensure food reached the people of Somalia.
- In December a U.S. led operation arrived in Somalia which put UN soldiers in direct confrontation with the warring factions.

Black Hawk Down (2001)

- In 1993, 18 U.S. soldiers were killed and dragged through the streets of Mogadishu.
- [Movie Trailer](#)
- **As a result the UN mission in Somalia changed from humanitarian aid to demobilizing warring factions.**



- Thousands died in clashes including dozens of peacekeepers.
- The UN was unable to maintain a cease fire, and so the mission ended in failure.
- **UN troops were withdrawn in March 1995.***
- By 2000, the UN had set up a Transitional National Government to draw a constitution and hold elections.

2. Bosnia-Herzegovina (Yugoslavia)



Background:

- **Josef Broz Tito** ruled Yugoslavia from 1945 to 1980.
- Under Tito the country made up of **SIX** republics: **Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia** and **Serbia** were prosperous, peaceful and independent.
- By 1990 (WHY ????), the country had broken apart into competing ethnic and political groups.



- **Yugoslavia's breakup became a reality in June 1991 when Croatia and Slovenia separated from Yugoslavia and declared themselves independent.**
- The **Serbian - dominated** Yugoslav army attempted to prevent the separations but failed.
- Fighting raged throughout 1991 resulting in the deaths of thousands.

- By the end of 1991 it was clear that the Serbia had failed to prevent the disintegration of Yugoslavia.
- **The Serbs were now determined to prevent the separation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.**

- **The population of Bosnia was 44% Muslim, 31% Serbian and 17% Croatian, the remainder being other ethnic groups.**
- The Muslims and Croats voted in favour of independence in 1992.

- **Serbia, unwilling to see the largest group of Serbs outside Serbia become a minority, within a new country, launched a full scale assault on Bosnia in an attempt to eliminate ALL Muslims and Croats.**
- People were driven out of their homes, and houses were burned down to prevent the return Muslims or Croats.

- This policy of forcing ethnic groups out of a region became known as **ETHNIC CLEANSING.**
- The situation in the former Yugoslavia soon attracted world attention and intervention.

UN Involvement



- The UN demanded an end to the violence **BUT** was ignored.
- The UN imposed harsh **ECONOMIC SANCTIONS** against Serbia and sent UN peacekeeping forces to Bosnia to protect the airport to protect relief shipments.
- However these forces did not have the ability to impose peace.

- Fighting continued throughout 1992 and by 1993 Serbia was expelled from the UN.
- UN peacekeeping forces were now threatened.

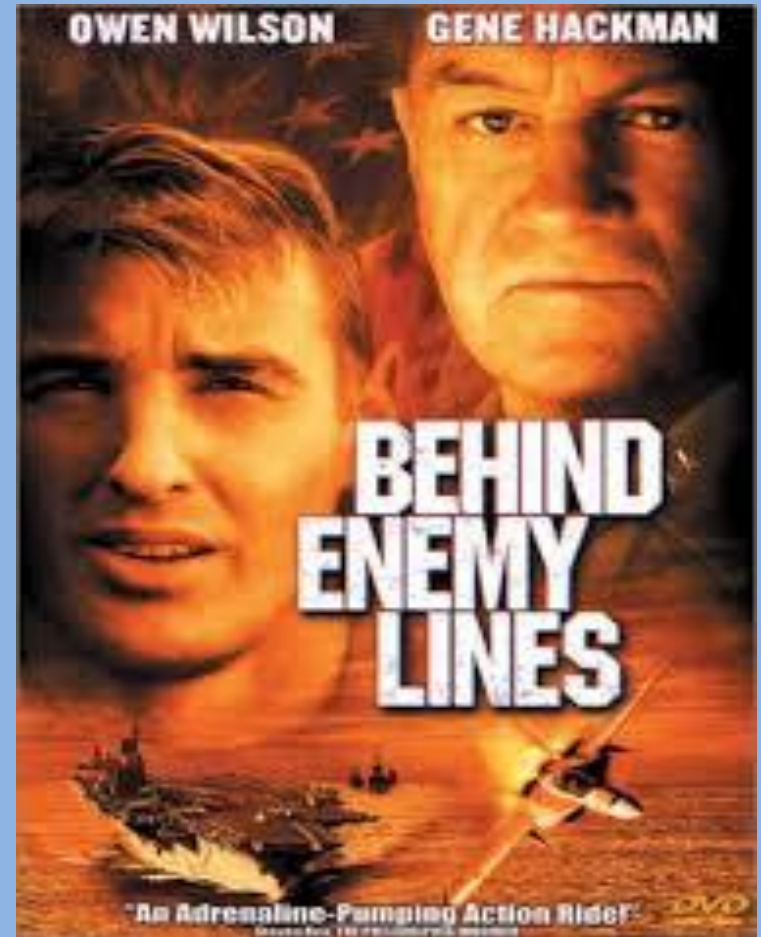
Results:

- Finally the U.S. was able to convince **NATO** to intervene militarily.
- In the end the region became a confusing mix of NATO peacemaking and UN peacekeeping—both failed to provide a lasting peace.
- **The Serbs would be defeated in 1999 by NATO when they invaded Kosovo.**



Behind Enemy Lines (2001)

- [Movie Trailer](#)



3. Rwanda:



Background:

- In Rwanda, the predominant ethnic group is HUTU.
- They make up about **85%** of the population, while TUTSI make up the remaining **15 %**.
- Since the 1600's, hereditary **Tutsi** kings ruled Rwanda.
- **In 1959, seeking equality for all groups in Rwanda, the majority Hutu tribe overthrew the Tutsi monarchy.**

- After 4 years of war, Rwanda was declared a republic, and in 1962 the nation gained its independence.
- The majority Hutu's formed new government under **President Gregoire Kayibanda**, and held power under a coup in 1973.
- Supported by the Rwanda military, **General Juvenal Habyarimana** became president and instituted a new constitution, which limited the presidency to members of the Hutu tribe.

- Hutu's forced about 150,000 Tutsi's into exile.



The Conflict 1990's:

- The Tutsi exiles formed the **Rwandan Patriotic Front** (RPF) and invaded Rwanda in 1990.
- The Rwandan Patriotic Front continued its campaign of hostilities until 1993, when the government of Rwanda and the RPF signed the **Arusha Peace Agreement** - a small UN force was called in to oversee
- This agreement gave the **United Nations** a broad role to play as a Neutral International Force (NIF).

UN Involvement



- The force would supervise the implementation of the agreement during a transitional period, which was to last **22 months**.
- **Canadian General Romeo Dallaire** advised the UN that tensions between the Hutu's and Tutsi's were increasing.
- He requested more troops and a mandate to use force in response to crimes against humanity, such as executions and attacks on displaced persons or refugees.

BOY DEPT. 117

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL



BASED ON THE BOOK BY
LIEUTENANT GENERAL HOWARD CALLAINE

www.paramount.com

- He told the UN that weapons distribution among the Hutu's was escalating, **terrorist activities** were increasing, and a death squad target lists were being drawn up.
- The commander warned of catastrophic consequences, but his requests for additional UN forces and changes to the rules of engagement were **denied**.

Time to Think:

- What does the source indicate about Dallaire's feelings about the UN response in Rwanda?

“Why is it that the black Africans, sitting there being slaughtered by the thousands, get nothing? Why is it when a bunch of white Europeans get slaughtered in Yugoslavia you can't put enough capability in there?”

1994

The Spark:

- **The April 1994, assassination of President Habyarimana of Rwanda and the Hutu president of neighbouring Burundi unleashed Hutu fury.**



Results:

- Unable to achieve a cease fire, and denied the mandate to address the widespread massacres and chaos, the entire **UNAMIR** operation was nearly suspended.
- Most of the UN peacekeepers from various countries were evacuated.
- Over a 13 week period, the Hutu-dominated army killed more than 800,000 Tutsi's.





- It became clear that extremist Hutu's intended **GENOCIDE** of the entire Rwandan Tutsi population.
- The Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front, along with tens of thousands of Tutsi's from Burundi, eventually won military control in Rwanda and implemented a ceasefire.
- **By March 1996 all UN forces had left Rwanda.**

Lasting Effects:

- In other words, this was a **peacekeeping** mission that turned into a **peacemaking** mission, and the UN was not able to adjust to the change.
- **Therefore the UN failed.**
- The US-led UN failure in Somalia was the biggest background reason for the reluctance of any nation, particularly the US, to commit more troops to Rwanda.
- **The problem for the UN is that it needs the US more than the US needs the UN.**

- A rift between the US and UN could have serious implications for the future.

Hotel Rwanda - 2004

- [Movie Trailer \(2:19\)](#)



Rwanda Genocide Documentary – 14:56

Lessons of Rwanda

- A peacekeeping mission that was understaffed.
- UN leaders should have listened to Dallaire's requests (**they didn't because they had lost troops in Somalia**).
- Onset of genocide should have changed mission from humanitarian peacekeeping to peacemaking.

4. India-Pakistan:

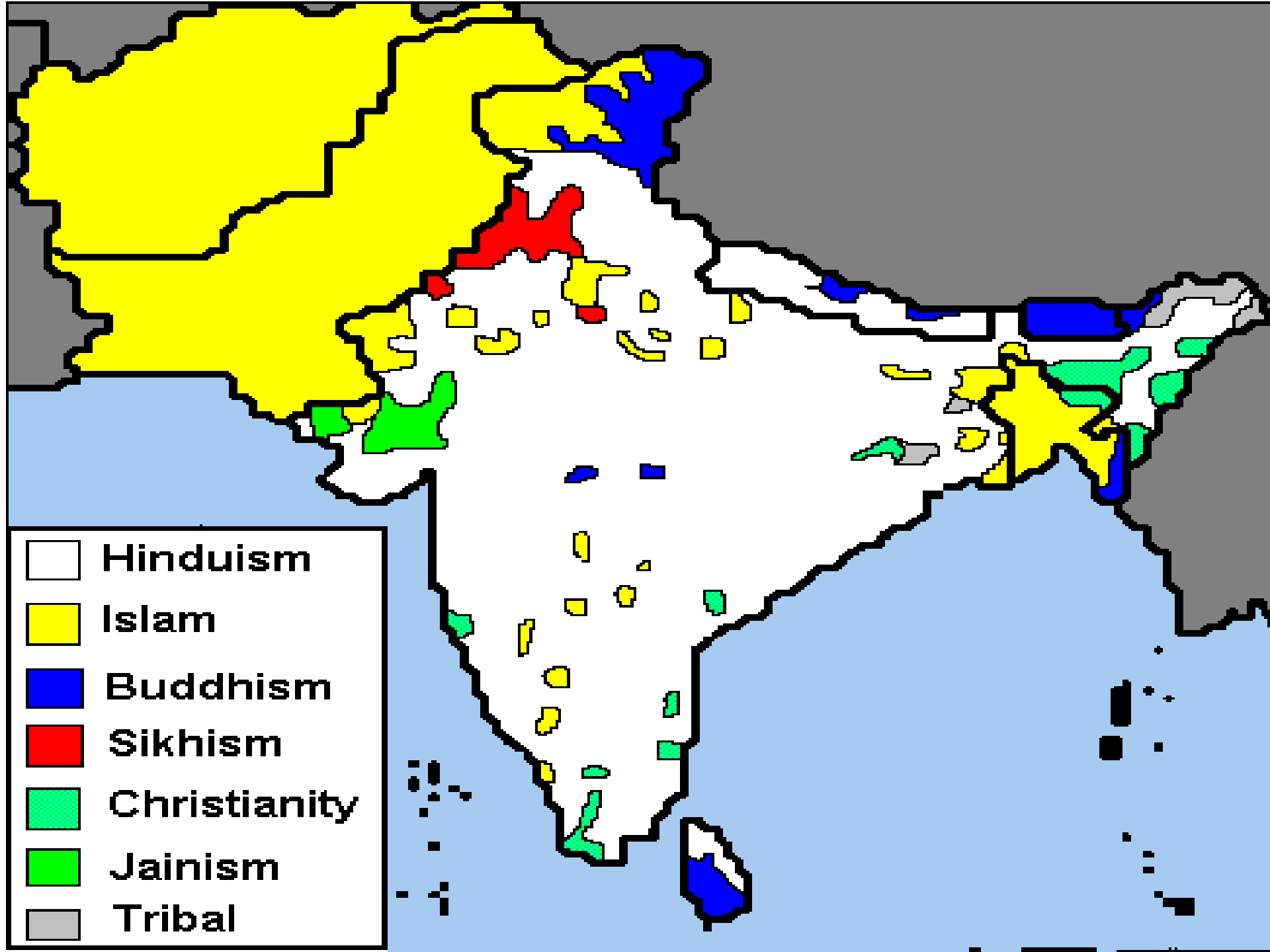


Video Time:

- [Why India and Pakistan Hate Each Other? \(2:31\)](#)
- [Why Are Pakistan And India Fighting Over Kashmir? \(2:11\)](#)

Background:

- When the British pulled out of the Indian subcontinent after WWII the region was divided into two countries along religious lines: India (**Hindu**) and Pakistan (**Muslim**).
- At that time the region of **Kashmir** was given to **India**, but conflict developed as the population of Kashmir is mostly Muslim (and not Hindu like most of India).



- Pakistan and India have always disagreed over India's control of **Kashmir**.
- In the 1980's Muslim militants in Kashmir have pushed for separation.
- India accused Pakistan of supporting the campaign while Pakistan claims the Muslim Kashmiris were simply demanding self-determination.

- By 1990 the situation deteriorated as hundreds of thousands of Muslims took part in demonstrations.
- Indian troops fled into the region with the result being rising civilian casualties.
- As well Indian and Pakistani troops skirmished along the border.
- The future of Kashmir remains a source of friction between India and Pakistan.

Future???

- Towards the end of the 1990's tensions were so high that a nuclear war seemed inevitable.
- In 1998 both countries began testing their arsenals of nuclear weapons.

