

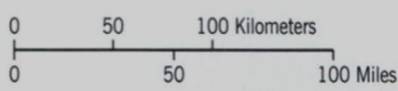
Historical Security Council (1962)

The Sino-Indian War



- International boundary
- Traditional boundary of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir
- Line of Control
- Internal administrative boundary
- Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir
- Pakistani-controlled areas of Kashmir

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Introduction

The Sino Indian War of 1962 was a geopolitical dispute between the People's Republic of China, and India in the region of Himalaya, East of Bhutan, and West of Nepal. The conflict took place between 20th October 1962, and 21st November 1962. Since the Partition of India in 1949, when most of the Kashmir region was divided between Pakistan and India, China received a minor part of the region, escalating tensions between the governments. Further escalation of additional political disagreements regarding the frontiers in the Kashmir region, resulted in the eventual invasion by the Chinese Army of the Indian Territory on the 20th October. Following the crossing of the McMahon Line, which was established in 1914 by the two countries, the fighting would not come to an end, as China did not seek peaceful negotiations in the times of the Cuban Missile Crisis. However on the 21st November, 1962, the Chinese forces ceased fire, and reverted back to its pre-war frontiers, ending the Sino Indian War of 1962.

Definition of Key Terms

Cold War

The Cold War refers to the period of time following World War II, where the World's superpowers of the United States of America (USA) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) battled on the political, economic and propaganda fronts. Historians argue the beginning date



of the Cold War, however multiple historians refer to 1947, as the initial year of the conflict. However, in the 1980's and 1990's, as Communism started to be weakened, facing many revolts in countries worldwide, such as the Solidarity movement in Poland (1980-1989), Fall of the Berlin Wall (1989), and the Baltic Way (1987-1991). The Cold War eventually came to an end in 1991.

Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a major confrontation between the USA and USSR, following the discovery of a nuclear-armed field constructed by the Soviet government, on the territories of Cuba. The event occurred between October 22nd, 1962 and November 20th, 1962, hence in the same time as the Sino-Indian War. It must be noted, that the government of China was unwilling to hold any negotiations regarding peace with India, until the ceasefire by the Chinese force. The Cuban missile crisis had great importance on the history of the United Nations (UN), as it sparked the initiations of negotiations to limit the production and the use of nuclear weaponry.

Communism (Political Ideology)

Communism was a political ideology developed by Karl Marx and then Friedrich Engels in the 19th century. The origins of communism are seen in the books "The Communist Manifesto" (1848) and "Das Kapital" (1867). The ideology was adapted by the USSR, following Lenin's and the Bolsheviks' seizure of power in Russia, as the October Revolution in November 1917 came to a end. However other significant examples of communism are the leadership of Soviet Joseph Stalin (1924-1953), and the Chinese leadership of Mao Zedong (1943-1976).

Status Quo Ante Bellum

The term Status Quo Ante Bellum is a Latin phrase meanings "the states existing before the



war". The term refers to the revers of territorial gains or losses during a conflict, or war. Moreover, the status refers to the restoration of the previous social, and economic norms. Therefore governments, laws, social norms, trade agreements, financial stabilities must be restored to its pre-war state. In case of the Sino-Indian War, following the ceasefire by the Chinese forces, the new border between the states was established. It was called the Line of Actual Control (LAC), becoming the new frontier between the countries, therefore not fully implementing the Status Quo Ante Bellum.

McMahon Line

The McMahon Line was indication of the Southern Chinese border established during the Shimla Conference (October 1913 - July 1914), negotiated between Tibet and Great Britain. However during the negotiations, the Chinese representatives refused to sign any agreement, as it would not recognize the independence of Tibet. However, due to lack of power on the International scale, China was unable to come to agreement, and border was established, holding the name of the chief British negotiator, Sir Henry McMahon.

General Overview

As mentioned earlier, the dispute between People's Republic of China, and India, was centered around the geo-political reasonings. Historically, China associated the region as Chinese, however following the Shimla Conference, it was taken away from them. Moreover, additional motifs of the Chinese army were to expand their influence in Asia following the loss to Japan in the Second Sino Japanese War.

Partition of India 1947

Following World War II (WWII), India and Pakistan gained independence following British Rule, through the Partition of India in 1947. The division of land between Pakistan and India was



achieved following the Mountbatten Plan (June 1947), where interests of the Hindu and Muslim populations were represented by National Congress and All-India Muslim League, respectively. Moreover, the Western border of the Kashmir region, was the frontier with China's region *Aksai Chin*. The partition of India affected the political and administrative structures in the region, thereby increasing tensions between India and China. With the growing communist rule in China in the 1940's and 1950's, the interest for including Tibet into China have increased.

Collective interest in Tibet

Tibet is currently referred to as the autonomous region of China. It occupies the mountainrange in Central Asia, which includes Mount Everest. In 1914 during the Simla Convention, the Chinese delegation was rejected of the idea where Tibet is officially a Chinese state. Thereby during the conference, British and the Tibetean representatives drew the border between British India, Tibet and China called the McMahon Line. Before the 1950's, the country was isolated, preserving its original culture, and the religious community of Tibetan Buddhism. Moreover it had little communication with the outside communities, resulting in minimal economic development. However, in the early 1950's, People's Republic of China invaded Tibet, as they believed Tibet was a part of China for centuries, and that the leadership put the Tibetean population in serfdom. However Western public opinion saw Tibet as an independent entity. Following the Uprising of Tibet, Dalai Lama, spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet, exiled the country in 1959. India provided him with asylum, as they believed that Tibet should be an independent state, and did not approve the Chinese invasion from 1950. This further escalated the tension between the countries, as China saw this activity as aggressive towards the state, and interfered with the Chinese internal affairs. In the next 3 years leading up to the Sino-Indian War, the Chinese government initiated different incidents, and clashes to spark up greater conflict between the two nations.

Kongka Pass Incident

In October 1959, Chinese forces kidnapped the Indian patrol party. In the end, 10 men were



killed, and 10 others managed to escape the kidnapping. Initially on the night of October 20th, 1959, two police patrol men were kidnapped. The Chinese forces justified the kidnapping as they believed the patrol had crossed the border at Kongka Pass. As the emergency search was initiated. A group of 20 men were sent out, however on top of the hill, the group met the 6th Cavalry Regiment, who initiated shooting to the patrol following negotiations. In total, 9 men have been killed. Although no fighting began from the incident, the event had major effects on international relations between the countries. Due to the unresolved issue between countries, the Indian public sought for the signature of the Indian defense minister Krishna Menon, who was unable to receive rightful repayments for the loss of lives. Finally, the Kongka Pass Incident, was the final reason for the beginning of the Sino-Indian War.

Summary

In conclusion of the outcomes of the war, the biggest impact for the initiation of the conflict was the countries' disagreements on the borders of the nations. The increasing tensions between countries over the sovereignty of Tibet caused further escalation of the countries relations. The political disagreements resulted in the beginning of the war on October 20th 1962. In total, through the war, the Chinese government raised an army of 80,000 men, whereas the Indian army consisted of 22,000 soldiers. The war came to an end, when the Chinese government demanded a cease fire on November 21st 1962. According to Indian sources, the deaths have reached 2,750, whereas the Chinese sources suggest the casualties have reached 6,500 killed.

Major Parties Involved

People's Republic of China

Since the rise of the Communist party, and its leader Mao Zedong, the People's Republic of China started to show its significance on the international stage. China asserted its presence on the



international stage, through the invasion of Tibet in 1950. The development of the Zedong's regime resulted in the increase of tensions between India and People's Republic of China in the region. Moreover, following the unsuccessful discussions between Great Britain and Chinese delegates at the Shimla Conference in 1914 over the adjustment of the Chinese frontiers, the government of China wished to regain these territories. Therefore it began to initiate a series of crises, or incidents to seek a reason for crossing the McMahon's Line.

India

The Partition of India in 1947, gave it independence from the British Rule, following the 89 years of colonization. The partition resulted in the division of Western Indian land, called Kashmir, creating cultural disputes between the Muslims and the Hindu. Furthermore, India aimed to keep as much of the region to itself, as it believed that the citizens of Kashmir should be part of India, hence claiming authority over region of Ladakh, and Jammu. In order to strengthen its goals of sustaining land, the government of India implemented the "Forward Policy" in 1959, which aimed to strengthen the area in military force along the Chinese and Pakistani border.

Timeline of Key Events

March 25th, 1914 Simla Convention (Establishment of the McMahon Line)

The convention created disputes between China, and the British India, as the agreement allowed for the creation of Tibet in the region. However due to Chinese lack of recognition of Tibet as a independent nation, more disputed followed regarding the borders.

August 15th, 1947 Partition of India



Following the Indian independence from the British rule, many concerns regarding the division of territories have risen. The countries in the disagreement were India, Pakistan and China

October 6th, 1950 Chinese Invasion of Tibet

Invasion of Tibet by the Chinese army was seen as the assertion of power by the Chinese government. Moreover, it was seen as act to regain land, following the Simla Convention in 1914

May 23rd, 1951 China successfully annexed Tibet

April 29th, 1954 Panchsheel Agreement

The agreement between India and China intended to promote peace in the area, as neither party wanted to be involved in an armed conflict. However, the question of the frontiers in the Tibet region was still unresolved

March 10th, 1959 Tibetan Uprising

Following the loss of independence due to the Chinese invasion in 1951, the local population sought to fight the Chinese authorities by beginning armed revolts.

March 31st, 1959 Dalai Lama's Exile

Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibet, fled the country due to the armed conflict in the region. He found his exile in India, resulting in the great weakening of the Sino-Indian relations.

October 1959 Kongka Pass Incident

The killing of 9 India patrol troops, and injuring many others, severely increased tensions on the Sino-Indian border.

November 2nd, 1961 Indian Forward Policy

October 20th, 1962 Outbreak of the Sino-Indian War

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events



- India's Appeal to the UN, 19th November 1962.

The Appeal of the Indian government, was raised as the consequence of the increasing strength of the Chinese army in the Aksai Chin region. The appeal aimed to initiate settlement talks seeking ceasefire

- UNSC Meeting on the Sino-Indian War, 20th November 1962

The discussion of the Security Council began following the Indian appeal to the UN. Primary talks settled around understanding the causes of the conflict, and seeking peace in the region.

It must be noted, that throughout the Sino-Indian war, there has been no resolution created by the United Nations, however there have been relevant discussions held by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Moreover, the discussions of the UNSC and the UN have been limited, as tensions between the countries have de-escalated.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Aksai Chin region was divided as the McMahon Line was established in 1914. Following the Partition of India in 1947, there has been little intervention by the UN in the region. Following the implementation of the McMahon line, the division of land could not be accepted by the Chinese government. This resulted in many disputes between India and the People's Republic of China, until the outbreak of the war in 1962. The division of land was unsuccessful in keeping peace in the region, as often countries clashed in small disputes, such as the ones mentioned in the timeline of events.

Possible Solutions



As the whole debate is set in 1962, many solutions such as sanctions, organizations or the LAC were not implemented yet. Therefore the delegates should focus on creating solutions to focus in these areas specifically. However in order for the methods to be successful, the delegates should consider the cultural, and religious background of the belligerents, as the region of Kashmir is vulnerable to differences in beliefs of the citizens.

Firstly, when implementing sanctions, the delegates can consider the severity of the sanctions on the belligerents of the war. Moreover, if implemented, the sanctions should target specific economic areas, in order to be successful and directly affect the issue. In an example, restricting economic activities of important firms on the international stage, or restricting the production and transportation of weaponry. However delegates should consider detailed plans on the effectiveness of such measures, in order to not interfere with humanitarian rights, and countries legislations.

Secondly, international bodies, or organizations in the area, or on the global scheme, could help with restricting actions of the military, helping to implement or create plans to uphold economic sanctions, allowing to target the issue quicker. Moreover, a separate organization could take over some of the responsibilities of the General Assembly, allowing the United Nations (UN) to solve and work on the greater number of issues simultaneously.

Thirdly, using the international body, the delegates should improve the effectiveness of the frontier between both nations. Increase of troops on the border, or tariffs limiting travel between the border could be one of the solutions, however delegates should think of a greater number of solutions that could help with targeting the issue.



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Appendix or Appendices

Although the event is a study of the past, there are multiple sources such as Britanica which include different perspectives on the topic, and give one insight. It must be noted that when researching, this event will be seen mostly from the perspective of post-revisionists historians who studied the region. Moreover, due to lack of access to the internet in the 1960's, currently the best resources on the war can be found in historians, or studies of different people following the event. Organizations such as "Free Tibet" study the event from a third person perspective.

