PREFACE

The two States of India and Pakistan were born in August 1947. India and Pakistan share a history of rivalry and conflict that spans over sixty years. The primary focus of their conflict has been the disputed territory of Kashmir, where the two nations fought wars in 1947-48 and 1965, and were a diplomatic confrontation drew them close to war again in 1990. Frequently confidence building efforts have worked to dampen hostility and convey the message that, although local commanders might occasionally engage in provocative action, national level leaders remain in control and will not be drawn into conflict. However, these measures have not eliminated the sources of friction, and the deadly spring 1999 battles along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir serve as a reminder that events on the ground in this remote region can sometimes force the hand of national decision-makers.

Even now it is not too late to tell the world of this fact and take necessary measures. But the operation now would be much more costly in terms of men and war materials because the Pakistan has built a strong army and developed nuclear power over the long period of time. But this cost may still be less than the cost we are incurring from continued hostility and cross-border terrorism in the form of continuous military deployment and killings of civil and military personnel. The everlasting issues of conflict between India and Pakistan could not be resolved so far to a satisfactory level.

It is against this backdrop that the present study is undertaken. The main objectives of this study are—

1. To examine unpleasant event of India’s partition in historical perspective.

2. To establish the worth of India’s partition in terms of the perception of great leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Mahatma Gandhi etc.
3. To analyse critically major dimensions of Indo-Pak relations and to find major hindrances that came in the way of peace process between India and Pakistan.

The present work is an analysis of Indo-Pak relations in post Nehru era. More specifically, it aims at the exploration of the condition of conflict and cooperation between the two countries. Almost uncertain and fragile nature of peace and cooperation in the region as a whole has been one of the most glaring aspects of contemporary South Asia. Somehow the traditional constructions of security based on geographical determinants of threat have still dominated the peace and security debate in the region. This continues to be so despite the end of cold war, disintegration of Soviet Union, reorientation of Non-Aligned Movement, nuclearisation of the sub-continent, globalisation led economic reforms, communication leap frogging and newer rapprochements and changing alignments emerging in the beginning of 21st century.

This roller-coaster type of relationship between the two giants of South Asia is one of the main reason for selecting this topic. Although there have been plenty of works on Indo-Pak relations but my approach is slightly different from the others. My approach during this entire work is firstly to identify and analyse the root causes of major irritants between the two, in their historical perspective and then to suggest some likely solutions to these deep rooted irritants.

The present study is largely based on both primary and secondary sources such as Lok Sabha Debates, Foreign Affairs Record, Rajya Sabha Debates, Reports of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence, selected speeches of both Indian and Pakistani leaders and political and military officials, Pakistani National Assembly Debates, White papers of Indian and Pakistani governments on the Kashmir issue. The relevant information has also been collected from published books, journals, newspapers and magazines. New facts have been found in the published or electronic media have been utilised to make the study up-to-date and balanced as far as possible.
Four wars were fought between India and Pakistan in 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1999, and they came close to war in 1987, 1990 and again they are on the border. The present study concentrates on political, diplomatic, strategic and economic relations of India and Pakistan against the backdrop of the process of normalisation. The study has explored and analysed the Indo-Pak relations in the post Nehru era in chronological order. Keeping in view the purpose of the present work, the entire study is divided into five chapters.

The first chapter is of introductory nature which begins with the discussion of the situation that led to the emergence of Pakistan. This is followed by Nehru’s approach with regard to India’s partition. The chapter ends with an outline of various types of problems that arose immediately after India’s partition. These problems include transfer of population and religious minorities, recovery or compensation for abandoned property of refugees in India and Pakistan, division of States assets at the time of partition, canal-water disputes, boundary disputes, and issue of integration of Princely States-Junagadh, Hyderabad, and Kashmir.

The second chapter throws light on perhaps the most vital area of tension: the issue of Kashmir. Since India and Pakistan gained independence in 1947, the former Princely State of Kashmir has been a continuing source of dispute between the two countries. Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue in the United Nations again and again because of the massive support given by the major powers in the U.N. I have also explained how the 1962 conflict of India and China brought a qualitative change in foreign policies of India and Pakistan, and how India realised the need to strengthen her defence system. In the later part of this chapter I deal with a list of factors that affected the situation in the region in different ways and finally led India and Pakistan to the war of 1965. The Tashkent Declaration of 1966 and its achievements in normalising sub-continental relations have been explored. Despite hopes that a solution to this conflict would ensure peace in the region, there has been no settlement of the Kashmir dispute, and dissonance still continues.
The biggest shock that Pakistan ever experienced in the history was the separation of East Pakistan in the form of an independent nation (known as Bangladesh), which has easily got the acceptance of nationhood not only from India but from other developed nations. Therefore, in chapter three an attempt has been made to identify the root causes which preceded the Indo-Pak war of 1971. The chapter proceeds with a critical appraisal of 1971 war between India and Pakistan. An assessment is also made of the Shimla Agreement to normalise the relations between India and Pakistan and the situation immediately arose out of that agreement.

Since the signing up of Shimla Agreement by India and Pakistan in 1972, various efforts have been made from both the sides to respect the modalities of the Shimla Agreement and to resolve all pending issues. However, lack of political will, sense of hatred and above all, the greed of acquiring Kashmir at any cost is reflected each time in their dialogues on the front of Pakistan. The peace process in general and the Lahore Declaration in particular got a shock when, in 1999, the Pakistani military, with the acquiescence of Nawaz Sharif, planned a military operation in Kashmir designed to revive the Kashmir issue on the international agenda and possibly jump-start the flagging insurgency.

The fourth chapter of the present study is thus devoted for a detail examination of Indo-Pak war in Kargil in 1999 and the situation emerged thereafter. Under post Kargil war situation military coup during the regime of Nawaz Sharif in Pakistan, Agra Summit, attack on World Trade Centre (W.T.O.), and reactions by India and Pakistan has also examine.

Finally, chapter five, the conclusion sums up the main findings of the study and present some positive suggestions which may be useful for the better relations, if followed honestly, for both India and Pakistan. Presently the violation of cease-fire agreement of 2003 by Pakistan reflects that it will take still many years to both the countries for building up their mutual understanding.