

Involvement of the US regarding India-Pakistan Relations

The Secretary of the Treasury is a member of the Presidential cabinet and is fifth in the presidential line of succession. The main role of the Secretary of the Treasury is to lead the U. S. Department of the Treasury,[1] and its goal is to "promote economic prosperity and ensure the financial security of the United States." [2]

The US has strong bilateral relations with India given that it is one of the “the United States ... largest trade and investment partners” [3] and bilateral trade between the two nations has only increased after the India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue in 2015 and 2016. In March of 2017, Mnuchin spoke with Finance Minister of India Arun Jaitley and “underscored India's importance as an economic partner of the United States” [4]

Likewise, the US has a very secure relationship with Pakistan – a key ally during the war in Afghanistan – engaging in “a broad multi-faceted partnership with Pakistan in areas ranging from education to energy to trade and investment” [5] **Through the** U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, the governments of both nations meet annually. [6] Recently, Mnuchin said that both “countries need to work together to smash out terrorism.” [7]

Background Information and Past International Action Regarding India-Pakistan Relations

Diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan have always been rocky and hostile due to territorial disputes caused by the separation of British India in 1947 and the multiple military conflicts between both nations. One of the major sources of conflict is the area of Kashmir, an unresolved boundary dispute between both nations. The current prime minister of India, Narendra Modi’s top two priorities are “strengthening national security and making India a major economic power” [8], and he has taken a tough position against Pakistan.

Both nations have developed nuclear weapons that they claim is for their own self-protection against the other, so any destabilization within the region could have devastating consequences. Neither nation has signed onto the NPT.

Proposed solutions

India and Pakistan are crucial allies for the US, and are also key to stabilizing the region. Given that India is a key ally economically and prevents Chinese domination in South Asia, while Pakistan is crucial in the effort to stabilize Afghanistan, neither can be sacrificed for the other. Instead, current US strategy should focus on maintaining the stability of the region while also helping achieve individual bilateral goals for each nation. For Pakistan, this is persuading it to devote more resources to the Afghan situation; for India, this is lowering the US trade deficit with it and strengthening its position as a counterbalance to China in South Asia due to the Pakistan-China alliance.

In recent years, the Kashmir conflict has evolved so it revolves mainly around the Kashmir Valley, which is occupied by India despite being 97.14% Muslim. I believe that the Kashmir Valley should continue to be part of India to maintain stability, but that it must provide

compensation to Pakistan and allow UN Peacekeepers to cooperate with the Indian regional police in upholding security. Incentives for India could be the avoidance of having its police be investigated by the ICC for human rights abuses and economic repercussions or sanctions.
Denuclearization

[1] "31 U.S. Code § 301 - Department of the Treasury." LII / Legal Information Institute. Accessed October 30, 2017. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/31/301>.

[2] "About." U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed October 30, 2017. <https://www.treasury.gov/about/role-of-treasury/Pages/default.aspx>.

[3] <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3454.htm>

[4]

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-an-important-business-partner-of-us-mnuchin/articleshow/57667964.cms>

[5] <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm>

[6] <https://www.state.gov/p/sca/ci/pk/strategicdialogue/index.htm>

[7]

<https://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/pakistan/dar-meets-us-treasury-secretary-highlights-pakistans-economic-achievements/>

[8] <https://thediplomat.com/2017/04/are-india-pakistan-relations-doomed/>

"India." U.S. Department of State. October 09, 2015. <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3454.htm>.