

The Kashmir-Conflict from a Psychological Perspective

How do humiliations and emotions on the national level account for the development of the conflict?

Outline of the Presentation

1. Why Kashmir?
2. Why Humiliation and Emotion?
3. Some Quotes...
4. How does this relate to the HDHS-Conference?
5. Plan for the Open Space

1. Why Kashmir?

- *Mostly stated reason: India and Pakistan are nuclear powers – a war between the two concerns the whole world;*
- The conflict between India and Pakistan *about* Kashmir has turned into a conflict *in* Kashmir – human rights violations, terror-attacks. Fertile ground for recruiting future “terrorists”...
- “grand narrative” of humiliation against Muslims - often named in one sentence with the Israeli occupation of Palestine and wars in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq.
- The Kashmir-conflict is linked to Afghanistan

2. Why Humiliation and Emotion

- Kashmir is more than a contested territory: Emotional attachment of India and Pakistan complicates and intensifies the conflict.
- Both nations are not only afraid to lose a piece of land, but a part of their identity and that their pride, honour and egos get damaged
- Negotiations fail because the ‘battle’ is fought on an intangible level, the level of emotions – the states denunciate each other instead of arguing about boundary settlements.
- When two elephants fight, the grassroots suffer: Creation/revival of Kashmiri identity, demanding independence; this third party in the conflict is often ignored.

3. Some Quotes...

- «People from the Indian-subcontinent are generally very emotional. It's their mentality. And the lack of education. People are uneducated because of poverty. Schools are expensive. (...) Uneducated people are very emotional, there's no rational thinking.»
- «Kashmir is the K in Pakistan»
- «The [Pakistani] population is attached to Kashmir. Any negotiation by state leaders [about Kashmir] would be perceived as a betrayal.»
- «Kashmiris fight against Indian occupation. They are supported by foreign volunteers»

(cont.)

- «India will never give up Kashmir. For economic reasons. The 5 Punj rivers come from Kashmir, 3 from the Indian side. India built many dams in its part of Kashmir and invested in the region.»
- «India can live with the status quo. Pakistan will never be satisfied with that and keep complaining.»

(more quotes from Indian/Kashmiri side to be added here)

4. How does this relate to the HDHS-Conference?

- 22nd July as an attack against Norwegian moral concept of *likeverd* – a nation feels that a part of their identity was humiliated: Norway without *likeverd* is incomplete.
- Kashmir-conflict(s) – nations feel that their identity was humiliated: Pakistan without K and India without K are incomplete. But also Kashmir as part of Pakistan/India is imperfect.
- Why are the reactions so different? Flowers and songs vs. wars and insurgencies.

5. Plan for the Open Space Session

- Brief presentation of master's thesis proposal
- Discussion about theoretical background: Humiliation and emotion as group dynamics?
- Comparison to the aftermath of the 22nd July in Norway

Thank You!