

The question of the Indian – Pakistani conflict

Current Situation

Since the separation of Pakistan and India, in the aftermath of the World War II, these countries' relations have been characterized by a severe instability.

At the heart of such disputes is the fact that Indian and Pakistani territorial claims sometimes overlap, the province of Kashmir being the most notable example.

In fact, Kashmir remains the site of the world's largest and most militarized territorial dispute with portions under the de facto administration of India, China and Pakistan.

Many armed conflicts between the Pakistani and Indian army have occurred over the past century, but the situation acquired a more serious character nowadays due to the fact that both Pakistan and India are currently in the possession of nuclear weapons.

This makes it so that this conflict creates the possibility of the world's first direct war between two nuclear-armed states, which could have catastrophic consequences for the entire mankind.

And while India has adopted a No first Use policy (which means that it would not employ nuclear weapons unless Pakistan had done so first), Pakistan has stated that in the context of a war it would be willing to strike with nuclear weapons first.

It should be noted that neither of these two countries has signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

The seriousness of the problem is aggravated by the political and military instability period that Pakistan is going through: Government's and Taliban's forces clashes are frequent, and there is a real possibility that Pakistani nuclear weapons could fall in the hands of groups that are widely seen as terrorist organizations.

Solving the Issue

A good resolution on the issue should address:

- a) The Kashmir territorial dispute, by trying to achieve a consensus on the issue.
- b) The possibility of a long lasting peace agreement between India and Pakistan
- c) The necessity for the prevention of a nuclear conflict
- d) The fact that neither one of these countries have signed the NPT
- e) Safeguards to prevent nuclear material from entering the possession of terrorist organizations.