

Name: _____

Hour: _____

Asian Outlook – India vs. Pakistan

Directions –

1. Read the following Overview and Situation Background.
2. Then read the information given to you by your advisors.
3. Answer the questions at the end of each section using complete sentences.

Overview - In the following activity, you will be playing the role of the American President in the year 2009. All of the situations are fake, but based off of real events.

*You will receive information from a variety of advisors and will answer a series of questions to help you make a decision. After answering these questions, you will need to write a statement for how you would lead the United States in the situation.

Situation – It is the year 2009. Tension between India and Pakistan has risen over the disputed territory of Kashmir. Terrorists recently attacked **government targets in the Indian capital of New Delhi**.

The Indian government is blaming the Pakistani government, and has mobilized over 500,000 troops to the Kashmir Region. The Pakistani government has **denied** Indian accusations, responding that India was using the attacks as a reason to invade the Kashmir Region, which rightfully belongs to Pakistan. In response, Pakistan sent 250,000 troops to the Kashmir region. To make it worse each side's soldiers recently shot at each other- some were killed.

Even though no one knows who fired the first shots, both nations blame the other. As a result, both India and Pakistan have moved nuclear missiles to the border region. India says war is imminent if Pakistan does not claim responsibility for the terrorist acts and the recent gun battle. Pakistan has warned that any further aggression in Kashmir will be considered an act of war.

America is the lone super-power and has served as a peace keeper between the two nations in the past. As President, you must examine the information given to you and make a decision on how to deal with this situation. The world will be watching!

Historical Advisor – India was a British Colony until an independence movement led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1947 set them free.

- India was split into two independent countries; India and Pakistan. This was done on a religious basis with Pakistan being mainly Muslim and India being mostly Hindu (Though over 100 million of India's 1 billion citizens are Muslim).

-Great Britain drew the line between the two countries but failed to clearly define which nation would control the Kashmir region. Within weeks, the first of several wars broke out between the two countries. The war ended with neither country taking control of the region.

-They fought again in 1965 over Kashmir and ended quickly with no winner

- In both cases the United Nations mandated a cease-fire.

- They fought again in 1971, though not about Kashmir. That war ended in a decisive Indian victory.

-There were two other wars fought between the countries in 1984 and 1999, both ended with minor Indian victories.

As of 1998, both nations have tested nuclear weapons, drastically changing relations between the two nations.

Since its independence in 1947, India has tended to align itself more with the communist Soviet Union (Russia), thus resulting in the U.S. quietly supporting Pakistan. They have fought one war outside their conflicts with Pakistan. They fought a short war against China which China won overwhelmingly.

Pakistan has had problems with instability in their government, though they have never fought any wars outside of their conflict with India. They have some Muslim extremist groups that supported the policies of the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden, though the current government is against these groups.

4. What has been the major source of conflict between India and Pakistan?

5. Which country has the United States traditionally supported? _____

Geographical Advisor – A map of India and Pakistan is shown below.



Kashmir is the area disputed between the two countries. It is near the top of the map. The region consist of low lying river valleys between steep peaks of the Himalayas and Hindu Kush Mountains. The region is very rugged and as a result, a large portion of it is inaccessible by roads.

Pakistan has rugged mountains along its northern and western boundaries. The rest of the country is in the low-lying Indus River Valley, which is where the vast majority of the population lives. This area is a part of the dry Thar Desert which extends eastward into India.

In addition to the Thar Desert along its western border, India has the Himalayas to the north, which also serve as a natural boundary. Just to the south of the Himalayas in the Ganges River Valley which is the most densely populated region in India. This region has a climate much like the American South and contains the large cities of New Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow and Calcutta.

1. Describe the geography of the Kashmir Region.

2. How might the geography of the Kashmir Region affect the way countries would fight a war there? _____

3. If India and Pakistan were looking for a different area to fight, what is the most likely area they would fight in and why?

International Politics Advisor – \$\$\$

- Throughout the Cold War, **India tended to align itself with Russia.**
- **Pakistan aligned itself with the United States.**

-After the Cold War ended in the early nineties, India's government went through some changes and Bill Clinton tried to warm relations between the U.S. and India by encouraging American companies to invest in India.

-George W. Bush, also recognized the importance of an emerging India. He too encouraged investment in India and found an ally in India when fighting The War on Terror.

- Both the U.S. and India had experienced terrorism early in the decade, but when Osama Bin Laden, the main suspect in the war on terror, was thought to have escaped into Pakistan, the U.S. again had to focus on its relations with Pakistan.

Working with both countries has put the U.S. in a difficult position.
When the U.S. warms up to one nation, it can cause tension with the other.

-India is important for the economy of the United States

-Pakistan is an important ally in the war on terror.

One advantage of working with both countries is that the U.S. can work to create peace between the two nations.

The United Nations has warned both India and Pakistan that Nuclear War would have extremely negative consequences and that the world community would not tolerate such acts. It is unclear what the U.N. would do if war were to break out, and it is also unclear how India or Pakistan would respond.

Since you are a newly elected president, the world is watching closely to see how the U.S. will react to the situation. Nations like Iran, North Korea and Venezuela who were openly critical of U.S. policies under George W. Bush will pay special attention to see how you deal with this situation to determine how they will approach the U.S. now that you are the President.

6. What are the positives of working with India?

7. What are the positives of working with Pakistan?

8. How would countries like North Korea, Iran and Venezuela respond if the U.S. does nothing about the situation in Kashmir?

Domestic Political Advisor – As a newly elected President, you have a mandate (approval from the American people and Congress) to act in any way you see fit.

-Keep in mind the consequences for that.

-George W. Bush used his mandate to go to war in Afghanistan and Iraq. After the War in Iraq did not go as planned, the majority of the American public no longer supported the idea of war in Iraq and many other of Bush's ideas.

*Learn from this, if things don't go well, the media and public opinion does not take long to turn on you.

Since it is the beginning of your new term in 2009, you are taking over where George W. Bush left off. You still have approximately 150,000 U.S. troops committed to Iraq in a largely unpopular war.

Generally, most Americans are not looking to get involved in another war, however, most Americans are against the idea of nuclear warfare between India and Pakistan.

Any military action lasting more than 60 days will require the approval of Congress.

Since the army is maxed out in Iraq, any use of troops will require a draft.

9. What is the maximum amount of time the President can commit to military action without the approval of Congress?

10. What is public opinion about a war between Pakistan and India?

Economic Advisor – The U.S. and India are two economic powers in the world. Trade between them reached a total of over 21 billion dollars in 2004. As India’s government continues to allow more American business in, the U.S. continues to make more money.

IBM recently announced they would be spending over 6 billion dollars in India over the next three years. American businesses like the idea of being able to sell products to India’s population of over a billion people.

Though India currently has a lot of poverty, Pakistan is in much worse shape. Trade between the two countries included about 4.5 billion dollars exchanged between the two nations. Many businesses view Pakistan as unstable and have not invested there.

If the U.S. stopped trade between itself and Pakistan, it would have only minor effects on the U.S. economy, however it would make a major impact on Pakistan.

If the U.S. stopped trade between itself and India, the effects would be major for the U.S., especially for high-tech industries. The stop in trade would seriously hurt India since the U.S. is its largest trading partner.

What would hurt the U.S. even more though is losing India as a trading partner long-term. Even as total trade topped 21 billion in 2004, it is likely that by 2030, total trade could top 50 billion. And if the U.S. doesn’t make money off of India, than China or the European Union will.

10. Is India or Pakistan currently a more valuable trading partner for the United States?

11. What is a potential consequence of cutting off trade with India?

Military Advisor – Pakistan is one of America’s top allies and America sells Pakistan state of the art military equipment.

They have the world’s seventh biggest military with over 600,000 active soldiers. The U.S. currently occupies Afghanistan to the east and could potentially launch and military strikes from there.

The land on the Pakistani-Afghani border is mountainous and difficult to pass. That is the area where Osama Bin Laden is thought to be hiding. Pakistan has nuclear weapons and missiles capable of hitting any target in India or Afghanistan within minutes, but they can not hit any target in the United States.

India has the world’s third biggest military with over 1.3 million soldiers, but much of their equipment is outdated Russian equipment. The United States could only invade India from Pakistan. India also has nuclear weapons which are capable of hitting any location in Pakistan within minutes, but can not reach the United States.



An Indian parade featuring a missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

The U.S. has the world’s second largest military with over 1.4 million people. The U.S.’s military is by far the world’s most advanced and its biggest strength lies in its Air Force. The U.S. is also a nuclear power and has the capability to hit India or Pakistan with its missiles.

One problem with the U.S. military is that it is currently occupying Iraq and Afghanistan and there are no extra soldiers to spare. **Any military action requiring the army in India or Pakistan would require a draft and months of preparation. Occupying India or Pakistan would likely require millions of troops and would likely lead to many American deaths.**

12. Who has the bigger military; Pakistan or India? _____

13. What is the strength of the U.S. military? _____

14. What would be necessary for the U.S. to invade either India or Pakistan?

Ideas – Now that you have heard from all of your advisors and learned all the necessary information, you must make a decision about what to do. Keep in mind, the whole world looks to the United States for leadership, but what makes the world happy, may not make Americans happy.

Directions - Below are some suggestions of what you could do.

1. Read all of the suggestions.
2. After reading all of the following suggestions, pick one and on a separate sheet of paper, you will write or type of five paragraph essay.
3. Your five paragraph essay is to serve as your speech to the world. It will need to lay out your plan of action and your justification for that plan.

Suggestions:

1. Side militarily with India – The U.S. siding with anyone can *sometimes* in itself prevent war. If war were to break out, an India – U.S. alliance would be tough to beat. On the negative side, this approach would likely anger China, much of the Muslim world and would require a draft.
2. Side militarily with Pakistan – Once again, the U.S. siding with anyone can *sometimes* in itself prevent war. This approach would likely upset Russia and many other of America's European allies and it would also require a draft.
3. Conduct air strikes to disable nuclear targets – Since the strength of the U.S. is the air force, the U.S. could conceivably launch massive air strikes against both countries to try and disable all of their nuclear weapons. This would likely be considered an act of war though, and if we did not get all of their weapons...
4. Offer incentives to not fight – The U.S. could offer large economic incentives of billions of dollars towards infrastructure development (roads, power lines, sewers, etc) to both countries. The U.S. could also promise to help pay some of the massive health care costs and education costs both countries have. However, many American citizens feel like we don't spend enough on these type things at home.
5. Stay neutral – The U.S. could completely stay neutral and focus on our own world issues. Keep in mind the message that sends to the rest of the world...particularly any leader who is anti-U.S. like Kim Jong Il or Hugo Chavez.
6. Create a coalition of forces to attack which ever country shoots first. Perhaps the threat of overwhelming force from the entire world could deter war. The challenge comes in convincing the rest of the world this is o.k., convincing your people a draft is o.k. and proving who fired the first shot.
7. Create a plan – Maybe you have a completely new idea or one that combines these options. Write about it!