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Course: Ph.D.

Title: Understanding Political Violence in Kashmir: Origins, Manifestations and Causes

Keywords: Political Violence, Conflict, State-Making, Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan, India

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Notification Number: F.No. COE/PH.D./(Notification)/509/2022

Summary

The study offered a theoretical exploration of political violence in Jammu & Kashmir, making a departure from previous explanations which focused on nationalism and modernization as causes for conflict and political violence. This work explains the emergence of political violence in J&K by building on the argument that emergent central state-making forces in post-colonial societies in some cases encountered “strong societies” with strong organizations who wanted to implement a different set of rules in their society than the central state-making forces wanted to enforce over the entirety of the population. This work first looks at the context in which the politics of National Conference (NC) and its leader, Sheikh Abdullah, was shaped. It takes stock of the socio-political conditions created during the Dogra rule, with a clear approval from the British colonial administration in the subcontinent, and locates the emergence of this strong organization in colonial practices and also the willingness of the society to modernize and develop on their own.