



Geopolitical Problem of Jammu and Kashmir: A Review of Some Classical and Specific Geostrategic Views from a Locational Perspective

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Abstract: The state of Jammu and Kashmir is unique in its locational personality which coupled with geopolitical and georeligious status makes it a “Geostrategic Hotspot”. Before the partition of the Indian subcontinent, it was the largest princely state and was often mentioned as “Switzerland of Asia” or the “Playground of East”. This beautiful land attracted the people of all regions. However, it was the locational glamour of this land, due to which both India and Pakistan started to play geostrategic maneuvering for territorial possession. This paper traces the locational importance of Jammu and Kashmir in some classical global geostrategic views and also specific views of individuals and nations which are directly related to Jammu and Kashmir. It is finally inferred that it is the locational personality of Jammu and Kashmir that has caused geostrategic tension in the region due to which the innocent, nature-loving people of Jammu and Kashmir have been trapped in global power politics.

Index Terms - Locational personality, geostrategic hotspot, Jammu and Kashmir, geopolitical

I. INTRODUCTION

The concepts of Place, Space and Locality are closely related. Place denotes a portion of geographical space occupied by the phenomenon under reference (a person, thing or event). The concept of space is more complex and Blaut [1] has called Space as a treacherous philosophical word, and distinguished between the concepts of “absolute space” and “relative space”. Absolute space was described as a distinct, physical and eminently real or empirical entity in itself, so that absolute space is a concrete manifestation of space. A relative view of space conceptualizes space as “merely a relation between events or an aspect of events, and thus bound to time and process. Location refers to the representation in local social and political interaction of ideas and practices derived from the relationship between places. In other words location represents the impact of the “macro order” in a place (uneven economic development, the uneven effects of government policy, segregation of social groups, etc) [2]. Since the days of Vidal de la Blache (1872), [3] there has been growing interest in the study of ‘Locational Personality’. Blache (1903) [4] recognises ‘pays’ as a setting of a particular cultural group. He used personality to differentiate one pays from the other. The work was further carried forward by Patrick Geddes [5], Evans [6], Daniel [7] and many others.

Locational personality plays a vital role in the development, socio-economic progress and politico-administrative layout of a state. It also determines the nature of frontier and boundary. So far as the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) of India is concerned, its locational personality makes it a land of “Geostrategic Hotspot”. Before the partition of the subcontinent, it was a large princely state and was often mentioned as “Switzerland of Asia” or the “Playground of East”. Hence this beautiful land attracted the people of all regions. However, it was the locational glamour of this land, due to which both India and Pakistan started to play geostrategic maneuvering for territorial possession. The Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir was aware to the fact and he had his own scheme of things and his indecisiveness was perhaps one of the main factors of the present misery and misfortune of this heavenly land of the world.

Note: According to Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised into two Union territories, Ladakh (comprising the districts of Leh and Kargil of the pre-existing state of Jammu and Kashmir) and Jammu and Kashmir (comprising the territories of the pre-existing state of Jammu and Kashmir without the districts of Ladakh). However, in this paper the state of Jammu and Kashmir implies to the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh as was before the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Once India and Pakistan started to confront, all powerful countries began to take interest in this region. Its neighbouring territories were Peoples Republic of China, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at the time of partition. Even the Soviet territory was not far away from the northern boundary of Jammu and Kashmir (Fig.1 and Fig.2). Erstwhile Soviet Union as well as China were keenly interested to get a passage through Jammu and Kashmir to Arabian sea, for serving their economic, political and geostrategic interests. On the other hand U.S.A. and other powerful Western countries had developed an impression that Pakistan



Fig. 1. Jammu and Kashmir Map (Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kashmir_map.jpg, Public Domain)

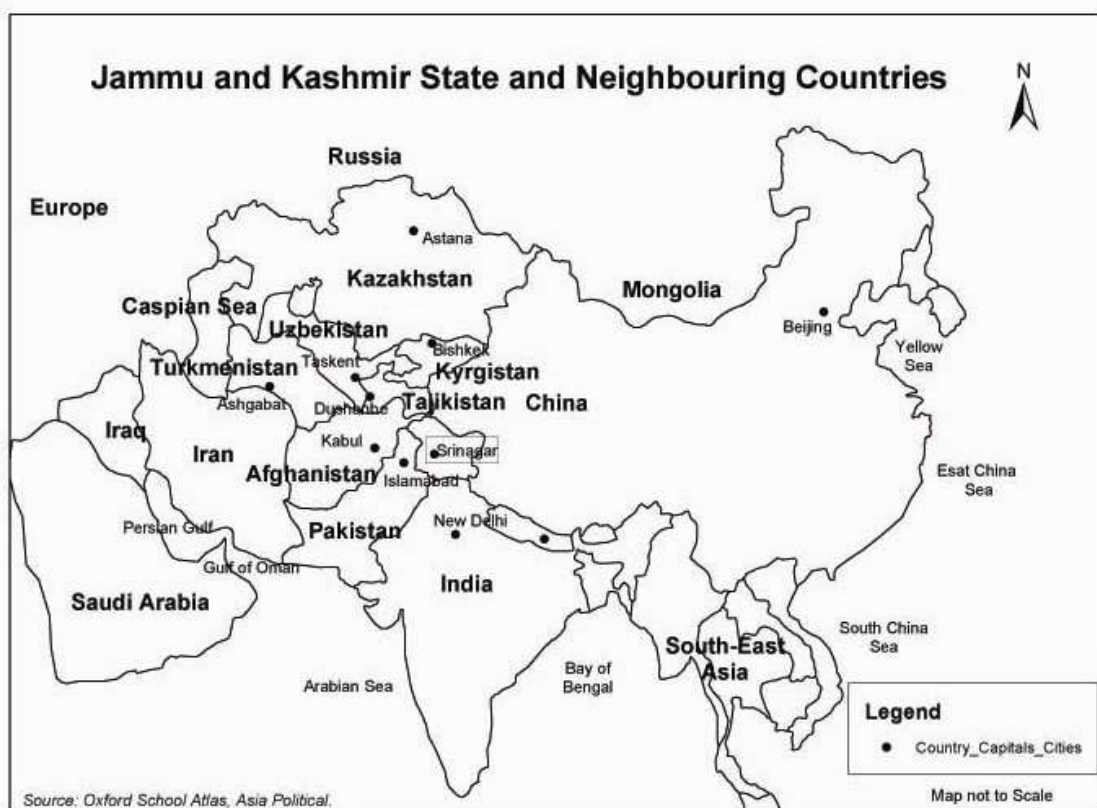


Fig. 2. The State of Jammu and Kashmir and Neighbouring Countries

must be supported on various issues, so that this newly born country does not play in the hands of red flagholders. Deep roots of Muslim militants and Talibanis in Afghanistan, Pakistan and even in Pakistan-Occupied and dozens of training camps for militants make the locational characteristics vulnerable. The manifestation of above elements and Pakistan's repeated efforts to internationalise the problem has immensely contributed in the present crisis, conflicts and instability in Jammu and Kashmir. Its geographical size (2,22,236 km²) and Muslim dominated population (72.9%) [8], being governed by Hindu Maharaja and the ill effects of the provision of partition, tribal invasion and the accession to India were such other factors which complicated the geopolitical situation. Most of powerful countries developed interest in this issue due to locational edge over most of other geopolitical 'hot spots' of the world. Hence it was locational misfortune of this land which caused geostrategic tension and the innocent, nature-loving people of Jammu and Kashmir were trapped in the global power politics.

Realising this situation, an attempt has been made to present some geostrategic views of some scholars in the context of Jammu and Kashmir. The views may be divided into two parts:

- Global views and the location of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Specific views on the crisis of Jammu and Kashmir.

II. GLOBAL VIEWS

The classical geostrategic views are indirect views regarding Jammu and Kashmir and are referred to as global views.

Geostrategic views of Mackinder and Jammu and Kashmir

We find clues of geostrategic importance of Jammu and Kashmir in the classical 'Heartland theory' of Mackinder. Mackinder believed that changes in technology, especially the revolution in land transportation associated with the railroad, had altered the balance of power between sea power and land power, bringing the Columbian age of dominant sea power near to a close. In the new global system, land power would hold the advantage. The center of emerging land power was the Eurasian core area which Mackinder first called the "geographical pivot" [9] (Fig. 3) and later the 'Heartland' (Fig. 4). This core area was inaccessible to sea power and therefore capable of sheltering a land power able to dominate the Eurasian "World-Island" from its central continental fortress. For Mackinder, Eastern Europe was the gateway to the Heartland. Surrounding the Heartland were two crescents: a wholly maritime outer crescent consisting of the Americas, the British Isles, Australia, and sub-Saharan Africa; and a partly continental and partly maritime inner crescent, extending along the Eurasian littoral from Iberia to Siberia and including most of continental Europe west of Russia, the Maghreb, the Middle East, and continental South, Southeast, and East Asia. This "marginal region" contained the vast majority of the world's population and was the origin of most of the world's great civilizations, religions, and empires. Due of its location, Mackinder believed that the inner crescent would forever be a zone of conflict. The state of Jammu and Kashmir along with the entire India comes under this inner crescent of Mackinder. As the state has remained as an issue of conflict between India and Pakistan since the last seven decades its geostrategic importance can be traced in Mackinder's views of inner crescent much earlier. Besides, time and again Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the issue of Kashmir and as the countries in the inner crescent are mostly Islamic. So most of them show a soft attitude towards Pakistani backed Jihadi terrorism currently occurring in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. So a conflicting situation has arisen with some Islamic states supporting India while others supporting Pakistan on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. China also comes in the inner crescent and has been an old ally of Pakistan and has been throughout supporting Pakistan in its endeavour against India. However recently China has been showing a neutral attitude towards Pakistan regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir and regards it a bilateral issue to be settled by India and Pakistan themselves. All these have created a very complicated geopolitical situation and there is always a warlike situation in the inner crescent states as predicted by Mackinder.



Fig. 3. Mackinder's Geographical Pivot and Location of Srinagar (J&K) (Modified from https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Geographical_Pivot_of_History#/media/Ficheiro:Heartland.png)

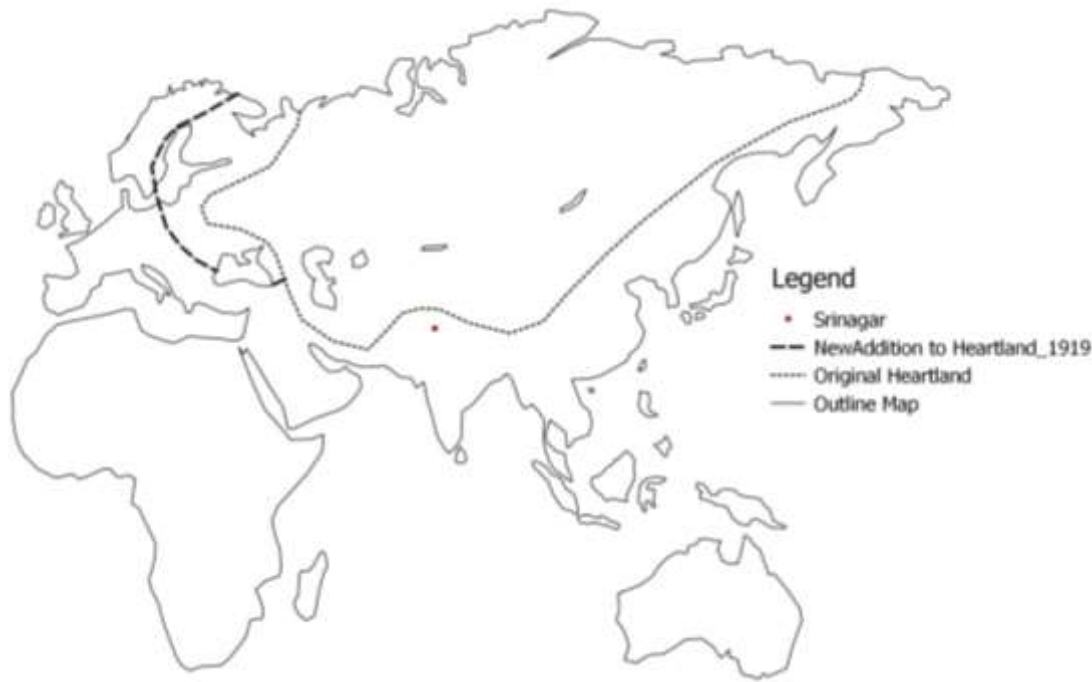


Fig. 4. Mackinder's Geostrategic Heartland and Location of Srinagar (J&K)

Geostrategic views of Nicolas Spykman and Jammu and Kashmir:

Spykman opined that Mackinder had overemphasized and overestimated the power potential of the Heartland and the revolution in land transportation and underestimated the power of the inner and outer crescents. Spykman argued that Mackinder's inner crescent was a critical geopolitical area of the globe, which he renamed as "Rimland" (Fig. 5). The Rimland could operate in both the continental and maritime modes, but it was, accordingly, vulnerable to both land and sea power. Alliances among the Rimland powers or between the Heartland and the Rimland and hostile to the United States constituted for Spykman, the real geopolitical threat to America. The strategic imperative for the United States arising from Spykman's thesis was to prevent consolidation of the Rimland by a hostile power [10]. He said that their constant concern must be to see that no nation or alliance of nations be allowed to emerge as a dominating power within the Rimland. So Spykman has imparted greater importance to Rimland than Heartland and the state of Jammu and Kashmir (erstwhile) comes under Rimland. The state has also been the bone of contention between India and Pakistan and no absolute solution to the problem has been found yet. United States on the other hand have followed a dual-edged policy of boosting Indo-US relations on one hand and enriching Pakistan with modern arms and ammunitions on the other hand. The real policy of United States is to never allow consolidation of inner crescent states so that they are always engaged in fighting among themselves and would never pose a threat to United States by their combined power that would be hard to deal with.

Spykman's approach greatly influenced the U.S. Cold War policy of containment. It was thus maintained that the Western Hemisphere would become increasingly vulnerable to attacks unless the United States defended critical parts of the Rimland.

Geostrategic views of Huntington regarding Jammu and Kashmir

Huntington claimed that post-Cold War era had seen some dramatic geopolitical changes and the fault lines between civilizations are replacing the political and ideological boundaries of the cold war as the flash points for crisis and bloodshed [11]. According to him in this new world the most pervasive, important and dangerous conflicts will not be between social classes, rich and poor, or other economically defined groups, but between people belonging to different cultural entities. Tribal wars and ethnic conflicts will occur within civilizations. Violence between states and groups from different civilizations, however, carries with it the potential for escalation as other states and groups from these civilizations rally to the support of their kin countries. Thus he had given a clear signal that the bloody clashes of civilizations in Bosnia, the Caucasus, Central Asia or Kashmir could become bigger wars. Even Vaclav Havel observed that cultural conflicts were increasing and becoming more dangerous in present times than never before in history [12].

Thus according to Huntington, culture has become both a divisive and a unifying force in the post-cold war world. People separated by ideology but united by culture come together, as the two Germanys did and as the two Koreas and the several Chinas are beginning to. Societies united by ideology or historical circumstances but divided by civilization either come apart, as did the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Bosnia; or are subjected to intense strain, as is the case with Ukraine, Nigeria, Sudan, India, Sri Lanka, and many others. It is seen that countries with cultural affinities cooperate economically and politically. International organizations based on states with cultural commonality, such as the European Union, are far more successful than those that attempt to transcend cultures. For forty-five years the Iron Curtain was the central dividing line in Europe. That line has moved several hundred miles east. It is now the line separating the peoples of Western Christianity, on the one hand, from Muslim and Orthodox peoples on the other. Also in the current world, decolonization has occurred and colonial wars of liberation have been replaced by conflicts among the liberated peoples.



Fig. 5. Spykman's Rimland and Location of Srinagar (J&K) (Rimland boundary in Black dash)

Huntington has thus given the probability of a global war involving the core states of the world's major civilizations. Such a war, as he had suggested, could result from the escalation of a fault line war between groups from different civilizations, most likely involving Muslims on one side and non-Muslims on the other. He had also warned that the tension would increase if aspiring Muslim core states compete to provide assistance to their embattled coreligionists. Thus he is clearly mentioned that the bloody clashes in Kashmir could become deadlier if Muslim states come together to support the Pakistani cause on Kashmir issue.

He had also remarked that India is not taking the opportunity of China's present involvement in East Asia. It should have launched a devastating attack on Pakistan and crippled the country's military capabilities. He had warned India that if military alliance between Pakistan and its coreligionists in Middle East countries is activated along with assistance from China then Pakistan would be armed with modern and sophisticated weapons and it would be then difficult for India to handle the situation.

Geostrategic ideas of Saul.B.Cohen and Jammu and Kashmir

The geopolitical structure given by Cohen [13] is considered a masterpiece from the point of view of post-Cold War era geopolitical scenario. His geopolitical structure consists of three hierarchical levels. The highest level belongs to geostrategic realms, which are 'arenas of strategic place and movement'. The first one is maritime and the other one is Eurasian continental. The second level belongs to that of geopolitical regions, which are shaped by "contiguity and political, cultural, military and economic interaction." Cohen has identified nine geopolitical regions. Four are contained within the maritime geostrategic realm. They are Anglo-America and the Caribbean; Maritime Europe and the Maghreb; offshore Asia; South America and sub-Saharan Africa. Two are part of the Eurasian continental realm that is the Russian heartland and East Asia. Of the remaining regions, Cohen argues that one, South Asia, is independent. Another, the Middle East, remains a shatterbelt. Yet another, Central and Eastern Europe, Cohen describes as a "gateway region," or a transitional zone that can facilitate contact and interchange between the two realms." Below the geostrategic regions are states, hierarchically ordered according to their power, geographical location, and function within the world system. Certain states dominate, or contend for domination of, the various regions. The United States is the "controlling state" within the maritime geostrategic realm. Geopolitical analysis suggests that China and Russia will vie for that position within the Eurasian continental realm [14] (Fig. 6).

The infusion of capital can modify the relative importance of a given geographic space by, for example, shifting power centers. In the early twentieth century the core of the maritime geostrategic realm shifted from Europe to North America. However, the geopolitical reasoning suggests limitations to the impact of economic development. Locational Personality of a place still matters. It is a locational personality of South Asia that it is regarded by Cohen as an independent geopolitical region. India occupies a major portion of South Asian geopolitical region and that is why it is regarded by Cohen as a major geopolitical power. He also discusses the geopolitical implications of US penetration into the vast Eurasian convergence zone [15] which extends as an Inner Eurasian Crescent from the Eastern Baltic, Eastern Europe, and the Black Sea to the Trans-Caucasus, Central Asia, Tibet, Chinese Turkestan and Mongolia, and then across northern Manchuria and the Russian Far East to adjoining North Pacific islands and the Korean Peninsula. The importance of this arena is that it is where five of the world's major geopolitical power centers—Maritime Europe, Russia, China, India and Japan—converge upon it. The importance of convergence zone has been magnified due to its natural resources, especially oil and natural gas, specialized agriculture, tourist services, and relatively low wages for off-shore manufacturing operations, and negatively as bases for terrorists and the smuggling of arms and drugs.

However, the impact of U.S. military and economic moves there could provoke a reaction having the potential to reconfigure it into a vast Shatterbelt. This would have a greater destabilizing effect on the world system than the Iraq war. On the other hand, if the United States should reverse course and exercise leadership in multilateral fashion, the Convergence Zone could be developed into a vast bridge or "gateway," linking the world's geostrategic realms and power centers for their common benefit and that of the inhabitants of the Zone.

India's interest in convergence zone is in Central Asia. Due to its conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir issue and its overdependence on West Asia regarding oil imports it looks forward to Central Asian countries as an alternative energy supplier. Thus it is geopolitically important for India to maintain cordial relations with Middle East shatterbelt and Eurasian convergence zone to get at

geopolitical edge over Pakistan regarding Kashmir issue. The map below (Fig. 6) shows the important position of India in the South Asian geopolitical region. So India's relations with Central Asia is boosted so that it has easy access to West Asia, Afghanistan and other countries of Central Asia and can cripple Pakistan's attempt of forming an ally with a station in Central Asian countries and give a geopolitical defeat to India regarding Kashmir conflict.

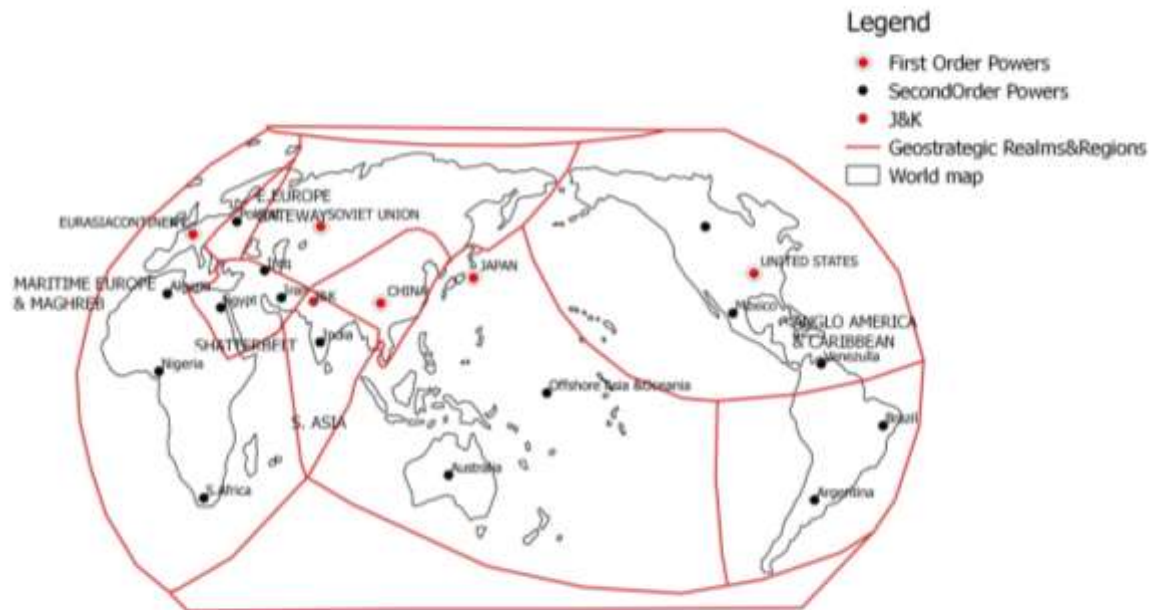


Fig. 6. The World according to Cohen and Location of J&K

III. SPECIFIC VIEWS

The direct views regarding the geostrategic importance of Jammu and Kashmir are specifically given for the state of affairs regarding J&K and therefore classified under specific views.

Geostrategic views of Stephen Philip Cohen on Jammu and Kashmir

Stephen Phillip Cohen, was a former Professor of history and Political Science, at the university of Illinois at Urbana; Member, Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State (1985-87); Scholar-in-Residence, Ford Foundation, New Delhi and current Senior Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution [16]. The titles are undoubtedly very impressive and he emerged as one of the foremost American writers on Indian foreign policy. He was the leading South Asia Security and Proliferation Expert and has a long association with the subcontinent affairs. His frequent visits to India and a large circle of friends in good places gave him insights, which he shared with his readers in his papers and some of his books.

About Kashmir he used the term “Disputed Region” although he calls it a beautiful Himalayan Region, which has always been a flashpoint of violence between India and Pakistan [17]. He suggests that despite America’s preoccupation with events in Iraq and other world hotspots, the administration should adopt a more forward leaning posture on Kashmir conflict, which is likely to remain one of the world’s most dangerous places. According to him, United States should not take a position on the shape of a final settlement of the Kashmir dispute, but let such a settlement emerge after a dialogue among the parties, including Kashmiris on both sides of the “Line Of Control” (LOC). Secondly Washington should support India-Pakistan dialogue on Kashmir in a timely and appropriate way. Thirdly, United States can enrich and influence the internal regional debate on Kashmir’s future, but only if it has greater presence on ground. In the critical case of Pakistan, Washington has abandoned the field to the radical Islamists and anti-American elements [18]. The United States needs to dramatically increase its information activities in Pakistan and exchange programs with key Pakistani Institutions, especially the Universities and colleges where anti-Americanism is deeply rooted. Fourth, both India and Pakistan need to be strongly encouraged to continue the policies of normalism. This especially applies to New Delhi’s policies vis-à-vis its own Kashmiri citizens and to India-Pakistan relations. Finally he felt, Washington should also consult closely with its important allies about Kashmir and other critical South-Asian issues. America and its allies should use their aid programs to reward India, Pakistan and various Kashmiri groups for progress in negotiations.

Cohen was very much impressed by the recent economic growth of India. Furthermore, he stated that India is no longer weak in terms of military capabilities as extended joint operations with United States have exposed more American officials to this hitherto secluded side of India. Regarding Pakistan he said that Pakistan is also a nuclear weapons state, with plenty of home-grown Islamic terrorists. A failed Pakistan could be a single most threatening development for American foreign policy. In fact he felt that Pakistanis are lagging far behind India economically and perhaps military now [19]. So Cohen was of view that besides Kashmir, there is also power disparity between India and Pakistan. He showed his concern that a failed or transformed Pakistan could far surpass Taliban’s Afghanistan as a threat to American vital interests. Pakistani Government has one eye on Afghanistan and the other on Kashmir. So the United States

needs to work towards a larger regional settlement involving Pakistan, India and Kashmir, but one in which Pakistan's role in Afghanistan is normalized.

Geostrategic views of Mahatma Gandhi about Jammu and Kashmir

Gandhiji who is regarded as the father of our nation (India) had also similar views regarding Kashmir. On the 4th of January, 1948, he expressed his views on Kashmir and Indo-Pak relations after the matter was taken to the United Nations for peaceful resolution of conflict of Jammu and Kashmir. He neither supported nor disapproved the Union Government's decision of seeking help from United Nations in this matter. His own way of solving the crisis was to invite the Pakistan's representatives and discuss the matter with them and honestly find out a solution and finally live as peaceful neighbours. He said that Jammu and Kashmir had acceded, the accession upon certain conditions and if, Pakistan harassed Kashmir, then India was bound to save its own people. He was of the opinion that Pakistan should get out of Kashmir and solve the matter through bilateral negotiations. He felt, that if no settlement is reached then war would be inevitable and if that happens then it would be a calamity for both the countries. He also stated that Pakistan, a newly-born nation which had been formed in the name of religion should at least keep themselves clean and make no irrelevant claims that Muslims had committed no atrocities in Pakistan. He finally concluded that both India and Pakistan should live in peace and if war occurs they should fight till the very end. War may be a folly but sooner or later it could purify them [20].

So we see how desperate Gandhiji was to solve the matter. He was really farsighted and had realized long ago that this conflict could further escalate, and if settlement of the dispute is not reached soon, it might become a bone of contention between India and Pakistan for years to come. Truly Gandhiji's perception was correct as seven decades have passed since the Kashmir dispute began and still it has not been solved. It is also worth mentioning the specific views of some countries or group of countries regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

Geostrategic views of United States of America about Jammu and Kashmir

US geopolitical approach towards Jammu and Kashmir was on two grounds: (i) Americans considered the Instrument of Accession as a non-comprehensive package. They consider it as a package where the views of Kashmiri people were not fully honoured. (ii) Secondly they have taken a geopolitical approach exclusively based on their own geopolitical interest in this part of the world. They are aware of the fact that India cannot be a parasite state. Pakistan seems to be a potential parasite and they consider Pakistan as a geopolitical base ground from where Americans can spread their influence in South Asia and Middle East. Their presence in Pakistan would also help them to keep a close watch on the activities of Russia, Central Asiatic states, China, India and the vulnerable Arab world.

However recent attitude of USA (post 9/11) on the problem of terrorism, Taliban and religious militancy has brought some amount of credibility and American presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan etc has not been criticised on the same scale and in the same way as it was done before the war against Taliban. The US and India have become closer in recent times. India is receiving significant importance in US' strategic policy toward the Indo-Pacific. India's emergence as a credible power in the Indian Ocean region has brought both countries much closer. An offshore balancing strategy in the Indian Ocean will help the US give greater attention to the western Pacific while its interests in the Indian Ocean will not be adversely affected because of the presence of the offshore balancer. Undoubtedly, a militarily strong India can counter China in the Indian Ocean region and ensure freedom of navigation in the water body [21].

Geostrategic views of China about Jammu and Kashmir

China has taken its own stand on the fluid geopolitical situation of Jammu and Kashmir. China has its own interests in the region. They add in favour of redemarcation of international boundary and have forcefully occupied 37,555 sq km area of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides 5,180 sq km area (trans-Karakoram tract) has been transferred illegally by Pakistan to China. The Karakoram Highway built in this area of the state ceded by Pakistan to China is strategically very important as all-important arms and ammunitions are transferred by China to Pakistan through this highway. The 1,300 km long Karakoram Highway is an all-weather road linking Gilgit-Baltistan with the rest of Pakistan. It also connects Abbottabad of Pakistan to Xinjiang region of China. Thus it is also called China-Pakistan Friendship Highway [22]. Recently India refused to participate in 'One Belt, One Road' Summit held at Beijing, because of the fact that a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through POK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) which India claims to be its own territory and it was something related to its sovereignty and territorial integrity which could not be compromised [23].

Although recently, China has displayed at low profile attitude on Kashmir problem (even after the recent Jammu and Kashmir State Reorganisation Act 2019), it would never favour Indian occupation over the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir. China considers that sovereignty of India over this state would close the strategic China-Pakistan Friendship Highway and that would adversely affect the economy of Western China which is already a backward region. Secondly Indian possession would put more pressure on China for vacating the unauthorised territorial occupancy. Thirdly the control of India over Jammu and Kashmir would weaken the credibility of China amongst the Islamic countries and there would be a fear of losing a faithful geopolitical partner in the world polity. Among Indian observers, it is perceived that Chinese support of Pakistan is troubling for at least three reasons. First, while India has accepted Tibet as part of China, Beijing has not responded with 'reciprocal' actions on the Kashmir issue. Second, this support has emboldened Islamabad to persist with its claims on Kashmir. Third, it is a strategy by which to check or stall India's capacity to 'challenge Beijing's region-wide influence [24]. Thus clarification of the LAC (Line of Actual Control) and the passage of the Pakistan-China economic corridor through disputed territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) have emerged as two impediments hampering the full development of India-China ties [25].

Geostrategic views of Arab world about Jammu and Kashmir

Arab countries have developed their own perceptions on the problem of Jammu and Kashmir. OIC (Organisation of Islamic Countries) and Arab league are mouthpieces through which these countries invariably attempt to take interest in Jammu and Kashmir problems. Iraq and Egypt may be considered as countries having an unbiased and non-interfering Kashmir policy to a great extent. Other Arab countries had taken their stand of being pro-Pakistani to a great extent. It was principally based on three considerations:

- (i) Jammu and Kashmir was a Muslim dominated princely state, whose merger with Pakistan would be completely valid as per **Two Nation Theory**.

- (ii) They also had a feeling that Muslims cannot get justice in Hindu dominated states of India. There has been communal riots in India where Muslim have suffered a lot. They also cite the example of the demolition of **Babri Masjid** of Ayodhya as a state-sponsored anti-Muslim activity.
- (iii) The very geographical location of Jammu and Kashmir would provide tremendous social, religious, cultural and economic advantages to the Arab world, provided the state gets integrated with Pakistan. This will bring a continuation of Islamic governance from Mediterranean to the Himalayas and the Islamic world would be able to consolidate their position in Western China and Central Asia.

However, recently India and the Arab world no longer tried to see relations through the Pakistan angle and instead focused on tapping the economic opportunities offered by each other. The growing convergence of Indian and Gulf Arab interests in countering terrorism and combating radicalism puts pressure on Pakistan to act against trans-national jihadist groups and non-state actors operating from its territories. Thus, in the current scenario, when India-Gulf relations promise to develop into strategic partnerships, Pakistan remains a factor but its nature has changed due to the emergence mutual concerns in countering terrorism and combating radicalism [26].

IV. CONCLUSION

Thus we see that locational personality and geopolitics of any space or territory are correlated. In fact all classical geostrategic theories are based on locational personality of space. In fact locational personality becomes the dominant factor between two nations regarding strategic partnership or international relations. So, the locational personality of a state plays a vital role in its development, socio-economic progress and politico-administrative layout of a state. It also determines the nature of frontier and boundary. The state of Jammu and Kashmir of India is almost encompassed by nuclear powers like China in the east and north, Pakistan in the West and erstwhile Soviet nuclear installations in the north-west. Its famous silk route is capable to provide transit, transport and military improvement routes to China and Central Asiatic countries. Deep roots of Muslim militants and Talibanis in Afghanistan, Pakistan and even in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and dozens of training camps for militants make the locational characteristics vulnerable. The manifestation of above elements has immensely contributed in the present crisis, conflicts and instability in Jammu and Kashmir. Realizing this geostrategic sensitiveness of Jammu and Kashmir, Cohen has rightly observed it as a "Prospective Geostrategic Gateway of the World" and a prospective region of geostrategic tension and war in this century. Jammu and Kashmir is the only territory in the world which is surrounded by four nuclear powers of the world. They are India, China, Russia (nuclear insallations in Kirghiztan and Tajikistan) and Pakistan. Unfortunately all the four states have their geostrategic interests in this state of India.

It is again the location of Jammu and Kashmir, that neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan where religious fundamentalists have raised their heads, have found enough scope in the Muslim dominated Kashmir valley region for destabilizing India. It is not only the locational nearness but trans-border religio-cultural continuity and Himalayan terrain, that have facilitated the Islamic foreign mercenaries and militants to look into the peaceful land of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is therefore obvious that the locational factors of Jammu and Kashmir, and not the people of Jammu and Kashmir have caused the present geostrategic and geopolitical misfortune of the land.

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