

# CONFLICT BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUSLIMS

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## The Historical Causes of Conflict between Hindus and Muslims

**WHAT ARE THE HISTORICAL CAUSES OF CONFLICT BETWEEN  
HINDUS AND MUSLIMS FROM INDIA AND PAKISTAN?**

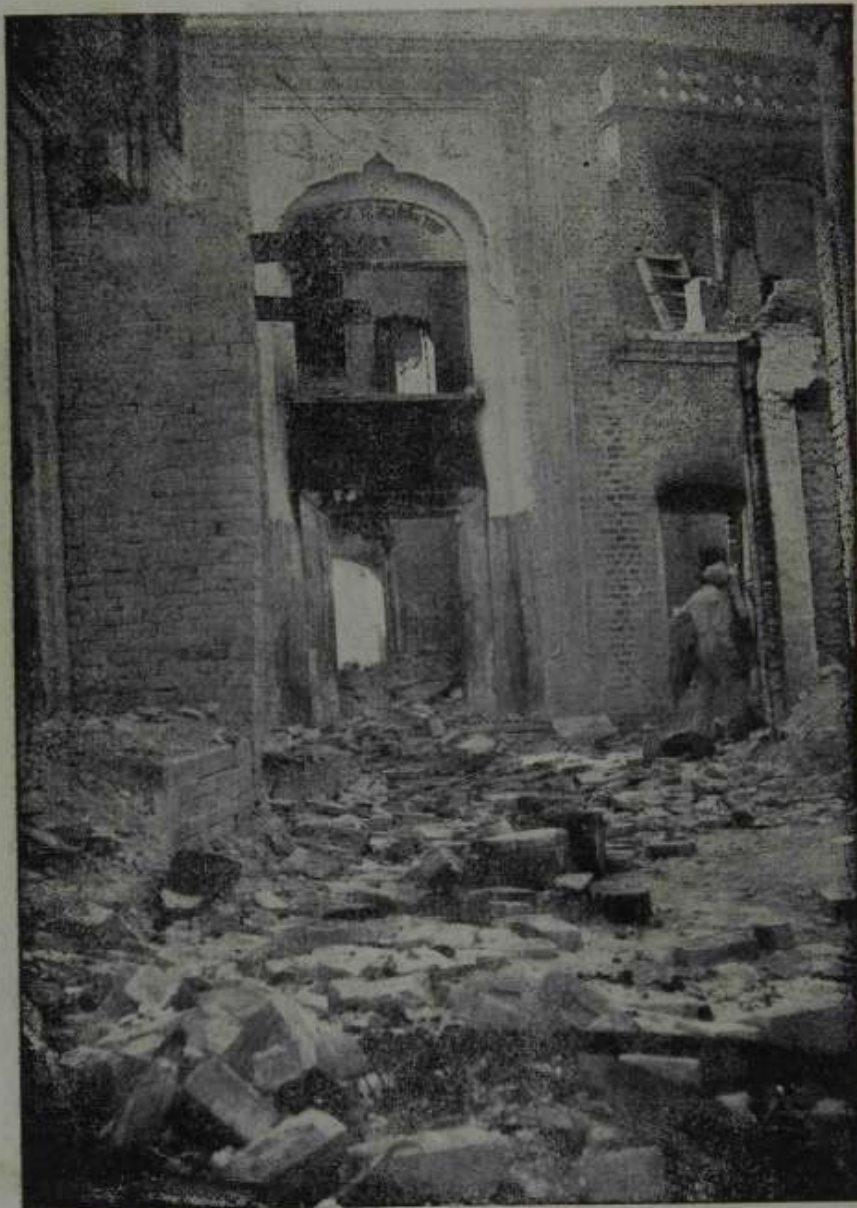
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## Partition was imposed by the British and damaged Hindu-Muslim relations

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The temple at Bewal. It was sought to wipe off every religion other than Islam.

### Source 1:

Aftermath of a Muslim attack on a Hindu temple. From the collection 'Rape of Rawalpindi' by Dr. Kirpal Singh



# Partition was imposed by the British and damaged Hindu-Muslim relations

**Source 2:** Oral historical account from an interview with Arghwani Begum in 2015. She was 25 years old and living in Delhi at the time of Partition. She was the mother of two children and pregnant

"Before that [May 1940 Pakistan Resolution], there was a lot of unity and trust between the Hindus and Muslims. We began to see the effects of the resolution when fighting started to erupt in the villages of Sahaspur. It was so sudden. We immediately sealed shut the windows of our train with whatever we could get our hands on. My baby almost fainted due to lack of oxygen in our berth. One of the male helpers in the train helped my baby get some air through the train's main entrance while the killing spree lasted for an uncertain period. There were a lot of people, especially children from many berths of that train, who had been killed. I saw their bloodied bodies when we finally got out of the train when the assailants had left,"



# Partition left deep scars and wrongly gave Kashmir to India

**Source 3:** Extract from a Pakistani textbook for Year 9 students, published in 2020

## Sources of Ideology

The sources of ideology are as under:-

### 1. Common Religion

Religion is not merely a set of prayers but it affects the entire social life of a nation. In the nineteenth century, many Hindu movements such as the Arya Samaj and the Brahmo Samaj etc., began in the Indian subcontinent which were intended to propagate Hinduism and bring down Muslims. The founder of the Arya Samaj, Pandit Dayanand Saraswati, had crossed all the limits. He started a programme called *Shuddhi*, which was aimed at forcibly converting non-Hindus into Hindus (that is to clean them according to Hindu mind). Raja Ram Mohan Rai, the founder of Brahmo Samaj, also used to speak against Muslims out of Muslim hostility. The Congress Government (1937-39) reinforced this notion and it became difficult for the Muslims in the united India to maintain their religious identity.





# Partition left deep scars and wrongly gave Kashmir to India

**Source 4:** Extract from a 2017 interview as part of the Partition Voices project, led by BBC journalist Kavita Puri

## Oral testimony by Gurbakhsh Sing Garcha

**Gurbakhsh Sing Garcha:** That really affected me greatly. I thought, I hated that man.

**Kavita Puri:** So tell me about him

**Gurbakhsh Sing Garcha:** He was a relative of this... my uncle, powerful uncle's distant relative. And he had been involved in carrying out the massacres and things like that, he always carried his sword and spear. Didn't think much of it until one day I was there in that house which I frequently went to, because my uncle's son was a year older than me and we used to play together and he had all the things that I didn't, it was a very rich house. And this man had brought this Muslim woman and she was really distressed. You could see that she was totally terrified. A good looking woman. And he wanted her to obey him and do everything he said. At one point he made her lick a spoon with pork fat, made her lick it and the Muslim woman she knew what it was, she was told what it was, she had to do it.

**Kavita Puri:** And you saw him do that?

**Gurbakhsh Sing Garcha:** Yes. And she was so distressed. And I didn't want to see this happen. It made me cry and I went home.

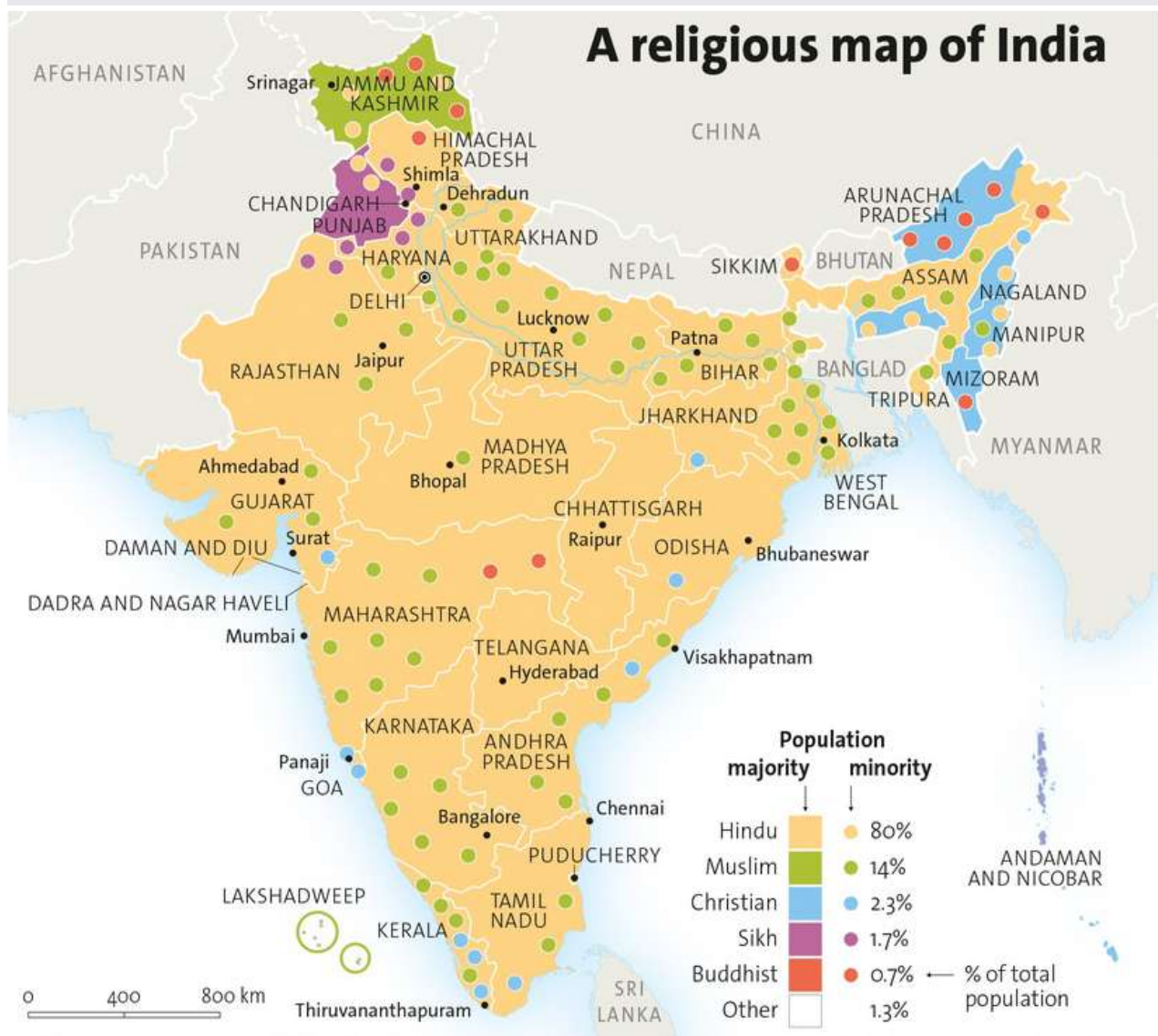
**Kavita Puri:** He was probably raping her as well wasn't he?

**Gurbakhsh Sing Garcha:** Very likely. Yes. We didn't quite understand the concept of rape at the time. I didn't. But that must have been the case.



# Modern India is secular and contains many religious minorities

**Source 5:** A religious map of India published by French newspaper Le Monde Diplomatique in July 2019, based on data from the 2011 Indian census





# Modern India is secular and contains many religious minorities

**Source 6:** Extract from the Indian constitution, adopted in 1949

## Article 25

Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion

(1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion

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## Article 26

Freedom to manage religious affairs subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right

- (a) to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;
- (b) to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;
- (c) to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and
- (d) to administer such property in accordance with law.

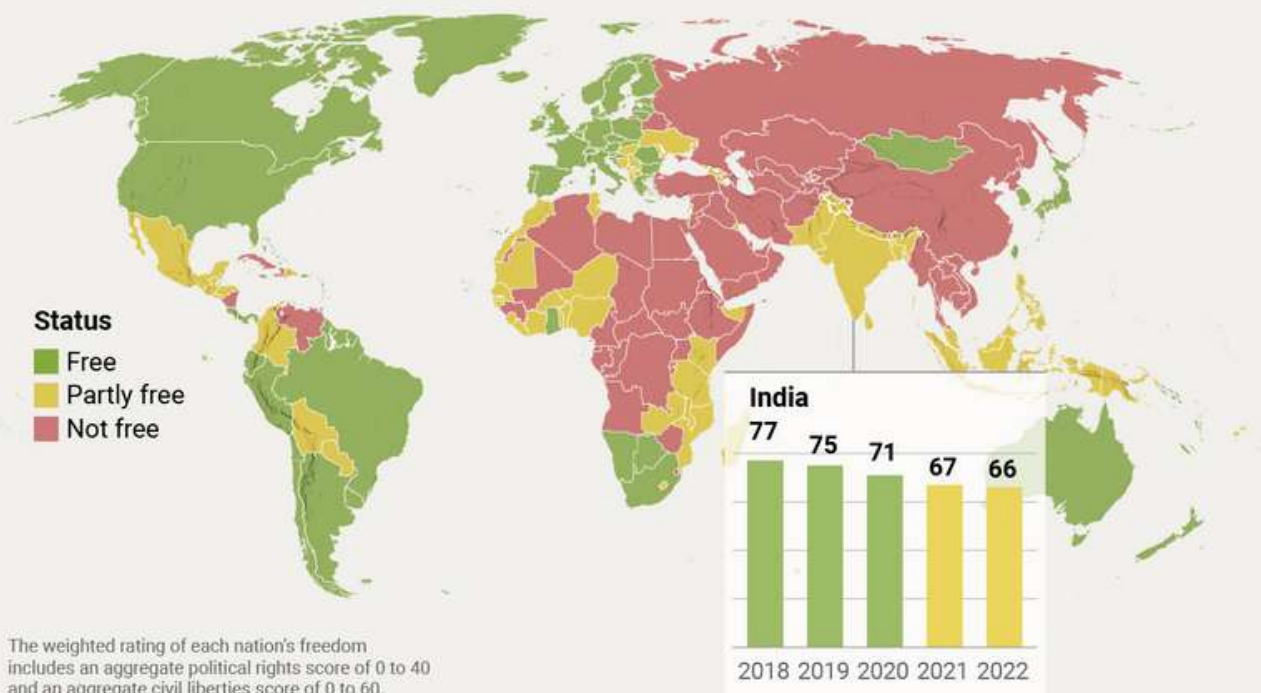


# India is an authoritarian Hindu state

**Source 7:** India's freedom ratings from 2018 to 2022, produced by Freedom House

## Freedom House Ratings, 2022

Over the last five years, India's ranking has steadily declined on Freedom House's "Freedom in the World" report.



Source: Freedom House

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# India is an authoritarian Hindu state

**Source 8:** Extract from the article 'Hijab ban in India Sparks Outrage, Protests', Human Rights Watch, 9 February 2022

## Hijab Ban in India Sparks Outrage, Protests

Standoff Points to Growing Marginalization of Muslims

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Over the past month, several government-run educational institutions in India's Karnataka state have banned Muslim female students from wearing the hijab, or headscarf. The state government, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has backed the discriminatory ban, passing a directive last week saying, "clothes which disturb equality, integrity, and public law and order should not be worn."



# India gave self-government to Muslim-majority Kashmir

**Source 9:** A movie trailer for 2022 Bollywood film 'The Kashmir Files', showing the Indian view on Kashmir, with peaceful Kashmiri Hindus or 'Pandits' being driven out by Muslim Kashmiri fighters





# India gave self-government to Muslim-majority Kashmir

**Source 10:** Extract from the article 'Jammu and Kashmir gets 10% of Central funds with only 1% of population', in Indian newspaper The Hindu, 24 July 2016

## THE HINDU

July 24, 2016 11:36 pm | Updated October 18, 2016 03:06 pm IST

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

Jammu and Kashmir has received 10 per cent of all Central grants given to states over the 2000-2016 period, despite having only one per cent of the country's population, analysis by *The Hindu* of Central and State finances shows.

In contrast, Uttar Pradesh makes up about 13 per cent of the country's population but received only 8.2 per cent of Central grants in 2000-16. That means J&K, with a population of 12.55 million according to the 2011 Census, received Rs.91,300 per person over the last sixteen years while Uttar Pradesh only received Rs.4,300 per person over the same period.

Even among the special category states, Jammu and Kashmir receives a disproportionate amount of Central assistance.



# India has never allowed Kashmir to decide its own future

**Source 11:** Extract from an article by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan for the New York Times, 30 August 2019

“On August 5th, in its most brazen and egregious move, Mr. Modi’s government altered the status of Indian-occupied Kashmir through the revocation of Article 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution. The move is illegal under the Constitution of India, but more importantly, it is a violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and the Shimla Agreement between India and Pakistan.

And Mr. Modi’s “New India” chose to do this by imposing a military curfew in Kashmir, imprisoning its population in their homes and cutting off their phone, internet and television connections, rendering them without news of the world or their loved ones. The siege was followed by a purge: Thousands of Kashmiris have been arrested and thrown into prisons across India. A blood bath is feared in Kashmir when the curfew is lifted. Already, Kashmiris coming out in defiance of the curfew are being shot and killed.”





# India has never allowed Kashmir to decide its own future

**Source 12:** Extract from 'India accused the BBC and Reuters of lying about large-scale protests in Kashmir, even though they were recorded on video', Business Insider, 12 August 2019

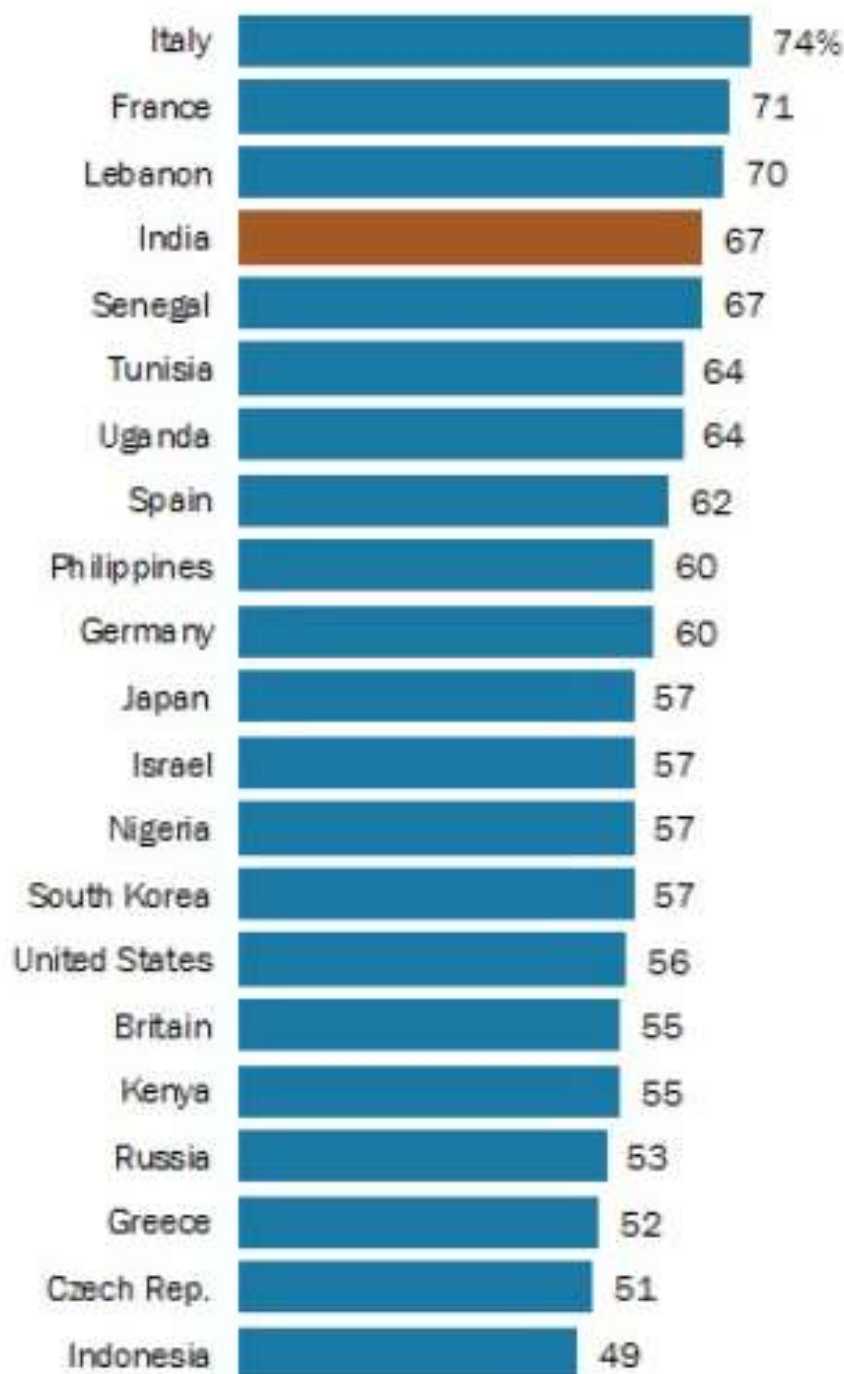
## India accused the BBC and Reuters of lying about large-scale protests in Kashmir, even though they were recorded on video

Alexandra Ma Aug 12, 2019, 9:49 AM

- The BBC and Reuters reported that thousands of people in the disputed Kashmir region protested the Indian government on Friday and that the police used tear gas to disperse them.
- The Indian government accused the two news organizations of lying about the demonstration in Kashmir, saying that protests in Kashmir never exceeded 20 people.
- Reuters' written report was based on the testimony of unidentified witnesses and one police officer, while the BBC recorded footage of the protest.



## Islamism has radicalised some Indian Muslims against India



### Source 13:

Results from the Spring 2013 Global Attitudes survey about the % of country's populations who say that Islamic extremist groups are a 'major threat' to their country



# Islamism has radicalised some Indian Muslims against India

**Source 14:** Kashmiri protestors hold Islamic State (IS) flags during a protest in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India, 26 December 2015





# India violently attacks Muslims

**Source 15:** Extract from 'Why India man was lynched over beef rumours' BBC News, 1 October 2015

**A 50-year-old man in northern India was killed in a mob lynching on Monday night allegedly over rumours that his family had been storing and consuming beef at home. BBC Hindi's Salman Ravi went to Dadri in the state of Uttar Pradesh to find out more.**

It was around 10.30pm on Monday night and the nine-member Akhlaq family had been preparing to go to bed after dinner.

Mohammad Akhlaq, a farm worker, was already asleep in a room next to his 22-year-old son, Danish, when a frenzied mob, wielding sticks, swords and cheap pistols burst into their home, accusing the family of having slaughtered a cow and consuming it.

"They came from everywhere. Over the walls, through the gate...They just barged into the house, shouting that we had slaughtered a cow," says his 75-year-old mother, Asghari Akhlaq.

"I asked them how can we bring a cow into the house without anyone seeing? We are the only Muslim family in this neighbourhood."

Some meat found in the fridge, that the family insists is mutton, was held to be proof.

## Brutal mob

Slaughter of cows is a sensitive issue in India as the animal is considered sacred by Hindus, who comprise 80% of the country's 1.2bn people.

Uttar Pradesh is among a number of Indian states who have tightened laws banning cow slaughter and the sale and consumption of beef.

The family's pleas of innocence fell on deaf ears. The mob was too large. Smashing their way into the house, they began dragging out members of the family, abusing and manhandling even the women. A group of the attackers made their way into the room where Mr Akhlaq was asleep. They bashed his head with a sewing machine lying nearby and dragged him and Danish out of the house.

From that point the beating became even more brutal. Both Mr Akhlaq and Danish were beaten with bricks, kicked and stabbed repeatedly, his family members told the BBC.





# India violently attacks Muslims

**Source 16:** The demolition of Muslim homes in Madhya Pradesh, India by state authorities after there was some communal violence during a Hindu holiday, April 2022





# Pakistan stokes Muslim discontent in India

**Source 17:** Extract from the article “Pakistani intelligence services ‘aided Mumbai terror attacks’” in The Guardian, 18 October 2010

Pakistan's powerful intelligence services were heavily involved in preparations for the Mumbai terrorist attacks of November 2008, according to classified Indian government documents obtained by the Guardian.

...key suspect David Headley...described dozens of meetings between officers of the main Pakistani military intelligence service, the ISI, and senior militants from the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) group responsible for the Mumbai attacks.

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More than 160 people were killed by militants from LeT who arrived by sea to attack luxury hotels, a Jewish centre, a café, a hospital and the main railway station in Mumbai, the Indian commercial capital. Casualties included citizens from 25 countries, including four Americans killed and seven Britons injured. The attacks dominated media for days and badly damaged already poor Indian-Pakistan relations.



# Pakistan stokes Muslim discontent in India

**Source 18:** Extract from the article 'Pakistan keeps making bad decisions with India. Its insecurity is hurting peace', from Indian online newspaper The Print, 3 April 2021

What Pakistan does not have to do is exhaust itself in trying to keep pace with India. For decades, Pakistan spent on the military far more than India, [proportionate to its GDP](#), in a futile attempt to reach this mirage of equality. And Pakistan continues to do so, despite its worsening economic and social conditions. While not all of Pakistan's woes stem from this disproportionate military spending – India's social indices aren't that much better despite lower military spending, for example – reducing the intensity of competition with India may allow Pakistan to at least address some of its domestic problems better. Hopefully, Pakistan's leaders and elites will realise that trying to compete with India is a futile exercise.

But this competition has other negative effects on Pakistan. For example, Pakistan uses terrorism as a [grand strategy](#), necessitated by its relative weakness. The problem, though, is that terror is also ultimately of limited utility as a grand strategy because it does little to correct either the military or economic imbalance with India. Seeing attacks like the 2008 Mumbai terror attack on live television may provide temporary psychic satisfaction to some in Pakistan, but they contain little strategic benefit for the neighbouring country itself.



# India has always tried to weaken Pakistan and Muslims

**Source 19:** Extract from a report published in 2022 by the Observer Research Foundation, a thinktank based in India

New Delhi was also aware of the consequences of its nuclearisation on Pakistan...indeed, it may have forced Pakistan to frantically search for a nuclear deterrent of its own, especially when Islamabad's capability at the time was minuscule. Given India's conventional superiority over Pakistan, New Delhi had no requirement of a nuclear arsenal vis-à-vis its conventionally weaker adversary. As stated in a classified assessment carried out in the Prime Minister's office in April 1970, "If we do acquire a nuclear bomb, this would create a strong psychological effect in Pakistan that our action was in fact directed solely against them."...Islamabad did not have to wait long to acquire a solid motivation to pursue the bomb; the Bangladesh War of December 1971...provided a strong rationale...possessing nuclear weapons could have allowed Pakistan to avoid another 1971-type military defeat.





# India has always tried to weaken Pakistan and Muslims

**Source 20:** Quotes about India's involvement in the Pakistani Civil War of 1971, which resulted in East Pakistan becoming the independent country of Bangladesh, published in 'Dead Reckoning: Memories of the 1971 Bangladesh War' by Bose Sarmila, 2011

*'The big operations are always done by the Indians... And then they call it a Mukti Fauj "victory". It isn't that we are ungrateful. But it is our war and our land, we want to do it ourselves'.*

– Bengali volunteer to the rebel cause, to British-Bengali journalist of *The Guardian*, August 1971<sup>1</sup>

*'Indian units were withdrawn to Indian territory once their objectives had been brought under the control of the Mukti Bahini—though at times this was only for short periods, as, to the irritation of the Indians, the Mukti Bahini forces rarely held their ground when the Pakistani army launched a counterattack'.*

– Sisson and Rose, *War and Secession: Pakistan, India and the Creation of Bangladesh*<sup>2</sup>