

Pak-India Relations: 1985-88

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The military rivalry between India and Pakistan that took birth with the partition of the sub-continent in 1947 has never abated. The two countries have already fought three major wars.¹ Fighting between their armies at the Siachen Glacier in the Karakorum Mountains near the Chinese border in 1984 was the worst after the 1971 war.² It broke out despite Pakistan's offer of a non-aggression pact to India in June 1982.³ One of the main reasons for hostilities in Siachen was India's apprehension about Sino-Pakistan military collaboration and its location close to the Kashmir border.⁴ Among other irritants was the Kashmir issue itself that had been the main cause of the three major wars between the two countries. Though Kashmir, during the period under review, was not a burning issue, Pakistan was never ready to recognize the Line of Control as the border between the two countries. Moreover, Pakistan and India were charging each other with fomenting trouble in Sindh and Indian Punjab, respectively.

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1. The wars were fought in 1948, 1965, and 1971.
2. Robert G. Wirsing, *Pakistan's Security under Zia, 1977-1988: Policy Imperatives of a Peripheral Asian State*, (Hampshire: Macmillan Academic and Professional, 1991), 81. Siachen is in the Numre valley, which separates Aksai Chin in Ladakh from Baltistan — a strategic link-up between Pakistan and China. Northwest of Siachen Glacier lies Khunjerab pass through which the Karakoram Highway has been built. See Mujtaba Razvi, "South Asia and the SAARC", *Pakistan Horizon*, Karachi, Vol. XXXIX, No. 1, 1986, 121.
3. Robert G. Wirsing.
4. Mujtaba Razvi.

