

The Vale of Tears: Kashmir, the Source of Indo-Pakistani Conflict Since 1947

Isiaka Alani Badmus

Centre for Social Science Research and Development, P.O. Box 214, Ikorodu, Lagos, Nigeria
Telephone: +234-8038034974; E-mail: isiakabad@excite.com, badmus_in_nigeria@yahoo.co.uk

KEYWORDS Pakistan. India. Jammu and Kashmir. Religion. War

ABSTRACT This study is a contribution from Africa to the scholarly discourse on India - Pakistan strained international relations. From historical and descriptive perspectives, it critically analyses the present estrangement between the two South Asia giants over Jammu and Kashmir between 1947 and 2000. The central thesis of this study is that the Indo-Pakistani conflict is an extension of the century old Hindu-Muslim tension within the subcontinent to the inter-state relations between the two countries. Within this context, it postulates that the conflict is more of religion that is being camouflaged with politics, and argues further that unless the fundamental causes of militancy and people's disenchantment are tackled, no worthwhile and lasting solution is possible. As a result, the article suggests that India and Pakistan should note that the problem in Kashmir can *never* be resolved through the barrel of the gun. Thus, a political solution that could satisfy the urges and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir living in all regions and areas and belonging to all faiths and communities that could be eventually acceptable to the two parties is called for.

Sadly, alarmingly, endlessly, there is trouble in paradise. The vale of Kashmir, once exalted for the lotus blooms in its lakes and the yellow tapestry of its mustard fields, has become a valley of despair—a place of haunted by senseless murder and hideous torture, wherever the famously sweet winds blow

- Barry Bearak, *New York Times*, 12 August, 1999.