



Indo-Pakistan war 1971: Conflicts of Russia, India and US

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Abstract

After nine months of war against the government of the Pakistani army, Bangladesh (East Pakistan) took its place on the world map as a sovereign country. Most countries were involved in the Bangladesh Liberation War, specially India, Russia and United States. The United States made its policy of making Yahya Khan, Pakistan's dictator, comfortable in the East Pakistan crisis. By making use of this strategy, they wanted to rebuild their relationship with China, influencing Middle East Muslim countries, Pakistan was the country in what they could enforce their policy.

Keywords: America's foreign policy, Russia-India treaty, Pakistan

1. Introduction

After sacrificing many lives in 1971, after nine months of fighting against autocrat Pakistan, Bangladesh gained independence. President Richard Nixon has supported all military actions from the outset, including genocide in East Pakistan. India was active in Bangladesh's liberation war and in August 1971 both Russia and India signed a treaty. United States attempted to establish relations with China, where Pakistan played a middleman role. On the other side, for supplying arms to West Pakistan, Nixon and Kissinger used Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Libya ^[1]. An attempt to save West Pakistan is India's aggression, obviously the US has also tried to save itself from Soviet Russia's threat ^[2]. Nixon and Kissinger impressed the Indians very badly. Indira Gandhi and Nixon's Prime Minister, in particular, did not have a good friendship. US President Nixon tried to save Yahya Khan from his heart and soul, although Soviet Russia supported India and Bangladesh. Such two super-power countries' participation in the Bangladesh Liberation War led to a cold war. The U.S. played a very unjustified role against Bangladesh in this war ^[3]. While explaining the foreign policy of the United States of America in Bangladesh's liberation war, try to draw the history of Bangladesh's 1971 liberation war.

2. Research Methodology

The experiment uses various data collection tools. This study is an exploratory analysis based on a survey performed primarily on the basis of secondary data. Academics compose secondary facts in books and articles.

3. Results and Discussion

Bangladesh's position was a debatable and distinct chapter for the foreign policy of the United States. Bangladesh's independence war and the problems it generated were a great surprise for the United States. America's foreign policy on the

Bangladesh Liberation War was double-minded and contrary to Bangladesh's interests. They tried not to make a bad impression on the minds of both Pakistani and Bengali leaders about America. But the Nixon government provided social, political and economic assistance to Pakistan ^[3]. Between March to December 1971, U.S. President Richard M. Nixon continued to support Pakistan against Bangladesh. So the question is why Pakistan is supported by the US? Pakistan was a member of SEATO (South-East Asian Treaty Organization) and CENTO (Central Treaty Organization) against world communism with the United States in 1954 and 1955 ^[4], as a result of which Pakistan had a good relationship with the United States from the beginning. India, on the other hand, signed an alliance with the Soviet Union in August 1971, which posed a risk and barrier to the exercise of power by the US in South Asia. The U.S. was looking for a loyal friend in the Middle East to control Muslim countries ^[5]. Pakistan was an obvious option for this reason as a Muslim country. The U.S. was involved in rebuilding its relationship with China after being defeated in the Vietnam War. Thanks to the communist revolution of 1949, Washington cut off all relations with China. In his book "White House," Kissinger wrote that there was no choice except for Pakistan to interact with China. Pakistan was the faithful media for the US to take control of South and South-East Asia and restore its relationship with China ^[6,7]. According to Pakistan, Nixon did not get warm reception in India's tour in 1967. He had received an unusually warm reception in Pakistan. Kissinger reported the reception "never forgotten". With respect to US involvement in South Asia, Nixon also gives high priority to Pakistan. India- Russia's August 9, 1971 pact shocked and challenged the US. The United States helped Pakistan ^[8-9]. Henry Alfred Kissinger played a vital role in the Nixon government's U.S. foreign policy. As part of his job, he played a leading role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. As a solution to the East Pakistan crisis, Kissinger sent several

suggestions to Nixon. Proposal Number 1- Aid Pakistan entirely including the Yahya Government's military operation in East Pakistan. Proposal Number 2- Both economic and military assistance to Pakistan was deferred. Proposal Number three- to send aid for victims and refugees to East Pakistan and India. Nixon has been active in West Pakistan and has also provided humanitarian aid to East Pakistan and India ^[10]. The Senior Review Group held a conference to review the situation in East Pakistan on 6 March 1971. Kissinger said in this meeting that Nixon wouldn't want to do anything against Pakistan that would upset Yahya Khan. Johnson, the foreign affairs officer, said West Pakistan's support would not affect relations between India and the United States. He also said the U.S., Russia, and India's involvement in South Asia would be secure if Pakistan were undivided. Kissinger convened another meeting of the Washington Special Action Group on 26 March 1971 and told Nixon that he did not want to do anything about Yahya's military action ^[11]. Unfortunately, the US supports the Pakistani army's genocide in East Pakistan. From the beginning, Nixon's approach was tilting to Pakistan, but his administration maintained that the US had treated India and Pakistan similarly. Archer Blood argued that they did not deserve equal treatment if it was valid. In 1971, Archer Blood was the Consul General of the United States in Dhaka. He has often told the state department about the situation in Bangladesh. He said, "US policy on recent developments in East Pakistan does not serve our broadly defined moral interests or narrowly defined national interests" ^[12]. With twenty policemen, Blood strongly protested against the Bangladesh crisis strategy of the United States. Blood made the administration aware of political care to neglect the liberation war in Bangladesh and avoid helping future losers in this war ^[13]. U.S. investigative journalist Jack Anderson received some leaked paper from the division and military of the government. The Anderson papers provide more criticism of Nixon Kissinger's East Pakistan Conflict Strategy ^[5]. "Richard Nixon took the United States to the brink of another world war," he accused the government. His actions were deliberate; he acted in secret; and he lied about his acts to the American people" ^[14]. US politicians, in particular a number of senators and congress members, criticized the issue of government policy in Bangladesh (East Pakistan) ^[15]. Senator Edward Kennedy asked the U.S. government to take immediate steps for peace in Pakistan as massacre occurred in East Pakistan using U.S. weapons. Senator Maxray was extremely angry. Ten senators demanded assistance from East Pakistan to be sent and economic and military aid to West Pakistan to be prevented. Member of Congress Cornelius Gallagher, former chairman of the Asia Pacific Subcommittee, was blamed for providing Pakistan with arms supply. Politicians in East Pakistan were occupied with criticism of human rights violations and the exploitation of American weaponry. National Security Councils worked for the United States of America's foreign policy. In the international crisis, the Senior Review Group and the Washington Special Review Group helped NSC render White House strategy. In the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, the NSC played a very minor role. By influencing Nixon, Henry Kissinger personally observed this issue. The Bureaucrats and the White House did

not understand this problem. From their individual perspectives, they viewed it from opposite sides. US intellectuals pressured the government of Nixon to play an active role in South Asia's crisis ^[16]. The US government encouraged the two parts of Pakistan to find a peaceful solution to this critical issue for the first time on 7 April 1971. Next day, US Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs Josef Sisco said that this is Pakistan's internal affair ^[6]. But the US ambassador to India, Kenneth Kitting, disagreed with Josef, saying that the international community should not ignore this issue by considering Pakistan's internal affairs ^[17]. The U.S. media started attacking government after citizens in Bangladesh were killed using U.S. weapons. So the government decided not to send arms to West Pakistan anymore. On April 19, 1971, the Senior Review Group reviewed the issue of Pakistan's U.S. foreign policy and determined that the U.S. needed a good relationship with India than Pakistan because of tremendous population, resources and international status. At this meeting, Kissinger was present. In June 12, 1971, the Nixon administration was again asked for a political solution to the East Pakistan crisis. The United States government announced that it would stop supplying weapons, but it continued to supply arms to Pakistan. This issue has been published by many newspapers. The Department of Foreign Affairs said that these very small amounts of weapons were sent to Pakistan because of the agreement signed before 25 March 1971. The US has indirectly helped Pakistan get arms from Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Libya ^[1]. In October 1971, the United States dispatched 78 jet airlines from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan. The United States has pursued a contradictory stance on the question of Pakistan. The U.S. sent huge money to Bangladesh as housing aid. They have implemented this approach for two reasons. 1) To raising the impact of white house anti-criticism. 2) Giving Yahya strength to make the political solution. Kissinger changed the policy in favor of Pakistan after China tour. Kissinger has been interested to do everything for Pakistan since July.

Russia- India plan was confirmed in the month of July 1971 to operate against West Pakistan. Meanwhile, Kissinger believed that India was prepared to attack Pakistan. He believed that Russia had persuaded India to do the operation. Kissinger's thinking convinced Nixon. The treaty between Russia and India was signed at the end of Kissinger's tour in Pecking. At this time, the US was quite active in the political solution of the problem. Political solution means remaining undivided Pakistan by granting East Pakistan autonomy, according to Nixon and Kissinger. The House of Representatives of the Committee on Foreign Affairs decided to stop monitoring and military assistance to Pakistan until the situation in East Pakistan is peaceful. This policy became known as United States Lam's strategy. In September and October 1971, the U.S. negotiators met with representatives of Bangladesh's temporary government in Calcutta and at first, the Bengali leaders were interested in meeting them to try a diplomatic solution to these problems. But they changed their minds and said that it is only by leading Sheik Mujibur Rahman that discussion can happen. Initiatives have not been carried out since he was in custody ^[18]. Washington's relationship with

India's leadership was not friendly. Gandhi's biographer Joyakar said Nixon had strong antipathy to India, and Gandhi's "intense dislike" [19]. Nixon claimed that sly and devious were the Indians (21). Gandhi's aim was to use American power to influence Pakistan to stop the crisis in South Asia. Yet Nixon and Kissinger believed that Gandhi was waging a war on Pakistan [19]. Indira Gandhi, India's former prime minister, made a tour of Washington on 4 November 1971 and met Nixon in two meetings, but their dialogs were not fruitful because of their mutual lack of confidence [20]. Nixon told her at the first meeting that Sheik Mujib will not be killed [5] and that Yahya will agree to sit with the leaders of Bengali. Kissinger believed that Gandhi would not be involved in the war against Pakistan. Nixon, including withdrawing the troops from India and East Pakistan Boarder, gave Gandhi some advice and called for time limit to fix the problems. Gandhi did not respond without any comments to Nixon's proposal [22]. Nixon decided to partly avoid the issue and Gandhi acknowledged the US president's concern as well. She reached Nixon in the second meeting on 5 November and had to wait for forty-five minutes to see the president of the United States. Both Gandhi and Nixon were not interested in discussing the East Pakistan crisis as they believed that the results of those meetings would be nil. Gandhi asked Nixon about US involvement and reconciliation with China in the Vietnam War. For both leaders, that was an unpleasant meeting. The meeting was concluded without advancement and without any outstanding results [23].

The air force in Pakistan struck India's north and west air force. After starting the war between India and Pakistan, the Nixon administration took a strong part on Pakistan's side. At the press conference on 4 December, Josef Sisco said that India was in charge of the boarder war. For order for stop the war, India refused all US proposals. Nixon asked Kissinger to provide economic, armed and moral assistance to Pakistan. Tilt Policy knows that. On 6 December 1971, the US government stopped \$87.6 million in economic aid to India. United Nations Ambassador George W. Bush Senior of the United States proposed to cease fire and remove the army from Pakistan and India. Russia, however, imposed the Veto power against the proposal. An emergency meeting was called on 12 December and this conference was attended by Nixon, Kissinger, and General Heig. They decided to send aircraft to Bengal from Carrier, USS Enterprise [5]. With two groups of ships with nuclear weapons, the Russian navy began to Bay of Bengal. Meanwhile, they trailed American activities from the Indian Ocean [24, 25]. But this policy was failed on 16 December 1971 due to the surrender of the Pakistan army.

4. Conclusion

The United States pursued its own involvement in the crisis in Bangladesh. If the US took part in Bangladesh, the return on its investment would not be anything [25]. In his White House Years, Kissinger wrote, "There was no question of 'saving ' East Pakistan" [26]. As part of US concern, the US uses Pakistan's tilt agenda as a media outlet for China and the Middle East's Muslim countries. Taking China as part of the US side, Nixon sought to balance Soviet Russia's power. The strategy of the United States has not operated as the

government of the United States intended. The administration tried to say that Nixon was always neutral. The US authorities did not express disappointment with the mass killing campaign known as Campaign Searchlight on 25 March 1971, and the journalist Anderson revealed that the US position was completely in Pakistan's favor with the leaked papers Anderson Papers. By keeping Pakistan undivided and settling the problem according to the 1970 election, the United States took steps to resolve the crisis. But Bengali leaders were unable to sit with Sheik Mujibur Rahman's U.S. representative. Failed to take this measure. The stance of the United States was against civilization. America has demonstrated a lack of moral and humanitarian responsibility. Yahya ordered the killing of three million Bengalis in East Pakistan on 25 March. Through military aid and economic assistance, the US supported them. Approximately 10, 00,000 people had taken shelter in India. America's own people are protesting their actions. The U.S. assistance for Bengali refugee India was not enough. India's participation has added a new impetus to the battle. The US policy has not made either Pakistan or India happy. The US-India relationship has deteriorated. The US decision to send a USS company to help Pakistan proved to be wrong when Nixon withdrew the USS Company without taking part in the war.

5. References

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