THE FUTURE OF THE STATE OF KASHMIR: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF INTERSECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION IN INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL NORMS



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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Laws (General)

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II

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my family and friends for their endless love, support, and encouragement.

Thank you.

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Alhamdulillah

I express my gratitude to Allah SWT for giving me the strength, knowledge, ability and opportunity to undertake this research and complete in satisfactorily.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Jammu and Kashmir
United Nations
United Nations Security Council
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
Gross Domestic Product
Bharatiya Janata Party
Peoples Democratic Party
Human Rights Watch
International Court of Justice
United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan
Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir
Line of Control
Public Safety Act
Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir
International Committee of the Red Cross
Indian-held Kashmir
Non-Governmental Organization
Permanent Resident Certificate
Chief of Army Staff
United Nations Development Programme

ABSTRACT

This thesis presents a comprehensive analysis of the intricate relationship between Indian constitutional law and international legal norms, with a special focus on the state of Kashmir. It offers an in-depth exploration of Kashmir's constitutional journey within the Indian framework, alongside its interaction with international law, unfolding across four critical chapters. Chapter 1 lays the foundational context, tracing Kashmir's historical journey from a princely state to its contentious position under Indian administration. It scrutinizes the legal framework that has governed Kashmir, highlighting the pivotal role of Article 370 and its eventual abrogation. The chapter also delves into the international legal perspective, providing a bird's eye view of global legal principles and their relevance to the Kashmir issue. Chapter 2 shifts the focus to the constitutional developments in India and their direct implications for Kashmir. This segment critically analyses the evolution of Indian constitutional law, especially the legal and political consequences stemming from the revocation of Article 370. It also incorporates a comparative legal analysis, drawing parallels with other regions under special constitutional provisions within India. In Chapter 3, the narrative expands to the global stage, bridging Indian constitutional law with international norms. This chapter examines the principle of self-determination under international law and how it applies to Kashmir. It also presents a comparative study of international responses to similar territorial disputes, providing a broader perspective on the Kashmir issue. The concluding part not only encapsulates the legal complexities but also sheds light on the potential pathways towards a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conundrum. In sum, this thesis aims to unravel the legal intricacies of the Kashmir issue, offering a scholarly perspective that navigates through national and international legal terrains. The research is poised to contribute significantly to legal scholarship and policy-making, fostering a deeper understanding of one of the most complex and enduring territorial disputes in the modern world.

Keywords: Kashmir, Indian Constitutional Law, International Law, Article 370, Self-Determination, Human Rights, Comparative Analysis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL FOR EXAMINATION	II
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	III
PLAGIARISM UNDERTAKING	IV
PLAGIARISM REPORT	V
DEDICATION	VI
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	VII
LIST OF ACRONYMS	. VIII
ABSTRACT	IX
CHAPTER NO 1	1
EVOLUTION OF KASHMIR'S CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW DYNAMICS: AN OVERVIEW	1
1.1.Introduction	1
1.2.Research Statement	3
1.3. Historical Context of Kashmir within Indian Constitutional Law	4
1.4.The International Legal Framework on Kashmir Issue: Bird Eye View	6
1.5.Literature Review	7
1.6.Legal Research Questions	14
1.7.Legal Research Objectives	14
1.8.Research Methodology	15
1.9.Significance of this Research	15
1.10.Conclusion	16
CHAPTER NO 2	18
CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION IN INDIA AND ITS APPLICATION IN KASHMIR	18
2.1.The Evolution of Indian Constitutional Law	18
2.2.Historical Overview of Article 370 and Its Abrogation	19
2.3.Recent Verdict of Supreme Court of India on Article 370	22
2.3.1. Precise Summary	23
2.4.Legal and Political Implications of Constitutional Changes in Kashmir	24
2.4.1.Legal Implications:	24
2.4.2. Political Implications:	24
2.4.3. Legal and Political Analysis:	25
2.5.Comparative Analysis: Other Regions under Special Constitutional Provisions i India 25	n
2.5.1. North-Eastern States and Article 371:	26
2.5.2. Analysis of Regional Autonomy:	26
2.5.3. Comparative Legal Perspective:	26

2.6. Analysis of Legal Arguments Surrounding Article 370's Revocation	27
2.7.Conclusion	29
CHAPTER NO 3	31
KASHMIR: BRIDGING INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL NORMS IN THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE AND SOVEREIC	SNTY
	31
3.1.Introduction	31
3.2.The Concept of Self-Determination in International Law	32
3.3. Theoretical Perspectives on Conflict Resolution and Self-Determination	36
3.4. Analysis of International Legal Norms and Their Applicability to Kashmir	38
3.5.India's International Obligations and the Kashmir Issue	45
3.6.Comparative Study of International Legal Responses to Similar Territorial Di	_
3.7. The Role of International Human Rights Law in the Kashmir Context	
3.8.Conclusion	58
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	59
Conclusion	59
Recommendations	62
BIBLIOGRAPHY	66
Primary Sources	66
Secondary Sources	66