

Peaceful Intent:
American Diplomacy during the Indo-Pakistani Conflict of 1971

Thesis: While Nixon privately favored Pakistan's military dictator Yahya Khan much more than India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, whom he despised, these personal feelings did not transfer into actual policy decisions until the advent of the Indo-Pakistani war at the beginning of December 1971.

- I. Introduction
 - A. East Pakistani Independence Movement
 - B. West Pakistan Cracks Down – March 25, 1971
- II. Lack of U.S. Response
 - A. Nixon Wanted to Retain Influence with Yahya
 - B. Yahya – middle-man between U.S. and China
 - C. **Nixon said to Ahmad, “It is wrong...to assume that the U.S. should go around telling other countries how to arrange their political affairs.”**
- III. Crackdown Creates Problems
 - A. Refugees to India (mostly Hindus)
 - B. India Encourages Guerilla Retaliation by Refugees towards W. Pakistan
 - C. Tensions Mount
- IV. U.S. Diplomacy
 - A. Nixon Gives Money through United Nations (Not Taking Sides)
 - B. Encourages End to Fighting

V. India

- A. Refuses to Allow UN Oversight over the Resettlement of Refugees
- B. Continues to Encourage Guerillas
- C. **Kissinger insisted, that “there is absolutely no justification for it – they don’t have a right to invade Pakistan no matter what Pakistan does on its territory.”**
- D. Wants Pakistan to put Awami League in Power

VI. Pakistan

- A. Won’t Restore Democracy until Guerilla Attacks End
- B. Grants Amnesty to Refugees – Unacceptable to India

VII. U.S. Policies

- A. Encourages Peace for Its Own Benefit – Relations with China
- B. Did Not Crack Down on Yahya – Doesn’t Affect India
- C. Allows Only Weapons Licensed Before Invasion to Be Delivered to Pakistan
- D. U.S. Continues Economic and Military Aid to India
- E. **Nixon declared, “If [the Indians] go in there with military action, by God we will cut off economic aid.”**

VIII. Indo-Pakistani War

- A. Nixon Upset at Indian Aggression
- B. U.S. Cuts Off Military and Economic Aid to India
- C. Nixon Sends Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier, *Enterprise*, to intimidate India for Revenge
- D. Indo-Soviet Treaty Helps to End War
- E. East Pakistan (Bangladesh) Wins Independence