

India to move closer toward resolving the issue. The Kashmir issue is seen by many in India as a burden on the government.

The level of Western engagement must be maintained; the U.S. should send regular emissaries to the region to diffuse tensions. In addition, efforts must be made to involve Kashmiris in these discussions. Pakistanis would be surprised to learn that many Kashmiris would settle for an autonomy arrangement within the Indian union, with Line of Control as an international boundary between India and Pakistan.

Question 5. *"Who are regional players in Afghanistan? Does Islamic solidarity have a role?"*

Answer: Islamic solidarity is only a factor when outsiders are attacking Muslims. Iran has been providing funding for various Afghan projects. More sensible elements within that country favour a stable government in Afghanistan. The U.S. has acted in an unwise fashion by pursuing a policy of "shutting out" Iran. Apart from that, Afghanistan has not received any sustained, long-term interest from the Muslim world.