

EXPLAINING THE PERSISTENCE AND DECLINE OF SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS: THE CASE OF INDIA

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Research Question

What explains the different outcomes of separatist movements?
Why do some movements persist while others decline?



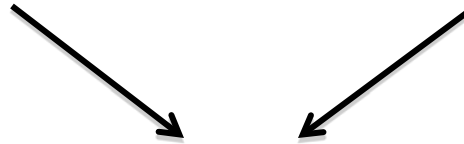
Current Literature

1. Separatist movements as:

- Ethnic Conflicts
- Social Movements
- Civil Wars

2. Domestic institutional arrangements:

- Does federalism accommodate or exacerbate separatist movements?

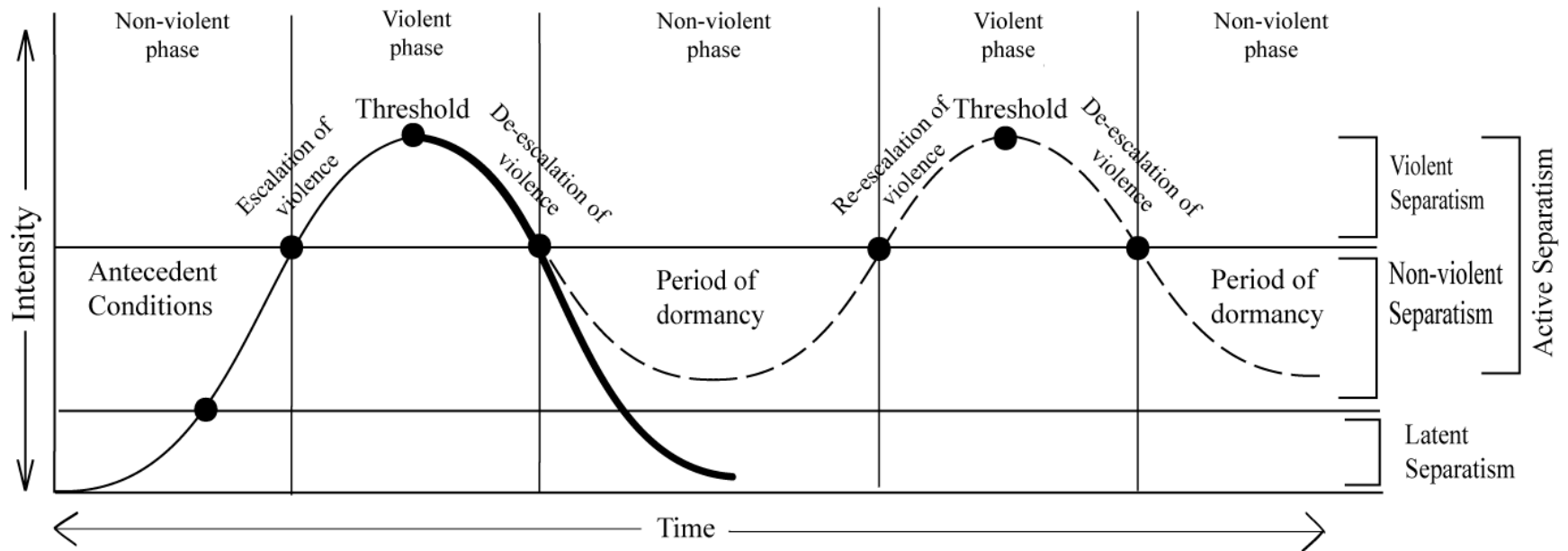


My Argument

- Integrated framework
- Domestic institutions in principle vs. practice
 - Study persistence and decline over time

Research Design

Measuring Persistence and Decline



Research Design

Sub-national comparison within a federal, multiethnic democracy: India

Punjab, 1978- 1993

Kashmir, 1989- 2008



Research Design

Analytical narrative of historical events

- Official government documents
 - Indian Constitution, reports on center-state relations, ordinances
- Unofficial sources
 - Reports of human rights and civil society organizations
- Semi-structured interviews
 - Scholars, politicians, police officials, activists
- Newspaper data
 - *Hindustan Times*
- Secondary sources

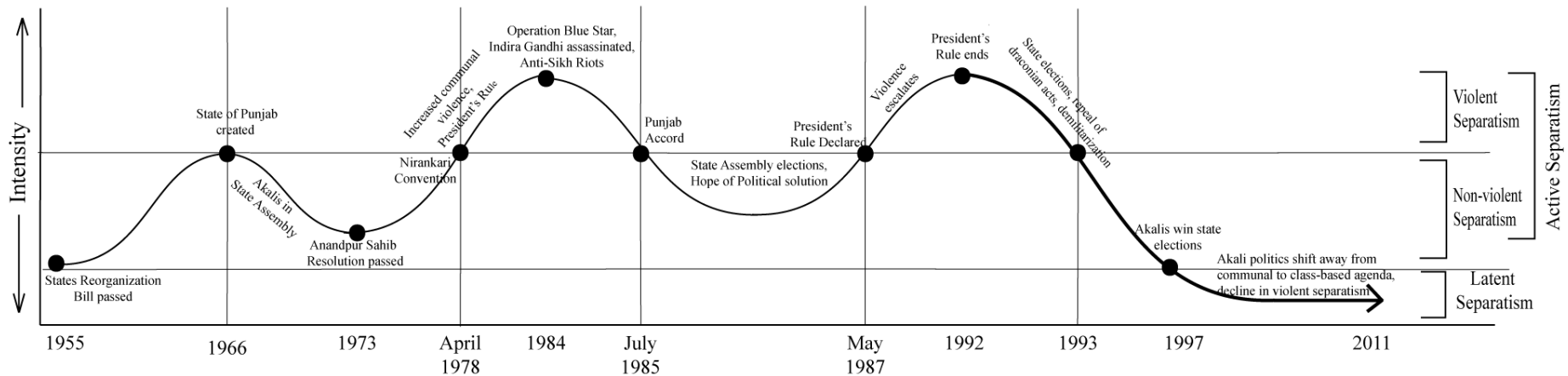


Summary of case findings

Punjab

- Counter-insurgency led to short term dormancy
- Historical precedent: Accommodation through greater autonomy
- Reinstitution of state elections, withdrawal of armed forces, and autonomy through decentralization explain long-term decline

Figure 4.1: The Decline of Violent Separatism in Punjab

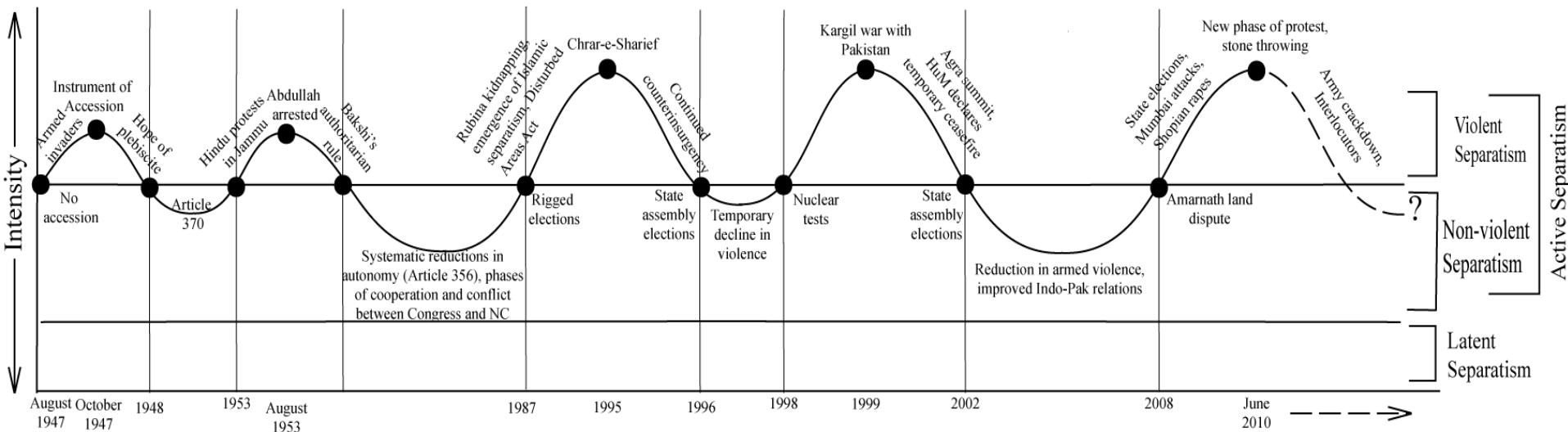


Summary of case findings

Kashmir

- Separatism persists in phases of violence and dormancy
- Historical precedent: Lack of practical autonomy
- Deployment of central forces erodes faith in central institutions
- Elected leaders do not represent separatist demands

Figure 5.1: The Persistence of Violent Separatism in Kashmir



Broader Implications

Theory

Institutions matter:

- Divergence between federal institutions in principle/practice
- Opportunities for participation explain the decline of violent separatism
- Absence of opportunities explains persistence



Broader Implications

Methods

Historical approach to understand separatist movements in terms of:

- Persistence and Decline
- Institutional development
- A continuum of phases of violence and dormancy over time



Broader Implications

Policy

- Accommodation of separatist movements through institutional development
 - In Kashmir and Northeast India
 - In other countries experiencing persistent separatist movements

Further research

- Persistence/Decline approach to study separatist movements in other states



Conclusion

Institutions that provide minority groups with opportunities for participation



Explain long term decline of separatist movements



Contribute to preserving national and international peace
