The Olive Branch

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The Olive Branch is a publication of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Ball State University. Every issue, we shine a spotlight on people, events, campus groups, conferences, and organizations who are working towards a more peaceful world.

Protesters in Jammu & Kashmir, India

Marielle Franco

Edison Uno
Crisis in Kashmir: India’s Unprecedented Act

In 1947, India won its independence from Great Britain and subsequently underwent a bloody partition into two separate states: Pakistan and India. Pakistan’s population primarily practices Islam, while India’s population mostly practices Hinduism. The Himalayan region between Pakistan and India is a state called Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Notably, most people in the city of Jammu practice Hinduism, while most people in the Kashmir region practice Islam. J&K initially wished to be an independent state in 1947, but the ruler at the time of the partition knew that the state could not defend itself from its powerful neighbors (India and Pakistan) if they wanted to control the area. Ultimately, J&K opted to align itself with India in 1947, provided that it would be able to maintain its autonomy. In fact, Article 370 of the Indian Constitution gave J&K the right to make its own laws and regulate who could settle in the area. J&K is the only state in India that is comprised of a Muslim majority, and Article 370 allowed it to remain predominantly Muslim, despite the Hindu-centric culture of India. It is important to note that parts of J&K are controlled by all three of its neighbors, India, Pakistan, and China, as shown in the map below.

J&K has remained a highly contested area between Pakistan and India since the partition in 1947. A 460-mile-long Line of Control has functioned as an unofficial border between the countries in the area since 1972, and a cease-fire agreement was made in 2003. Clashes along this border have continued though, and 86 civilians were killed by cross-border fighting in 2018. Eighty-six is the number of deaths reported, but it is presumed there were more fatalities due to the daily crossfire that took place on the Line of Control.
Crisis in Kashmir: India’s Unprecedented Act

In February 2019, a deadly terrorist attack on Indian-controlled J&K caused tensions to spike between Pakistan and India, and they exchanged airstrikes for the first time since 1971. As a result of constant conflict in this area, J&K is one of the world’s most militarized zones, and Amnesty International has condemned the Indian government’s practice of using sweeping public safety laws to detain people without trial; meaning that the government can imprison anyone who lives in J&K indefinitely by claiming that the person was a threat to public safety.

The Indian government, under the rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took unprecedented action against J&K in August 2019 by abrogating Article 370, meaning that they repealed the law entirely. The government claimed this decision was based on security concerns caused by cross-border terrorism, as well as economic reasons – they said that J&K was lagging behind the rest of India in terms of economic development and infrastructure. However, the week before Article 370 was revoked, the Indian government deployed 35,000 additional troops to J&K, abruptly put a stop to an annual Hindu pilgrimage, shut down schools and colleges indefinitely, and placed two former chief ministers of Kashmir under house arrest. The week that Article 370 was abrogated, the Indian government also placed a communication blackout on Kashmir, shutting down all telephone lines and internet access. This preparation and isolation of Kashmir indicates that the Indian government wanted absolute control over the region with little concern for the Kashmiri people.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
Crisis in Kashmir: India’s Unprecedented Act

The abrogation of Article 370 significantly reduced the autonomy of J&K and limited the authority of its local government. It also put an end to J&K’s residency rules, meaning anyone who could previously not buy land in J&K can now do so. Some analysts say that this will allow Hindu settlers to move into the region and dramatically alter the demographics and worsen sectarian tensions between Muslims and Hindus, which are severe and have been perpetuated by Prime Minister Modi and his government. These individuals uphold Hindu nationalism, meaning that they believe Hindus should be in control of India and that Hindus are superior to citizens of other faith traditions (e.g., Islam, Sikhism, Christianity).

Opposition to Prime Minister Modi’s decision has called it an unprecedented attack on Indian democracy. Political leaders in J&K and in other Indian states have called the move illegal and unconstitutional. For days after the announcement, it was difficult to ascertain how residents of J&K were reacting to the news because of the communications blackout. It soon came to light that hundreds of local politicians and party workers were being held in detention centers or under house arrest. Protests broke out across J&K, and the police fired tear gas and pellets at thousands of demonstrators, injuring many of them. There have been serious allegations of torture and beatings of the Kashmiri people at the hands of the Indian police. The people of Jammu, the Hindu area of J&K, however, have not been treated poorly. It seems that the abrogation of Article 370 has functioned to encourage the practice of Hinduism over other faith traditions in J&K.
Crisis in Kashmir: India’s Unprecedented Act

The Pakistani government has spoken out against India’s actions, calling it an elevation of racist ideology. Pakistan’s Prime Minister, Imran Khan, said, “I fear they may initiate ethnic cleansing in Kashmir to wipe out the local [Muslim] population” (Parker, 2019). Indeed, Mr. Khan, with the support of China, went to the United Nations (U.N.) to discuss Indian Prime Minister Modi’s decision. It does not seem likely that the U.N. will intervene, but international awareness of the human rights abuses taking place in J&K are rising. On Tuesday, October 22nd, 2019, the Asia-Pacific subcommittee of the United States Congress held a hearing concerning J&K. Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that “[t]he latest hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives is timely and shows the world community’s continued concern over the unacceptable situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the need to address it urgently” (Aljazeera, 2019). Prime Minister Modi has made no comment on the alleged human rights abuses, but continues to defend the abrogation of Article 370 as an attempt to make J&K equal to the rest of India. Many who oppose this decision hope that international powers will investigate the alleged human rights abuses in J&K and hold Modi’s government responsible for the harm done to Kashmiri people.

Protesters advocating against the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, India

Sources

Edison Uno: “A Minority of One”

Edison Uno was born in 1929 Los Angeles to a family of eleven. At the age of thirteen, Uno and his family were forced to leave their home during World War II due to their status as Japanese Americans. After initially being incarcerated with his mother at the Granada War Relocation Center in Colorado, Uno was later moved to an internment camp in Texas where he reunited with his father who had been previously arrested by the FBI. Given that Uno had a brother who was still a Japanese citizen working in the Japanese military, the United States (U.S.) refused to release his father from prison, even though Uno and his parents were U.S. citizens. In an act of solidarity with his father, Uno stayed in prison with him until 1947, even after the war ended in 1945. After finally leaving the camps, Uno was told that he was the last American citizen to be released from internment after 1,647 days.

Upon his return from prison, Uno joined the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in 1948, which seeks to secure civil liberties for all Japanese Americans. He became the youngest president in the organization’s history by 1950. This appointment began a lifetime of community and political engagement for Uno, fighting tirelessly for the rights of Japanese Americans. Perhaps what Edison Uno is best known for is his push for the Redress movement. This involved calling on Congress to “compensate on an individual basis a daily per diem re- quital for each day spent in confinement and/or legal exclusion” (Uno, 1964). Essentially, he was asking for the U.S. to provide a monetary compensation to all Japanese Americans who were put in internment camps.
Edison Uno: “A Minority of One”

Although it took a long time to gain momentum for this movement, Uno wanted to educate the public on the horrors of internment in addition to providing economic justice to Japanese Americans. Even within the JACL, Uno’s pleas were ignored for fear that a Redress movement would halt progress towards other JACL efforts that were well-supported by the U.S.. Finally, many years after Uno’s death, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 provided each surviving Japanese American who had experienced internment with $20,000 – something that likely would never have happened without Uno’s solo fight for justice.

Additionally, in the late 1960s, Uno started a grassroots campaign to prevent the revival of American concentration camps through repealing Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950, which served to imprison radicals without due process. In 1978, it was successfully repealed. Throughout his life, Uno gave speeches and organized workshops for many social justice organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). He became the first Japanese American appointed to the San Francisco grand jury in 1970, became a researcher on the internment of Japanese Americans, and served as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Health and Welfare. In 1968, he supported the Third World Strike at San Francisco State University, which protested the Vietnam War and demanded an ethnic studies program. Suffice it to say that Edison Uno was a man fighting for peace: he organized countless committees, protests, and pilgrimages to assist in various situations of injustice throughout his entire life.
Edison Uno: “A Minority of One”

Uno died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1976 and was never able to see the full outcome of his labor, particularly in the Redress Movement, which did not gain mass support until 1988. He is best known for being the first one to call for government Redress for wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans, and for standing alone for justice as a “minority of one...he refused to stand by silent when the human rights of any minority or any group were under attack” (Yang, 2019). Uno’s work encapsulated nearly every field of social justice, and he fought for human rights peacefully until the day he died. He is now known as the founding father of Japanese American activism.

Sources
Mary Munchel: BSU and the Vietnam War

In an NBC news report in 1970, Mary Munchel said, “If you’re for peace nowadays, you’re considered revolutionary, and I think it’s a sad time in our society that it’s a revolutionary idea, but it seems to be.”

Mary Munchel, now Dr. Mary Posner, was a 20-year-old Ball State junior in the 1969-1970 school year. She founded BSU’s Vietnam Moratorium Committee (VMC) in 1969, which was an extension of the national committee that worked to protest against the Vietnam War. The VMC was created due to dissatisfaction with President Nixon’s policies about the war. Richard Nixon had become the President of the United States in January of 1969 and consistently spoke of peace and an end to the conflict in Vietnam. However, he took no action toward peace. The VMC was formed to challenge the administration’s lack of effort, and the leaders determined that they would march on Washington, D.C. if the war had not ended by October of 1969. Meanwhile, they engaged in local demonstrations against the war. Ball State’s VMC engaged in several acts of protest, including marches, a vigil on the Arts Terrace to commemorate U.S. servicemen killed in the war, and debates regarding the war.
Mary Munchel: BSU and the Vietnam War

Mary Munchel Posner and her fellow VMC members decided to go to Washington, D.C. to march with the National Moratorium in October of 1969. Approximately 500,000 people joined the march in protest of the Vietnam War, and this event heavily impacted the Ball State students that participated. Seeing that many of their fellow Americans held similar sentiments against the war encouraged them to continue in their anti-war demonstrations back in Muncie, Indiana.

The VMC was not warmly welcomed by many people in the Muncie community at the time, though. Mary Munchel Posner attempted multiple times to reserve the Muncie Plaza for an anti-war demonstration, only to be told that veteran’s groups had already reserved it for various patriotic ceremonies. Eventually, she received permission to hold a demonstration in front of the Plaza in December of 1969. The demonstrators were met with protest from the veteran’s groups, including several 21-gun salutes and verbal threats. This event ended with no physical harm, but it indicated a clear division that reflected the wider U.S. society between those who supported the Vietnam War and those who were against it.

Besides this particular protest, there was not much reaction to the VMC. Mary Munchel Posner told Ball State’s Daily News in October of 2019, “I don’t think very many people were even paying attention to it. Ball State was very conservative at that time and it was hard to get any fervor against the war.” The VMC faced opposition from the Muncie community and from Ball State’s student senate, but they continued to demonstrate for a peaceful end to the war.
Mary Munchel: BSU and the Vietnam War

Despite opposition, many members of the VMC went on to continue as activists for various causes. Some worked with Vietnam veterans, many became involved in community organizations, some served victims of domestic violence, and several of them participated, and continue to participate, in gun violence prevention and/or climate change demonstrations.

On October 10-11 2019, members of Ball State’s VMC gathered from around the country for the 50th Commemorative Conference of their march on Washington.

The members of BSU’s Vietnam Moratorium Committee took action for peace despite the hostility they experienced. They worked against opposition to have their voices heard, and they were celebrated on Ball State’s campus this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Moratorium march in Washington, D.C. In Ball State’s Daily News, Mary Munchel Posner and other Vietnam War activists encouraged young people to take a stand for peace, despite opposition. Students using their voices to advocate for a more just society will bring about positive change, and they will be remembered for being revolutionaries on the peaceful side of history.
Mary Munchel: BSU and the Vietnam War

Dr. Mary Munchel Posner with her husband Lou Posner, a Vietnam veteran and artist. Behind him is pictured Dr. William Miller, BSU Professor of English Emeritus, who later read aloud a poem, “To a Young Activist,” that he had authored 50 years ago in Mary's honor when she was his student.

Reunion and Conference co-organizers Dr. Mary Munchel Posner and Dr. Michael Wm. Doyle. Posner is presenting Doyle with a token of her appreciation—a national VMC button that she obtained in 1969 when she helped organize and lead the Ball State chapter.

Keynote speaker David Harris during the second panel session, “From ‘War No More’ to ‘The Forever War’: Activism for Peace and Social Justice after Vietnam.”

Sources:

1 A 21-gun salute involves 7 riflemen firing 3 times into the air. It is an American military honor often seen at funerals of servicemen and at patriotic military ceremonies.
Call for Proposals

The Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies along with the City of Muncie are very pleased to announce a Call for Proposals to present at the 4th Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Building a Beloved Community.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the concept Beloved Community. For Dr. King, this is a community where hunger, homelessness, poverty, racism, discrimination, and hatred are unacceptable, conflicts are resolved nonviolently, and reconciliation is inherent. The 4th Cohen Conference will feature presentations that address Building a Beloved Community, community peacebuilding, race relations, preventing school and university violence, poverty, human rights, and environmental preservation, amongst other themes.

The keynote speakers for the conference are:

- BSU President Geoffrey S. Mearns
- Incoming Muncie Mayor Dan Ridenour
- BSU Provost Susana Rivera-Mills
- Ross Foundation Founder and Activist, Derris Ross

Deadline for submitting proposals: December 9th, 2019.

A $100 award will be given to the best student poster!

Click [here](#) for more information on how to submit a proposal.

Registration fees are as follows:

- Student: $45 (early registration by March 9); $60 (late or onsite registration)
- Professional/Faculty: $75 (early registration by March 9); $100 (late or onsite registration)
- Community Members: $45 (early registration by March 9); $60 (late or onsite registration)

Refund: $10 processing fee charged. To receive a refund, cancellations must be received by no later than March 9th, 2020.

Click [here](#) to register!

For further information on the conference, visit [bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference](http://bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference)
# CONFERENCES

## The Paris Peace Forum
**November 12-13 | Paris, France**

Participants of the 2019 Forum can expect a full agenda of dynamic debates and project pitches from this year’s novel selection of governance initiatives. The debate program will be headlined by three major events bringing together all participants to focus on the solutions for tomorrow.

## 6th Annual International Conference on Peace and Conflict Resolution [PCRC2019]
**November 15-17 | Bangkok, Thailand**

This highly exciting and challenging international conference on peace and conflict resolution is intended to be a forum, discussion and networking place for governmental officials, academics, researchers, professionals, administrators, policy makers, and advanced students, amongst others.

## Academicsera– 571st International Conference on Human Rights (ICHR)
**November 20-21 | San Diego, CA**

ICHR brings together innovative academics and industrial experts in the field of Science Technology and Management to a common forum for Human Rights.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
**December 2-13 | Santiago, Chile**

The Santiago Climate Change Conference will feature the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25). This year’s conference is known as the Time for Action COP due to the need for all countries to expand their commitments to limit global warming.

## 8th Annual International Conference on Rights of Nature for Peace and Sustainable Development
**December 9-11 | Geneva, Switzerland**

Subjects that are in the agenda of this conference include earth-centered law, ecological economics, education for a natural behavior of respect of nature, holistic sciences and researches, humanities for rights of nature, philosophy and ethics, and more.
ON AND OFF CAMPUS EVENTS

**Indiana Academy Youth Enrichment Program— To Space and Back**
**November 16, 8:30 AM—12 PM**

Students grades 6th-9th are invited to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for the small piece of universe we call home. Come explore the wonders of our stellar solar system as we pay particular attention to the differing weather systems. Includes hands-on activities and a trip to Ball State’s Charles W. Brown Planetarium. This event is free.

**Heroes and Villains with the Muncie Symphony Orchestra**
**November 16, 4 PM**

Listen to the good fight when the Muncie Symphony Orchestra presents a musical battle between heroes and villains. Who will win? Join us at the John R. Emens College Community Auditorium.

**Turkey Trot 2019**
**November 28, 7:30-11 AM**

Participants walk or run on the beautiful Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway and return to the Historic Wysor Street Depot for cookies, fruit, hot cider and other refreshments. Turkey/Thanksgiving themed attire is encouraged for both humans and their canine friends. Participants are asked to donate a non-perishable food item. Turkey Trot is an enjoyable, gratifying way to begin your Thanksgiving Day.

**Culture Exchange Columbia**
**December 4, 12-1 PM**

Each week, the Rinker Center for International Programs (RCIP) holds a presentation open to the public in the Pittenger Student Center Yuhas Room (102) highlighting a different country. Usually presented by a Ball State Student from that country, this offers you a chance to share an insider’s look into that country and culture and meet new international friends.

**Yorktown Luminary Festival 2019**
**December 14, 12-7 PM**

There will be vendors, a coloring contest, a “snowball” fight, carriage rides, and an opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There will be luminaries through the town of Yorktown and Morrow’s Meadow.
ORGANIZATIONS

International Justice Mission
IJM is a global organization that protects the poor from violence in the developing world. IJM fights by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors, and strengthening justice systems.

Cardinal Kitchen
Cardinal Kitchen is Ball State University’s campus food pantry. The pantry is located on the second floor of the Multicultural Center and is available for use to all undergraduate and graduate students. The pantry is open the last three Tuesdays of every month from 5:00-8:00PM. Its mission is to ensure that no Ball State student goes hungry on our campus.

MOSAIC
MOSAIC is a social justice peer education program whose mission is to engage undergraduate students in open dialogues focused on diversity and social justice topics to promote awareness, change, and inter-group understanding. They can be contacted through the multicultural center, at mc2@bsu.edu for more information.

Feminists for Action
Feminists for Action is a group dedicated to the empowerment of women, men, and children through advocacy and education. They strive to educate others about issues in the global, national, and community level. They encourage thought-provoking discussions and work to organize events to benefit feminist causes. FA meets Tuesdays at 6:00PM in Schwartz Digital Viewing Room in Bracken Library.

Ethnic Theatre Alliance
The purpose of Ethnic Theatre Alliance is to explore worldviews of cultures, diversity, and social justice in order to educate members through Fine Arts. They do this in accordance with the Ball State University mission to create a community for the members to learn and develop worldview cultures so they may become better artists and people. They can be contacted through the Ball State Theatre department at theatrestu@bsu.edu for more information.
ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED

Student Action Team
SAT is an organization made up of general members and housing and residence life representatives. This organization is dedicated to volunteering and supporting Ball State University.

Spectrum
Spectrum’s goal is to provide an anonymous, healthy and safe place for Ball State University students and surrounding communities who are discovering their sexual orientation to help find an understanding network of support. Spectrum meets Thursdays at 8:00 PM in SC 310.

Students for Life
Ball State Students for Life (BSSFL) is committed to the protection of all human life; from conception until natural death. They strive to educate members and the Ball State University community about why they value life in all its forms. They strive to respond with love, compassion, and support to those who suffer from restrictions of life. BSSFL meets every other Monday at 6:00PM in ETRC2 which is in the basement of Bracken Library.

Call to Action
Call to Action (CTA) is a student organization at Ball State looking to educate and create awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) political issues at the local, state, and federal levels in order to empower students to take positive action towards equality for LGBT individuals and to influence others to take positive action. CTA has meetings on Mondays at 7:30PM in Teacher’s College room 108.
BSU COUNSELING CENTER SUPPORT GROUPS

Every year, hundreds of students, faculty, and staff members use the services of the Counseling Center at BSU. This comprehensive services office provides free and confidential psychological and career resources to students. Call (765) 285-1736 or stop by Lucina Hall, Room 320.

Understanding Self and Others

Group members explore patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Discussions vary greatly from depression, anxiety, relationships, family concerns, eating issues, alcohol abuse and/or personal growth. The groups thrive on diversity as members discover the common bond through emotional experiences. This group meets weekly and has sessions two times per week: Mondays 3:00-4:15PM & Wednesdays 3:00-4:15PM. The start date will be announced soon.

Weight Not, Want Not

Weight Not, Want Not is a supportive group for women with eating disorders or body image struggles who want to explore effective ways of coping. Its time is to be determined by availability of group members.

Safe Haven

This therapy group provides a safe place for LGBT students to explore and discuss patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Topics of discussion vary greatly from coming out, finding support, relationships, family concerns, depression, anxiety, and/or personal growth. Safe Haven meets every Wednesday 3-4:15PM.

Surviving and Thriving

Surviving and Thriving is aimed to help sexual assault survivors. In this group, students share their experiences, find ways to cope, and gain perspective. This group meets Thursdays 3-4PM.

Loss and Grief

This group aims to provide a supportive environment that includes discussions about normal grief and loss and the tasks involved in the grieving process. Times and start date will be announced shortly.

Building Resilience

This four week workshop helps you learn useful skills to empower you to build resiliency when things feel out of control. Meets on Mondays 4:00-5:00PM.

Owning Your Ups & Downs

This 4 week skills group will help you build and practice your ability to manage stressful situations through focusing on how to utilize and implement 4 new healthy coping strategies. This group meets Tuesdays at 4 PM starting 9/10/19.
ABOUT US
The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary center whose mission is to pursue research on structural, cultural, and direct forms of violence and conflict; to implement nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; to offer mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and to train people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportspersonship skills. The center also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect. Our services include monthly events, newsletters, the Muncie Interfaith Fellowship, meditation classes, mediation training and services.

Staff Members
Director: Lawrence Gerstein, Ph.D.
Research Fellow: Gerald Waite, M.A.
Curriculum Coordinator: Steven Hall, Ph.D.
Outreach Coordinator: Beth Messner, Ph.D.
Graduate Assistant: Aashna Banerjee
Fall 2019 Interns: Mylie Brennan, Michael Cottone, and Audrey Loomis
To include your events in the newsletter, please write to abanerjee@bsu.edu

Come visit us!
Address: Our office is located at 310 McKinley Avenue, Muncie, 47306.
We are the white house across the street from the campus shuttle bus stop at the BSU Student Center!
Our doors are open:
Mon/Wed: 9 AM—4 PM
Tues/Thur: 9 AM—1 PM; 2 PM—4 PM
Fri: 10 AM—2 PM

Follow us!