

British Kashmiri Labor Groups: Imaginings of 'Home' in the Diasporic Space
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The decolonization of the subcontinent in 1947 that led to the creation of India and Pakistan left the status of Jammu and Kashmir in dispute and contributed to the formation of Kashmiri diaspora. This paper explores how Kashmiri diasporic groups articulated their belonging and attachment with the homeland. The focus is on the left-leaning British Kashmiris from Pakistani-administered Kashmir, specifically, the Kashmir Workers Association (KWA) and their myriad ideas to challenge dominant international narratives that perceive Kashmir as a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan. This paper argues that the Kashmiri labor groups drew inspiration from several anti-imperial and revolutionary movements of the 1960s and 1970s to chart novel approaches for Kashmir's liberation, while also forming radical coalitions to confront fascism and white supremacy. In their imaginings, 'Kashmir' transcended cultural and territorial definitions of identity and became an idealized space shaped by the political turmoil in their homeland and experiences of racism and exclusion in the host country. The activism of Kashmiri labor groups in the diasporic space broadens the contours of Kashmir's postcolonial resistance history, complicates the meaning of Kashmiri identity, and reveals how diaspora imagined and reimagined 'Kashmir' to negotiate a space within Britain's political and economic spaces.