

Witness Biography: *International Court of Justice*
Devesh Kapur
Director, Center for the Advanced Study of India



Background:

Devesh Kapur was born in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh in India. He came to the United States in 1983, after receiving a BTech in chemical engineering from the Institute of Technology in Banaras Hindu University. He continued his education, receiving a MS in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota and PhD from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Kapur went on to become the associate professor of government at the University of Texas at Austin and then the Frederick Paniziger associate professor of government at Harvard University. Currently, Kapur is the associate professor of political science at University of Pennsylvania and holds the Madan Lal Sobti Professorship for the Study of Contemporary India. Kapur's research includes the affect of political and economic change in developing countries and the impact of international institutions and diasporas on India. He has written many books on these issues including, *World Bank: Its First Century*.

What he adds to the case:

Devesh Kapur became the Director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India in 2006, the only research institution in United State dedicated to the study of contemporary India. Its goals include understanding India's economic and political situations as it emerges as a world power. Kapur's personal background and experience with the government system of India make him an expert in the field and he adds insight to the underlying problems within the larger conflict.

View on the Issue:

Kapur believes that the Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan is but one of many areas of tension between Pakistan and India. The nuclear capabilities of both countries and the growth of military power in Pakistan increase the pressure on global security, but are also factors in bringing the two countries to the table. United States has been a key supporter in diplomacy, and its status in the IMF gives it great leverage with Pakistan who seeks its financial support to deal with a collapsing economy. Trade between these two nations is virtually non-existent, but may become a major uniting force as the countries transform from developing countries to global economic players.

Quote:

"Even neighboring Pakistan has been forced to rethink its relationship with India. In 2002, the countries' dealings were at such a low ebb that almost one million troops faced off against each other. But with the larger powers courting India, and facing a very different international environment, this long-strained relationship has begun to thaw. The cross-border movement of people across divided Kashmir that commenced this April has raised cautious hopes of progress on an issue that has bedeviled the region for nearly six decades."

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