

## **De-Escalating the Worsening Civil Conflict in Pakistan**

Henry Kissinger once described the Pakistani Civil War as the closest the world came to a repeat of the 1914 powder keg in his entire career. Over the course of the spring and summer of 1971, what initially looked like just another ethnic conflict in Asia acquired the potential to set off a world-ending conflagration between the unlikely ententes of the United States and the PRC on the one hand, backing the West Pakistani government, and the USSR and India on the other, opposing it. With accusations of illicit arms trafficking and hostile intentions being cast increasingly boldly, the UN must act now to prevent the hubris of the Great Powers from dragging the world into the abyss, perhaps irremediably.