

## **“My memory is my contribution”: The Politics of Memory and the Possibility of an Alternative Historiography in Farah Bashir’s *Rumours of Spring***

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### **Abstract:**

The history of Kashmir is fraught with the fretful memories of violence and trauma, displacement, and dispossession since its accession to India in 1947. The complex history and the troubled relationship of Kashmir with India result in a protracted conflict and political tension, which allows it a hyper-visibility. However, the harrowing existence of the Kashmiris remains overlooked in the hegemonic nationalist narratives and historical archives that justify the atrocities by associating certain negative stereotypes to mask the everyday violence, brutality and dehumanisation perpetrated on them by a repressive force. The present paper, in its attempt to comprehend this complex web of state militarisation, trauma, and resistance in the Valley of Kashmir, will seek to explore the politics of memory and how its subjective delineation unfolds the traumatic existence of the common Kashmiris under extreme militarisation of the territory. In its reading of Farah Bashir’s coming-of-age memoir, *Rumours of Spring: A Girlhood in Kashmir* (2022), it will seek to unravel how the narrator offers a narrative of resistance against the dominant discourse by rendering to her traumatic memory of growing up amid the prolonged armed conflicts and violence in the Valley and how this opens up a possibility for an alternative historiography of Kashmir that will restore the voice and agency of the Kashmiris.

**Keywords:** Kashmir, Armed Conflict, Violence, Trauma, Memory Politics, Resistance