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Topic: The Politics of Plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, 1995-1975: A Historical Study

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## FINDINGS

The study affirmed that the Plebiscite Front was predominantly a product of grassroots dissatisfaction, garnering substantial support from various segments of society, including the rural population, intellectuals, and former political activists who felt betrayed by the post-1947 political developments. It was observed that over time, the Plebiscite Front transformed from being solely focused on the plebiscite to a broader platform addressing issues of political representation, social justice, and economic rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This evolution indicated the Front's adaptability to changing political realities and its endeavor to remain relevant in the face of mounting state repression.

The study's analysis also supported the hypothesis that the ideological evolution of the Plebiscite Front was a strategic response to political repression and the need to maintain its political base, evident in the party's changing rhetoric and actions during this period. The Plebiscite Front significantly influenced the political discourse in Jammu and Kashmir by sustaining the issue of the plebiscite and the region's disputed status in both local and international forums, challenging the Indian government's narrative and policies regarding Kashmir and prompting the state to respond with political and coercive measures.

The study verified that the Plebiscite Front played a vital role in shaping the region's political dynamics, not only by mobilizing public opinion around the plebiscite issue but also by influencing the strategies of other political movements, including those that eventually sought greater autonomy within the Indian Union. The decline of the Plebiscite Front in the 1970s was attributed to a combination of internal divisions, external pressures, and the changing geopolitical landscape. The Indira-Sheikh Accord of 1975, which signaled Sheikh Abdullah's return to power in exchange

for abandoning the demand for a plebiscite, marked a significant turning point leading to the dissolution of the Front. Despite its decline, the Plebiscite Front's legacy endured in Jammu and Kashmir's political history by embedding the idea of self-determination deeply within the region's political consciousness, influencing subsequent movements and continuing to resonate in the political discourse of the region long after its formal dissolution. This comparative analysis supported the hypothesis that the Plebiscite Front's distinct political positioning contributed to both its initial success and its eventual marginalization in the face of shifting political priorities and state strategies.

These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the Plebiscite Front's role in Jammu and Kashmir's history, highlighting its significance in the region's political evolution and the enduring impact of its struggle for self-determination on the broader Kashmir conflict.