

## **Radcliffe Award and the Dissection of the Punjab 1947: Partition Retrospect**

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### **Abstract**

The socio-political and economic developments started in Punjab after its annexation in 1849. Its agrarian strengths provided the boost to the Indian and Britain economies which revealed its prominence. In 1940s, social and political insurgences led to Indian partition. Leaders of all three major communities of Punjab Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs were claiming their maximum right on Punjab. In June Plan of partition by Lord Mountbatten, partition of the Punjab was confirmed as the best solution of its grave issues. Mr. Jinnah and the leaders of other two large communities were determined to acquire best part of Punjab after its partition. The partition issues apprehended the British administration. Because of differences in political motives, major communities turned against each other. According to Muslim League the Boundary Commission under Sir Cyril Radcliffe for the partition of Punjab could not discharge neutrally. The final Radcliffe Award gave birth many issues and raised questions, which elevated the Sikh dilemmas. The malpractice of the British administration of Punjab caused heavy blood-shed in the Province.

**Keywords:** Punjab, Partition, Violence, Boundary Commission, Boundary Award.

### **Introduction:**

Punjab was considered "Barometer to India", "A Key Province" and had its abundant significance in the agro-economy of Indian sub-continent. British established 9 canal colonies with best irrigation system in West Punjab which made its lands fertile and striking. Most of the agriculture lands were allotted to the Sikhs in these canal colonies, overall Sikhs and Hindus were dominantly dealing with the economy of the Province. After the provincial elections of 1946, Unionist Party under Khizar Hayat Trawana (1900-1975) formed a collative Govt. in Punjab despite the Muslims League's heavy mandate in the Provincial Assembly. Muslim League's agitation caused the resignation of Unionist Ministry and Punjab went under Governor Rule till partition August 1947. This agitation and blood-shed extended the breeches and gaps among the Punjabi communities.

Violence in the Punjab befitted the immediate reason to divide India. Viceroy the Lord Mountbatten (1900-1979), right after his appointment as Viceroy, started working on it. In his Indian partition plan of 3<sup>rd</sup> June he also announced the Partition of the Punjab into East and West Punjab on the basis of non-Muslim and Muslim majority parts respectively between India and Pakistan. He determined that if India could divide on religious basis then why not Punjab. The Boundary Commission under Sir Cyril Radcliffe (1899-1977) could not maintain it a neutral body to determine the Boundaries of the East and West Punjab. No one among large communities of the Punjab initially wanted the partition but wanted complete province or the maximum because of its topography and agrarian economy. Nevertheless to contain the issues partition of Punjab remained the only solution for British. This partition caused the world's largest and bloodiest migration when three large communities Muslims 57%, Hindus 26% and Sikhs 14% who had been living together in Punjab for centuries turned against each other and the British administration failed to exercise a peaceful partition of the Punjab.

### **Radcliffe Award and the Dissection of the Punjab:**

British Govt. appointed the Lord Mountbatten as the Viceroy of India on March 22, 1947. He was tasked to divide India in two States till September 1948.

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# Partition In Retrospect

**Peipei Pang**



## **Partition In Retrospect:**

The book delves into Partition In Retrospect. Partition In Retrospect is an essential topic that must be grasped by everyone, ranging from students and scholars to the general public. This book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into Partition In Retrospect, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

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- Chapter 1: Introduction to Partition In Retrospect
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- Chapter 3: Partition In Retrospect in Everyday Life
- Chapter 4: Partition In Retrospect in Specific Contexts
- Chapter 5: Conclusion

2. In chapter 1, this book will provide an overview of Partition In Retrospect. This chapter will explore what Partition In Retrospect is, why Partition In Retrospect is vital, and how to effectively learn about Partition In Retrospect.
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4. In chapter 3, the author will examine the practical applications of Partition In Retrospect in daily life. The third chapter will showcase real-world examples of how Partition In Retrospect can be effectively utilized in everyday scenarios.
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6. In chapter 5, this book will draw a conclusion about Partition In Retrospect. The final chapter will summarize the key points that have been discussed throughout the book.

The book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. This book is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of Partition In Retrospect.

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