

CHATHAM HOUSE ESSAYS: 2

THE CHINA-INDIA BORDER

CHATHAM HOUSE ESSAYS

It is proposed to publish under this general title short studies designed to illuminate and to provoke discussion of issues in the field of international affairs.

This is the second essay in the series. The first was *The Chinese View of Their Place in the World* by C. P. FitzGerald.

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The China-India Border

THE ORIGINS OF THE DISPUTED
BOUNDARIES

BY
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Foreword

by The Rt Hon. Kenneth Younger

THE correct demarcation of the India-China border, which has been a matter of argument for decades, has become in the last few years, a major issue in international affairs.

The large-scale military operations which broke out in the autumn not only aroused immediate alarm throughout the world but also cast a shadow over the 1962 attempt to regulate inter-state relations in Asia on the basis of non-alignment and of the principles of coexistence hopefully adopted at the Bandung Conference of 1955.

The dispute has thus acquired significance far beyond the original territorial claims and is bound now to be powerfully influenced by such contemporary factors as the nature and ambitions of the Chinese Communist régime, the state of public opinion in both countries, and the current climate of international relations. Nevertheless the case has so far been argued by both sides largely on historical grounds, and the greater part of the highly complicated evidence dates from the period of British rule in India.

In the following pages Dr Lamb examines the story up to the transfer of power in India in 1947, on the basis of both published and unpublished material, including the British official records, which are available to scholars up to 1913. The historical evidence cannot any longer be considered as the sole criterion for settling the dispute, but its relevance to present and future attempts at reaching an agreement is not in doubt. While the Institute, in accordance with its invariable rule, refrains from endorsing

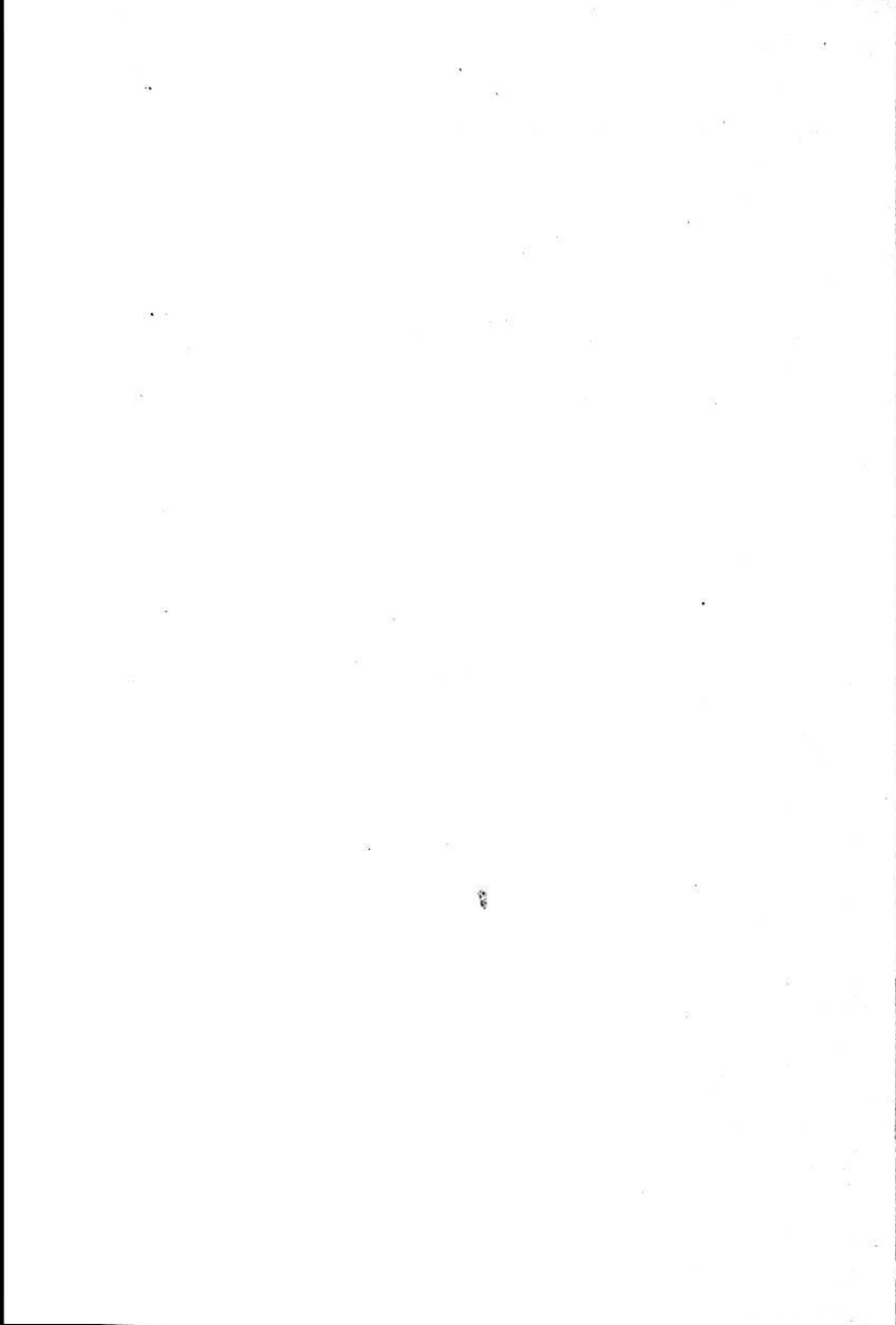
the author's opinions and conclusions, it presents Dr Lamb's study as a scholarly and disinterested contribution to the understanding of a problem which, until it is satisfactorily resolved, must be of increasing concern both to the governments involved and to the world at large.

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THE CHINESE VIEW OF THEIR PLACE
IN THE WORLD
C. P. FITZGERALD

THE DEBATABLE ALLIANCE:
An Essay in Anglo-American Relations
CORAL BELL

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The common border between India and China, which extends for more than 2,000 miles, has become in recent years the subject of intense dispute. The consequences of the resulting Sino-Indian conflict have been profound both for India's position as a non-aligned state and for the balance of power between the Communist world and the West throughout Asia. In this essay Dr. Lamb examines some of the factors which resulted in the evolution of a disputed boundary alignment in the Himalaya and Karakoram mountains. He traces the history of this boundary during the period of British rule in the Indian subcontinent, and describes the state of the boundary in 1947 when Great Britain transferred sovereignty to India and Pakistan. He considers not only those sections of border at present disputed between India and China, but also the section which has recently been settled by agreement between China and Pakistan. For his account of the history of the boundary Dr. Lamb makes extensive use of unpublished documentary sources. His aim has been to present an impartial account of where the boundary is and how it came to be there, an account which should provide a valuable background for those who endeavour to understand the reasons for the present unhappy state of Sino-Indian relations. Much of the information in this essay has not been published before.

Alastair Lamb was born in Manchuria in 1930. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, and is at present Reader in History in the University of Malaya. He has made a special study of the relations between India and Chinese Central Asia, publishing the first volume of his *Britain and Chinese Central Asia* in 1960. In recent years he has also carried out archaeological investigations of pre-European maritime trade between the Malay Peninsula and China and the Middle East.

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