Frontier: The Making of the Northern and Eastern Border in Ladakh From 1834 to the Present

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Abstract
Ladakh, despite popular myths of an isolated Himalayan kingdom, has been a land built on trade and regional connections with India to the south, Tibet to the east, and Central Asia to the north. By participating in these social, political, and economic networks, Ladakh was able to amass a rich collection of cultural influences from many far-flung locales. Historically many of these regional interactions have been defined by the physical terrain, which mountain ranges divided Ladakh from other areas, which passes where open and when they were traversable. Even the political boundaries before the partition of India were loosely defined by local governors, mountain-tops and enterprising bandits. What British administrators and later Indian ones did not understand was that Ladakh was not a border state, but a gateway to the rich economies of Tibet and Central Asia and that trade created a flow of ideas that created the contemporary Ladakhi culture of the time. However, since the partition of India and the closing of the border with Chinese Tibet, Ladakh's boundaries have been decided by governments in Delhi, Islamabad and Beijing and often are far divorced from conditions on the ground. This paper will seek to understand how these boundaries developed and how they affect Ladakh today.

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The frontier farmers kept on moving across the border and the Xhosa vigorously resisted this incursion. A number of wars followed as both groups fought each other over territory and resources. The chronology of all nine Frontier Wars is briefly discussed below. The Government dreaded a general Khoi rising, and so made peace and allowed the Xhosas to remain in the Zuurveld. In 1801, another Graaff-Reinet rebellion began, forcing further Khoi desertions. Farms were abandoned en masse, and the Khoi bands under Klaas Stuurman, Hans Trompetter and Boesak carried out widespread raids. The Batavian authorities propitiated the resentment of the eastern-frontier Khoi-khoi but could not persuade the Xhosas to leave the Zuurveld (1803-1806). Fourth Frontier War (1811-1812). It was formerly referred to as the North East Frontier Agency, and is now called Arunachal Pradesh. Johnson presented this line to the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, who then claimed the 18,000 square kilometres contained within his territory[11] and by some accounts[citation needed] he claimed territory further north as far as the Sanju Pass in the Kun Lun Mountains. India believes that the boundaries China proposed in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh have no written basis and no documentation of acceptance by anyone apart from China. The Indian position, as stated by prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was that the Aksai Chin was "part of the Ladakhi region..."
of India for centuries" and that this northern border was