

List III HT

HIU33111 Reading the Boundary Commission Report (Brian Hanley)

Assessment: One essay



In November 1925 a British newspaper leaked details of transfers of population and territory that were to take place between the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland, under the terms of the Boundary Commission. The resulting controversy saw the border, instituted provisionally in 1920, confirmed and the report of the Commission suppressed. (It was not published until 1969.) The promise of major boundary changes had been a factor in enlisting northern nationalist support for the Treaty in 1921; the eventual result was a crushing disappointment for them. The report of the Commission and the resulting compromises can tell us much about nationalist, unionist and British politics in this period, and about global experiences of partition. The centenary of the Commission's report offers us an opportunity to look at the politics of partition anew.