The Politics of the Punjab Boundary Award
The Radcliffe Boundary Commission and the Partition of Punjab Lucy Chester Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2009, ISBN: 9780719078996; 256pp.; Price: £60.00. Reviewer The book is firmly positioned within the high politics of the period, focusing primarily on the role of Radcliffe and the last Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten. Central to the research is the impact the boundary line had on the Punjab province. Nobody in India will love me for my award about the Punjab and Bengal and there will be roughly 80 million with a grievance who will begin looking for me. I do not want them to find me. I have worked and travelled and sweated – oh I have sweated the whole time’ (p. 100). The Punjabi section of the Radcliffe Line. All lawyers by trade, Radcliffe and the other commissioners had all of the polish and none of the specialized knowledge needed for the task. They had no advisers to inform them of the well-established procedures and information needed to draw a boundary. Nor was there time to gather the survey and regional information. According to Read, there is some circumstantial evidence that Nehru and Patel were secretly informed of the Punjab Award’s contents on August 9 or 10, either through Mountbatten or Radcliffe’s Indian assistant secretary.[30] Regardless of how it transpired, the award was changed to put a salient east of the Sutlej canal within India’s domain instead of Pakistan’s.