

Cambridge Archive Editions - Near & Middle East Collection

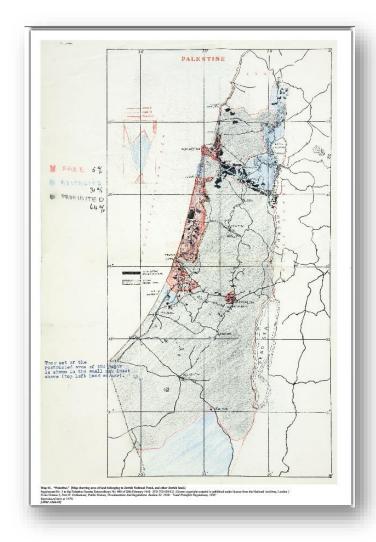
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Cambridge Archive Editions Near & Middle East Collection

- For many years British diplomats were allowed exclusive access to Middle Eastern leaders and government officials
- The 110 books in the Near & Middle East Collection illustrate Britain's relationships with various Middle Eastern countries, whether by resolving conflicts, engaging in war, or establishing treaties
- This extensive library of resources highlights the modern political development of the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf
- As a result, the collection may also shed light on the politics of today, particularly in relation to boundary formation, tribal relations, state development and pollical relations



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SECTION I: KEY DOCUMENTS, 1919-1927

9.1.1	Ottoman memorandum to Supreme Council of the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, 23 June 1919, and the Turkish National Pact, 28 June 1920 [J C Hurewitz (ed) Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East: A Documentary Record, 1535-1956, p. 59-61 & p. 74-5, reprinted by Archive Editions in 1987]	1
9.1.2	Extracts from the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres and the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne: territorial provisions [Parliamentary Papers: 1920 (Treaty Series No. 11) & 1923 (Treaty Series No. 16)]	7
9.1.3	Anglo-Turkish Conference held in Constantinople on the subject of the Iraq-Turkey boundary, 19 May-5 June 1924 [FO 406/53-54] Telegram from Mr Lindsay, British Embassy, Constantinople, to Mr MacDonald, Foreign Office, 20 May 1924 Telegram from Mr Lindsay to Mr MacDonald, 22 May 1924 Telegram from Mr Lindsay to Mr MacDonald, 23 May 1923 Mr Lindsay to Mr MacDonald, 21 May 1924	21
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9.2.4 Correspondence respecting the proposed Anglo-Turkish negotiations concerning Mosul and the Turkey-Iraq boundary: protests against violations of territory, January-March 1924 [FO 406/53]

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Mr N Henderson, British Embassy Constantinople to Lord Curzon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, 30 December 1923

Telegram from Mr N Henderson to Lord Curzon, 10 January 1924

Telegram from Mr N Henderson to Lord Curzon, 10 January 1924

Mr N Henderson to Dr Adnan Bey, 18 January 1924 Mr N Henderson to Lord Curzon, 21 January 1924

Mr N Henderson to Dr Adnan Bey, 20 December 1923 Dr Adnan Bey to Mr N Henderson, 13 January 1924 Mr N Henderson to Lord Curzon, 23 January 1924 Mr N Henderson to Lord Curzon, 23 January 1924 Telegram from Mr J Ramsay MacDonald, British Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to Mr N Henderson, 30 January 1924

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the international boundary between Turkey and Iraq. The dispute was then referred to the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague for advisory opinion, and in November 1925 the Court recommended the awarding of the former Mosul vilayet to Iraq.

By the Treaty between the United Kingdom, Iraq, and Turkey, signed June 5, 1926, the Iraq - Turkey boundary was finally settled. The boundary was to follow the Brussels Line except that in the area south of the Turkish villages of Aluman and Achuta (Aşuta) a minor rectification was made in Turkey's favor in order to include in Turkish territory a road connecting these two points. Demarcation of the boundary was to be undertaken as soon as possible and permanent Frontier Commission was established to meet at least once every six months to handle frontier problems. A frontier zone was set up, 75 kilometers (45 miles) in width on both sides of the boundary, within which each country would seek to insure that no pillage and other hostile acts took place across the border from one country to another. By September, 1927, the entire frontier had been demarcated. A measure of the care with which the Treaty was drawn up may be seen by the fact that, since 1926, there have been no serious incidents whatever along the boundary between.

III. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Iraq - Turkey boundary begins in the west on the thalweg of the Tigris River at its junction with the Habur Nehri (Nahr al Khābūr) along the common border with Syria. Its elevation here is approximately 1,000 feet. It follows the thalweg of the Habur River eastward for 15 miles and then that of the Hezil Suyu (Nahr al Hayzal), a tributary to the Habur, for another 21 miles. In this western area, the boundary separates the liwā' of Mosul in Iraq from the vilayet of Mardin in Turkey. Leaving the Hezil, at an elevation of about 3,000 feet, the boundary proceeds northeast and then east for 29 miles, rising to elevations of over 7,000 feet and forming a drainage divided between various streams of the Tigris System. After leaving the Hezil River the boundary is joined on its northern side by the Turkish vilayet of Hakkari.

For a distance of 15 miles, the boundary joins the upper Habur River system. Eastward, the boundary again coincides with a drainage divide and continues for 22 miles to reach the Great Zab River, coming from the north to join the Tigris River below Mosul. The valley of this river forms the only natural north-south route through the Kurdish Alps to the lowlands about Lake Van, but, at present, is little used. The boundary follows the Great Zab downstream for less than a mile, then again meanders eastward for 13 miles until it meets the Av-1-Marik, a tributary of the Great Zab. which it follows downstream for 3 miles. This stream marks the border in Iraq between the liwa's of Mosul and IrbIl. Turning again east, the boundary crosses the highlands at elevations frequently above 7,000 feet, following for short distances various tributaries of the Shamsdinan River, itself a tributary of the Great Zab. Eighty miles east of its junction with the Great Zab, the boundary meets the gorge of the Kuchuk River, still another tributary of the Great Zab. For the remaining 42 miles the boundary follows the HajjI Bak (Hacibeysuyu), a tributary of the Kuchuk, upstream to the frontier of Iran.

There are no towns or major highways in the immediate boundary area and no important roads cross it along its entire length. To the north is the remote Kurdish area of southeastern Turkey; to the south a smaller, but also remote area, yet one which has at times been the scene of serious fighting between Kurdish and Iraqi forces. Although superimposed on a fairly homogeneous area, the boundary itself has caused few problems to

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