

## Geography

### CONFLICTS OVER WATER

Conflict over water can be described as a conflict on access to water resources. It may be between various countries or states, or groups across the globe. The United Nations realized that conflicts over water is a consequence of disturbing the need and usage of water users, public purpose or private purpose. There are many water conflicts emerged in the history, but it has been a source of tension and a conflict because of several reasons like disputes in territories, for resources, and for deliberate advantage. Pacific Institute developed a comprehensive online database of conflicts over water. Conflicts over water are for both freshwater and saltwater but most of the time occur over freshwater since, these resources are scarce and inevitable and used for drinking purpose, irrigation and generation of power. Fresh water is a Water Resources vital element for the survival of living beings specially for human beings, yet geographically they are unevenly distributed and have an impact on regions economic conditions. Dear learner here, we are discussing some important global water conflicts.

**2.3.1 Nile Basin** The longest river on the planet, the Nile proceeds with finite quantity of water. The river basin is shared by 11 riparian countries that developed a huge pressure on the demographic and economic growth of the region, where millions of people depend on this basin for their livelihoods. The Nile water dispute over access to the water and rights over it emerged among these riparian countries. An effort has been made with mutual consent basis for cooperation and established. The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in 1999, for sharing substantial socio-economic benefits, and regional peace and security promotion and achieved some successes with the help of World Bank. Eventually, the NBI converted into a permanent Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA). In 2015, trilateral negotiations between Egypt, Sudan & Ethiopia signed an agreement over a major dam Grand Ethiopia Renaissance (GERD), that led to a broader framework agreement.

**2.3.2 Yemen** One of the water-scarcest countries in the world is Yemen, since only 120 m<sup>3</sup> water per capita/per year is available, which is below the World Bank's threshold of "water scarcity", which is defined as 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/year. As a consequence of severe mismanagement, Yemen's precipitation is only 9% on an average per decade, resulted in water scarcity that indicates non-uniform distribution across socio-economic of society. The small farmers are unable to compete in the "race to the bottom of the aquifer" because of expensive deep tube wells. The consequence of this conflict impacts on the people, which are not uniformly distributed with high level of corruption and nepotism. This situation resulted in water scarcity with fueling the political

and security emergency in Yemen. 2.3.3. Afghanistan and Iran Afghanistan, which is geographically land locked and shares most of its river basins with adjoining countries. As part of restoration efforts, Afghanistan has developed schemes for infrastructure development on these transboundary rivers to completely utilize their irrigation and hydro-electric possibilities. Afghanistan's efforts to utilize the waters from the Helmand River and the Harirud-Murghab river that contribute post-conflict restoration and development have upset Iran. The Iranian government assessed Afghanistan's agricultural extension and construction of dam as warnings to water security in the provinces of eastern and northeastern regions. These disputes intensified with huge ineffective water treaties, cooperative initiatives, unwillingness to take part in water consultations, integrated with Iran's "paradoxical" pursuit of support & disruption, have intricately complicated the decision of Mekong River Basin. The Mekong river occupied seventh largest river position in terms of discharge, and placed tenth position in terms of length. It emerged in China, and flows through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, and finally enters into the South China Sea. Mekong River Basin is known as the "hydrologic backbone" or "current of life" of Southeast Asia, and also extraordinarily abundant in natural resources, served for livelihoods of more than 70 million people. The river basin is expanded for generation of hydropower by building dam that covers China and Laos, which leads to diplomatic tensions in anticipation of downstream of the dams may have negative impacts, like flooding and seasonal water scarcity. To resolve these issues, The Mekong River Commission's (MRC) has been established but China reluctant to join as a full member instead it is involved with riparian's at downstream for construction of dam in the Lower Mekong basin with alternative institutional mechanisms and offering assistance. 2.3.5 Cauvery Basin in India There is a conflict over the Cauvery River water between Indian states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, which has recently reemerged with regard to drier climate conditions. The consequences are not only legal conflict, but also violent demonstration after decisions to amend water distribution between the two states. Both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu denied to accept the final result of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) dialogue in 2007, which determined new quantities of water to be allocated to the two states. 2.3.6 Somalia Somalia is facing various associated security and developmental issues. Often, conflicts arise between different communities trying hard for access to scarce resources like water and dominant political influence make it highly uncertain environment. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is established in 2012, and struggled to fight against drought and famine. Recurrent droughts in

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Somalia bring notable pressures on agrarian livelihoods. Droughts also made shepherds to sell more of their livestock than normal that leads to declining in prices of livestock and degenerating local incomes.