

WATER CRISES, ISRAEL

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this contribution is, much has recently been written on the subject of the Middle East water crisis, a great deal of it highly apocalyptic in tone. Water is a highly politicized issue in the Middle East, and the many alarm bells are ringing because of this inseparability of water and politics. Water is a key area of dispute: nevertheless many claims concerning the water crisis are hyperbolic and misleading. Water is a critical area of dispute in the Arab-Israeli conflict; but given the current climate of peacemaking, and given the general war-weariness among states and populations, such predictions are excitable pieces of subjectivism. A little more calm objectivity is needed.

Much of the subject is shrouded in a fog of misinformation. Erroneous data and misleading claims often lead to mistaken understandings of the conflict's roots. In such instances, factual errors serve to suggest that all parties (Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians) suffer from a general shortage of water affecting the region. In reality, the water crisis is not chiefly one of insufficient supply, but of uneven and unequitable distribution. There needs to be an increased awareness that Israel and Palestine are arid areas, where water is naturally a scarce resource, and where water consumption should be appropriate to these facts of nature. While supply enhancement may become salient at some future point, allocation of existing supply is the issue that should be prioritized.

It is upon the issue of water maldistribution that this paper will therefore focus. While some consideration will be paid to water supply and consumption in the Middle East as a whole, the emphasis will be upon the Palestinian-Israeli dispute, which is perceived to be the central element in the conflict. This contribution is helpful for understanding the causes, effects and solutions for water wars and conflicts due to water, happening within Middle East. And, focusing towards the future problems rising within the rest of nations within the world as water is so valuable for living lives.

KEYWORDS: Water Wars, Water Problems, Israeli Water Dispute, Water in Israel, National Water Carrier, Supply of Water in Israel, Mekorot, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Shortage of Water, Water Networks Rehabilitation Fund, Wastewater Renovation and Reuse, Sea of Galilee, Politics for Water, Peace, International Water, Water Resources in Israel