

Hydropolitics and Liberal Peacebuilding in the Jordan River Basin

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Objectives

- I. Explore the conflict/cooperation conundrum
- II. Assess how liberal functionalist assumptions and negotiation principles merge with liberal peacebuilding
- III. Empirically analyse different frames and negotiation positions.
- IV. Examine the implications of power asymmetry and the role of hegemony.
- V. Suggest how the research agenda may be forwarded

Conflict/cooperation conundrum

- * Water scarcity->zero-sum->war?
- * 1967 war over water?
- * Water war forecasts and policy discourse in the 1990s
- * No empirical validation
- * Blue peace based on liberal functionalist perspectives
 - high vs low politics
 - technical and apolitical cooperation
 - spill-over

Principle of gradualism and the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

- * MEPP – water framed as a catalyst for cooperation
- * Water : Multilateral working group (Madrid framework)
- * Gradualism: Overarching principle of negotiation
 - sequenced peacemaking
 - incremental steps, enlarge to core issues
- * Declaration of Principles 1993, Oslo II 1995
 - Joint Water Committee (JWC, JSET)
 - supervision and monitoring

Liberal peacebuilding and hydropolitics

- * Liberal peacebuilding: economic interdependence and regional cooperation (European experience)
- * "The New Middle East" (Shimon Peres)
- * MEPP: Influx of international actors donors and hydro-cooperative projects between Israelis and Palestinians
- * Technical discourse: depoliticisation of peacebuilding

The problem of framing water conflict and negotiation

Israel

- Status quo
- Forward-looking
- Technical strategies

Palestinian Authority

- Water rights discourse
- Backward looking
- Resource allocation

Israel-Jordan

- Peace treaty 1994
- Technical discourse vs equitable water allocation

The problem of power asymmetry and hegemony

- * Israeli hegemony:
 - military
 - economic
 - human resources
- * Stipulates the rules of the negotiations
 - apolitical water discourse
 - status quo on water resource allocation

Conclusion

- Role of third parties in water cooperation and negotiation
 - improve governance mechanisms and institution building
 - mediation
- Local forms of management and bottom-up processes
 - right-based vs need-based approaches