

Water Management in Israel and Syria: the Role it Plays in the Violence

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Science, Technology, and Society

Focus: Sea of Galilee



- Other names:
 - Lake Kinneret
 - Lake Tiberias
- 4,301 million m³ body of freshwater
- Israel, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon all rely upon the Sea of Galilee as a major source of freshwater
- Not nearly enough water to satisfy the needs of all four countries
- The particular relationship between Israel and Syria is strained because of proximity and because both nations reliance on the Sea of Galilee

Israel and Syria



Friction between Israel and Syria due to the Galilee

- 1951-Syria attempts to close gates to a dam south of the Galilee. Israel and Syria skirmish.
- 1953- Jordan and Syria agree to construct dam with 480MCM storage. Israel complains to UN its needs were not taken into account.
- 1953- Israel begins to construct intake to its National Water Carrier (a pipeline that carries water from the Sea of Galilee to the people in the Negev Desert in the South of Israel) in a demilitarized zone. Syrian Artillery opens fire on construction sites.

The Johnston Plan

- Not officially ratified by the Arab League, this is unofficially the allocation of water by the four countries around the Galilee

Country	Israel	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria
Consumption (MCM/yr)	400	720	35	132

Other Sources of Water (Israel)

- Coastal and Mountain Aquifers in the West and North, respectively, which combined equal approximately the supply from the Galilee
- Desalinization
- Cloud Seeding
- Reclamation of wastewater effluents (water recycling)
 - 70% of Israeli water recycled, 60% of Jordanian water recycled

Conclusion

With the water situation in the Middle East so dire, it is not hard to extrapolate that any water rights disputes held between Israel and its neighbours would only enhance an already tense situation, and should no doubt be considered one of the causes for the Six Day War (1967)

Future Research

Solidify the correlation between Israeli/Syrian aggression and water conservation techniques and technology

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