

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF WATER IN INDIA'S OCCUPATION OF KASHMIR

What is the importance of water in the occupation of Kashmir?

- India utilizes water as another terrain to wage the occupation of Kashmir. Kashmir's rich water supply is cut off from Kashmiris in order to fuel India's settler colonial project.
- Water is a critical geopolitical resource for India and India has turned Kashmir into their supplier of water. Thus, even though India claims that Kashmir is dependent on India **economically, it is actually India that is dependent on Kashmir**, especially for water.

What was the Indus Water Treaty (IWT)?

- India and Pakistan signed the Indus Water Treaty in 1960 after years of dispute over the various tributaries. The treaty apportioned the waters of the three western Indus tributaries to Pakistan and the waters of the three eastern Indus tributaries to India.
- This settlement was critical to determining the territories, boundaries, and resource rights of both postcolonial states.

How has India exploited the terms of the IWT?

- India has exploited a provision in the IWT that allows India and Pakistan to utilize rivers that pass through their country for nonconsumptive uses, like hydropower, even if that country has not been allocated that river's water.
- India has used this provision to build massive infrastructure, like dams, that controls the flow of water into Pakistan, giving India significant strategic leverage in the region.

Why does India seek Kashmir's waters?

- Several of the rivers that flow into Pakistan also flow through Kashmir, allowing India to control water flow against its rival, Pakistan.
- India also sees Kashmir as a potential source of water for India's population growth and development.
- Controlling water in Kashmir is one way to **solidify the settler colonial project in Kashmir** and extract its natural resources for the benefit of India.

How does this impact indigenous Kashmiris?

- Kashmiris continue to face water shortages and unsafe drinking water despite Kashmir's ample water supply in rivers and glaciers. Rice farmers have suffered as a result. There have been a number of protests as a result of the water shortages.
- India's building of infrastructure and militarization of Kashmir to secure water results in climate change, leads to forced and extractive labor, suppresses Kashmiri dissent and alienates indigenous forms of knowledge.

Photo: Bernard Gagnon

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF WATER IN INDIA'S OCCUPATION OF KASHMIR

What is the importance of water in the occupation of Kashmir?

- India utilizes water as another terrain to wage the occupation of Kashmir. Kashmir's rich water supply is cut off from Kashmiris in order to fuel India's settler colonial project.
- Water is a critical geopolitical resource for India and India has turned Kashmir into their supplier of water. Thus, even though India claims that Kashmir is dependent on India **economically, it is actually India that is dependent on Kashmir**, especially for water.

What was the Indus Water Treaty (IWT)?

- India and Pakistan signed the Indus Water Treaty in 1960 after years of dispute over the various tributaries. The treaty apportioned the waters of the three western Indus tributaries to Pakistan and the waters of the three eastern Indus tributaries to India.
- This settlement was critical to determining the territories, boundaries, and resource rights of both postcolonial states.

How has India exploited the terms of the IWT?

- India has exploited a provision in the IWT that allows India and Pakistan to utilize rivers that pass through their country for nonconsumptive uses, like hydropower, even if that country has not been allocated that river's water.
- India has used this provision to build massive infrastructure, like dams, that controls the flow of water into Pakistan, giving India significant strategic leverage in the region.

Why does India seek Kashmir's waters?

- Several of the rivers that flow into Pakistan also flow through Kashmir, allowing India to control water flow against its rival, Pakistan.
- India also sees Kashmir as a potential source of water for India's population growth and development.
- Controlling water in Kashmir is one way to **solidify the settler colonial project in Kashmir** and extract its natural resources for the benefit of India.

How does this impact indigenous Kashmiris?

- Kashmiris continue to face water shortages and unsafe drinking water despite Kashmir's ample water supply in rivers and glaciers. Rice farmers have suffered as a result. There have been a number of protests as a result of the water shortages.
- India's building of infrastructure and militarization of Kashmir to secure water results in climate change, leads to forced and extractive labor, suppresses Kashmiri dissent and alienates indigenous forms of knowledge.

Photo: Bernard Gagnon