

Bis zum letzten Tropfen? Wasser im Israelisch- Palästinensischen Konflikt

From conflict to collective action?



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2. Water resources at stake
3. Actual water rights and allocation
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5. Theoretical excursion: Water regime formation
6. Conclusion

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Agreements on water between Palestine and Israel (1)

Declaration of Principles 1993

Beginning of peace process
incl. water issues on the basis of UN resolution
242, 338

**Principle of land for peace:
Equitable and reasonable
utilization of resources!**

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Agreements on water between Palestine and Israel (2)

Oslo II-Article 40: in 1995

Interim agreement, 1995-2000
The **recognition of the Palestinian
water rights** which will be negotiated in the
final status negotiations.

Palestinian needs to **additional water**: around 80
MCM/year, 28.6 MCM/year of this quantity as
immediate needs.

Establishment of the **Joint Water Committee (JWC)**
to coordinate the implementation of the
agreement.

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Water resources (at stake)

1. The Jordan River
2. The Mountain Aquifer

- Eastern Aquifer Basin
- Northern Aquifer Basin
- Western Aquifer Basin

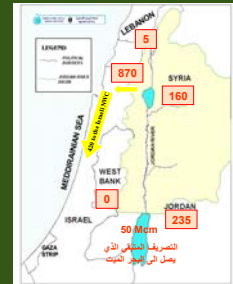
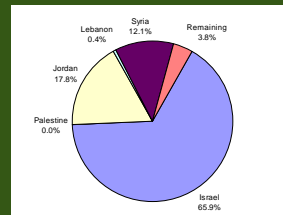
The EAB is considered a Palestinian endogenous basin, NAB and WAB extend behind the Green Line into Israeli areas.

3. The Coastal Aquifer
4. (Treated waste water)



Utilization of Jordan River

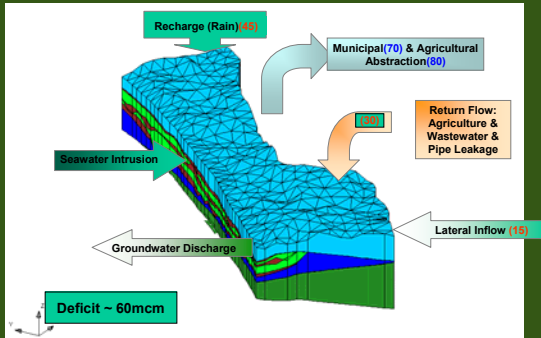
Total approx. flow: 1320 MCM/year



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Coastal Aquifer: The Gaza Strip



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Water rights and allocation(1) Mountain Aquifer

- Israel drills deep groundwater wells in the West Bank,
- Israel sells water to Palestinian communities from wells under Israeli control in the West Bank as well as from outside,
- Israel serves water to Israeli settlements within the West Bank from water sources within and outside the West Bank,

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Water rights and allocation(2) Mountain Aquifer

- ➔ Based on various water rights schemes Palestine drills its wells for their own use,
- ➔ In some cases Israel prevent the Palestinian from drilling wells for their own use and under their own control,
- ➔ Israel is not willing to give up all wells they drilled or confiscated in the West Bank during the occupation

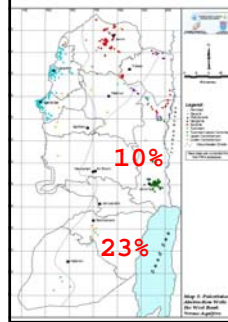
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Abstraction in the West Bank

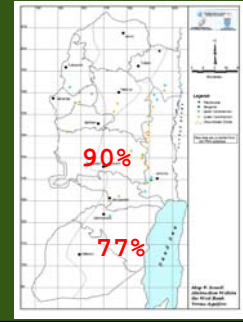
Palestinian

Israeli

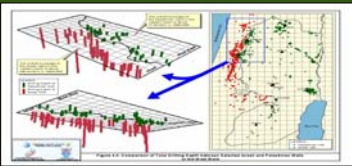


Wells/Year:
725,3 MCM
(672 MCM
Recharge)

Springs/Year:
284 MCM



Well characteristics



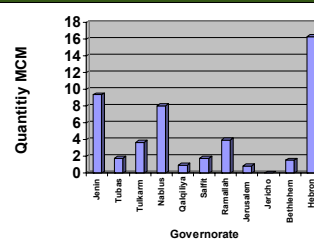
1. Israeli wells tap deeper aquifers than Palestinian wells do;
2. Israeli wells have more pumping capacity



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Water supply deficit (West Bank)

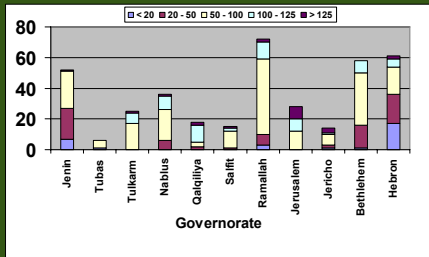


Population: 2.163.515
Water demand: 90L/capita/day
Deficit/year: 48.216 MCM

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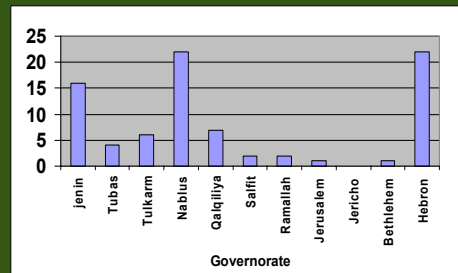
Water supply rate (West Bank) classification (L/capita/day)



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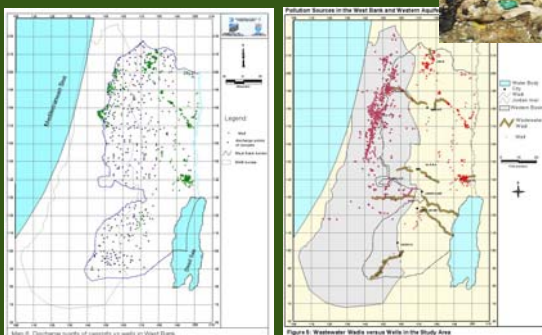
Unserved communities with more than 500 inhabitants



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Waste water discharge



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Current crisis



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Current crisis, e.g. Gaza City

...“The raw sewage created a temporarily river..”

Infrastructures destructions at Gaza city treatment plant

18,000 m³/d (1996)






about 40,000 to 50,000 m³/d (2005), with peaks of 70,000 m³/d during summer

wastewater from almost all Gaza City, Approx. 650,000 inhabitants

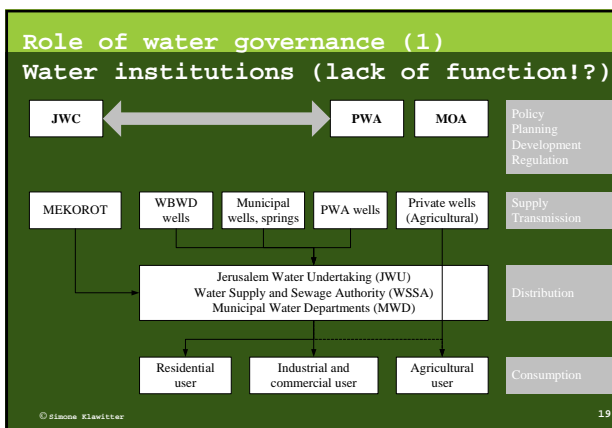
Treatment plants:
Gaza City
Beit Lahia
Rafah




Separation wall and water issues

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Role of water governance (2)

Fulfill

States Parties must adopt the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of the right to water.

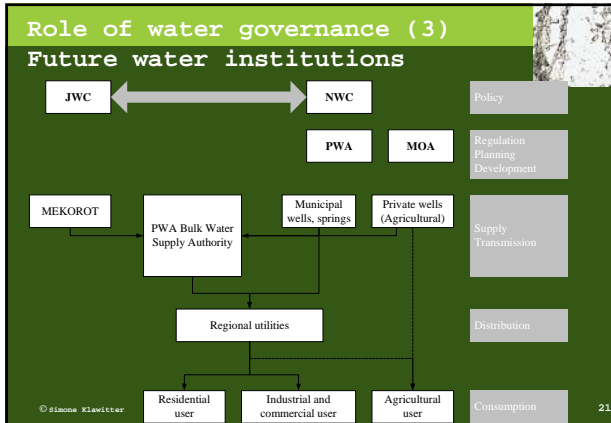
NWC: Not constituted!

PWA: Mutable role! Project management, lack of regulation capacity

WBWD: Monitored by MEKOROT! Transfer of ownership needed!

Institutional capacity building needed to prevent institutional vacuum!

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Theoretical excursus: Water regime formation (1)

- 1. Presence of a hegemon:** benign or coercive, upstream-downstream structure of international rivers, only hegemons in the downstream position show an interest to take a lead in the creation and maintenance of a water regime
=Israel: Hegemon
- 2. Interest based explanation:** difficult bargaining process=high transaction cost, cost incentives?, policy packaging?
=Water scarcity, e.g. water trading

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Theoretical excursus: Water regime formation (2)

- 3. Knowledge based explanation:** Existence of an epistemic community with a shared understanding of the problem, policy diffusion
=environmental community, learning from EU experiences
- 4. Context based explanation:** National and international events that are seemingly unrelated to the issue under consideration play an important role in determining if and when an international water regime is established
=political conflict, foreign policy, high donor engagement

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Conclusion (attempt)

- ➔ No „one-answer-fits-all“!
Cooperation: complex, lengthy and contradictory process
- ➔ Dressing up domination as cooperation (Jan Selby, Sussex)
- ➔ Emerging international discussion on **Hydro-Hegemony** (Tony Allen: Kings College London)
- ➔ Donor community:
 - i) Shifting from infrastructure financing to **capacity building** to balance out power pressure
 - ii) Cooperation as **“foreign policy fig leaf”**



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Questions and
comments!?