

Q. How did the Indus Waters Treaty (1960) affect water distribution and relations b/w Pakistan and India.

Ans.

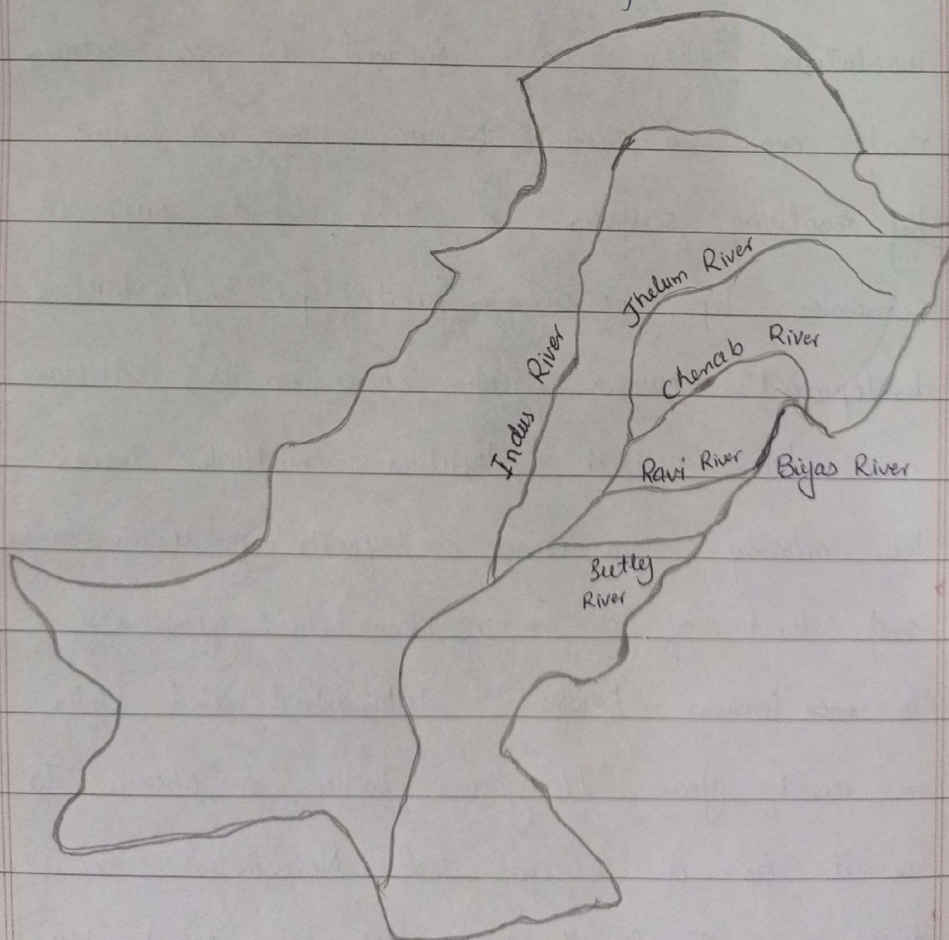
Introduction:

Indus Water Treaty (IWT) ^{was} signed in 1960 between Pakistan and India, with World Bank as broker. The treaty distributes the water of Indus Basin ~~am~~ between these two countries and a mechanism for conflict resolution. IWT has survived 65 years between rivals even in times of war, prevented wars by resolving disputes on table and supported economies by providing funds for infrastructure development. However, India's share ~~on~~ in Pakistani rivers has caused troubles multiple times, the missing provisions on effects of climate change and limit ~~of~~ on no. of dams has given rise to ~~more~~ tensions between Islamabad and Delhi in recent years. It gave India a chance to use it as a political tool. Nevertheless, the treaty is significant in determining relationships between both states.

Effects of IWT on water distribution

Background

Indus Rivers, one of the world's longest rivers, originate in India, and empty in Arabian Sea. Right after partition, India cut off water of the rivers, ~~resulting in~~ negatively impacting Pakistan's agriculture. Therefore, after years long negotiations the treaty was signed between two states in 1960, with World Bank as facilitator.



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River Distribution

Eastern rivers (Ravi, Sutlej and Bias) were given to India. Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) were given to Pakistan. However, India was allowed to use 10% of the water from Indus River, for electricity generation purposes, but was not allowed to consume water for agriculture or other use.

Construction of Dams

For 20 years (1960-1980), India was not allowed to build any dams on western rivers, to give Pakistan time to build Dams and canals and to increase water utilization.

After 1980, India was allowed to build dams (use water for hydal generation), with following conditions:

- I- If water is in excess than Pakistan's needs
- II- No diversion is allowed
- III- Designs of Dams / infrastructure built on

prior construction

size and location of project.

projects, every 6 months.

Conflict Resolution

Effects of Water Treaty on Pak-India Relationships

65 years.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

1- No water conflict, even in major wars

The treaty has been successful for many years and survived full-scale wars of 1965, 1971

between two enemy / rival states - It depicts

not arise or ^{when} ~~it~~ arised were ~~a~~ handled

properly and peacefully.

II- Provides Robust Conflict Resolution System

Under the treaty, Indus Water Commission was established. It consists of members from both states, who meet and discuss structural or legal issues. Neutral observers can also be appointed under the treaty, if issue is not resolved by the commission. In 2013, International court of Arbitration appointed a neutral observer ^{to} resolve issues on design of Kishanganga Project on Jhelum River, and the matter was successfully resolved.

III- War Prevention

Owing to clear frameworks on distribution of water and strong conflict resolution, the treaty has been successful in preventing ^{water} wars between two countries.

THE ^{NEG}ATIVE IMPACTS OF TREATY

1- Disputes over Indian Projects

IWT ~~did not~~ allowed Pakistan to object

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only on dam's structural designs and did not allow to object the no. of dams or necessity of a Dam. As a result, India is building more and more dams, that limits water supply to Pakistan. For example, Baglihar, Dul Hasti, Kishenganga Rattle, Pakal Dul and Sawalkot dams, ~~are~~ all on Chenab river.

11- India's control over Western Rivers

Since IWT gave right to India to build infrastructures on Pakistani rivers, this gave India great control over Pakistani water. According to World Bank report 2021, there is a cut of more than 50% in waters of Indus and Jhelum rivers, while more than 55% in water of Chenab river. This water scarcity, is rising tensions between two states as Pakistan's agricultural yields are decreasing, fertile lands are turning barren and forests are decreasing (e.g. 40% decrease in Mangrove forest).

III- Climate Changes and Abeyance of Treaty

Signed at the time of relative water abundance. IWT did not consider any climate effects. Prolonged draughts due to lesser rains and India building more and more dams is raising tensions between the countries. India falsely blames climate for all of its activities based water shortage as well. India's union Minister^{ty}, Shekhawat has publically stated that IWT "can not be static" - One of the baselines of India's holding in abeyance of Treaty, is said to be climate change which is increasing its water needs, from these rivers.

IV- Political Tool

In recent years, IWT has become a tool of political hegemony. Any conflict / tension in India, is used as a base by their Govt. to threaten Pakistan to deprive it of its waters, to get votes in elections (by emotionally manipulating Indian nationals). - Following Uri attack, Indian PM said "water and blood can not flow together" - Similarly, after Pahalgam attack

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Similar statements have been given time to time. Indian PM ^{once in 2014} said "we will stop 'our share of water' from flowing into Pakistan. India's weaponization of water can lead to severe consequences in near future, as ^{Indian} PM Modi has decided to 'divert waters to supply it to people of J&K and Punjab' and Pakistani Govt has declared any cut in water as 'an act of war'."

Critical Analysis

The Indus Water Treaty, has, undoubtedly, become an important factor in determining Pak-India relationships. More than 70% of Pakistan's agriculture depends on waters of Indus Rivers, while dependence of industries is 20% and for domestic use it is 25%. Indus rivers mean life to Pakistan. On the other hand, India is trying/planning to make sure Pakistan does not get "even a single drop". PM Modi's stance "water that belongs to India cannot be allowed to go to Pakistan", clearly shows their malicious intentions of

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taking advantage of being upper riparian of Indus rivers. Concerns of Pakistan on IWT if not settled ^{by India} can lead to "water war" between two Nuclear states, and increasing water scarcity will make it worse.

Conclusion

In short, Indus Water Treaty has been successful at distributing waters and ~~pre~~resolving water conflicts for many decades. It has also survived and prevented wars. But climate changes in recent years, resulted in water drought and scarcity ~~off~~ in both countries. The decreasing supplies and increasing demands are creating unrest in both countries, while IWT does not include ~~to~~ any provisions on water usage during crisis / shortage. As a result, India is building more dams, while Pakistan being a low riparian country is facing economic and social impacts of ~~it~~ the water shortage. A commitment to mutual understanding, respect for shared resources and willingness to adapt to evolving challenges is needed to settle water management issues.