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WATER CRISIS FROM MIDDLE EAST SECURITY COMPONENTS CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Water supply will be one of the most important economic and political environmental issues in the future world. Water experts predict that in the not-too-distant future, regional and international national tensions and conflicts over water will increase, and water will play a more important role in Middle East crises. It is clear that it faces numerous political - security tensions. A crisis that can only be controlled through big, realistic, interaction-based planning and using all the facilities and capacities. Factors such as increased excessive exploitation of water resources to meet economic needs have had an impact on the environment, especially in the Middle East. Water resources have long been an important issue in the domestic policy scene of countries, especially in arid and water-scarce regions of the world such as the Middle East, and have continued to maintain their importance. The water crisis has become politically dangerous in the Middle East over time, and it seems likely that in the not-too-distant future, an environmental factor like water scarcity May alone pave the way for political tension. In this regard, this article uses library and Documentary Studies to study the situation and dimensions of the water crisis in the Middle East Region and the challenges and solutions to this problem . It is believed that the long term water shortage issue if it persists has become an environmental water crisis in which case it seems that the conditions of conflict and ultimately conflict between the countries of Middle East are likely.

Keywords: *Water crisis, Economic security, Middle East, International security.*

INTRODUCTION

Today, water shortages in the Middle East are a serious issue, and most countries in the region suffer from water problems in various ways. The water crisis in the Middle East is caused by a gap between water supply and demand. At the supply level, factors such as natural water shortages in the Middle East, environmental changes in the world and the vulnerability of the Middle East to climate change and at the demand level, factors such as population growth, urbanization, agricultural growth and industrial growth are involved. It may be expected that by implementing proper management at both supply and demand levels and in domestic and regional dimensions, a solution to the water crisis can be found, but the lack of more effective collective measures in this regard will continue to darken the future of the crisis. Notably, the regional plan to resolve the water crisis raised within the framework of the peace process was not implemented and was practically abandoned(Fahimi Roudi, 2009)

In addition, some of the factors involved in the water crisis are related to the natural factors of the region or climate change globally, which are actually beyond the ability of governments to

control. The natural water shortage in the Middle East has been fighting people in the region for a long time and has led them to fight nature. The old inhabitants of the area took up the fight against water scarcity by using various methods and by digging wells and using underground vessels.(Croitoru,2020)

It can even be said that water shortages have been effective in shaping the political, economic, social and cultural structures of Middle Eastern countries. As and the German sociology yetfogel knew the authoritarian roots of the region's political systems in the Asian way of production, which was itself caused by water scarcity. Ancient and contemporary history is full of things that show the tremendous influence of water on the formation and flourishing of civilizations, the old civilizations of the Middle East mainly arose in Mesopotamia and the banks of the Nile River. Contemporary European history also shows that many of the major political and economic developments in the region are rooted in the geographical and water-rich conditions of the region, which provided the basis for the Industrial Revolution by helping to produce agricultural products. The question now is, given the increasing importance of water in providing for the lives of the people of the region on the one hand and the natural water shortage in the Middle East and the increasing gap between water supply and demand in the region on the other hand, is there a possibility that water will be examined as one of the security components in the Middle East or that water will be used as a political and military weapon? Indicators in the region and the world allow both possibilities to occur. Ancient and contemporary history is full of examples illustrating the use of water weapons in both peacetime and war (Mounah, 2006)

The concept of security

The definition of a dictionary of security is: not in danger or protected from danger. Security is also the release of doubt, the release of anxiety and fear, and the possession of justified and documented trust and confidence. Security, whether individual, national or international, is among the issues that humans face. Security is broadly used in a concept that refers to peace, freedom, trust, health, and other conditions in which an individual or group of people feel free to worry, fear, danger, or threats from inside or outside. However, as the Bozan Barry argues. (Wikipedia)

Security is the avoidance of any threat of purpose and the readiness to confront it, the concept of security is relative and has intensity and weakness, meaning that in some situations (different times and places)it is promoted or reduced in the minds of people. The concept of security is broad on the one hand, meaning that every human being understands security or insecurity, but on the other hand it is complex and has many and varied definitions. To better understand the concept of security, Security Studies try to break this concept into smaller, more understandable components. Security is one of the complex social issues that, despite the public perception that it is integrated, is made up of several components. Security is so important that most people in society give priority to security compared to other essential and vital needs. Another part of breaking the concept of security, to better understand the concept of security is breaking this concept to levels of security. These levels include global security, international security, regional security, national security, internal and external security, Public Security, Social Security, and finally individual security. The dimensions of security are also an attempt to better understand

the concept of security. These dimensions today include: military, political, economic, cultural - social and finally environmental. (Haftendorn, 1991)

Water and international security

Water is one of the environmental issues that ranked among the international issues and the UN agenda in the 1990s and found a new place it is safe to say that drinking water supply is sometimes more important than being safe from foreign attacks, although historically access to Water Resources has caused domestic and international conflicts and intensified them. But in recent decades population growth and warming have played an important role in increasing demand for Water Resources. Water is considered the most sensitive renewable resource because humans need constant access not only to drink and produce food, but also to drive the wheel of industry and power supply (Kummu, 2016)

Estimates of the amount of fresh water in the world vary. Different surveys show different statistics. But most of the figures cite between 0,003 and 0,007 of all available water sources. So it seems that this amount of fresh water is not more than a few large drops of water in the whole world, and there are many limitations to this small amount of water. One is that limited water resources are disproportionately distributed and have a significant spatial and seasonal improper distribution the islands of Greenland in northwestern Canada the US state of Alaska and French Guinea have a per capita equivalent to 10867857 cubic meters 1563168 cubic meters and 812121 cubic meters respectively and Kuwait the Gaza Strip the UAE the island of bahamaso Qatar has a per capita equivalent to 10 cubic meters 52 cubic meters 58 cubic meters respectively 66 cubic meters and 94 cubic meters have the lowest renewable water, and most water is in the form of polar glaciers or hard-to-reach groundwater(FAO, 1997).

Freshwater resources are also facing several major problems, one of which is the increase in the world's population compared to water resources and the consequent decrease in per capita water resources. Another problem is that it contaminates a significant part of the water resources available, which is seen almost all over the world. International organizations including the National Commission for Sustainable Development have reportedly divided the world's different nations into four categories in terms of the amount of renewable resources and their capabilities to equip financial resources:

1-countries with high per capita income and low water stress

2-high-income countries and high water stress

3-countries with low income and low water stress

4-countries with low incomes and high water stress

So some of the countries in the Middle East and Africa that fall into the fourth category of the classification. The first victims of the water crisis in the world will be considered. The reason for the decline in per capita population is the increase in the world population which has grown from 2 billion to about 6 billion people during the 20th century and is expected to reach more than 8 billion people by 2025 with a growth rate of three people per second the increase in population on the one hand and the increase in per capita consumption of fresh water on the

other hand has provided the conditions for fresh water sources to be converted from a renewable source to a semi-renewable source and Mira. (FAO, 1997)

In relation to the role of water in security what is certain is that over the years the availability of water for dry and desert areas has been a problem and in some cases by the authoritarian division of some adjacent countries large rivers have become a major problem in the Middle East region which is one of the world's water scarce areas the number of cases where water is an important reason for the conflict has apparently been increasing as in recent years between Turkey Syria and Iraq over the Euphrates between Jordan Israel and Lebanon has increased due to the the origin of the Jordan River and the nine coastal countries of the Nile River are increasing. According to FAO statistics, while the region accounts for 14% of the Earth's area, it has only 2% of Water Resources(FAO, 1997)

Hydropolitics or geopolitics of water

Given the importance of water in the fate of humans and human societies, water geopolitics or hydropolitics has become a subject. Water geopolitics studies the role of water in the relations and conflicts of human societies and nations and governments,whether within or between countries and having a global and international regional fractional dimension. this particular view studies the effect of decisions on water use in political formations in relations between governments with each other or relations between nations and people of even one country (MAHLAKENG, 2019). the problem is that the movement of water as a source of fluid in underground vessels or on the surface of the Earth in the form of rivers in countries has caused water to be a source of fluid in countries. Groundwater or on the surface of the Earth in the form of rivers in countries has caused water to cross contractual boundaries. The performance of countries at the top of the river can have a dire impact on downstream users. Among these, most of the main rivers in the world have been somewhat of a place of conflict between neighboring countries(Peter H, 2001)

The regional distribution of fresh water in the world is very heterogeneous and does not correspond to the distribution of the population. More than 60 percent of the world's available fresh water in nine countries is Brazil with 14.2 percent Russia 9.8 percent China 7.2 percent Canada 7.2 percent Indonesia 6.3 percent, the United States 6.2 percent Colombia 2.8 percent and Congo 2.5 percent(Peter H, 2001) Today, water consumption has increased 17 times compared to the early 20th century, due to population growth, technological developments, growth and increasing urbanization, increasing the quality and quantity of life. Although surface water reserves have long been considered a revitalizable resource. These reserves have been threatened globally more than 40 percent of the world's countries are facing water shortages due to the growth of the population, the development of agricultural irrigation, the damming of water pollution and the use of water in industries. The need for water increases by 2.3% each year. Recognizing the crisis, the World Bank will spend 600 billion to increase freshwater reserves before 2025. Freshwater shortages in environmentally low rainfall countries are quite serious but industrialized countries are apparently the most consumed countries(Croitoru, 2020)

Water is the Middle East security component.

Water as the most fundamental element of life has always played a fundamental role in the construction of settlements and consequently the emergence of human civilizations.based on hydraulic theory, water has played an important and effective role in the emergence of cities, the increase in population and its density, and ultimately the emergence of Empires. With the increase in the population of countries, the average renewable water has decreased sharply in recent decades, which continues. On the other hand, factors such as the change in consumption patterns, the change in rainfall patterns and the gradual warming of the world that caused the emergence of periodic drought, as well as the lack of adequate investment and poor management of existing water resources and the growth of per capita water consumption have all made existing water resources not meet the needs of today's and future populations. (Croitoru,2020) In this regard, all water experts believe that if the population-to-volume ratio of renewable freshwater resources exceeds a certain limit, the scarcity of water and the pressure and tension caused by water scarcity will be inevitable. Accordingly, in the last decade, this ratio has reached or exceeded the critical limit in 24 countries, while most experts believe that if no serious action is taken in the field of distribution of resources and optimal water consumption patterns, about two-thirds of the world's population will suffer from relative or severe water shortages by 2025 (Croitoru,2020) Among these vulnerable areas of the world, such as the Middle East, are in a very worrying situation, which is why the history of the struggle for access to fresh water is evident throughout the history of the Middle East, a Middle East where more than 85 percent of the land is classified as "dry" or "dry" areas. In such a situation, most of the region faces a severe shortage of Water Resources. It is therefore not surprising that the process of its socio-economic development is going through with difficulty. So that the per capita water reserves in the region have fallen to about one third of its recorded reserves in 1960 and it is feared that it will be halved by the next 25 years which is one of the most important potential threats in the Middle East Region and is considered one of the main concerns of the officials and planners of the countries of the region given the above the characteristic and identical aspect of all actors on the international stage apart from the quality of the international position regardless of domestic characteristics and regardless of the volume of the power of survival every action that is important for the survival of the government is necessarily justified. All the theories of international relations begin with a consensus on the issue that the vital necessity is survival. This Machiavellian view, which is increasingly accepted, should be taken into account that in principle, any action that is important for the survival of the state must be justified by the need to survive in the belly.to achieve survival, along with limiting violence on the International Relations scene, it is necessary to create order at first. It is only on the platform of order that this opportunity comes to life for the actor to organize the essential elements for survival. Given that today, compared to Western Europe during the Cold War, Asia is more dangerous in terms of the extent of the faults, the extent of poverty and arms competition, a more severe need is felt to establish an order that can manage this unstable environment. Instability is a definite possibility in Asia. To prevent instability from leading to a security crisis, the security model must be drawn in a way that best regulates order. (Wight, 1995)

Prospects for water crisis in the Middle East region

The natural water shortage in the Middle East has been influential in the emergence of past tensions and conflicts in the region. As the water crisis intensifies, the gap between water supply and demand is likely to continue to rise in the Middle East. International rivers in the Middle East are the main areas of tension.

Although the area of International Rivers is considered as a new area of tension, the range of tension is not limited to these areas alone and can be extended to other countries outside the area of International Rivers. The reason for this is due to the nature of the tension, which is caused by the inequality of supply and demand, and this is clearly seen in most Middle Eastern countries, and on the other hand, it is related to the bias of the countries of the region from the conflicting countries of the rivers. Major developments in the Middle East, including the formation of new political and military alliances, are rooted in the water crisis, and it can be argued that the water war in the Middle East has started at all, and therefore regional and global efforts to contain the water crisis should be pursued more seriously than in the past. (Unfried, 2020)

A few ideas about the water crisis as one of the sources of conflict in the Middle East is usually focused on the four rivers of the Tigris region and the Euphrates Nile and the Jordan River, but in the arid region of Central Asia, common waters can quickly be the conduit of the confrontation between the newly independent countries of the region and expand the dimensions of the crisis in the territories beyond the northern regions of the Persian Gulf. The Persian Gulf region also has the bulk of the world's oil reserves. Most countries in the region have common surface and groundwater resources, and their exploitation has always caused various conflicts among them. Arab oil-rich countries such as Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are among five of the nine countries with the lowest per capita water resources worldwide. (Unfried, 2020) In these countries almost all underground waterfalls have been exploited and there are no new resources to meet future needs in general groundwater resources in Asia and especially in the Middle East region are in critical condition this is due to the excessive harvesting of groundwater more than its normal rate, which causes a steady drop in groundwater levels. And also the degradation of water quality caused by the entry of seawater into sedimentary, coastal vessels. (FAO, 1997)

Table 1 shows the population statistics of Middle Eastern countries in 1970 and 2001, and the population estimates of these countries in 2025. The table also shows the annual renewable freshwater volume of countries. Of course, it should be noted that these numbers represent the renewable freshwater resources of a country; actual renewable reserves vary annually. This information generally includes surface water and underground reserves, which also include surface inflows from neighboring countries, waters flowing between countries. These numbers are not diminished, so these data represent the water available from natural hydrological cycles, regardless of political, organizational and economic factors. (Fahimi Roudi,2009)

Table 1. Middle East population and water consumption in various sectors

Region	Population	The percentage of fresh water required in sectors

	1970	2001	2025	Percentage of population in urban areas(in 2001)	Annually renewable fresh water (square km)	Household	Industrial	Agricultural
Middle East	173.4	385.6	568	59	623.3	8	5	87
Jordan	1.6	5.2	7.8	79	0.9	22	3	75
UAE	0.2	3.3	4.5	84	0.2	24	9	67
Iran	28.8	66.1	88.4	64	137.5	6	2	92
Bahrain	0.2	0.7	1	88	0.1	39	4	56
Turkiye	35.3	66.3	85.2	66	200.7	16	11	72
Tunisia	5.1	9.7	12.5	62	4.1	9	3	89
Aljeria	13.8	31	43.2	49	14.3	25	15	60
Syria	6.3	17.1	27.1	50	46.1	4	2	94
Iraq	9.4	23.6	40.3	68	96.4	3	5	92
Saudi Arabia	5.7	21.1	40.9	83	2.4	9	1	90
Qatar	0.1	0.6	0.8	91	0.1	23	3	74
Kuwait	0.7	2.3	4.2	100	0.02	37	2	60
Lebanon	2.5	4.3	5.4	88	4.6	28	4	68
Libya	2	5.2	8.3	86	0.6	11	2	87
Morocco	15.3	29.2	40.5	55.30	30	5	3	92
Egypt	35.3	69.8	96.2	43	86.8	6	8	86

Currently, Sea desalination is widely used to solve the problems caused by the water crisis in the Middle East region, especially the Arab countries of the region, so that more than 60 percent of the desalination and desalination capacity of the sea is concentrated in the Persian Gulf region. The desalination capacity in Saudi Arabia alone is equivalent to 30 percent of the world's total capacity. Kuwait and most Gulf emirates also rely mainly on desalination of seawater to provide their drinking water, so it can be thought that in the event of regional conflicts, "water security" can also be considered as a combination of military security. So the water problem for the Arab countries in the region remains strong, and in Iraq, about 80 percent of its water consumption comes from neighboring countries. More than 90 percent of the Euphrates River's water flow, which drinks Syria and Iraq, as well as part of the tributaries of the Tigris River, the main source of Iraqi water supply, originates in Turkey. The construction of the Ataturk Dam by Turkey and

the al-Thawra dam by Syria and other water resources development projects in the region have created problems for the users of the lower rivers and have become part of the issue of Iraqi national security. Although Syria and Iraq want cooperation in the field of Water Resources based on their division according to their needs (Mounah, 2006)

UN experts say per capita water in the Middle East will be halved by 2025. They warned of political conflicts and military conflicts due to the water crisis in the region. According to the organization, the per capita water in the region is 1,200 cubic meters per year, while the Global per capita water is close to 7,000 cubic meters per year. According to forecasts the demand for water in the area is from 170 billion cubic meters in 2000 to 228 billion The cubic meter will arrive in 2025. In other words, per capita water in the area will be reduced to 500 cubic meters per year by 2025. The number of countries facing water shortages in the Middle East has increased from 3 countries Bahrain Jordan and Kuwait in 1955 with the addition of Algeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, the UAE, Yemen and occupied Palestine to 11 in 1990,and other countries including Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Syria and Ethiopia are expected to be added to the list in 2025(Croitoru, 2020).

Challenges of the water crisis in the Middle East

1-adverse operation of water structures and high water losses.

2-uncontrolled exploitation of groundwater resources.

3-Lack of attention to consumption management and increased pressure on Water Resources.

4-low efficiency in all stages of water supply, distribution and delivery.

5-contamination of surface and groundwater resources by untreated sewage and sewage.

6 - lack of sufficient urban and industrial refineries.

7-failure to comply with appropriate environmental standards for the quality of outlet sewage and constant monitoring of pollutant levels

8-high water losses in urban irrigation networks.

9 - the existence of crisis management instead of risk management.

10. lack of coordination in the implementation and simultaneous operation of water supply and transmission projects and irrigation and drainage networks

11-lack of coordination in the implementation and operation of Main and secondary networks.

12. lack of stakeholder participation in the exploitation and protection of Water Resources.

13-lack of executive planning for the use of border and common waters that leave the country. All of this is kind of rooted in the management and how water resources are used.

There are also potential and actual threats to water resources in the Middle East. These threats, which are caused by natural conditions and human functions, can be summarized as follows:

1-decrease in atmospheric precipitation and its heterogeneous dispersion.

2-The occurrence of climate change and subsequent floods and droughts.

3-quantitative and qualitative decline in groundwater resources.

4-pollution of groundwater resources and beaches by industrial sewage of untreated human wastewater and agricultural wastewater.

5-lack of timely funding for water projects and lack of optimal cultivation patterns as well as lack of Water Development document.

6-use of water for high-consumption products.

7-tensions caused by the intensification of competition between water applicants.

8-severe soil erosion in watersheds and increasing sedimentation behind dams.

9-low agricultural water efficiency and irrigation efficiency. (Croitoru,2020)

CONCLUSION

Water and its supply are among the new issues that are the major challenges facing the human race of the century. With the importance of finding environmental issues in recent decades, various aspects of its issues have entered the field of International Security Studies of countries, the most important of which are water resources, the lack of fresh water resources and the inaccessibility of the bulk of it, the increasing pollution and the increase in consumption of these resources as a result of the increase in population, have caused a significant number of countries to face water resources shortages. Among them, the high water shortage in parts of the world, such as the Middle East, which is one of the most strategic areas in the world, has increased the incidence of Water Disputes and conflicts. Conflicts in which the water issue has been effective before. The prevailing view is that water scarcity will be one of the most important challenges of the 21st century, while the impact of the "geoeconomic discourse" on the international system is quite evident. The emphasis on the economic security characteristics of different geopolitical regions of the world has become significant, as the development plans of governments and national strategies have affected countries. As we see in the Middle East, one of the most prominent of these orientations is geo-economic factors.(Mahlakeng, 2019) Water and geopolitical experts predict that in the not too distant future regional and international national tensions and conflicts will be over water shortages and crises and water will play its role in international system relations as one of the security components of the region the geopolitical region of the Persian Gulf, which is in the Middle East, and nine of the 26 countries with low water resources in the world are in the Middle East, including the Arab states of the Persian Gulf. In the Gulf states, the crisis and the lack of water resources are a challenge. Of the eight countries in the region, the situation in Iran and Iraq is now better in terms of Water Resources. The Arab countries in the southern periphery of the region are experiencing a water crisis The Middle East is influenced by two geoeconomic factors, energy sources and water. Energy resources are abundant globally and water resources are scarce compared to other regions of the world, each of which will undoubtedly affect the national and regional policies of each country in the Middle East. And in the Middle East, along with historical differences, the water issue is one of the most important areas of conflict. These conflicts and conflicts are the point that in the time we're in freshwater resources at the national regional and international levels have become an important economic commodity and an effective security component, so what is of particular importance

today is the creation of the necessary mechanism for the implementation of a comprehensive management and Water Resources Unit. Because in countries like the Middle East, given the climate characteristics, any decline or fluctuation in precipitation can quickly create serious restrictions on their water resources . In other words, implementing efficient and optimal management to preserve the water resources of countries is a big step towards preserving and promoting their national security. Overall, it should be accepted that with the current growth rate of the world population in the third millennium, there will be a conflict over water, so that the issue of "water governance sooner or later becomes one of the main traditional patterns of roadmaps, and the Middle East region is undoubtedly one of the first regions where such a pattern will be implemented. (Mauduit,2012)

Currently, Iran is the second country behind Turkey in terms of Water Resources in the Middle East region, which itself plays a significant and effective role in strengthening the geo-economic situation in the land area that is located in the Middle East. As Joyce Starr, author of the 21st Century article during the water war, also notes in the Sunis mwanitor that Ethiopia, Turkey and Iran lack a serious water crisis in the 21st century.. On the other hand, in the Middle East region, Iran is still in a manageable situation with a per capita water content of 2,100 cubic meters per person per year, but 25 countries in the region are currently in water stress. On the other hand, we are in the International Water Decade (2025-2005) designated by the United Nations. (Fahimi Roudi,2009)

Water Crisis Solutions

It therefore demands more attention and attention in this field and ultimately the following solutions and proposals are important to compensate for the costs of the crisis in water management in the world and in the Middle East region:

1-the need to create increasing cooperation beyond national borders and develop a global action plan to access safe water for all segments of society.

2-increased international aid to developing and underdeveloped countries.

3-changing demand management approaches, which are one of the main topics of water resource management, especially in countries with water limitations, should be more focused and focused in the water resource management programs of countries؛

4. it is proposed that in a comprehensive and continuous plan governments allocate one percent of their GDP to solving water problems and crises؛

5-it is proposed to adjust the demand for this precious and rare resource through water pricing. But it should be noted that this price increase does not prevent countries and low income people from accessing enough water؛

6. the allocation of scarce water resources with the participation of consumers is one of the other proposed solutions suitable for solving the problems caused by the water problem.

7-from a theoretical point of view, the most logical method for efficient management of cross-border water is for countries to use water for Agriculture of hydroelectric power plants and other services based on their relative advantage; in order to solve the water crisis, cross-border

and regional cooperation of countries, especially the Middle East region, is obvious and necessary؛

8-it is proposed to form institutions to resolve disputes and coordinate common resources, including common water resources and other strategic concerns؛

9-groundwater is extremely sensitive, which unfortunately is used indiscriminately. It is therefore essential that groundwater resources are managed in countries and how they are consumed be monitored more؛

10-development of new and low-consumption irrigation and drainage networks؛

11-allocation of water to products with less water needs and more economic efficiency؛

12-exchange of water and its exports between the countries of the region according to technical economic, social, security, political justifications

And ecology with respect to the rights of the beneficiaries of each basin؛

13-granting the necessary facilities to water users in order to attract more financial resources from the private sector to invest and accelerate the implementation of water supply projects.

14-public information and culture building in order to promote and adhere to the principles of saving and optimal water consumption.

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