

**“PEACE
CANAL?”:
CONFLICT,
COOPERATION,
AND THE RED
SEA-DEAD SEA
CONVEYANCE**

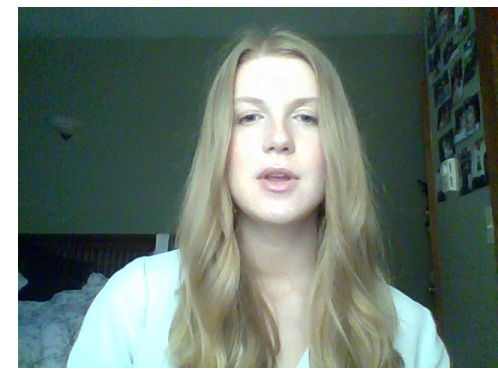
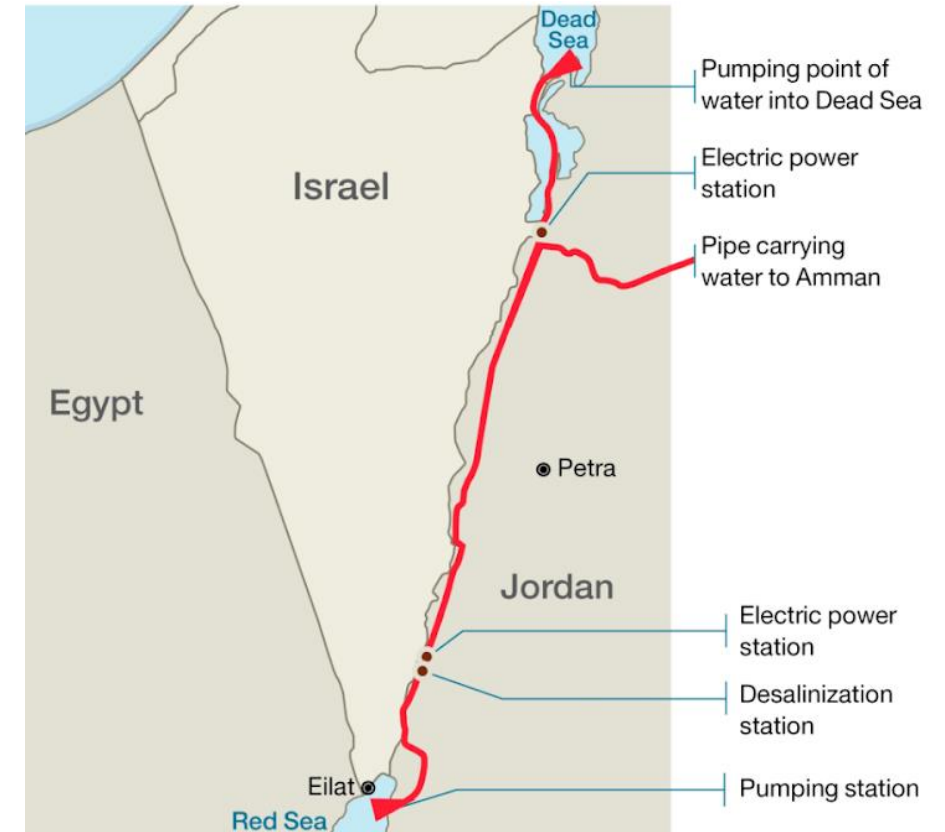
ABIGAIL J. KEEP

ADVISOR: PROFESSOR YVONNE
BRAUN, DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL
STUDIES



WATER SCARCITY IN ISRAEL, JORDAN, AND THE WEST BANK

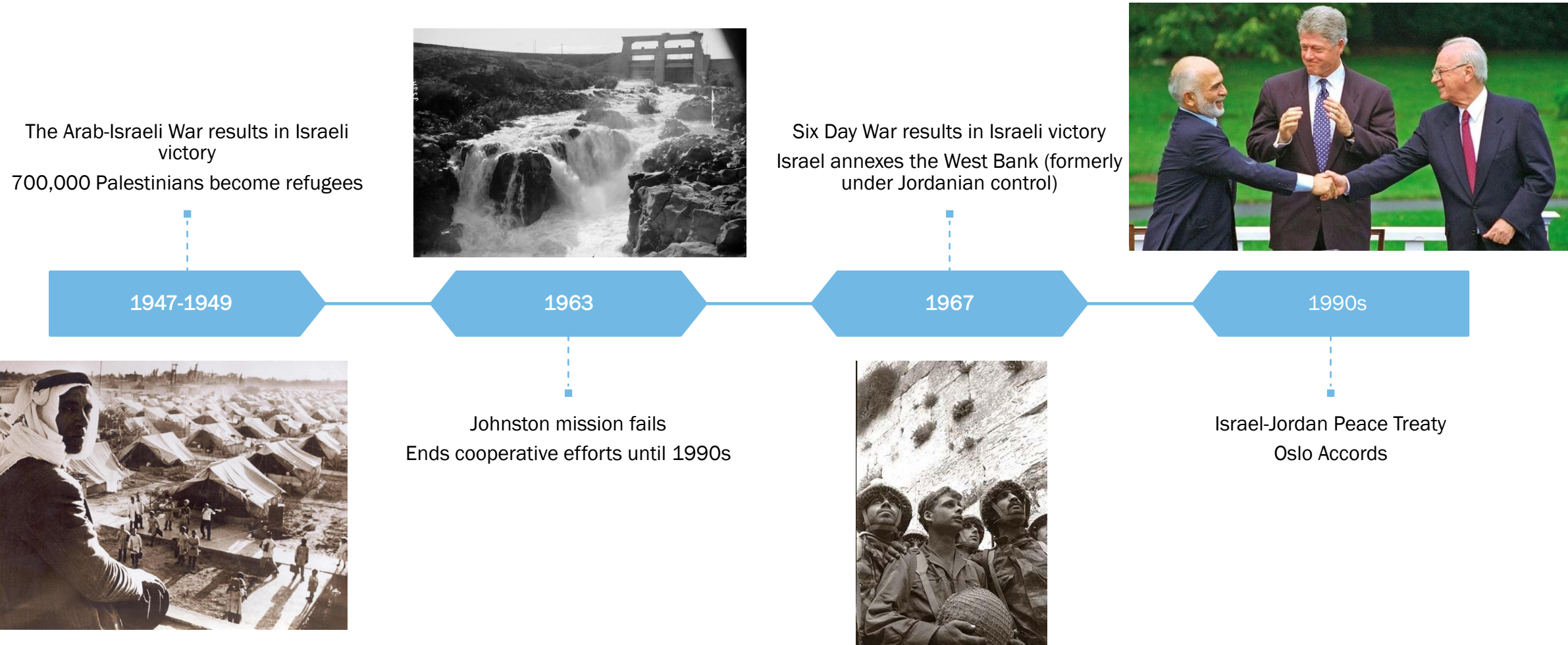
- Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories (Gaza and the West Bank) rank among the most water-poor nations on earth
- Climate change and population growth will exacerbate water scarcity
- The Dead Sea has been shrinking since the 1930s
- Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance
 - A proposed pipeline which would pump desalinated water from from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea
 - A solution to water scarcity – and geopolitical conflict?





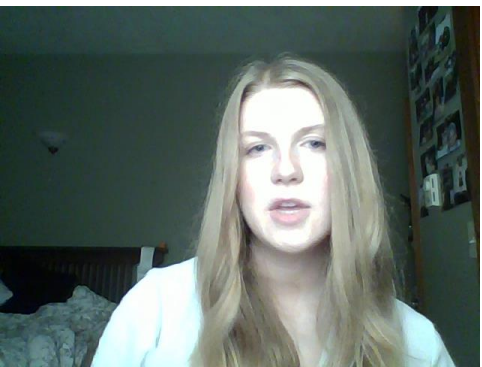
A TIMELINE OF WATER CONFLICT

Key idea: cooperation follows peace; not the other way around



LESSONS LEARNED: WHY IS IT SO HARD TO COME TO AGREEMENTS?

- Complicated relationships between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority
 - The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the oldest, and most complicated conflicts in the world
 - Arab solidarity cannot be counted on: Jordan has been known to side against Palestine with Israel
- Power dynamics and different goals
 - The Palestinian Authority is not a de jure state, and thus has a weaker position in negotiations
- Current political situation
 - November 2019 King Abdullah II: Israel-Jordan relations “at an all time low”
 - Israel has been seriously considering annexing settlements in the West Bank since January 2020
 - February 2020: Palestinian Authority cancels agreements with Israel



WATER TECHNOCRACY VS. WATER RIGHTS



At its heart, the pipeline is a technocratic solution to water scarcity



It seeks to create “new” water, rather than answer questions about redistribution which are politically difficult

Water security will follow peace, not lead it.



CONCLUSION

- Water is recognized by the United Nations as a human right (Resolution 64/292)
- Palestinian participation in discussions is vital to their success
- There is a strong need to repair broken relationships and forge new treaties and peacebuilding efforts, in order to create a better future for Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians



SOURCES

- Aggestam, Karin and Sundell, Anna. “Depoliticizing water conflict: functional peacebuilding in the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Project.” *Hydrological Sciences Journal* 61, no. 7 (2016): 1302-1312.
- Allan, John. “Hydro-peace in the middle east: why no water wars? A case study of the Jordan river basin.” *SAIS Review* 32, no. 2 (2002).
- El-Anis, Imad and Smith, Roy. “Freshwater Security, Conflict, and Cooperation: The Case of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Conduit Project.” *Journal of Developing Studies* 29, no. 1 (2013): 1-22.
- Ferragina, Eugenia. “The Effects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on Water Resources in the Jordan River Basin.” *Global Environment* 1, no. 2 (2008): 152-170.
- Fischhendler, Itay. “Ambiguity in Transboundary Environmental Dispute Resolution: The Israeli: Jordanian Agreement.” *Journal of Peace Research* 45, no. 1 (2008): 91-109.
- Frings, Marc, and Johannes Lutz. *A Breakthrough at Long Last? On the Revival of the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Water Committee*. Report. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2017.
- Harms, Gregory, and Ferry, Todd M.. 2012. *The Palestine-Israel Conflict: A Basic Introduction*. London: Pluto Press. Accessed May 3, 2020. ProQuest Ebook Central.



SOURCES

- IPCC, 2018: Global Warming of 1.5 °C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.
- Jayousi, Anan. “The Oslo II Accords in Retrospect: implementation of the water provisions in the Israeli and Palestinian interim peace agreements.” In *Water Wisdom*, edited by Alon Tal and Alfred Abed Rabbo, 43-48. Rutgers University Press, 2010.
- Khoury, Jack and Landau, Noa. “Jordan Canceling Annexes of Peace Treaty With Israel, King Abdullah Says.” *Haaretz*, October 21, 2018. <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/jordan-canceling-parts-of-peace-treaty-with-israel-king-abdullah-says-1.6575745>
- Lowi, Miriam. *Water and Power: the politics of a scarce resource in the Jordan River basin*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Pappé, Ilan. *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*. Oxford: Oneworld, 2006.
- Rasgon, Adam. “[السفير الأردني يعود إلى تل أبيب بعد حل الخلاف حول الأردنيين المعتقلين]” The Jordanian Ambassador returns to Tel Aviv after solving dispute over detained Jordanians]. *Times of Israel*, November 26, 2019.



SOURCES

- Selby, Jan. “Dressing up domination as ‘cooperation’: the case of Israeli-Palestinian water relations.” *Review of International Studies* 29, no. 1 (2003).
- Shpigel, Noa. “Twenty Five Years After Peace Treaty: Jordan Resumes Control of Enclaves Leased to Israel.” *Haaretz*, November 9, 2019.
<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-twenty-five-years-after-treaty-jordan-resumes-control-of-enclaves-leased-to-israel-1.8098512>
- Shuval, Hillel and Dweik, Hassan. *Water Resources in the Middle East: Israel-Palestinian Water Issues - From Conflict to Cooperation*. Berlin: Springer, 2007.
- Susskind, Lawrence E. “The Political and Cultural Dimensions of Water Diplomacy in the Middle East,” in *Water Security in the Middle East: Essays in Scientific and Social Cooperation*, ed. Jean Axelrad Cahan. Anthem Press, 2017.
- Tibon, Amir. “Relations Between Israel and Jordan at an All-time Low, King Abdullah Says.” *Haaretz*, November 23, 2019.
<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/relations-between-israel-and-jordan-worse-than-ever-king-abdullah-says-1.8164889>
- Wolf, Aaron T. *Hydropolitics Along the Jordan River: Scarce Water and Its Impact on the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Tokyo: United Nations University Press, 1995.

