

ABSTRACT

The Indus Basin River system developed by the British comprised six rivers: the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi. At partition in 1947, the international boundary between India and Pakistan cut the irrigation system of the Ban Doab and the Sutlej Valley Project, originally designed as one scheme, into two parts. The headwork fell to India while the canals ran through Pakistan. This irrigation system became a major source of contention between India and Pakistan. Pakistan struggled to safeguard her lower riparian rights, whereas India claimed the rights of the upper riparian over all six rivers of the Indus Basin system. The dispute was resolved through the mediation of the World Bank by a treaty between Pakistan and India (1960) known as the Indus Waters Treaty. According to this agreement, the flow of the three western rivers of the Indus basin: the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab except a small quantity used in Kashmir are assigned to Pakistan, whereas the flow of the three eastern rivers: the Beas, Sutlej and Ravi waters is reserved exclusively for India. The future challenges of Indus Waters Treaty are associated with the Indian exercise of upper riparian rights across the system.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter "Introduction" provides a general introduction of the subject and literature review of previously done work on the topic. Second chapter gives a historical overview and the process of negotiation till the culmination of the treaty. While the third chapter deals with treaty provisions, implications, their analysis, and violations after the signing of treaty. The current dispute of Baghliar Dam being a violation of Indus waters treaty is discussed in fourth chapter. Fifth chapter analyzes international water law and reviews the Indian contention of abrogation of treaty in the light of international law. Conclusion and recommendations are given in the sixth chapter.