

Climate Change, Social Stress and Violent Conflict
State of the Art and Research Needs
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Abstract

Climate change and its impact on the Palestinian-Israeli water conflict

Clemens Messerschmid

Free Lance Hydrogeologist, Israel

Climate Change (CC) is a global phenomenon. Yet, its consequences differ largely from region to region. This paper will try to lay out cautiously some of the CC implications for the Middle East and here especially, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Some of the expected impacts will be presented concerning climatic features themselves, the direct consequences on the socio-political sphere, and here especially questions related to water availability, but also on the larger political sphere, i.e. the water conflict between Palestinians and Israeli.

Despite being a very real matter, already some myths about Climate Change are forming here and concerning all three spheres. They will have to be critically analyzed. A new discourse is forming already that introduces a new risk, allegedly new challenges and new forms of securitization and framing the existing water conflict.

The paper will thus have to introduce the existing dynamics and interests of the water conflict at work and weigh it against the additional threats under CC scenarios.

- How deep will be the expected impact of CC in the highly disputed water resources and their availability?
- Which are the chief effects on humans and how far-reaching shall they be considered to become?
- Can Adaptation and Mitigation (A&M) be discussed as such and without taking into consideration the actual balance of power, deprivation and existing consequences of the water conflict? Und which circumstances can A&M efforts be expected to bear fruits?

Finally, the responsibility of the international community will be critically investigated and highlighted.