



THE GRAND ETHIOPIAN RENAISSANCE DAM: THE FACTS

The Nile is a shared water resource among eleven countries: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Abbay (the Blue Nile) that originates from Ethiopia constitutes 86% of the Nile and the White Nile that originates from Lake Victoria constitutes 14% of the Nile. Blue Nile consists of two third of Ethiopia's surface water resource.

IMPORTANCE OF THE GERD FOR ETHIOPIA, EGYPT AND THE SUDAN

- The GERD will generate 5150 megawatts (MW) or 15, 692 Gigawatt hours (GWh)/year. Currently Ethiopia's demand for energy grows by 19% every year. More than sixty-five million Ethiopians do not have access to electricity. In contrast, hundred percent of Egyptians have access to electricity.

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- Construction officially started in April 2011.
- The largest hydroelectric generating plant in Africa.
- The sixth largest reservoir in Africa and the tenth largest in the world
- The 5 Billion USD GERD construction cost is entirely covered by Ethiopian resources.

- From the entire population of Ethiopia, seventy percent are under the age of thirty years. Ethiopia has about thirty-two million of its population in schools at different levels of training, from which close to a hundred thousand graduates from higher education and vocational training institutions every year.

- Job and employment creation and the socio-economic wellbeing of the predominantly young population is critical for the survival and political stability of Ethiopia.

- The GERD – will accrue substantial benefits to Egypt and Sudan. Sudan with

minor adjustment of its dams operations will be able to generate close to 3000 MW electricity, it will expand its irrigation agriculture by nearly forty percent, it will save the investment in silt control and removal, it will also have lesser effects from flood to worry about every year.

- Egypt will have regulated water flow enabling efficient water use, it will save from the 15-billion-meter cubic water per year it loses to evaporation in the High Aswan Dam, it will reduce cost of maintenance of its infrastructure affected by excessive flow, and it will have lesser burden from silt control.

The GERD negotiation is a dialogue on the sharing of the added benefits of the Nile generated by the GERD

**WHY AN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED
COLONIAL LEGACY – HYDRO HEGEMONY**

- The 1929 Anglo Egyptian Treaty granted Egypt an annual water allocation of 48 billion cubic meters and Sudan 4 billion cubic meters out of an estimated average annual yield of 84 billion cubic meters. The 1959 treaty on the full control of the Nile concluded between Egypt and Sudan replaced the 1929 treaty.
- Egypt as provided under article 44 of its constitution, is not in a position to enter into an agreement unless the later preserves its “historic right” - that is the full control of the Nile established by the 1959 agreement.
- Egypt through the 1959 agreement with Sudan have apportioned 18.5 and 55.5 billion cubic meters of the Nile waters for themselves and have left behind the nine Nile Basin countries with **zero allocation**.
- The main reason for not reaching an agreement over the GERD is the efforts of Egypt to affirm its so called ”water share” or “water quota” by the GERD agreement.
- Ethiopia as well as the other riparian countries reject the colonial based water allocation treaties.

Colonial based hydro hegemony of Egypt and Sudan is the impediment for completion of the GERD negotiation

THE NILE BASIN INITIATIVE (NBI) AND THE COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

- The NBI was established in 1999 in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania with the vision “to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through **equitable utilization of**, and benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources”. Egypt withdrew from the NBI and Sudan returned to the organization after a few years of absence.
- Starting in 1993 up to 2010, NBI member states negotiated the Cooperative Framework Agreement on the Nile (CFA). To date, the agreement was signed by six Nile Riparian countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, and United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya and Burundi). CFA is ratified by the first four countries, awaiting two more ratifications for its entry into force.
- Egypt and Sudan seeking to preserve the colonial status-quo rejected the CFA. The two countries after negotiating the agreement for thirteen years and making sure all their concerns are catered for refused to sign it citing the need to determine water security based on the existing water use in the Nile Basin.
- All the riparian countries of the Nile reject the so called “historic right” of Egypt and Sudan which basically appropriates the entire flow of the Nile to Egypt and Sudan.
- With more than 8,000 large dams and above 300 water treaties worldwide, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan should be able to take lessons and agree on the GERD with the benefits of the GERD and equitable utilization of the Nile at heart.

“The GERD is a central plank for Ethiopia’s Economic development and a project listed in the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)”

IN SUMMARY

- The Nile Basin suffers from an absence of a comprehensive rule-based regional system. The lower riparian countries have been focused on preserving their ill acquired water share through a colonial agreement by creating security problems and denying international finance for the upper riparian countries.

- The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the negotiations on it can usher in a new era of cooperation on the Nile Basin.
- The trilateral process of the GERD is an unprecedented initiative. While a water treaty is absent on the basin. The state practice by Egypt and Sudan is in absolute disarray, with accepted principles on transboundary water resources and with the basic solidarity and concern that should exist between neighboring countries.
- There is a clear and attainable path of agreement over the GERD. The onus is on Egypt and Sudan to let go of unacceptable colonial privilege and address their concerns on the filling and operation regime of the GERD through dialogue.
- The two countries should prepare for a new era of increasing utilization of the Nile in the source countries. The international community should encourage and support Egypt and Sudan to traverse an era of monopoly to head to an equitable and reasonable utilization over the Nile.

Negotiated agreement is the only solution and negotiations must continue in good faith among Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt.

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