

The Water Management of Central Asia in Transformation

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As represented by shrinking Aral Sea, former Soviet Central Asian republics confronted with the water disputes over the water distribution. Before the collapse of the USSR, Moscow played mediator roll on this problem, so the Central Government of the USSR coordinated the distribution of water among the five Central Asian States. By the collapse of the USSR, however, Moscow left the problems. Therefore, Central Asian newly republics establish the regional organization, ICWC, and asked the support for International Society as substitute for Moscow. In spite of support from UNDP, World Bank or the other international organization, and the establishment of framework of regional cooperation on water distribute, the Aral Sea has not stopped shrinking and the dispute or conflict among the Central Asian states is unsolved.

In other hand, Central Asian republics are in the process of transformation. So, its policy, institutions or norms of water management inherit from the USSR. And we should analyze the effect of Soviet legacy on water management or governance in Central Asia. The aim of this paper, therefore, is showing the mechanism of the water dispute through analyzing the water management policy of Central Asia from the view point of “path-dependency.”