THE RIVER NILE IN THE POST-COLONIAL AGE

Conflict and Cooperation among the Nile Basin Countries

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The Nile Basin is a vast and varied area of 350 million people. Parts of the basin have become the very symbols of African misery, suffering drought, genocide, state failure and aid dependency. Yet whilst the importance of the river is well documented for the colonial period there is no comprehensive account of its management after independence. The River Nile in the Post-Colonial Age details the modern development of the Nile Basin and of the efforts to manage its waters. With important new material by researchers from each of the countries through which the Nile passes, it provides an indispensable aid to understanding the complex history of the basin, the politics surrounding it and the efforts being made to jointly manage it.
A new dam on the river Nile could trigger the world's first war about water, writes Alastair Leithead. For a revolutionary post-colonial country it was a proud national achievement, and Ethiopia sees it in the same way. Ethiopia wants to pay for this project itself without international help. Government workers are giving a month's salary a year to the project - and not all are happy about that. There is a lottery to fund the dam and bonds are being put up for sale. Image caption A fisherman in Ethiopia carries his catch from the river. The dam is impressive. After five years it is two-thirds finished - and it already crosses the river.