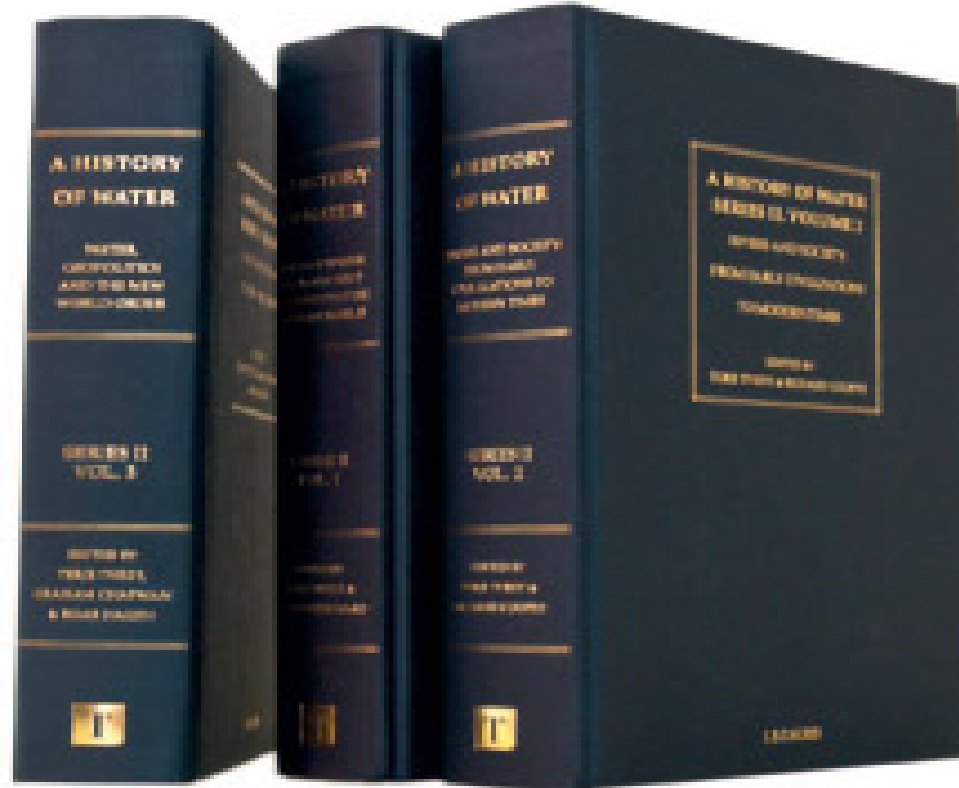
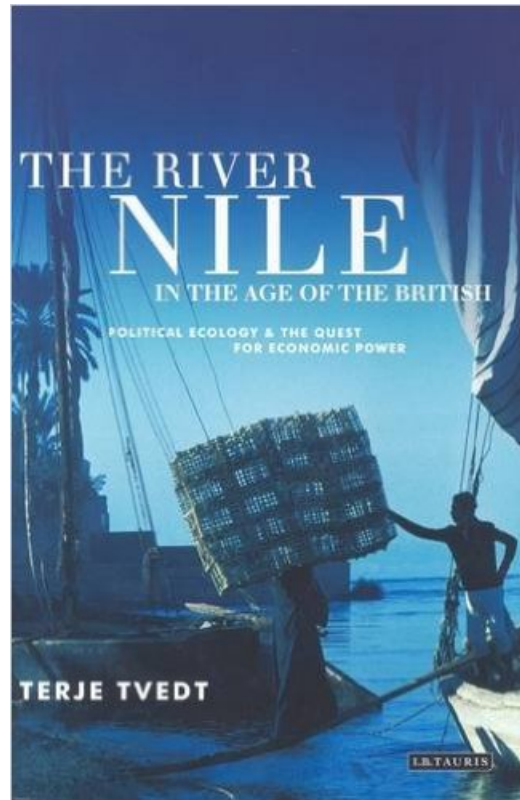


HISTORY OF WATER 9 VOLUMES

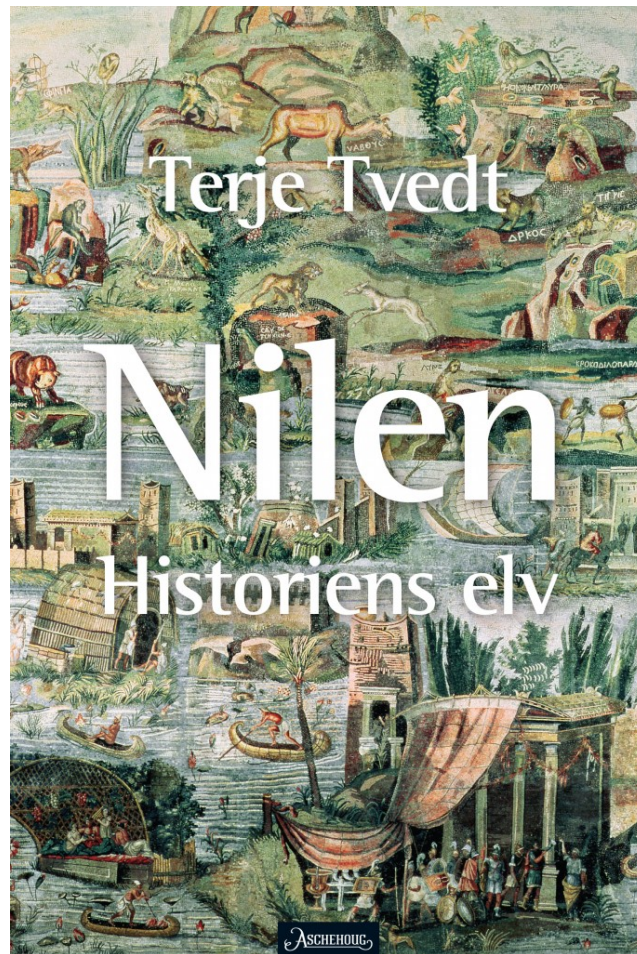


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The River Nile in the Age of the British



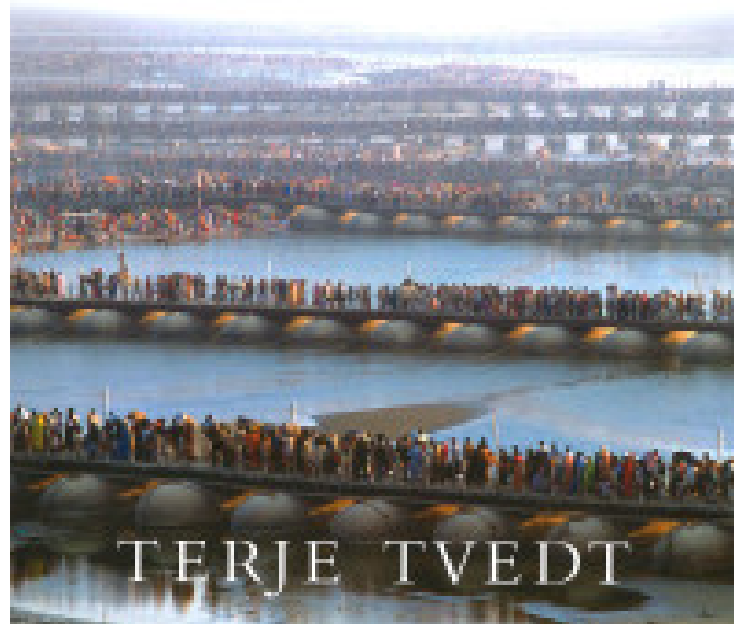
The Nile. The River of History



ARTICLES

WATER AND SOCIETY

Changing Perceptions of Societal
and Historical Development



TERJE TVEDT

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Water-Society Systems

The need to understand the relationship between nature and society.

The ineffectiveness of research on nature/society relations:

Therefore deconstruct nature, but not in the postmodern way:

Focus only on water-society relations:

Universal and particular

- Water is both a natural and social phenomenon existing in nature
- Water is both a natural and social phenomenon existing in society.
- Hydrological cycle AND hydrosocial cycle.
- Water exists both as a physical object and non-physical entity
- Reconsider the distinction between society and nature in general
 - “The Death of Nature” assumption

- Recognizing that many of the landscapes are neither completely natural nor completely controlled.
 - The myth of Modernity and the conquering of nature
 - Built environment the subject of ecological history: Too narrow
- To understand societies in a more inclusive and non-reductionist way and nature in a more inclusive and non-reductionist way
 - Hardin's "tragedy of the commons"-theory

- Socio-ecological system theory
- Complex and adaptive systemic whole delimited by spatial or functional boundaries
- A coherent system regularly interacting in a resilient, sustained manner

Analytical Approach

- Research on relations between society and nature must embrace three analytical layers that are distinguishable and yet interconnected
 - Water's natural form (physical and chemical) and behaviour
 - Human induced changes to the movement and manifestation of water in the landscape. Historical. Within and outside the basin
 - Ideas of water

Water's natural form and behaviour

- Hydrologic cycle, topology, geology, and broader climatic patterns:
 - Examples: England, China and Egypt
- Hydrologic and climatic patterns influence water availability
- Influence patterns of settlements and how societies relate to water i.e. desert environments; rain forrests

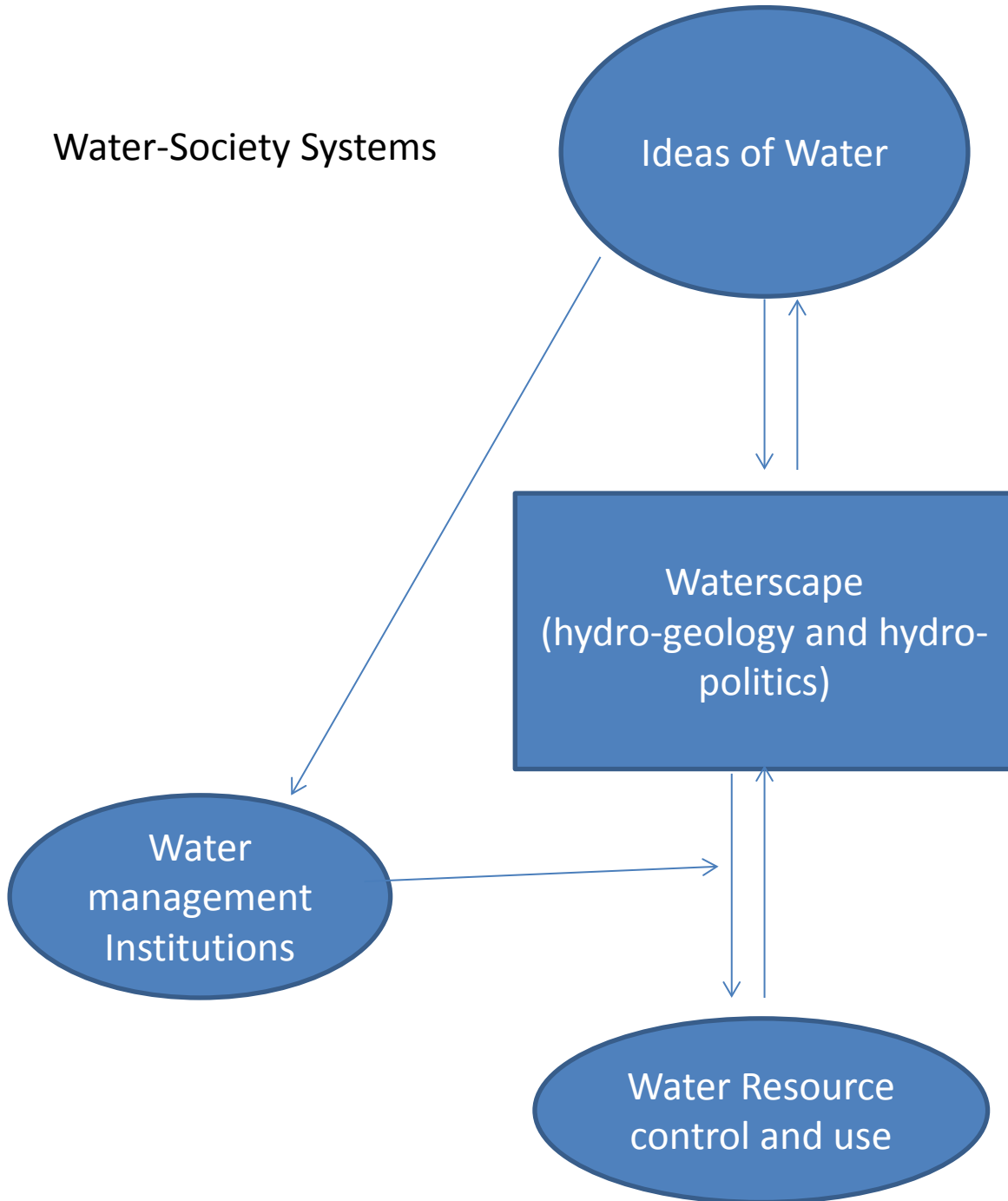
Anthropogenic or Human-induced modifications to the water resource system

- Human activities that aim to control and use water (appropriation)
- Range widely i.e. dams weirs, dykes, canals, embankments
- These control measures have political, economic and social implications
- Affect the ecological environment which in turn shape also water-society relations

Ideas of water

- How water is ascribed meanings and how it symbolizes different things i.e. purification, moving energy, life giving, aesthetic
- Formed in relation to broad range of issues
 - Management practices
 - Religious symbols and cultural objects
- How water is comprehended i.e. an economic good or human right
- May be key to understanding regional politics based on contestation of ideas on how to harness water

Water-Society Systems



Ideas of Water

Waterscape
(hydro-geology and hydro-politics)

Water
management
Institutions

Water Resource
control and use