

## Abstract: “Blood and Water in the Indus Basin”

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While engineering science has transformed river basins around the world in the years since 1850, the transformation of the Indus basin was one of the most dramatic. First under British colonial auspices, and then under the auspices of the Indian and Pakistani nation-states, this arid river basin has become one of the most heavily engineered in the world, with a massive integrated irrigation system today supporting a population of roughly 300 million people. To understand the political implications of this transformation it is necessary to track the ways that state power operated in connected ways on what came to be conceived as two separate “natural” systems, those of “blood” (genealogy) and “water” (the physical environment). This paper will explore the connections between these (during the colonial period and since) to explore the ways that their interconnections have profoundly shaped the nature of the river basin’s transformation.