

Unsolved Trinity: Analysis on the case of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

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1. Introduction – This paper aims to understand transboundary river conflict and cooperation in the context of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project. The study addresses the basin level legal environment and the reasons for the unclosed deal from a perspective of power politics. The paper argues that power asymmetry affects cooperation in the absence of a quality institution. To mitigate such tension, benefit sharing principle needs to be introduced to the current negotiation process, while Ethiopia should bring collaborative offers to the downstream states in order to balancing power. Furthermore, building a common-ground through managing water-food-energy-environment nexus may protect each riparian from the negative impacts of counter-hegemony.

Keywords: Transboundary river, conflict, benefit sharing, GERD, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan

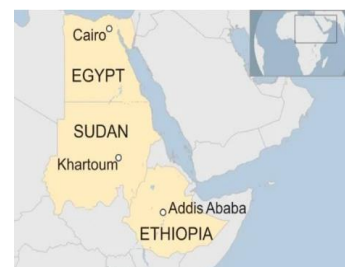


Image 1. Map for the Blue Nile River Basin