

Water Wars

global shifts in water supply, sanitation and availability

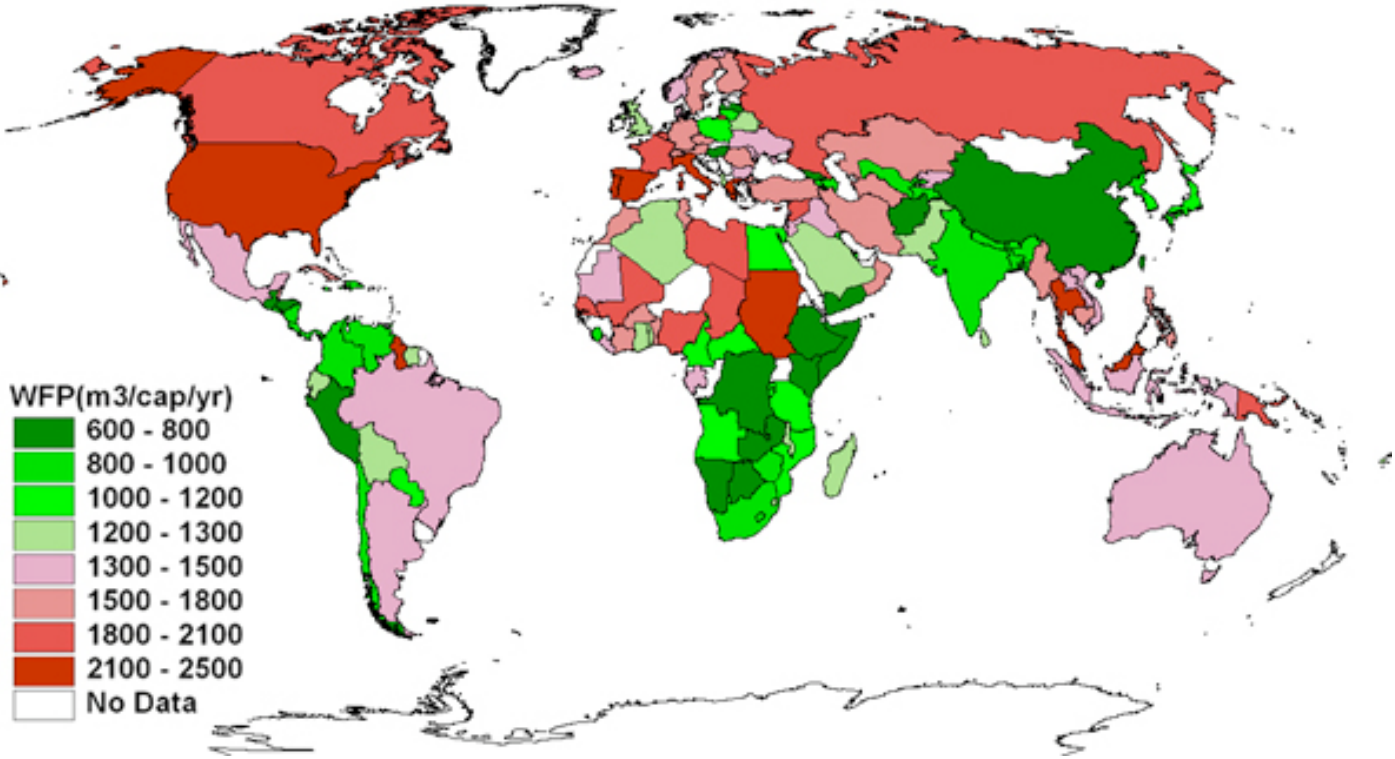
United Nations 2002:

- "Water is fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a healthy life in human dignity. It is a pre-requisite to the realization of all other human rights."

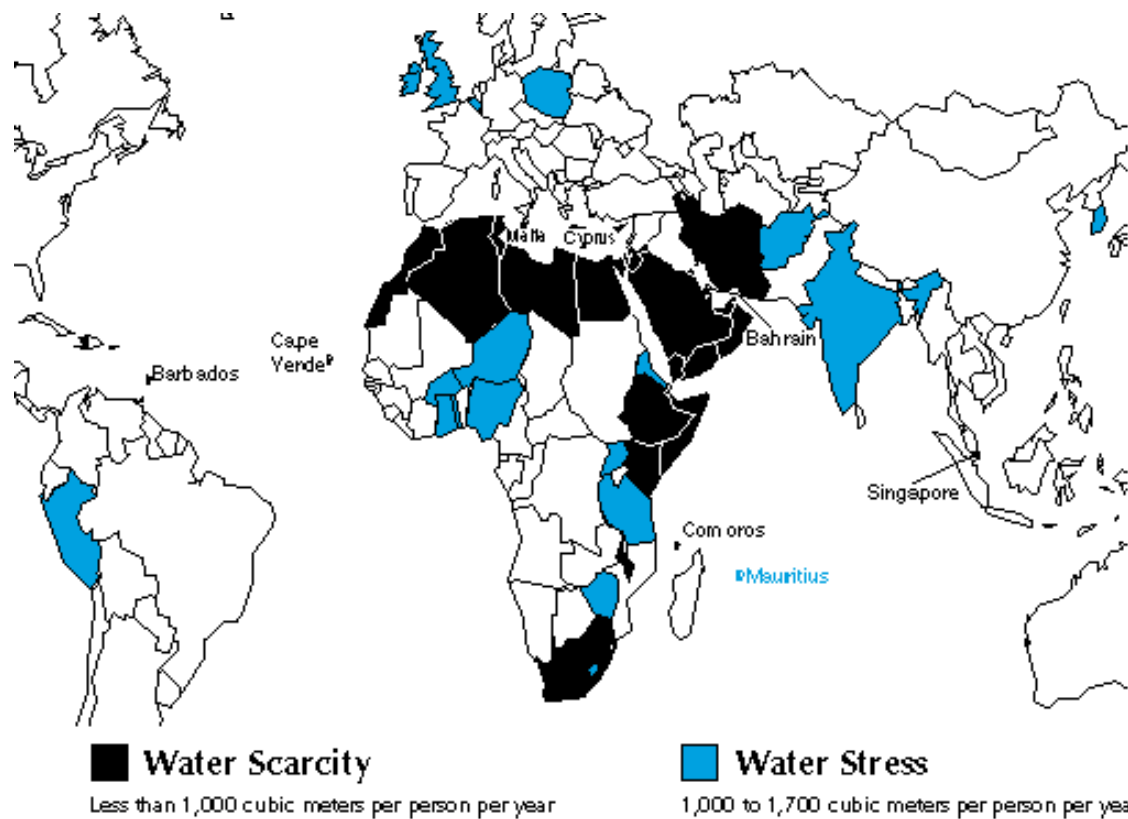
Water Quiz:

- who pays the most for water, a person in New York or a person in Kenya?
- How many children die each year from diarrhoea caused by polluted water?
- which is a greater threat unclean water or armed conflicts?
- How many liters of water a day do people need to survive (as a bare minimum)

Global Water Usage



world water supplies



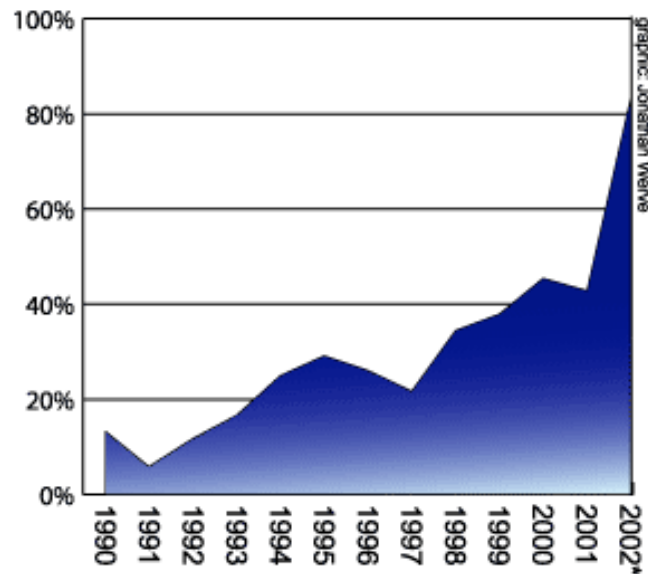
Source: Gardner-Outlaw & Engelman 1997 (69) and Table 1

UN 2006 report:

“The availability of water is a concern for some countries. But the scarcity at the heart of the global water crisis is rooted in power, poverty and inequality, not in physical availability.”

SAPs and water

Percent of water loans requiring privatization by year



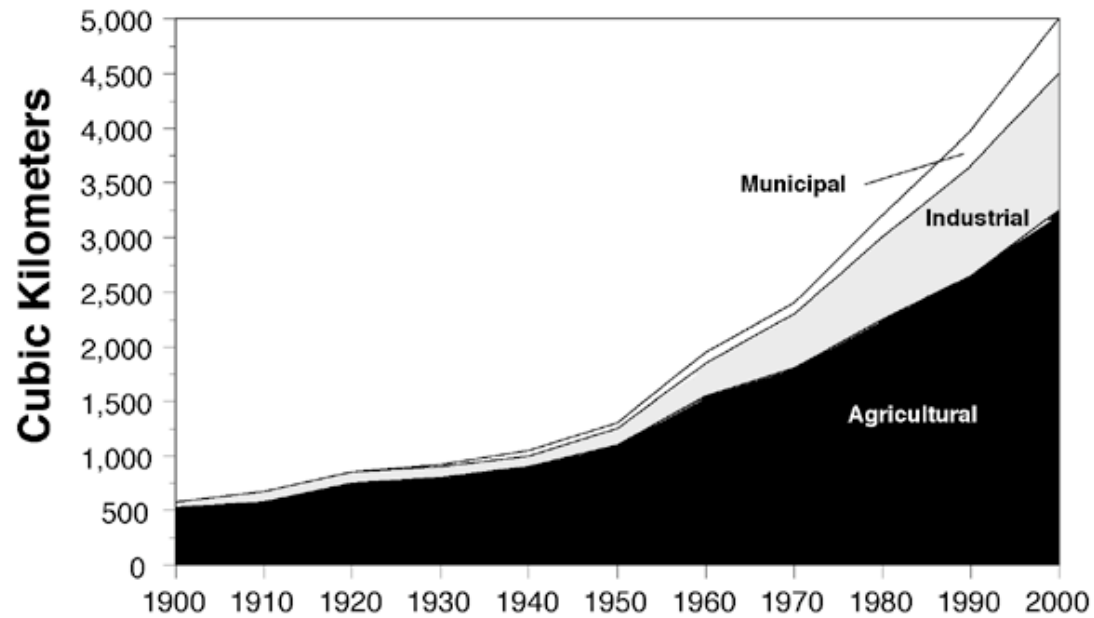
*Data from Jan. 1, 1990 through Nov. 1, 2002

Source: World Bank and Center for Public Integrity analysis

industry water use

Figure 4. Rising Water Use

Global Annual Water Withdrawal by Sector, 1900–2000

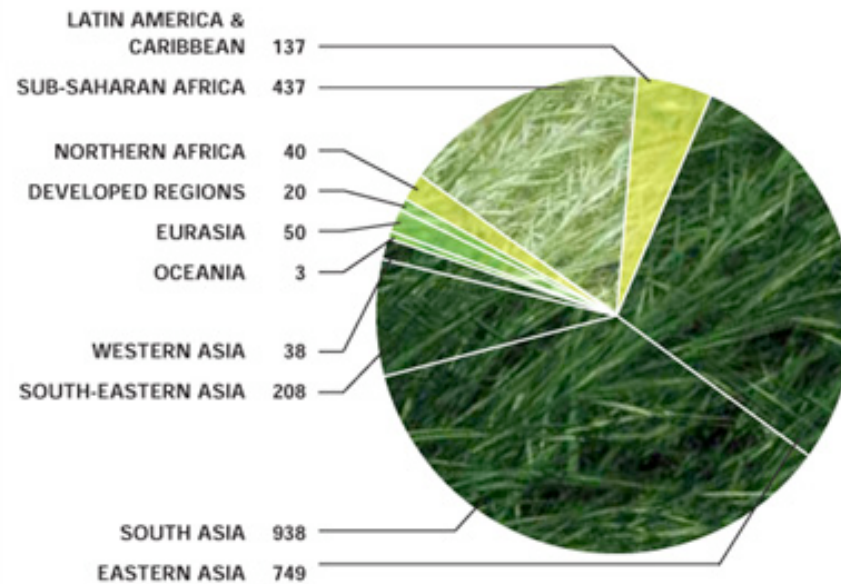


Source: Abramovitz 1996 (1)

sanitation

2.6 billion people without improved sanitation

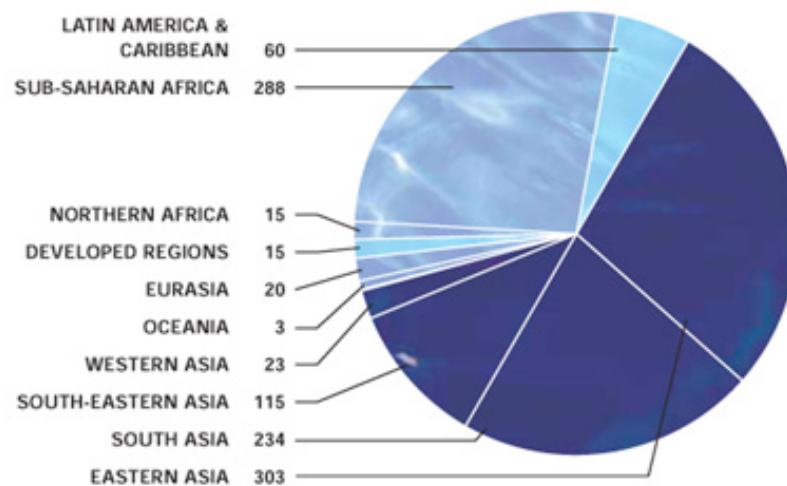
FIGURE 6 Population without improved sanitation by region in 2002 (in millions)



access and sources:

More than one billion people, most of them in Asia, are still without improved drinking water sources

FIGURE 2 Population without improved drinking water sources by region in 2002 (in millions)



water trouble

- 12% of world's population uses 85% of its water supplies
- one BILLION people walk THREE HOURS or more a day for water--80% are **women and girls**
- 1.1 BILLION people lack access to SAFE drinking water and 2.6 BILLION have **NO** access to basic sanitation
- by 2050 2-3 BILLION people will live in with water scarcity (not enough water to survive)
- 2.2 MILLION people in developing countries **DIE** every year from diseases linked to lack of access to clean water

water wars

WB vice president 1995: predicted that water would be new international source of conflict

issues:

shortages/access

diversion and sanitation

privatization

privatization

monopolies push out locals

MNCs + governments =

high rates/lack of access

no community control

water being pumped out/ land used for export
products

global water MNCs

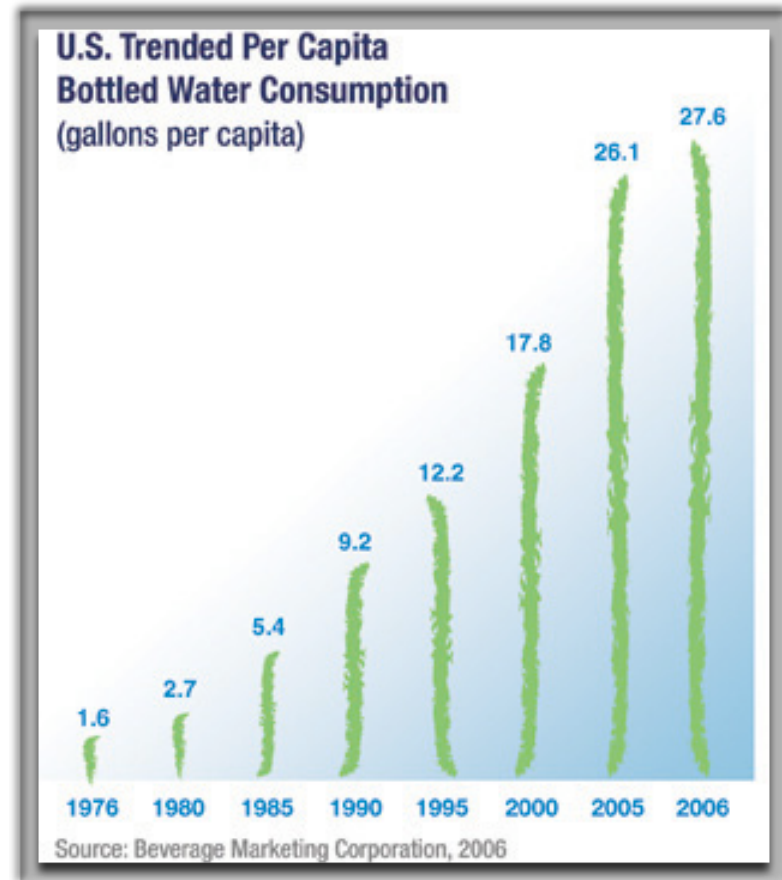
- water a \$300 billion a/year industry
- Suez and Vivendi (French) and RWE/Thames (German) main companies
- these 3 companies have control of water in over 120 countries/ 300 million people
- In the last 7 years begun buying US water companies (United Water and US Filter Corp)
- Bechtel, GE, Nestle and Coca-Cola corp--buying water up in North and South

bottled water facts

- price: retail–240–10,000 x the price of tap water
- 40–50%% of all bottled water is just TAP water
- 2.7 million tons of plastic/ less than 20% recycled
- Nestle, PepsiCo, Coca–Cola and Danone make \$50 BILLION a year in bottled water sales alone
- It would cost \$15 BILLION to reduce the number of people by 1/2 without access to safe drinking water

bottled water use = luxury

- 41 Billion gallons worldwide per year
- Western Europe–US–China–Brazil= top
- \$100 Billion spent yearly on bottled water



“cost” of bottled water

environmental + social
+ product =

why do we buy bottled
water?

ethos example



water issues....

water is part of the commons or a commodity?

a middle ground?

what types of social justice solutions are there?

THIRST (movie)