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Water wars / Re-writing history / The Rise and Fall of the US Empire

Water wars

For a long while I have obsessed about the way we humans think we can command all the world's resources and leave future generations just the dregs. For me, the best book on the subject is "The Limits to Growth" by Meadows, Randers and Meadows.

We do play god everywhere and consider it our right to do so. In Canterbury we take water directly from the aquifer to feed Christchurch...because it is cheaper than damming a river, piping and treating the water. Now, upstream the farmers are getting into their own irrigation projects by taking water from the rivers – leaving Christchurch to empty their aquifer...as and when the mood takes them,

The water theme is a good one for this email because it is more likely to be water that finally causes a World War III than any other single cause – even oil and gas.

We watch the Chinese building Islands in other nations' territories and simply say "tut, tut!" when what they are doing is using their size to bluster their way into re-drafting the worlds' geographic boundaries. But where it comes to water, lives are at stake, millions of lives....

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/access-to-water-supply-will-be-a-defining-issue-of-21st-century-1.2171614>

Water articles are turning up everywhere – particularly regarding California...

<http://blogs.kqed.org/science/2015/04/09/the-next-crime-wave-in-farm-country-stealing-water/>

and India...

<http://peakoil.com/enviroment/india-groundwater-levels-plummet>

Nobody is saying much about the Ogallala aquifer, Lake Mead or other US water issues. This is partly because disputes tend to be between neighbours and neighbours don't want to rock the boat. That is until a country like China sets out to rock the boat ...big time! But the site for drought monitoring is as follows for those interested in which parts of USA are being burnt to a crisp...

<http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/products-current-drought-and-monitoring-drought-indicators/us-drought-monitor>

Within the Californian water story lurks a tale of denial....

http://apnews.myway.com/article/20150411/us--california_drought-missing_water-6db76f29ef.html

Use too much surface water in delta areas and saltwater will intrude. The same goes for over-use of aquifers. They can be destroyed by salt intrusion.

Re-writing history

Over the years, the victors have always written history. These days nothing is different as Turkey claims they did not try to wipe out Armenian Christians...

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32272604>

And today the Chinese want to change the course of history by saying aggressive territorial expansion is not that...these declassified videos show what the Chinese are doing to re-define their borders.

In fact it is definitely not “childish paranoia to link what China is doing with its resource grab and financial engineering with its military aspirations and the set-up of a linkage of China owned and build deep water ports around the world....

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11519001/How-China-grew-desperate-to-conceal-its-power-from-the-world.html>

The Rise and Fall of the US Empire

There are some observers who think that China and Russia are taking advantage of a weak and vacillating President Obama. Perhaps that holds some truth.

But carried with Xi Jinping's smiles are many strategies for attacking the USA and it almost seems like Mr Obama doesn't see the threat. But would either Hilary Clinton or Jeb Bush, be any more effective in running a country where the corporate foxes have control of the hen-house? The US seems determined to continue its decline - recall the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire.