

# STRATEGOS Technical Workshop



## Hydrological Balance and HydroJihad in the Middle East: a Geopolitical Overview

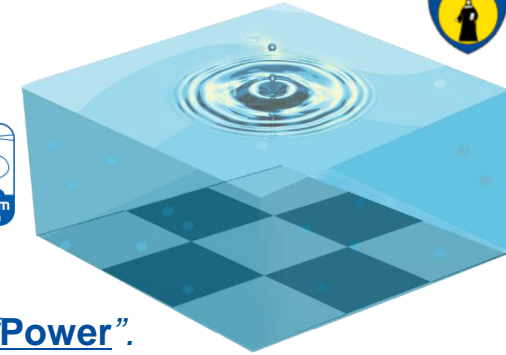
Video Lesson on MS Teams



10.00-12.30 GMT+2, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Video Lectio on MS Teams  
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Joint Cooperation



The **Race to Control the Natural Resources** is as ancient as the whole history of mankind, at least since societies have been structured around the concept itself of **“Power”**.

The competition to conquer some of the most important resources, such as **Gold** and **Diamonds** for instance, are mainly referred to **economic reasons**, while the one to the so called contemporary **Strategic Natural Resources** is mainly referred to maintain or increase power both at internal and international level. From **Oil**, to **Gas**, up to **Minerals** the control of and on them guarantee a predominance over competitors states. But when dealing with **Water**, the situation becomes much more complex due to the fact that this is the **Source of Life** and access to it is of paramount importance for any government in order to insure adequate standard level of dignity to population. Beyond then, in the typical **“traditional” exercise of power** around **Seas, Lakes, River** and **Water Basins** lies the willing of certain government to impede to competitor states to satisfy the basic needs of their people (so reducing or avoiding popular turmoil). This scenario worsen when in presence of specific ad hoc **“political” initiatives that add to Water precise religious or cultural “values”**, so transforming Water itself in a **“transcendent” mean** to fight for, well beyond its already and recognized important biological value.

In the **Middle East**, especially in the last decades, this phenomena have been describe as **HydroJihad**, and it can be find for instance either at **geopolitical level** as in the case of the so called **ISIS**, or at **bilateral level** as in the case of the **Israel-Palestine dispute**. This **Webinar** is part of **Workshops** organized by **STRATEGOS** in **Genoa University**



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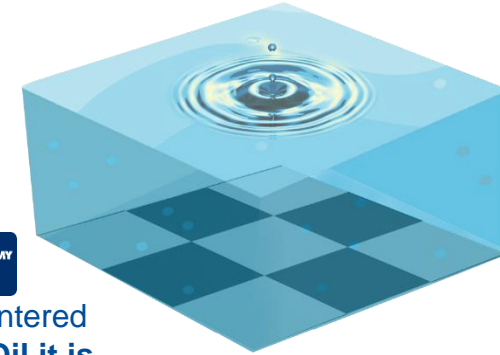
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### Synopsis

For too long, when dealing with **Middle East** the focus of almost all geopolitical analyses was centered on the **strategic importance of Oil and Gas**, so often forgetting that to produce a Barrel of Oil it is needed up to 5 Barrels of Water. In addition, in that part of the world, **Agriculture still plays a role of paramount importance** not only in terms of **national Food Security**, but also in terms of **Export**. Then the control of **Water Resources** in that territorial quadrant is probably the **most important goal** to achieve for **all Regional Powers deeply engaged in this race**: This happens since millennia (first evidence of this are from the **Bible** over the **dispute of the Beer Sheeba Springs**).

Today. the situation is definitely **more clear**, so the importance of both **access & control** (often military) of **Water Resources** finally conquered a correct wide consideration and correct place in the study of the geopolitical evolution over there and beyond. Exploring the **evolution of this scenario** and the **possible developments** are the aims of the present **Video Lectio** and **discuss on the following themes** will be helpful:

1. **Geography of the Area**
2. **Tigri and Euphrate**
3. **Oil and Gas Industry and their Water Needs**
4. **Water and Agriculture**
5. **HydroPolitics**
6. **HydroDiplomacy**
7. **The HydroBalance of the Region**
8. **HydroJihad**
9. **Possible Future Scenario**



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