

The Foreign Policy of Turkey and Israel against Arabs on Water Resources Basis

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Abstract

It is estimated that when the water resources are decreased in quantities less than 2.000 cubic meters per individual annually, are required a lot of investments for demand satisfaction. When they decrease less than 1.000 cubic meters should be taken difficult socio-economic adaptations. In a lot of countries the consumption of water exceeds the renewable supply and in other countries the situation is a little better. The problem is serious in countries as China, India and Mexico while also USA faces problem in the water quality. However the problem of water in the Middle East is most controversial and timely because of the complicated political relations in the region which have been developed between adjacent states, as Israel, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. In them must also be added the complicated socio-economic relations that exist inside the mentioned states which influence and the political relations. Important role also plays the religious element. If in the water resources add and the petroleum resources are created an intense problematic on states future relations in this region which for very years now are not the best.

Key words: Turkey, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Foreign Policy, Middle East, Water resources.

Introduction

As is been known the phenomenon of greenhouse has led to the increase of planet temperature at 1, 5-4, 5 Celsius degrees. The scientific research proves that the increase of ground rind temperature at 1-2 degrees in combination with the rainfalls reduction at a percentage of 10% could decrease the annual flow of rivers at a percentage of 40-70%. The above mentioned fact will constitute the reason of regions destruction that already suffer from water shortage, stopping the irrigation of enormous extents and causing big damage in the urban growth as also in the human societies.

Also important role in the confrontation of natural rarity resources phenomenon and specifically of water play the overpopulation and the industrial pollution of aquatic resources.

Today from the population of 5,5 billions persons in the world, 3,5 billions are forced to live with less from fifty liters of water daily per individual, quantity equal with a percentage of 14% that is used by the middle American. The management of aquatic resources in the Middle East constitutes permanent and old problem. As T. Naff reports “since the trust between the states of region is minimal and conflicts are not missing, the problems of water dispensation constitute intensity factors of existing unfairness’s The valley of Jordan river constitutes the most excellent subject for study concerning water emergency problems in the Middle East»¹.

Also maybe the permanent and constant peace between Israel, Jordan and Palestinians finally depend from the fair distribution of the available aquatic resources. However the problem does not remain only in the problematic side of Israelis – Arabic relationships but also has a pan Arabic dimension which also is very serious.

In the present concise study will be overwhelmed effort in order to be described the existing situation in Middle East water policy, the water distribution legal frame, the geopolitical role of Turkey and Israel against the Arabs based on the water resources and further how the inter- state relations of the above mentioned states are fixed with their neighbors. Finally the study will close with the formulation of conclusions².

1. Existing situation³

Water represents a vital aim in the frames of Israel – Arabic various discussions. Characteristically is reported that was the main subject of multilateral negotiations which took place in Madrid (1991), under the supervision of Russia and USA and followed another seven negotiations circles (Moscow 1992, Vienna 1992, Geneva 1993 etc).

These negotiations were not crowned by success, as countries like Syria and Lebanon did not participate but also because presupposition for discussion was the resolution of Palestinian subject from one side and from the other side the refusal of Israel to be repositioned subject of aquatic region resources distribution. Big problematic in Israel causes the attitude of Syria regarding the overconsumption of Baniyas river aquatic resources from one side and on the other side how Israel will continue to control this river if grants Golan Heights to Syria.

Regarding Jordan its position is that “the topic of aquatic resources should goes through the present situation of imbalance in the foundation of water isomeric use principle”. This concerns not only Jordan waters but also the contracting of transient treaty with Syria.

It is marked that Jordan expected certain concessions from Israel regarding the principle of waters sharing as point of good will from this. This happened on 26-10-1994 with the signature of treaty peace between Israel and Jordan, with which via the other were arranged the differences of both sides regarding the water distribution of Jordan and Yarmouk rivers. However remains in abeyance the arrangements of Syria and Israel relations and the water distribution between Syria and Jordan.

On the other hand the governments of Syria and Lebanon had already placed a question from Madrid conference that their basic concern was the discovery of international legal frame which would regulate the belligerent situation between these and Israel and also the resolution of Golan Heights issue.

It must be taken into consideration that the Middle East is a barren - semi arid region. The aquatic resources in combination with the minimal rainfalls are not in position to cover the demand. Consecutively the population is increased rapidly and depends to a large extent from cross-border waters, or from desalinated water or from water that is drawn from underground sources. In consequence water power geopolitical constitutes security subject with the following characteristics:

- A. In rarity periods the interested parts feel the need to control soils that have water.
- B. The relation between dependence by water and security is absolute.
- C. As absolute security subject water constitutes constant point of continuous conflicts.
- D. The subject was regulated in an international level by the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 May 1997 which is not yet in force⁴. It must be mentioned that as far as concerns the present study Jordan and Syria Arab Republic (with reservation) have ratified this specific convention on 22-06-1999 and on 22-4-1998 respectively.
- E. International law as mean of settlement and regulation of water problems remains rudimentary and relatively ineffective if do not exist individual agreements. But the above mentioned convention in case that will be ratified by all the interested states offers also the opportunity for arbitration (annex).
- F. The strategic reality for water is that constitutes subject particularly prone to conflicts and exceptionally difficult in its resolution.

On another dimension the permanent and constant peace between Israel, Palestinians and Jordanians depends from the fair distribution of available aquatic resources. Israel accepts the one third of water from the lake Kineret, one third from its soil and one third from sources and wells in the Western Bank⁵.

An important dimension in the above constitutes the relations between Turkey and Syria. Damascus knows that its relations with Turkey are very important because in Turkey territories are located Tigris and Euphrates sources⁶. In these regions in Turkey the majority is population with Kurdish origin. It is marked that in the territory of Syria lives also minority of populations with Kurdish origin. In consequence the relations of all states with the particular populations are decisive.

In a hypothetical script of independent Kurdistan establishment is obvious that also Israel will want to have good relations with a state which will allow to it access in oils and water with versus benefit security.

Another dimension is that the water is used to cover agricultural needs in enormous quantities so that becomes thoughtless use. Consecutively it does not exist in international level an enacted body that would be charged for the resolution of cross-border waters use because as mentioned before the only international convention have not ratified by the states and is not in force. Thus the solution of all problems becomes mainly via bilateral agreements.

States in the particular region face the following dilemmas:

- A. solution for the water increasing rarity and the disposal of this,
- B. the creation of acceptable frame for water resources exploitation which are claimed from a lot of states which must be based on the respect of needs and rights of each one.

Israel estimates that only this must dictate the rhythm and the content of negotiations. Arabs denounce it that controls all Jordan river tributaries. Intense problem constitutes the use - control of Jordan river valley underground waters.

Turkey and Lebanon allocate water sufficiency so via rainfalls as also via irrigations. From these countries flow also waters to the Arabic Countries. Important role also play the waters of Tigris, Euphrates and the underground waters that supply the sources of Hasbani and Jordan rivers⁷.

2. The legal frame regarding rivers waters cross-border distribution

A complete legal frame exists today as mentioned above which have as object the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses⁸. The only convention before the aforementioned was Barcelona Convention⁹. Problem in Barcelona Convention was its terminology which was contradictory.

In 1970 UN General Assembly assigned to the International law Committee, to deal with the “study of law rules that will condition the international aquatic roads for aims other than those of navigation with prospect the development and coding of these law rules»¹⁰.

The work of Committee in a first drawing that draw up in 1994 led to the adoption of “equivalent use” logic and to the principle that a state is not able to use neither to allow the utilization of its territory with mode that causes perceptible damage to its neighboring states.

The perceptions which were expressed in all the previous work were based on “Helsinki Code”¹¹. Finally states within the frame of UN signed Convention under the title “Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses”. It has the character of frame treaty describing the rights and obligations that the states which share watercourses must take under consideration. In this way promotes the contracting of bilateral or multilateral agreements which targeting in the development of cooperation and international relations between neighborhood states in the field of water management.

At the same time, the enforcement of the Convention will be the base in order to be conducted other regional Treaties and to strength the existing treaties. Particularly in nowadays that are practiced continuously bigger pressures in the question of water because of climatic changes, populations are threatened due to the lack of water, ecosystems and the economic activities that are based in the viable water management will be helped by the enforcement of this convention because it will contribute in the improvement of international and regional relations offering to the humanity in this subject.

Finally, often states that stipulate regional agreements with other states serve individual policies, fact that make renders ineffective the management of international waters. The same happens when multilateral and bilateral agreements are insufficient. Since the Convention has world character when is placed in force, will be determine in world level the minimal conditions of protection and international waters viable management.

Given the fact that exist an international convention (which is not in force) the solution concerning the water management in the Middle East is not simple. As an example Turkey claims the absolute sovereignty on the waters that emanate from its soil and characterizes Tigris and Euphrates as “cross-border rivers” and not as “international”. It rejects the perception of river basin confrontation as single which lies above of the significance and the right of state concerning the sovereignty of riparian states. Also does not recognize the co-ownership with the riparian states and believes that all subjects can be solved by good will and bilateral agreements. These Turkey positions of course are not acceptable by Syria or Iraq.

3. Israel geopolitical policy regarding the water resources^{12 13}

Israel draws the one third of water that consumes from its soil, one third from the Western Bank and one third from the lake Tiberiada (Kineret) which is supplied by three rivers descending from north and constitutes also the three main sources of Jordan river: Dan river, Hasbani river and Baniyas river.

Israel also uses a part of Yarmouk waters that flows into Jordan river to the Tiberiada lake.

The Jordan sources are the followings:

- A. Dan is the biggest river of the system totally in Israeli territory near the borders with Syria. However its flow basin is very small (24 kilometers).
- B. Hasbani river constitutes the second of the three aquatic surface symbols that creates Jordan river and springs from Southern Lebanon 30 kilometers approximately of northern borders.
- C. Baniyas river (which is under Israeli control from 1967) springs 1 kilometer northern of Israel - Syria borders as these were been shaped before 1967.

The possession of Baniyas and Hasbani rivers constitute a complex problem with the following characteristics in general:

- a. - Syria claims the possession at least the half of Hasbani sources.
- b. - Baniyas possession is also complicated as this river is considered as Syrian and Hasbani river as Lebanon.

Israel afterwards 1948 followed a total exploitation policy of its renewable aquatic resources but the long period of overexploitation created in the country a water shortage equivalent in quantity with one year of regular consumption¹⁴. The shortage according to a memorandum issued by an Israeli administration inspector in the year 1990 is ought to the bad management, the unverifiable use of resources, the lack of co-ordination and less in drought periods.

Generally Israel can be divided in 3 areas regarding aquatic resources management:

- a. - The area of waters overflow, north of Galilee's sea basin concentration.
- b. - Zone balance which starts from Galilee's sea until Ramla - Rehovot line.
- c. - The shortage zone which starts from Rehovot and southerly. Namely more than the half extent of Israel belongs in the shortage area.

The state development in order to settle millions Jews presupposes water transport from the saturated in the anhydrous area. The only water source which could be used was Jordan river which has three sources: Hasbani river that flows in Lebanon, Baniyas that lead to Syria and Dan that flows in Israel.

Strategic importance has the fact that Israeli authorities had studied also the possibility of water import from Turkey (via conductors, tankers or even plastic bags) which would emanate from Manangkat river. However to this drawing the Israelis were circumspect because this transaction would give to Turkey the opportunity to control the flow according to its interests¹⁵.

As conclusion can be said that water of Lebanon and the way that Tiberiadas lake is catering threat the stability and peace between Israel and Syria - Lebanon. The entry of Israeli troops in 1982 in Lebanon potentially aimed at:

- a. - Control of waters that are considered as very good and suitable for drinking and
- b. - control of Hasbani sources, as also control of Hasbani river that flows to a great extent in Lebanon and control of Dan river sources in Golan.

Golan Heights

For Golan Heights annexation to Israel dominated as motive not only the possibility of Damascus city strategic control and the control of Israeli cultures "from above" but also the existence of Hermon mountain snowy land where emanates the water of Baniyas source, which with its turn supplies Tiberiada lake. From the last one is taking place waters pumping for the irrigation of Israelis settlers cotton cultures.

West Bank

Arabic population water supply in the West Bank is taking place exclusively via underground aquatic supplies and sources. As concerns the underground aquatic supplies in reality only a small part is used. The Palestinians accuse Israel that prohibits to them the access in the knowledge of hydrologic data in the area as also that imposes restrictions in the water use and that applies against them a discriminations policy in the subject of water prices determination.

Gaza Strip

Searches carried out revealed that the practiced pressures in the Gaza Strip aquatic resources become very pressing.

Gaza Strip is not considered that belongs to the Israeli water system, even if the areas of Israeli population of Gush Katif are supplied via aqueduct emanating beyond the green line. The imposed restrictions for years by Israeli authorities in the catering of Gaza agricultures by water, led the farmers to reduce irrigated extents and particularly them that were for fruits and vegetables culture, which constitutes important source of their incomes.

4. Geopolitical policy of Turkey regarding the water resources

As is known Turkey has considerable percentages in the aquatic resources of Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Turkey has elaborated out a program concerning the south-eastern region development, which is going to reverse the developmental data of the region in which live populations with Kurdish origin. The beginning of this program took place by the openings of Kemal Atatürk dam¹⁶.

The program in question shapes Turkey perceptions¹⁷ that place water as wealth source proportional with black gold. Aquatic supplies, aim in the electricity production and in the agricultural extents irrigation.

However these perceptions are collected as dangerous by Syria and Iraq, as the growth of their regions depend to a large extent from the water which with the creation of relative dams¹⁸ by Turkey side is committed in percentage up 50% from this state. In this situation contributes negatively the fact that the countries in question until now have not achieved to regulate the waters management legal frame including also the fact that Syria until recently wished to have a hegemonic role in the region. The fact that in regions of these states live populations with Kurdish origin, make the situation more complex.

The importance of GAP for Turkey is summarized in the following points¹⁹:

- a. - Electric energy increased by 70%.
- b. - Irrigation of 1,7 million hectares.
- c. - Industrial growth is impulse.
- d. - Demographic alteration of the region.
- e. - Gradually assimilation of populations with Kurdish origin.
- f. - Dependence relations with southern neighbors are created.

However the problems of the above mentioned programs are identified in the followings points:

- a. - Delays in dam's concretization because of economic difficulties.
- b. - Some of the works are still in study case.
- c. - Its southern neighbors will not allow to acquire big share from Euphrates water.

Also according to a study issued by the American consults under the name "Brown and Root" Turkey had drawn two pipelines for water transport from its two rivers, Ceyhan and Seyhan in countries of Middle East. The rivers mentioned before flow in Mediterranean.

The first that is the biggest is known as "western pipeline" will pass from Syria and Jordan and will lead to Mecca transporting 3.5 million cubic per day.

The second one that is known as "Calf Pipeline" will reach in Kuwait and following the western side will extend up to Muscat with transport possibility of 2,5 million cubic meters. It will supply with water the states of Kuwait, S. Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Arabic Emirates and Oman. The drawing of two pipelines was named "Peace pipeline" by the Turkey side, believing that thus will stop any chance of conflicts because the water lack.

However the Arabs had different opinion because they believe that:

- a. - It will be increased the dependence of Arabic states by Turkey.
- b. - The "western pipeline" will be corruptible in attacks mainly by Israeli.
- c. - Israel likely attendance in the western pipeline render Arabian to be against to its concretization.
- d. - Studies have shown that the cost of marine water desalination is smaller than the cost of Turkish rivers water transport.
- e. - Arabs historical suspiciousness against Turkey.

By the end of 80s Turkey presented as “cistern water” in the neighboring states, proposed sales of its aquatic surpluses resources. It must be mentioned that in the last few year the geopolitical strategy of Turkey is shaped by the minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Davutoglou and is known as neothomanismos²⁰.

5. Interstate relations between Syria²¹ and Turkey

The main two frictions sources between Damascus and Ankara, constituted on one side mainly at the past the provided support on behalf of Syria in the Kurdish guerrilla groups of PKK, that acted against the Turkish regime and on the other hand in smaller degree the formulated claims from the side of Damascus regarding the sovereignty of Alexandrettas region. This region presents strategic interest because of its aquatic resources that emanate from Taurus mountain.

The above region in 1939 was granted by France in Turkey, with purpose Paris to ensure a Turkey agreed opinion for air bases installation for a likely attack against Baku oil-wells in case of West - USSR conflict²².

This case influences considerably also the regulation of Orontes waters, which is not considered by Syria as international river, provided that not only is located at its bigger part in Syrian soil but also leads to Alexandretta’s region a region claimed by Damascus.

The situation is becoming more accentuated, because Syria wants to manufacture a dam in the region of Afrin and another one in the Kermes locality on Orontes. Thus with the above works water cubic will enter in Alexandretta in order to cover the population needs. Regulation of differences between two states would mean according to Damascus estimations de jure recognition of Turkey suzerainty in Alexandretta’s region²³.

Turkey at the past (afterwards the arrest of Abdullah Otsalan before years in Kenya the charges almost ceased)²⁴ accused Syria that supported Kurds of PKK²⁵, the Armenian of A.S.A.L.A.²⁶, as the left winger of guerrilla cities (Dev – Sol) particularly afterwards the beginning of 80s decade²⁷.

The position of Syria in Euphrates is not favorable, because is located in the middle of river flow and depends from this for electricity production and irrigation of agricultural extents. With the manufacture of dams by Turkey side, Syria will lose part of its share from river waters. Thus Turkey will acquire influence advantage against Syria.

It is marked that the signature of military collaboration between Turkey - Israel in February 1996, created to Syria the feeling of military encirclement from North (Turkey) and from the south (Israel). The particular military agreement was considered by Damascus “as hostile action against Syria” (statement on 4th July 1996).

The termination of Syria support to PKK led to the improvement of Turkish – Syrian relations. Particularly the relations of two countries began to be improved afterwards AKR rise as government in November 2002 (Islamic party for justice and growth) with Tayip Erdogan as prime minister and the nomination of Ahmet Davutoglou as adviser on subjects of foreign affairs initially and as minister of Foreign Affairs later. A line of facts that assure the above narrow collaboration between the two countries is the following:

- a. - Military agreement signature in June 2002.
- b. - Agreement signature in 2003 on sectors of security and information gathering.
- c. - Visit of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad in the Ankara on January 2004 and his meeting with the Turkish president Ahmet Sezer. It was the first visit of Syrian President since the period Syria acquired its independence in 1946. The reason for this visit was the concern of two countries for the action of populations with Kurdish origin in their regions with separatism tendencies and the possibility of Kurdish autonomy in Northern Iraq afterwards the intervention of USA in Iraq in 2003. Result of this visit was the signature of the following agreements:
 - i. - minefields - lifting at Turkish - Syrian borders,
 - ii. - commercial centers creation in frontier provinces,
 - iii. – Syrian consulate establishment in the south-eastern province of Gaziantep and
 - iv. - signature of collaboration protocols in the tourist and commercial sector.

Following, on 23 July 2009 the Prime Minister (Tayyip Erdogan) accompanied from the minister of Foreign Affairs (Ahmet Davutoglu) carried out official visit for one day in Aleppo (Syria)²⁸. In the visit Tayyip Erdogan discussed with Syrian president Bashar Al Assad the beginning of dialogue between Syria and Israel with Turkey mediation as well as various other regional and international subjects.

In the same year on 16 of September the Syrian president and the ministers of Foreign Affairs of Syria and Iraq went to Istanbul in order to continue the contacts in the frame of mediatory initiative that had been undertaken by Turkey. It took place meeting between the Prime Minister Tayyip Erntogan and President Bashar Al Assad where were also agreed the reciprocal suppression of arrangement regarding the entry (visa) between the two countries and the constitution of “Strategic Collaboration Supreme Council »²⁹.

Turkey in the last roughly ten years has accomplished remarkable change in its relations with Syria. The means that Turkey uses for approaching Syria are Euphrates waters as well their common perceptions for the danger of independent Kurdish state establishment. From its part Syria considers that with the improvement of its relations with Turkey ceases its strategic encirclement from North (Turkey) and South (Israel).

From 2011 and up today the relations of two states have been influenced by the internal situation in Syria and the facts that are carried out for the inversion of President Bashar Al Assad³⁰.

6. Interstate relations between Turkey and Iraq³¹

The two states in the past and before the USA invasion in Iraq followed common policy regarding Kurdish separatist tendencies. Characteristic example constituted the violation of Iraq borders by Turkish military forces in order to chase Kurdish rebels. Concretely had been signed in October 1984 by the two states the treaty that was known “on the right of direct chase”.

However as is known the facts have changed in the last years as Iraq tries afterwards the intervention in 2003 to constitute and to function effectively facing crowd of problems.

Regarding water and how this determines the relations between the two states are observed the followings:

All the efforts between Syria - Turkey – Iraq concerning the use of Euphrates – Tigris and Orontes water did not attribute any satisfactory result for these specific states. But there was conventions as Lausanne in 1923, forecasted that Turkey should have been consulted Iraq before constructing any hydraulic work. The treaty of Aleppo in 1930 recognized the rights of Syria in Tigris water and the “friendship and good neighborhood Pact” between Ankara and Baghdad in 1946 forecasted also what the treaty of Lausanne predicted without of course these to be applied by Turkey.

Problems began to arise when Turkey and Syria started to express drawings for dam’s creation. The signature of economic collaboration protocol in 1987 that determined the quotas which Ankara committed to keep caused the protest of Iraq, which was excluded from the negotiations. Turkish side reassured Iraq explaining via its president, that it was an interim bilateral agreement between Ankara and Damascus and that a real tripartite treaty would be signed in the future between the three riparian states.

Exacerbation emanated in January of 1990 when Turkey started the work of Euphrates diversion, aiming at the fulfillment of artificial ponds under the name Karakaya and Kemal Atatourk. The decision of Turkey to keep waters between 23/1 and 12/2 led to political exacerbation and in the exchanging of hard statements. In the climate which had been created, began to be involved also other Arabic states which started to inflict against Turkey. Turkey declared that observed its obligations against Syria.

However despite what Turkey said Syria appealed in the Arabic Union, asking equivalent water distribution and reduction of time detention regarding the ponds fulfillment.

The relation of Turkey with Iraq and regarding the problems regulation with its Arabian neighbors in general can be summarized in the followings:

- a. - The water is and will remain closely connected with its national security and power balances in the region, despite any developmental and economic requirements of Middle East geographic system.
- b. – Turkey seeks the establishment of bilateral agreements.

Additionally for Iraq Turkey claimed at the past that should not protests for Euphrates water invoking “abstract rights on waters”, but Iraq should use Tigris water. According to Turkey water is enough for all if becomes a reasonable use by the riparian states. However it is obvious that the term reasonable use should be fixed by bodies of interested states and not unilaterally by Turkey.

The relations between Turkey and Iraq from 2009 until now were promoted and deepened. This in application of Ahmet Davotoglou options for the importance of Iraq geographic region according to the new-Ottoman doctrine for the wider region. Turkey develops effectively the control of its waters of Tigris and Euphrates upper basin via the reservoirs of GAP program and also the common interest with Baghdad for a limited, political, territorial and energetically Iraqi Kurdistan as something like that can be possible or effective.

7. Relations between Jordan, Syria³² and Israel³³

Three states are involved in the Jordan valley river. Jordan and Israel are the main riverside states. Syria is also an interested part since part of Yarmouk, Jordan tributary springs in Syria.

Interdependence characterized example that is caused by water is the problem of dam under the name Unity (Al Wahda Dam), in Yarmouk river between Jordan and Syria. This dam in question is unique point of study because is reflected in valleys, borders, socio-economic and strategic relations.

For Jordan, Unity dam has big importance in economy and political sector because:

- a. - it focuses big part of its relative with water security and its future growth,
- b. - repercussions in the relations between USA and Israel because of USA mediation in the negotiations between Israel and Jordan on dam and
- c. – the geopolitical water role of Turkey. In any case pipelines to Jordan pass through of Israel and Syria territory.

Israel despite its territorial and military advantages that has, has not any advantage to arise exacerbation - rupture regarding water subject because destabilization of regimes mainly of Jordan means that Israel would acquire one still radical opponent. Syria beyond the electric energy and water quantities would also improve its position against Turkey in Euphrates.

Jordan - Yarmouk rivers fluvial system constitutes example of International River with very small water quantity, that was claimed vigorously by Israel and the Arabs and for that have been exchanged fires in order to stop or to deter the implementation of any work. The region has suffered by overexploitation and quantities have been decreased considerably. Its hydrogeology allows segregation in southerly and north sub bowl.

The situation had led in that time to a proposal for separate application of Helsinki rules to the up and down flow of Jordan and Yarmouk rivers. A policy like that was believed that could have decreased the riverside states number in any sub bowl and perhaps could have decreased also the possibilities of regions conflicts. Now despite the existing of specific international convention (which is not in force), the situation is very complicated and presents difficulties for the following reasons:

- a. - the political climate can be characterized as distrustful from the interested parts,
- b. - the efforts for information collection regarding on flow and use of waters is impossible.

8. Relations between Israel and Turkey³⁴

In the Middle East geographic space are located two states, which can be characterized as satellites of USA policy. With Turkey USA tried and still is trying to control the movements of former USSR trying to deter its extension movements in Mediterranean. On the other hand, with Israel in the heart of Arabic world, control the gulf region wealth-producing sources and with the local conflicts exploitation undermine the Arabic dynamism, while at the same time are promoted arming systems markets.

The approach of two countries is dated by the foundation of Israel state. More concretely:

- a. - 28-3-1949, Turkey was the first Muslim country that recognizes Israel nine months afterwards its foundation.
- b. – At the beginning of 1950 took place the visit of Mose Dayan in Turkey after Turkish Armed Forces invitation. Start of collaboration between MIT and MOSSAD.
- c. - Summertime of 1950, Turkey protest for Egypt action to prohibit the crossing of Suez by Israeli vessels.

- d. - June 1954, Turkish Prime Minister Adnan Menderes during his visit in USA adopted positions against Arabs, asking Israel recognition by them.
- e. - 1958, secret agreement signature between Turkey - Iran - Israel concerning the aquatic resources exploitation in the region.
- f. - August 1958, in the view of Egypt and Syria conjunction in United Arab Democracy which last until 1961, was signed a collaboration secret pact between Turkey and Israel concerning military cooperation as also information exchange.

Until the decade of 1990 the relations slack without changing character. This degradation was ought to the following reasons:

- a. - Anti Americanism and anti Zionistic climate was created in Turkey because of Arabic territories occupation by Israel.
- b. - Turkey was isolated in UN because of Cyprus occupation.
- c. - Turkey made a turn to the Middle East markets because of oil – producing countries economic power.

Then during the decade of 1990 follow resurgence with the signature of agreements, on air, military, naval collaboration as well as exchange of information (1994-95-96)³⁵.

In order to be appreciated the dynamics but also the prospects of Turkey - Israel axis must be taken under consideration and the following elements:

- a. - The conflict between Israel and Arabs constituted a security factor for Turkey because kept Syria busy to the South and was not allowed to have two foreheads (difference with region of Alexandrettas). Likely an approach of Turkey - Israel will bring Turkey in a difficult position against the Arabs. Lately and after the episode between the Prime Minister of Turkey and the President of Israel in Davos including also some other incidents the atmosphere of Turkey in Arab countries is very positive.
- b. – In the culture between populations is observed diversity.
- c. - National threats diversity as are evaluated by the two states. Dominated position is the national integrity and security but the diversity lies in the factors that constitute this danger.
- d. - Structure of two countries' economies is different.

The narrow relations of two countries became narrower with the contracting of Military Collaboration Pact in 1996. The alliance had basically deterrent character and was aimed mainly Syria and Iran, states that so Turkey and Israel saw as threat. Lately the relations between Turkey and Iran have been improved. This agreement was signed by the Prime Ministers of Turkey Mesut Yilmaz and Israel Benjamin Netanyahu³⁶.

From 1996 and for one decade the relations between Turkey and Israel were most excellent mainly in the diplomatic and in the military sector. From 2003 Turkey promotes methodically the relations with the Moslem and Arabic countries of its region (part of “strategic depth” according to the minister of Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry A. Davotoglou) removed from the strategic axis with Israel. In this frame Turkey began in 2009 to undermine its approach concerning Israel diplomatic strategy in order to acquire psychological bases in the Moslem world. Turkey is putting new strategic challenges for Israel entering in competitive orbit with this. However what very deeply bother Israel is the spectacular approach of Turkey with Iran and the deepening of relations between two countries. Israel declares continuously by all means that the Palestinian organizations and specifically “Chezbolach” are supported actively by Teheran and consequently Iran act hostility against Israel. This results also from the statements of Israeli Prime Minister Menjamin Netaniachou on 4 and 5 November 2009, on the occasion of a vessel arrest that transported arms and munitions for “Chezbolach»³⁷. Consequently the approach of Turkey with Iran, an enemy of Israel, bothers very much Israel and especially when Turkey provides verbal and not only support in Iran in the matter of nuclear possibilities acquisition.

The chronicle of relations deterioration between Turkey and Israel started in 2009³⁸ and until the end of 2011 includes the following four main action:

- The phrasal attack in January of 2009 of Turkey Prime Minister T. Erdogan against the Israeli President Shimon Perez in the international economic forum in Davos.

- The exclusion of Israel in October of 2009, from the annual programmed air exercise under the name “Anatolian Eagle” in the central Turkey, in which would also participate Italy and USA.
- The refusal of Israel in September of 2009 to allow visit of the Turkish minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Davotoglou to Gaza Strip and to meet Hamas dignitaries at the duration of planning visit in Israel.
- The starting of the program in the autumn of 2009 in the Turkish state television under the title “Separation - the Palestine in the Love and in the War” as a matter of low policy which shows the moods of Turkey government. The aquatic resources influence the relation between Turkey and Israel in two distinguishable geographic spaces and naturally with different way. The one geographic space is Mesopotamia (Euphrates and Tigris water area)³⁹ and the other is the unified geographic space in westwards of the Middle East (Israel, Palestinian territories, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon). These two geographic spaces influence with distinguishable way the relations between Turkey and Israel but simultaneously they influence all the other states creating a complex political field⁴⁰.

Conclusions

Keeping in mind those that described concisely regarding the subject are formulated the following conclusions:

1. - the intensities and the ruptures between the states in the Middle East with object the aquatic resources, constitute facts that are characterized by historical duration and continuity. As an example the sources of Jordan and Litani rivers constituted Israelis ardent desire to be included in the Juices state. Thus in 1948 Israel controlled the source of Dan in Lebanon, in 1967 occupied the source Baniyas in Golan, in 1976 annexed also the sources of Hasbani river in the area of N. Lebanon (the river Hasbani crosses Golan).

At the same time deserves to be marked the intensities that are related with Euphrates and characterize the policy of adjacent states. Turkey in 1964 proposed in Syria an agreement concerning all common waters of rivers that run through the two countries and particularly Orontes river (run through Lebanon, Syria and Turkey). Damascus denied this proposal because its likely acceptance would mean de jure recognition of Turkish suzerainty on the claimed region of Alexandrettas. Syria proposed the contracting of two separate bilateral agreements. Tigris water is not a problem in the relations of two states, because Turkey had accepted its “international” regime and does not react for the water isomeric distribution.

Relations between Syria and Turkey in general are characterized in four levels:

- a. – Euphrates water.
- b. - Orontes water.
- c. – Alexandretta region.
- d. – Kurdish item.

2. - Regarding the international law, does not become acceptable by all the interested states although the enforcement of the international convention and the signature of regional agreements with a good faith between them should improve the situation in the Middle East. Unfortunately many things are depended by “blackmails” that are taking place between the interested states. Main characteristics are the exploitation of aquatic resources by the states that have them under their possession against other riparian states and that the most powerful state practices all its force against the weak state.

As an example Turkey with demographic and military advantages, controlling Tigris and Euphrates sources tried in the past to “press” Iraq and Syria with exchange help in order to combat the situation in regions where live populations with Kurdish origin.

On the other side Israel while shares with Jordan the waters of Jordan river southern part, particularly afterwards the possession of West Bank could not collaborate with Syria in the management and distribution of waters in the valley Jordanian. This problem led to the conquest of Golan Heights, the Emon mountain and S. Lebanon until recently. Thus Israel from “estuaries” state accomplished to become “sources” state.

What will happen with Golan Heights and more specifically if Israel will return them to Syria with exchange peace and according to the last developments in this country and in general in the Middle East is a question for answer of which must be taken under consideration the situation in Iran.

3. – Finally as already have been mentioned the ratification of the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses by all the interested states in the specific area can be a good step in solving the water topic in the Middle East. Furthermore this convention except the opportunity that offer establishing in international level meanings offers also a mechanism in order to be solved the differences between states and that is the arbitration.

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⁶ M.Levent Kavvas, Richard Z.Q. Chen, Michael L. Anderson, Noriaki Ohara, Jaeyoung Yoon A Study of Water Balances over Tigris-Euphrates Watershed, Hydrologic Research Lab, Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis, California 95616, USA [On line] Available: http://www.google.nl/search?q=M.Levent+Kavvas%2C+Richard+Z.Q.+Chen%2C+Michael+L.+Anderson%2C+Noriaki+Ohara%2C+Jaeyoung+Yoon+A+Study+of+Water+Balances+over+Tigris-Euphrates+Watershed%2C+ydrologic+Research+Lab%2C+Dept.+of+Civil+%26+Environmental+Engineering%2C+University+of+California%2C+Davis%2C+California+95616%2C+USA&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a#hl=nl&client=firefox-a&hs=lb&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&sa=X&ei=uSmUT_CoKYrD0OXUvXXAQ&ved=0CB0QvwUoAQ&q=M.Levent+Kavvas,+Richard+Z.Q.+Chen,+Michael+L.+Anderson,+Noriaki+Ohara,+Jaeyoung+Yoon+A+Study+of+Water+Balances+over+Tigris-Euphrates+Watershed,+hydrologic+Research+Lab,+Dept.+of+Civil+%26+Environmental+Engineering,+University+of+California,+Davis,+California+95616,+USA&spell=1&bav=on.2.or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf..cf.osb&fp=9e9b421b4f2569d4an and http://www.balwois.com/balwois/administration/full_paper/ffp-462.pdf. (May 02, 2012). Also article «Divides the water of Tigris – Euphrates» Kathimerini, 04-0-2009, [On line] Available: http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/w_articles_world_2_04/09/2009_327976. (April 24, 2012) (in Hellenic).

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¹⁰ Resolution 2669 (XXV), [On line] Available: http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/documentation/english/a_cn4_244.pdf (April 28, 2012).

¹¹ The Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers, [On line] Available:

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¹³ Hellenic Military History Committee (2002). War for waters. Records, International Seminar Israel - Hellas , Tel Aviv, 8-12 July 2002, Athens 2004, pp 37-62.

¹⁴ TAHAL , Central Plan for the aquatic resources, 1990. TAHAL is the responsible organization for aquatic reserves policy planning and is supported by the Juice Agency and the National Juice Fund. Mekorot LTD is company responsible for the operation and maintenance of network and the Office of Commissioner is accountable in the Ministry of Agriculture. The last knows the power of agricultural lobbies group.

¹⁵ Article “Israel runs out without Turkish water”, Kathimerini, 6-4-2006, p 8. According to the mentioned article the planning of potable water transport with tankers from Turkey beach to Israel will not take place because of oil prices rapid increase and the privatization of Turkish company of potable waters management, leaving the possibility of collaboration open in the future. Parallel Turkish dignitaries denied that the cancellation in question is related with the visit in Turkey of Hamas delegation. But is under examination the construction of special pipeline for potable water transportation in the Israel that presupposes the collaboration with Syria and Lebanon. In 2004 Turkey and Israel had signed agreement of transport annually 50 millions cubic water (small quantity) from Turkey to Israel beach. The reasons of agreement were clearly political because Turkey aimed in the improvement of its geopolitical position and Israel in forging of powerful relations with a Moslem state.

¹⁶ The constructions are known with the acronym G.A.P. (Guneydogu Anadolu Projesi).

- ¹⁷ Ass.Prof. Dr. KELEŞ, Z. (2003). THE HISTORY OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES DISPUTES OF TURKEY AND TURKEY'S APPROACH. E-journal of strategy and analysis,6, [On line] Available: http://www.stradigma.com/english/july2003/articles_02.html and <http://www.google.nl/search?q=Prof.+Dr.+Z%C3%BCl+KELE%C5%9E%2C++THE+HISTORY+OF+TRANSBOUNDARY+WATER+RESOURCES+DISPUTES+OF+TURKEY+AND+TURKEY%27S+APPROACH%2CAssist.University+of+PamukkaleDepartment+of+History&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a> (April 25, 2012). Also Turkey's Policy on Water Issues, Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs [On line] Available: http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkey_s-policy-on-water-issues.en.mfa and <http://www.google.nl/search?q=Also+Turkey%27s+Policy+on+Water+Issues%2C+Republic+of+Turkey%2C+Ministry+of+Foreign+Affairs&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a> (April 25, 2012).
- ¹⁸ Apart from the dam Kemal Atatürk have been constructed or even are under construction a line of dams [On line] Available : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dams_in_Turkey (April 28, 2012).
- ¹⁹ Minagias, Chr. (2010). The geopolitical strategic and military force of Turkey. Athens: Tourikis, pp 139-145 (in Hellenic).
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- ²² The intensity in the relations between Syria and Turkey for the region of Alexandretta results from the following two characteristics incidents:
- In October 1989, Syrian Armed Forces brought down plane of Turkish topographic service which was flying inside the air space of Alexandretta's and
 - in December 1989 the Syrian Minister of Press and Information declared in interview of press in Cyprus that "Syria will not recognize the Turkish suzerainty in chatai".
- ²³ Syrian reserve and mistrust against Turkey exists from the season of ant regime revolt in the Syrian city Chama's (2-2-1976) by Muslim brothers which was repressed violently with huge number of deads. According to Syria the last ones had been supplied arms by Turkey.
- ²⁴ Delivery which took place by the Hellenic Government with Prime Minister Konstantinos Simitis and Minister of Foreign Affairs Theodoros Pagkalos. See Kalenteridis, S. (2007). Otsalan delivery: Truth hour, Historical Testimony. Athens: Infognomon, pp 44-47
- ²⁵ Turkey claimed that the Kurdish rebels as base for their operations - attacks in Turkey had the northern territories of Syria and PKK headquarters was in the Bekar valley in Lebanon which used in that time to be under Syrian control. It is marked that in Syria are approximately 800.000 - 1.000.000 Kurdish people.
- ²⁶ In the Syrian territory is found important Armenian community who was used as counterpoise in the Turkish geopolitical policy. Syria prompted the Armenian to move in the independent Armenia, while also granted guns in the Armenian state action that rendered more difficult the relations between the two states.
- ²⁷ Afterwards the invasion of USA with some certain allies in 2003 in Iraq the facts in the region have changed. Exists "semi autonomous" region of Kurds in the North Iraq and the Syrian government was pressed intensely from USA and France in order to change its attitude that is translated to stop facilitating the entry of "Iraqi" in its territory and to enjoy proportional protection. Besides the PKK continues the battles with the Turkish army while Prime Minister T. Erdogan trying to promote "political" solutions? for the resolution of Kurdish subject. Disturbances as is being known in the North - East of Turkey continue existing. Also Kurds face the big dams as theft of aquatic wealth of their regions and as effort of Kurdish environment alteration (uprooting, destruction of regions etc). Afterwards the murder of Hariri in Lebanon, Syria under the pressure of international community to was forced to withdraw from Lebanon and to lose the sovereign influence that allocated. Its placement in the axis of villain from Chairman G. Bush (policy which basically has not changed by President Obama) complicated more its geostrategic place in combination with the repression that realizes the last months in ant regime citizens.
- ²⁸ Saban Kardas (2009). Erdogan Offers Turkish Mediation in Israeli-Syrian Talks, Publication: Eurasia Daily Monitor Volume: 6 Issue: 141, [On line], Available: [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=35305](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=35305) (April 29, 2012).
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- ³² Dimou, A. (2009). Security - Peace in the Wider Middle East Arabic World: Syria case. ATHINA, Journal of Hellenic National Defense College, pp 15-21 (in Hellenic).
- ³³ The relations between the states have been influenced mainly by the wars of 1967 and 1973.

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³⁵ Mourtos G. (1999). Turkey - Israel and Hellas eclipse from its natural space. Athens: Communications A. E., pp 44-45 (in Hellenic).

³⁶ Indicatively:

- Turkish and Israeli pilots of F-16 and F-4E air joint training. The training of Turkish pilots would take place in Israel and their practical training at Ikonio shot field (exercises “Anatolian Eagle”).
- Collaboration of Turkey with Juice lobby in Europe and USA for the promotion of two countries national interests.
- Support of Baku-Ceyhan pipeline construction.
- Collaboration in the exchange of military information and electronic surveillance of Central Asia wider region.
- Joint training in search and rescue items. Turkey carried out with Israel for first time in spring of 1999, naval exercise in Eastern Mediterranean, near the territorial waters of Cyprus with the attendance of aeronautical forces and from USA. The exercise is known under the name “Reliant Mermaid” (“Reliable Mermaid”). In 2009 took place in regions of South – East Mediterranean, the exercise of search and rescue under the “Reliant Mermaid 2009” in which participated forces of Turkey, USA and Israel.
- Collaboration between the defensive industries of two countries for the development of new arming systems, in the sectors of rockets air-to-air, in the construction of not manned planes, in the modernization of planes F-4E and F-5A/B as also in the tanks M-60, in the telecommunications sector, in the electronic war and in convenient warning systems.
- Renting agreement regarding the renting by Israel of Turkey territories for rural exploitation. This agreement should have been approved by the Turkish Parliament and provided the possibility of narrow collaboration for program GAP- growth of south-eastern Turkey. Turkey as return, would accept Israeli technical aid in the sectors of agriculture, livestock-farming and aquaculture.

³⁷ “Cyprus denies any relation regarding the arrest of the vessel by Israel” Kathimerini, 5-11-2009 [On line] Available:

http://portal.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/w_articles_kathbreak_1_05/11/2009_306132 (April 24, 2012) (in Hellenic).

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<http://www.ethnos.gr/article.asp?catid=22769&subid=2&pubid=7848817> (April 25, 2012) (in Hellenic) and

“Chezbolach denies any relation with the vessel that was immobilized openly of Israel”, [On line] Available:

<http://www.inews.gr/1/arneitai-i-chezbolach-kathe-schesi-me-to-ploio-pou-akinitopoiithike-anoichta-tou-israil.htm> (April 26, 2012) (in Hellenic).

³⁸ “Episode between Erdogan and Peres in Davos», Kathimerini, 30-01-2009, [On line] Available:

http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/w_articles_world_2_30/01/2009_301443 (April 28, 2012) (in Hellenic).

³⁹ Skafidas, G. (2009). «They escaped from the bullets they will die from thirsty». To Ethnos, 12-09-2009, [On line] Available:

<http://www.ethnos.gr/article.asp?catid=22769&subid=2&pubid=6000869> (April 25, 2012) (in Hellenic). Also Prof. Dr. Sabri Sener,

«TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS IN TURKEY AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THEIR WATER, CASE STUDY: EUFRATES AND TIGRIS RIVERS», Department of Irrigation, Faculty of Agriculture of Canakale Onsekiz Mart University – Turkey, [On line] Available:

<http://www.google.nl/search?q=Sabri+Sener%C2%ABTRANSBOUNDRY+RINERS+IN+TURKEY+AND+EFFECTIVE+USE+OF+THEIR+WATER%2C+CASE+STUDY%3A+EUFRATES+AND+TIGRIS+RIVERS&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a> and

http://www.inweb.gr/twm4/presentations/Day_1/Session_1_III/13_Sener.pdf. (April 27, 2012). Also «Divided Tigris and Euphrates water», Kathimerini, 4/9/2009 [On line] Available:

http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/w_articles_world_1_04/09/2009_327976

(April 29, 2012) (in Hellenic).

⁴⁰ Ibrahim Gurer, Mehmet Ugler, «MANAVGAT RIVER WATER AS A LIMITED BUT ALTERNATIVE WATER RESOURCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST» [On line], Available:

http://www.google.nl/search?q=%C2%ABMANAVGAT+RIVER+WATER+AS+A+LIMITED+BUT+ALTERNATIVE+WATER+RESOURCE+IN+THE+MIDDLE+EAST&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a#hl=nl&client=firefox-a&hs=r3L&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&sa=X&ei=1DqUT5ruKliH8gPl3a3LCQ&ved=0CB0QvwUoAQ&q=%C2%ABMANAVGAT+RIVER+WATER+AS+A+LIMITED+BUT+ALTERNATIVE+WATER+RESOURCES+IN+THE+MIDDLE+EAST&spell=1&bav=on.2.or.r_gc.r_pw.r_q_f.cf.osb&fp=9e9b421b4f2569d4 and

<http://hispagua.cedex.es/sites/default/files/especiales/Trasvases%20Africa/manavgat.pdf> (April 30, 2012).

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<http://www.springerlink.com/content/v2017g6027645425/> (April 29, 2012).