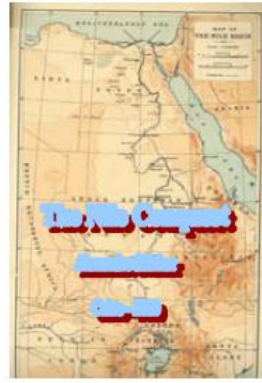


## "Nile Conquest"

*From Pharaoh's Dykes to Today's Nile  
Water Challenging Just Supply*  
Insight of human actions in controlling  
Nile waters since the Pharaohs with  
emphasis on the challenges that lay  
ahead for the Nile basin's populations.

Manuscript of 200 pages



### Synopsis

This essay described how Nile Basin populations attempted to conquer or at least control the fluctuating water flow since early antiquity until our times. Revisiting Pharaoh's Menes 3100 BC flood protection dykes around his capital of Memphis, *Sadd Al Kafara* the first known dam 2800 BC also near of today's Cairo or Amenemhat III Semnar Dam in northern Sudan 1800 BC, the Nile conquest analysis brings forwards the existence of a man-made canal linking the river to the Red Sea during Queen Hatshepsut's reign in around 1470 BC. Maintained on and off this strategic waterway operated almost a thousand year until Persian King Cambis Egypt's invasion in around 404 BC.

Briefly reawaken by El-Hakim Bi-Amr Allah, the controversial Fatimid ruler of Egypt at the turn of the first millennium, the conquest of the Nile gathered new momentum with the arrival of Mehmet Ali Pasha in the early nineteenth century. Combining his military conquest of the Nile Basin's shores deep into the African continent with a formidable economic development, Mehmet Ali Pasha launched a thorough agriculture program by constructing the Nile Delta Barrage as well as a large number of irrigation canals. Modern hydro politics was further boosted when Sir William Willcocks, named by historians "the Nile architect" drafted the first modern development plan aiming at a better utilization of the basin water resources from Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean shores. This led to the construction by the British of a series of dams along the river Nile during the first half of the twentieth century. However, the strategic interest for the control of Nile waters emerged amongst the basin's countries awake and it became necessary to reach a first Nile Agreement (1929) that left Ethiopia out.

The end of British colonial presence created a renewed interest for a better utilization of the Nile, particularly because of the forecasted basin's demographic explosion. Drawing on the personal records of his father's involvement in the building of the first non-British Nile dam (Rosetta Dam 1950) and numerous bridges, the author describes, from a so far not published angle, the story of the Aswan High Dam and its consequences in term of politics and environment. His constant on the spot monitoring of the slow motion Nile management efforts during the last forty years provides an insight that should help readers obtaining a clearer picture of the Nile basin's future challenges.