

GEOG 27500 Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa

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Q3. Mid- term Exam.

Write an essay in which you explain the relationship between dams, development theory, and large-scale agricultural Projects. Give 4 examples from peer reviewed journals.

- African rivers and lakes enhance different kinds of development. These include: irrigation, transportation, controlling floods and generating hydroelectric power.
- Since the majority of the Africans are farmers, many dams were built to facilitate irrigation of the large-scale agriculture.
- The international community (United Nations) has chosen the path of agriculture and light industries as a means of economic development in Africa in the 1960s. This is called development theory.
- Large dams were built to provide water for the irrigation of cash crops (which is known as irrigated agriculture).
- Cash crops are cultivated to bring cash and enhance the economy such as cotton, sugar cane, coffee, ground nuts and cocoa.
- Examples of dams built to provide water for irrigation is Sinnar Dam in Sudan which built on the Blue Nile to irrigate the Gezira agricultural scheme which grows cotton.
- Aswan High Dam of Egypt is built on the Nile for irrigation of cotton, fruits and vegetables and generating electricity as well.
- The Manantali Dam is built in upstream of the Senegal River in Mali in order to irrigate rice and generate electricity.
- Large dams have also been used to generate hydro-electric power for industry and urban use.
- For example, Akosombo Dam built in Volta River in Ghana in 1965 to generate electricity. Its lake is used for transportation and fishing.
- The main problem with these dams is the increase of environmental degradation such as water pollution, increase of malaria incidences and schistosomiasis.
- Large dams can cause ecological changes such as increase of rainfall or increase of evaporation or intrusion of salty water or responsible for increase water-related diseases.
- More important, the failure of development theory.

References

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