

ABSTRAK

HYDRO-HEGEMONY INDIA TERHADAP BANGLADESH DALAM GANGES WATER SHARING TREATY (2019-2024)

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Sungai lintas batas kerap menjadi ruang interaksi sekaligus ketegangan antarnegara karena distribusi air, posisi geografis, dan kapasitas pengelolaan yang tidak selalu setara. Relasi antara India sebagai negara hulu dan Bangladesh sebagai negara hilir pada Sungai Gangga memperlihatkan dinamika yang kompleks. Pembangunan dan pengoperasian infrastruktur di wilayah hulu, termasuk pengaturan aliran melalui Farakka Barrage, berdampak langsung pada ketersediaan air di wilayah hilir. Meskipun kedua negara terikat dalam *Ganges Water Sharing Treaty* 1996 dan secara formal menjalankan kerja sama pembagian air, muncul pertanyaan mengenai dinamika kerja sama tersebut berlangsung dalam struktur kekuasaan yang tidak setara, terutama ketika satu pihak memiliki kontrol lebih besar atas infrastruktur, data hidrologi, dan kapasitas teknologi.

Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis hegemoni dalam pengelolaan Sungai Gangga antara India dan Bangladesh dengan menggunakan kerangka *hydro-hegemony* yang dikembangkan oleh Mark Zeitoun dan Jeroen Warner. Pendekatan yang digunakan adalah kualitatif eksploratif melalui analisis dokumen terhadap perjanjian bilateral, laporan resmi pemerintah, serta data sekunder mengenai kapasitas material dan institusional kedua negara. Analisis difokuskan pada komponen *power asymmetry*, *sources of power*, *water resource control strategies*, serta *outcome*.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ketimpangan material, kontrol atas infrastruktur hulu, serta rancangan institusional yang tidak menciptakan pengendalian bersama menempatkan India pada posisi dominan dalam struktur pengelolaan sungai. Kerja sama tetap berlangsung dan relatif stabil, namun berada dalam struktur kekuasaan yang tidak setara. Berdasarkan analisis seluruh komponen teori, relasi ini merepresentasikan bentuk *hydro-hegemony* yang dipertahankan melalui keunggulan struktural dan otoritas institusional tanpa paksaan terbuka.

Kata kunci: Sungai Gangga, India, Bangladesh, hegemoni air, pengelolaan air lintas batas

ABSTRACT

INDIA'S HYDRO-HEGEMONY OVER BANGLADESH IN THE GANGES WATER SHARING TREATY (2019-2024)

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Transboundary rivers often become a space for interaction and tension between countries due to water distribution, geographical position, and management capacity that are not always balanced. In the context of the Ganges River, the relationship between India as the upstream country and Bangladesh as the downstream country shows complex dynamics. The development and operation of infrastructure in the upstream region, including flow regulation through the Farakka Barrage, has a direct impact on water availability in the downstream region. Although both countries are bound by the 1996 Ganges Agreement and formally engage in water sharing cooperation, questions arise as to the extent to which this cooperation takes place within an equal power structure, especially when one party has greater control over infrastructure, hydrological data, and technological capacity. This study aims to analyze the hegemony in the management of the Ganges River between India and Bangladesh using the Hydro-hegemony framework developed by Mark Zeitoun and Jeroen Warner. The approach used is qualitative through document analysis of bilateral agreements, official government reports, and secondary data on the material and institutional capacities of both countries. The analysis focuses on power asymmetry, sources of power, water resource control strategies, and the outcomes. The results of the study show that material inequality, control over upstream infrastructure, and institutional designs that do not create shared control place India in a dominant position in the river management structure. Cooperation continues and is relatively stable, but it exists within an asymmetrical power configuration. Based on analysis of all theoretical components, this relationship represents a form of hydro-hegemony that is maintained through structural superiority and institutional authority without overt coercion.

Key words: Ganges River, India, Bangladesh, hydro-hegemony, transboundary water management