BIBLIOGRAPHIES

DAMS, DISPLACEMENT, AND COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCE GUIDE

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*September 1999*
This July will bring the last monsoon of the Twentieth Century. The ragged army in the Narmada Valley has declared that it will not move when the waters of the Sardar Sarovar reservoir rise to claim its lands and homes. Whether you love the dam or hate it, whether you want it or you don’t, it is in the fitness of things that you understand the price that’s being paid for it. That you have the courage to watch while the dues are cleared and the books are squared. [Roy 1999: 38]

In June 1999 Arundhati Roy, Booker Prize-winning author, ended her scathing essay “The Greater Common Good” with the above paragraph. As the decade long protest against the Sardar Sarovar reservoir reaches its crescendo, the Indian government continues its standoff waiting to see if villagers will drown rather than be displaced. International appeals for truce have fallen on deaf ears in Delhi. The rest of the world is watching the international headlines for the long disputed outcome. The Narmada water wars, and the broader dams and displacement debate, have been driven by powerful NGO activist demands for greater public participation and equitable resource access. Internationally, debates over hydro facilities have become paradigmatic struggles to balance the material benefits from development with the ideals of democratic governance and human rights.

While large-scale water infrastructure projects have required human resettlement for hundreds of years, the massive scale and increasing rate of dam construction and human displacement has been unparalleled since the second World War. Between the 1950s and 1980s, 35,000 large dams were built throughout the world (IUCN-World Bank 1997: 4). The World Bank conservatively estimates that over 40 million people have been resettled over a ten year period from dam construction (Scudder 1997: 47). In India, government figures suggest that each large dam project displaces an average of 44,000 people (Roy 1999: 6). Even these statistics are dwarfed by the Three Gorges dam project in China, which when completed will displace an estimated 1.3 million people (McCully 1996: 21). Populations that are forcibly resettled are promised compensation, new housing and productive employment. However, the record shows that these communities, often indigenous populations and vulnerable to begin with, are more often than not further impoverished through the resettlement process.

For over forty years, anthropologists and sociologists have been studying if the benefits from water development projects justify the radical livelihood changes expected from resettled communities. These scholars have addressed dam development around the world, the plight of indigenous peoples and the role of government institutional reform. While academics have continued cataloging the painful experiences of resettled communities and the ecological ramifications of man-made reservoirs, coordinated activist campaigns have had a dramatic impact on the dam building industry. Beginning in the 1980s, locally affected peoples’ organizations, in concert with international NGO
coalitions, mounted a steadfast challenge against the dam building industry, citing its gross violations against human rights and the environment. These challenges have led to important reforms in World Bank project procedures and have heightened the public’s awareness of the social and ecological costs of dam construction.

While the result of this activism has been a dramatic decrease in global large dam construction, development-induced displacement continues to be a topic of paramount importance. Michael Cernea writes that development-induced displacement causes more refugees globally than wars and natural disasters (Cernea 1996b: 18). The immense body of literature that has emerged over the last forty years on dams and displacement can inform resettlement issues writ large, especially as they relate to transportation and energy sector projects. These studies have revealed that resettler communities share common political interests for participatory development and needs for adequate compensation, productive employment and safe housing. By assessing the rich interactions that have occurred between activists and academics working on the dams front, we can draw lessons about successful and failed mobilization strategies, theoretical models and arenas for policy alternatives.

NGO campaigns and academic research projects have raised important questions about the role of governance in development administration. Ibrahim Shihata, World Bank General Counsel, defines “governance” as a state’s decision-making power over administrative policies (1991). Resettlement resistance movements directly challenge governance by calling into question the state’s hegemony over its people and territory (Oliver-Smith 1996: 78). The World Bank has learned, through its disastrous experiences with dams and involuntary resettlement, that borrower governments remain largely incapable of assuring communities’ access to natural resources and often fail to significantly incorporate public participation into national development planning. In a World Bank internal report reviewing recent experiences with involuntary resettlement, the authors conclude that governments continue to have a serious problem providing economic rehabilitation for resettled populations (Operations and Evaluation Department 1998). Thayer Scudder writes that the lack of government interest in decentralizing development decision-making includes a hesitation to decentralize its financial resources. (Scudder 1997: 56)

Through bibliographic annotations this report reviews the classic and most recent literature on resettlement and dam construction. This paper also describes how resettlement studies interfaces with disaster and refugee studies and draws attention to areas for future research and policy reform. Some notable new publications include Fox and Brown’s 1999 book Struggling for Accountability, the IUCN-World Bank publication Large Dams: Learning from the Past, Looking toward the Future, and Michael Cernea’s 1999 edited volume The Economics of Involuntary Resettlement. A comprehensive overview on the history of resettlement research is described in Christopher McDowell’s edited book Understanding Impoverishment and in Michael Cernea and Scott Guggenheim’s volume Anthropological Approaches to Resettlement.
THE ERA OF LARGE DAMS

Mega-projects like Hoover, Grand Coulee and Glen Canyon dams launched the hydro era in the United States in the 1930s. The 1950s saw the peak of dam development in the U.S. and Europe. As environmental movements strengthened in the U.S. and Europe, it became very difficult for governments and the private sector to build new large dams in Northern countries (McCully 1996; Usher 1997). After this period, the dam industry shifted its focus to the developing world. American dams became poster projects of the technological potential for hydro to turn arid lands into productive agricultural centers, generate cheap electricity and offer unparalleled flood control.

Since the 1950s, multilateral and bilateral aid agencies have been channeling huge project funds to national dam building firms. Skylar and McCully report that in the World Bank's first year of lending, 72 percent of loans went to dam projects (1994: 12). These agencies also subsidize private sector dam construction, such as the Mekong River dams, by commissioning feasibility and environmental impact studies.

Researchers have demonstrated the far-reaching environmental and social costs of large dam development, including the loss of fertile valleys, the spread of waterborne diseases, and the destruction of vital fisheries (Dixon et al. 1989). Human dislocation, impoverishment and community rehabilitation are perhaps the gravest concerns with dams in developing countries (Cernea 1991). Demographic and environmental factors in tropical and sub-tropical developing countries have resulted in higher population densities, greater struggles over land access, and higher rates of siltation and evapo-transpiration than northern industrialized countries.

The greatest difference between American large dams and their counterparts in the developing world is that American dams did not result in massive forced resettlement. The Glen Canyon and Hoover dams did not have associated human displacement. In the entire history of American dam building, approximately 30,000 people have been forcibly resettled, 18,000 of which were moved for the Norris dam in Tennessee alone. In the developing world, China and India have had extensive forced resettlement programs associated with dams. As the chart below indicates, these two countries have moved hundreds of thousands of people for reservoir construction.

1. These calculations are based on resettlement figures provided in Appendix 3 of McCully's book Silenced Rivers.
Dams Worldwide Causing the Resettlement of over 100,000 People  
(Constructed or Under Construction)²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam Project</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Number Resettled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Gorges</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardar Sarovar</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiaolangdi (China)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>181,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bargi (India)</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>113,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srisailam (India)</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pong (India)</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danjiangkou (China)</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>383,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Aswan (Egypt/Sudan)</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>113,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangla (Pakistan)</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaptai (Bangladesh)</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhaxi (China)</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>141,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanmenxia (China)</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>410,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xinanjiang (China)</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>306,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dongpinghu (China)</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>278,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirakund (India)</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>110,000</td>
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The enormous costs of large dam development was comprehensively discussed by Edward Goldsmith and Nicholas Hilyard in their groundbreaking 1986 book *The Social and Environmental Costs of Large Dams*. This work launched an international movement against large dams. Patrick McCully’s 1997 book *Silenced Rivers* updated Goldsmith and Hilyard’s work, and expanded upon it with a discussion of the transnational anti-dam movement. Fred Pearce’s 1992 book *The Dammed: Rivers, Dams and the Coming World Water Crisis* also provides an overview of the hydro debate.

THE CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSE

Nongovernmental (NGO) movements against dams have dominated resettlement activism. The most successful movements have been in India and Brazil, where networks between local resistors and international organizations have leveraged influence over lending agencies. Tony Oliver-Smith’s 1995 paper “Resistance to Resettlement” provides insights into the development of local and transnational movements. Environmental and human rights activists, working in cooperation with local communities against hydro construction and forced resettlement, have pushed significant reforms in World Bank, IDB and ADB lending policies. McCully writes that “The campaigns against the World Bank funded dams—in particular the Xingu dams in Brazil, Nam Choan, Kedung Ombo (Indonesia), Pak Mun, Arun III (Nepal) and Sardar Sarovar—have been the most effective NGO force pushing changes within the World Bank” (1996: 308). Important reforms within multi-lateral agencies include the development of participation guidelines, policies against involuntary resettlement and the establishment of Inspection Panels. Bruce Rich’s book *Mortgaging the Earth*

² These figures were provided in Appendix 3 of the McCully book. The date of construction for the Sardar Sarovar dam in India is an estimation if the dam is ever completed. The project has suffered many setbacks and suspensions over the last ten years.
describes some of these reforms and the NGOs involved. Jonathan Fox and David Brown’s 1999 book, *The Struggle for Accountability*, assesses these reform policies in detail and asks whether they have been effective in changing on-the-ground operations of Bank staff.

The International Rivers Network in California, with their partner organizations around the world, has been one of the most active and effective NGOs working on dam related issues. The World Dams Commission, based in South Africa, is positioning itself to be an important future player in the dams debate. In addition to their project campaigns, NGOs have also described alternative models for regional and small-scale water development that do not require resettlement (Majot 1997).

**COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION: LEARNING FROM DISASTER AND REFUGEE STUDIES**

The academic literature on disaster and refugee studies interfaces closely with the large dams debate. While dam activists have offered up alternative strategies for energy and hydro development, researchers working in disaster and refugee studies have advanced the study of community reconstruction and rehabilitation the furthest. These researchers and practitioners focus on administering relief programs and studying the causal factors in human migration. The Refugee Studies Program at Oxford is one of the most important research centers looking at community rehabilitation.

Michael Cernea describes how most anthropological and sociological work on migration and resettlement began by providing ethnographic descriptions of development disasters (Cernea 1996b). For example, the pioneers in resettlement research, Elizabeth Colson, Thayer Scudder and Robert Chambers, began their academic work looking at dam development in the 1960s at the Kariba dam and Volta Lake (Colson 1971; Chamber 1970). Many scholars are now moving away from this descriptive mode toward more policy focused and diagnostic research (McDowell 1996: 17). Current priorities in resettlement research include rebuilding livelihoods, understanding legal frameworks and refining economic analyses. Scholars, including Cernea, argue that it is necessary to incorporate the risks of displacement into methodological models with objectives for restoring and improving incomes, housing, health care and education services (Cernea 1996b).

Conceptual models for planning resettlement have been developed by Colson, Scudder and Cernea. While the Colson-Scudder model describes behavioral responses to resettlement, it does not focus on the environmental or planning dimensions of development projects. Michael Cernea’s “Risk and Reconstruction” model is based on eight general sub-processes that result in the rapid onset of impoverishment. Cernea argues that appropriate rehabilitation programs must build into project planning mechanisms for restoring employment, housing and food security to resettled communities (1996b).

Through a better understanding of the connections between voluntary and involuntary migration, disaster and refugee studies can become integrated with development induced-displacement studies. Cernea argues that a “sliding process” can occur whereby established inhabitants become oustees and then refugees (1996a: 310). Seteney Shami believes that by theoretically linking volun-

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3. See the Scudder and Colson chapter in Hansen and Oliver-Smith’s book *Involuntary Migration and Resettlement* for a description of this model.
tary and involuntary resettlement we can better address displacement as multicausal and multistage (1994: 3). This also draws attention to the regional economic patterns that can make populations more vulnerable to forced and/or voluntary migration.

**FUTURE TOPICS IN RESETTLEMENT RESEARCH**

The main normative issues currently guiding the field of resettlement studies include limiting forced relocation, aiding community reconstruction and increasing community participation in infrastructure projects. Resettlement research has made important strides in informing policy analysis and developing theoretical models. Enabling further progress on these fronts requires investing in important areas of future research, including expanded criteria for case studies, private sector monitoring, and more impact studies on women and host populations.

The predominant focus of activism and research has been case study accounts of large-scale development projects that cause resettlement. Christopher McDowell argues that while large-scale projects cause major resettlement, we should also be concerned about the thousands of smaller projects, especially in urban areas, that collectively cause more dislocation (1996: 3). According to Thayer Scudder there is a clear need for more longitudinal studies of resettled communities because the effects of resettlement carry over to two generations. Scudder also notes the great need for pre-project benchmark studies (1997: 62).

A review of the dams and resettlement case studies presented in this report draws attention to underrepresented regions and interest groups. While China is a leader in creating development oustees, few studies exist on projects other than Three Gorges. There is also an astonishing lack of cases from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where many large water projects were constructed. Resettlement impact studies often ignore the special circumstances faced by women. The 1999 book edited by Doreen Indra, *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*, addresses this shortcoming. It is also important to study the effects of increased population density and resource use pressures faced by host communities.

Another important trend that impacts resettlement is the shift of project financing from public international institutions to the private sector. The Mekong River projects are examples of by and large privately funded dam development. While NGOs have ushered in reforms in public lending, it is very difficult to gain accountability in private sector development projects. Furthermore, agencies like the World Bank’s International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency also support and subsidize private financing. Reforming the resettlement and participation policies of these institutions is the next activist front for international NGOs and citizen efforts. We need more case study accounts that describe the push toward private sector hydro development and how these firms are addressing resettlement questions.

NGO groups often criticize World Bank programs for the lack of participatory development in resettlement. While conceptual models, like Cernea’s, offer planners important advice for avoiding impoverishment and aiding reconstruction, projects are still designed without directly involving locally affected groups. While the dams and resettlement literature is full of case studies from around the world, there are still exceedingly few examples of “successful” resettlement projects where people have been empowered to reinvent their futures. The Kainji project in Nigeria is one of the few
examples of a moderately successful resettlement project (Roder 1994). While many scholars argue that there can no successful forced migration programs, there needs to be established and agreed upon criteria for acceptable voluntary resettlement programs.

Elizabeth and Robert Fernea’s book *Nubian Ethnographies* raises important cultural issues that result from resettlement. The Ferneas argue that in the Nubian case it was very difficult to predict the outcomes of resettlement. The authors contend that while many aspects of traditional Nubian culture were lost since the construction of the High Aswan dam, resettler communities have a new sense of ethnic self-awareness. Before resettlement, villages were sparsely populated and isolated from one another. Resettlement created a new densely populated community, which integrated Nubians into mainstream Egyptian society. According to the Ferneas, Nubians now have greater shared political and economic interests, which has helped them gain greater access to jobs and educational opportunities. Is this a desirable consequence that validates the resettlement process? How can communities be empowered to weigh their future opportunities, when there is such great uncertainty about the regional economic and political circumstances that will inevitably impact their outcomes?

**USING THIS GUIDE**

The bibliographic annotations in this guide are organized by seven sub-themes: the History of Dam Building, Technical Environmental Problems and Displacement, the Transnational Anti-Dam Movement, Institutional Literature, Alternatives to Dams and Resettlement, Case Studies and Resource Guides. The following section describes these themes in more detail and lists relevant citations for each topic. The annotations are then listed in alphabetical order. An extended unannotated bibliography, including references for PhD dissertations, follows the annotation section.

Most of the publications that have been annotated are regional or project specific case studies. A number of these case studies focus on India. The extent of the academic and activist response in India to dams and resettlement reflects the millions of people that have been resettled, a well developed NGO sector that has responded to resettlement and a vast social science literature. Many of the annotations also take the form of conference proceedings, which suggests the dynamic nature and immediate policy relevance of this field of study.

**AKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I want to extend my gratitude to Michael Horowitz, Patrick McCully, Tony Oliver-Smith and Ted Scudder for their suggestions and reflections on this project. The staff at the International Rivers Network was very generous with their time and library resources. I also want to thank Michael Watts for his encouragement and important input into the structure of this report. This research was funded by the Environmental Politics Working Group at the University of California, Berkeley.
REFERENCES CITED


BIBLIOGRAPHIC THEMES

HISTORY OF DAM BUILDING

These publications describe the height of the dam building era in the U.S. and Europe and the dam industry’s shift in interest to the developing world. McCully focuses on the American case and the role of government agencies like the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. He also provides historical profiles of the largest dam building firms. The Usher publication describes dam development in Nordic countries and the role of Nordic bilateral agencies in funding international projects. Pearce’s book documents the overall hydro debate and a wide range of ancient and modern irrigation and dam projects.


THE PROBLEMS: TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

These publications describe technical issues related to dam and reservoir construction, including sedimentation, salinization, water borne diseases and safety issues. This literature also focuses on the problems associated with human resettlement. The authors discuss the differences between involuntary and voluntary resettlement and how communities can become further impoverished through displacement. These authors also examine the role of academic research in investigating resettlement, dam construction and informing policy debates. James Scott’s book provides an overview of how and why governments initiate massive development schemes and why these often result in failure.


These publications focus on the role of local, national and international nongovernmental organizations in leading the charge against large dam construction. This work predominantly discusses indigenous peoples resistance to World Bank financed projects. These authors describe the emergence of NGO movements and compare leadership characteristics. They ask why some movements are stronger than others, and identify some of these weaknesses. These publications also describe international alliances, especially the lobbying efforts of European and North American NGOs against international financial institutions. The Fox and Brown book evaluates the Bank’s response to NGO/grassroots environmental critiques and to what extent these advocacy campaigns have genuinely represented project affected peoples. Three particular movements are highlighted in this section: Narmada, Three Gorges and Altamira resistance.


**INSTITUTIONAL LITERATURE REGARDING RESETTLEMENT AND INVOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT**

These publications focus on the role of the World Bank in financing dam construction. The authors address reformed Bank policies and their efficacy in protecting livelihoods and the environment. Many of these reports have been written by Bank staff and reflect on the Bank's fifty years of development experience. An important publication included in this set is the independent Morse Commission report condemning the Bank's involvement with the Narmada Valley Project. The Commission’s report on the Sardar Sarovar Project left an indelible print on the Bank and led to some crucial reforms in the public's access to Bank information and the public’s ability to bring disputed cases to the Bank for review. The IUCN-World Bank publication looks at the future of dam building and discusses the levels of cooperation needed between NGOs and government agencies to proceed with international water and energy projects.


**ALTERNATIVES TO LARGE DAMS AND RESETTLEMENT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONSTRUCTION**

Many of these publications address alternative infrastructure designs that provide energy, irrigation and flood control, while mitigating environmental impacts and avoiding resettlement. The IUCN-World Bank publication describes institutional frameworks that encourage public participation in water project design, implementation and management. The Cernea article addresses the need for conceptual models that can inform community reconstruction after displacement.


**CASE STUDIES**

A wide range of case studies about dam development and resettlement are included in this section, including projects in North America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia and Africa. These case studies describe classic projects from the 1960s, like construction of the Kariba and High Aswan dams, as well as projects currently under construction like the Mekong, Three Gorges and Narmada. Other articles look at the effects of resettlement and dam development on downstream users and host populations. This section also includes documentation of disastrous resettlement programs, like the Volta and Kedung Ombo, and some that are considered guardedly successful, like the Kainji case. An important longitudinal case study in this section is Colson and Scudder’s work with the Gwembe Tonga. In the Gwembe case, researchers followed resettled populations for over two generations to assess the impacts of development-induced displacement from the Kariba dam.


**CITIZEN AND AGENCY RESOURCE GUIDES**

These two publications are reference guides for organizing research and activism. The Davies publication is a bibliographic guide, whereas the Echeverria et al. book describes American legal statutes about river development and provides legal templates for submitting injunctions and developing court cases.


Farmers not only lacked an audible voice, they also lacked the technical language to make their needs understood. The needs and concerns of downstream users were remote conceptually to the technicians at the dam. The practices of indigenous flood irrigation, and the needs of these practices for floodwater, lay outside of the experience of the engineers … [p. 1412]

This article reviews water management issues surrounding the Bakolori dam on the Sokoto River in Nigeria. Adams describes how farmers and dam engineers tried to address the adverse impacts on downstream agriculture by increasing water availability through controlled releases from the reservoir. Adams discusses how controlled releases executed between 1978-1981 failed to address farmer needs.

Adams examines the Bakolori project in detail and provides insights into the technical difficulties of defining downstream users needs and the communication constraints between downstream users and dam managers. Adams also analyzes the negotiations and responses of various agencies to the requests of downstream users, and asks why the requests for water by Sokoto City were deemed more important. He concludes that controlled releases are important technical interventions for integrated river basin planning in Africa, but they require better institutional arrangements and information networks between engineers and downstream communities.


The numbers of people affected by reservoirs in Africa is remarkable in contrast to the care taken in developed countries like the UK to avoid flooding houses. The reason for care is not philanthropy so much as cost. [p. 132]

Adams is a Lecturer in Geography at Cambridge University. This book evaluates the development of water resources in sub-Saharan Africa. In this volume, Adams provides basic information about rainfall and riparian systems in Africa. In this context, he discusses the Kariba, Manantali, Kainji and Bakolori dams.

Adams is particularly interested in discussing the traditional methods and adaptations of pastoralism and agriculture to drought and rainfall variability. He espouses the application of indigenous technical knowledge to the design and management of water projects. Chapter Five discusses river basin planning, floodbasin farming and fishing. Other chapters discuss dam construction, large-scale irrigation schemes and problems associated with population resettlement.

Although the government plans to drastically alter the lives of so many people with the Sardar Sarovar Project, it has not bothered to consult or even inform them about their fate. In Anjanvara, the first information about the dam came from the Central Water Commission surveyors who came to place stone markers to indicate the reservoir level. [p. 201]

Amita Baviskar documents the lives of adavasi (tribal) communities struggling against the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project in the Narmada Valley in India. Through an intimate and reflective narrative, she describes her nine-month research experience living among the Bhilali tribe in Anjanvara village in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Using an ecological Marxist framework of understanding, Baviskar’s ethnographic research examines the adavasi experience with marginalization and resistance.

The author describes how local development work, like the installation of water pumps, was entirely suspended once communities were selected for resettlement. She documents how the adavasis came to learn that they would be resettled and how they organized their resistance. Three chapters in the book focus on how adavasi notions of community, economy and environmental ideology are transformed through political collective action. Later chapters describe the politics of the wider Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement) movement, and the entry of adavasi communities into this larger movement.


The authors of this volume bring the perspectives of four different disciplines—economics, sociology, anthropology and political science—yet all converge in making the same basic case: they argue for an organic synergy and mutual reinforcement between economic and social knowledge in resettlement work. Bringing the tools of economics to complement the sociological and technical analyses of resettlement processes is essential not only for explaining their anatomy better, but also for guiding decision-making and investments. [p. 2—emphasis in original]

This 1999 edited volume grew out of the discussions of the “Resettlement Issues Group” in the World Bank Social Development Department. The authors call on researchers to overcome an “insular social perspective” on resettlement and build an alliance between economic and social research about resettlement. This book examines economic tools for planning resettlement research and searches for ways to refine them.

In the introductory chapter, Cernea argues that development economics has paid too little attention to the financial underpinnings of resettlement by failing to internalize the costs of human displacement. Cernea also writes that the goal should be to encourage “inclusive development” so that resettlers share in the gains of development “not just the pains” (p. 4). In the second chapter David Pearce addresses methodological issues in economic analyses. A chapter by María Clara Mejía discusses urban resettlement, focusing on compensation and credits for resettlers. Other chapters in
this volume address the procedural issues related to economic planning, including valuation methods, cost identification, resource allocation and benefit distribution.


Impoverishment of displaced people is often the central risk in development-caused involuntary population resettlement. To counter this risk, protecting and reconstructing displaced people’s livelihoods is the central requirement for equitable resettlement programs. [p. 1569]

In this article, Cernea writes that there is a de facto lack of social justice and equity in resettlement programs. Cernea argues that every development program that entails displacement must include a social equity compass to counteract impoverishment and avoid resettlement without rehabilitation.

Based on empirical evidence from decades of research, Cernea proposes a conceptual tool for guiding resettlement planning called the “Risks and Reconstruction model.” Cernea writes that this model can serve as a diagnostic tool, with a predictive function and a problem resolution mode, for guiding rehabilitation. The model anticipates the risks of resettlement and aims to explain some of the behavioral responses of resettlers.

Cernea’s model is based on the following eight general sub-processes that result in the rapid onset of impoverishment: landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, increased morbidity and mortality, food insecurity, marginalization, loss of access to common property and community disarticulation. Built into the model is an assumption that resettlement results in the loss of natural, physical, human and social capital. Cernea argues that appropriate rehabilitation programs should restore all of these assets. Many resettlement scholars have applied Cernea’s model to their research analyses.


A “sliding process” whereby established inhabitants become oustees and soon refugees, happened, for instance, to many people displaced by the Srisailam dam in India, to people displaced by the Danjiangkou dam in China, or to many of the oustees from the Hirakud multipurpose dam project in Orissa, India…The purpose of resettlement policies must be to prevent absolutely the sliding of development-displaced people (oustees) into a refugee-like condition. [p. 310]

In this article, Michael Cernea argues that resettlement and forced migration scholars need to integrate the study of post-war and disaster refugees with the study of populations displaced by development projects. Cernea discusses the commonalities and differences between these cases and how the integration of these fields can be beneficial.

In the first part of this article, Cernea discusses the different causes of displacement and consid-
ners the magnitude of dislocation from each cause. He also asserts that different forms of assistance are made available to refugees and oustees. Cernea cites that the key difference between these groups is that the state has an obligation to compensate oustees if they were displaced by “state-pursued change.” Cernea then argues that there are policy principles that development programs must follow to reduce forced migrations.

Cernea argues that by integrating the fields of refugee and displacement studies, scholars can more forcefully influence government leaders. He also believes that through this process more robust social theories, based on a wider range of empirical cases, can be developed to help communities reconstruct.


Despite (the) gradual accumulation of research findings, most government programs causing displacement have long remained oblivious to the new knowledge... With hindsight, we should question whether at least part of the problem was not with the social scientists themselves or with the kind of “platter” on which they offered the knowledge to practitioners. There were no systematic attempts by social anthropologists to convert the resettlement research findings into guidelines and pragmatic prescriptions which could have been used by willing decision-makers and practitioners. [p. 19]

Michael Cernea and Scott Guggenheim are both World Bank social scientists. This volume is a worldwide summary of different approaches to resettlement. Cernea and Guggenheim assess the applied anthropological literature on resettlement, updating Oliver-Smith and Hansen’s 1982 book Involuntary Migration and Resettlement. The papers presented in this book are predominantly written by World Bank staff and are organized into three categories: policies for resettlement, descriptions of resettlement practices, and theoretical concerns in resettlement research.

In the introductory chapter, Cernea and Guggenheim distinguish between the characteristics of involuntary and voluntary resettlement projects. The following chapters describe cases from nine countries, including India, Ghana, Finland, Brazil and Mexico. These case studies are based on fieldwork among displaced peoples and resettled communities. William Partridge’s chapter discusses a “successful” involuntary resettlement program at the Arenal hydroelectric project in Costa Rica. The final chapter by Cernea and Guggenheim compares refugees from wars and natural disasters with those forced to flee by development-induced dislocation.


Forced population displacement caused by dam construction is the most serious counter-developmen-ental social consequence of water resource development. [p. 1]

This report specifically focuses on population displacement related to water development
programs. Cernea discusses four frameworks for developing mitigating measures to resettlement: policy, legal, planning and organizational. Cernea endorses production-based strategies for resettlement, where self-sufficiency and the standard of living of resettlers is improved after resettlement. Cernea also expresses concern that planning approaches avoid “second generation” negative environmental effects, such as increased land density and lower natural resource availability at host sites. Cernea argues that different agencies should be responsible for dam construction and resettlement, and that NGOs should be used as monitoring agencies.


A central dilemma of the Volta resettlement program, as with other centrally-organized resettlement operations, is the effect of official action on settler attitudes. Once government has touched people, they are never quite the same again. [p. 254]

This 1970 volume, produced by the FAO Volta Lake Research Project, describes the construction of Volta Lake, once the largest man-made lakes in the world. The collected papers in this volume are proceedings from “The Volta Resettlement Symposium,” held at Kumasi, Ghana, in March 1965.

The introductory and concluding chapters were written after the symposium by Robert Chambers based on his research from 1965-1968. In these chapters, he describes how and why resettlement towns were beset with difficulties. The introductory chapter gives background on the Volta project. The subsequent chapters discuss the organization of the resettlement program and compensation measures. Chambers describes how social surveys were conducted and how resettlement sites were selected. The volume discusses in intricate detail different designs for new resettler homes, including photographs and sketches. The authors also address engineering problems, including the construction of new roads and land clearing efforts. The chapter by Martha Dodoo describes the administrative and social problems experienced by the first resettlers at New Mpamu.

This book is a classic in the resettlement field and is a noteworthy case study to draw lessons about compensation and resettlement. The authors write in exceptional detail, demonstrating the commitment and energy invested by project planners in resettlement efforts.


Each neighborhood passed a crucial stage in the adjustment process when it learned that its old area had been inundated. It was only after the rains of 1962-63 that Lake Kariba finally reached its full extent. Musulamba villagers, who had been bitter critics of resettlement and their forced move to Lusitu until this point, then began to compare their fate with that of their fellows left behind… [p. 59]

While primarily drawing from field research in collaboration with Thayer Scudder from 1958-1968, this book is a product of close to twenty years of study of the Gwembe Tonga. This classic text introduced the idea of addressing the social costs of resettlement from technological development.
Colson and Scudder’s work with the Gwembe is among the very few longitudinal studies of resettlement and reconstruction.

Colson and Scudder focus on the construction of the Kariba Dam on the Zambezi River. Their study was a two part project examining groups before they were resettled and after. While 200 communities were resettled, Colson and Scudder study a few villages intensively. Their detailed ethnographies describe rituals and changes in family structure and material gains and losses from resettlement. Also see the annotation for the 1991 Scudder article “Development-Induced Resettlement and Refugee Studies: 37 Years of Change and Continuity among Zambia’s Gwembe Tonga.”


One of the most successful examples of alliances between varied sectors concerned with development plans is that formulated in reaction to the Xingu dams. The Kayapo have initiated an alliance of scientists, Indians, Amazonian Brazilians, international non-governmental organizations and the concerns of multilateral lending institutions. Their case has been a landmark in the progress of the struggle for human and environmental considerations in Brazilian development policy. [p. 110]

This book is a first person account of three months of fieldwork studying the concerns and methods of resistance of two different indigenous communities protesting the construction of two different hydro facilities in the Brazilian Amazon. The author’s two field sites were the Balbina dam in the Manaus region and the proposed Xingu Complex on the Para River in the Altamira region. This volume presents many maps, illustrations and charts depicting these two projects.

Cummings describes Waimiri-Atroari resistance to the Balbina project and the Kayapo struggle against the Xingu Complex. She also characterizes the state’s interaction with these two social movements. The author reviews the soil and ecological characteristics of the Amazon, demonstrating why this area experiences high sedimentation rates for dams. She also describes Brazil’s 2020 Plan, which outlined the construction of 31 hydel dams. Cummings also discusses the role of Electrobras, the national power company, in implementing Brazil’s hydro plans. The final chapter of the book describes energy alternatives for Brazil that do not require community resettlement.


This guide was produced by the Refugee Studies Program at Oxford University to strengthen contacts and information sharing between practitioners and researchers. This reference guide focuses on the generation of refugee situations and the provision of relief and rehabilitation. Davies lists major bibliographic citations, doctoral dissertations, research centers, journals, foundations, and international organizational contacts. The monograph section lists important academic literature on involuntary migration. Because this publication is a decade old, it does not include any electronic references.
A national policy would ensure a minimum standard of living for the displaced people and protect them from avoidable impoverishment. [p. 1461]

This special issue contains fifteen articles, including work by Veena Das, Smitu Kothari, Michael Cernea, Sangeeta Goyal, Roli Asthana and Enakshi Thukral. Das' paper discusses three sets of issues in the context of resettlement research. She asks: “In what manner has the disciplinary orientation of anthropology privileged certain questions?; What is the relevance of research to formation of social policy?; and How may ethical issues pertaining to public policy by addressed by researchers in the field?” (p. 1509). Both Das and Thukral argue that the predominant focus of resettlement research on household level data obscures the skewed impact felt by women. Thukral argues that resettlement programs that do not recognize women as head of households reinforce women's lack of access to common property resources. Goyal's piece discusses the need for a national policy on resettlement and rehabilitation. She argues that without a national policy, resettlement programs will continue to be ad hoc, passed by specific states or projects, and remain unaccountable to the public. She argues that a binding legal authority needs to be created to deal with resettlement.


During the period 1972 to 1985 the environmental approach of the Bank has evolved and improved significantly. At its best the approach is comprehensive and effective, but consistency in its application is lacking. Until recently a high percentage of dams still received little recorded environmental consideration and there has been considerable regional variation. [p. 11]

This report sums up the key issues and conclusions of a World Bank 1987 seminar entitled “Dams and the Environment: Considerations in Bank Projects.” The seminar was attended by 50 Bank specialists and outside experts. The discussion focused on two issues: the environmental effects associated with dams and the economic analysis of these effects.

The report discusses environmental problems and their consequences, summarizes the Bank's experience with dam construction, and reviews Bank policies. The second chapter looks at the project cycle and environmental procedures. The third chapter reviews environmental factors related to impoundment, inundated vegetation, seismicity, erosion and sedimentation. Other chapters review selected case studies, including the Tarbela Dam (Pakistan), Itaipu Dam (Brazil and Paraguay) and the Nam Chaon Dam (Thailand).


Nothing we saw in Madhya Pradesh led us to believe that the implementation of the resettlement process in the submergence villages was being carried out in the spirit of the various undertakings by which it is supposed to be guided. Activism in the region after 1988 may well
have become a severe obstacle. Yet this activism is itself a measure of the failure of implementation, in particular a failure of consultation with the oustees themselves. [p. 257]

The papers in this collection are from the “Narmada Forum” held in 1993 at the Center for Development Economics and the Institute of Economic Growth in New Delhi. While the authors raise questions about economic returns, environmental impact, and technological viability, this collection specifically addresses detailed investigations of displacement and resettlement issues within the Narmada Valley.

This book discusses the experiences and reactions of the first oustees. The case studies in this volume, based on fieldwork and detailed household surveys, address general problems with development-induced displacement in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The authors also discuss NGO anti-dam movement strategies in the Narmada Valley. Anil Patel’s paper focuses on the struggles by tribal communities for improved resettlement policies. The papers highlight the need for a national policy on resettlement, improved compensation and voluntary rather than forced resettlement.


With every successful conservationist intervention in a dam relicensing, a precedent for subsequent relicensings could be set…the call for controlling hydropower is no more than a modest reassertion of the public’s right to balanced management of the public’s water. [p. 12]

This book, written by a group of attorneys from the American Rivers organization, serves as a resource guide for strategic lobbying against hydropower development. The authors discuss the environmental laws that enable hydro development and provide a basic explanation of how dams impact riparian ecosystems.

The authors focus on the role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in licensing dams in the United States. Since the 1920s, as an independent federal agency, FERC has regulated all non-federal dams. Non-federal dam projects, including those operated by utilities, cities and towns, make up 90 percent of existing hydro projects in the USA (p. 12). The book describes the scope of FERC’s jurisdiction, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), relicensing standards, environmental impact statements, statutes for river protection and templates for drawing up legal motions.

This book documents the progress American hydro activists have achieved. The authors demonstrate that through citizen legal advocacy it has become very difficult to build new dams in America. Furthermore, relicensing opportunities are paving the way for dam removals throughout the country.

Lack of participation of affected communities and host populations in resettlement design and management is a major cause of implementation problems, especially when the institutions charged with executing resettlement program are themselves weak. [p. 162]

This volume is a comprehensive analysis of all development projects financed by the World Bank between 1986 and 1993 in all lending sectors that involved involuntary resettlement. The study was conducted by the Environment Department and examines 192 projects. The objectives of the study were to assess the scale of involuntary resettlement and determine regional and sectoral trends, analyze ongoing projects for their outcomes and consistency with stated policy, and identify recurrent problems with programs. The study finds that development-induced displacement affects 10 million people each year from dam construction, urban and transportation projects.

The authors claim that while involuntary resettlement is a given necessity for industrialization, Borrower countries need to establish national policies around resettlement to mitigate adverse human impacts. The report finds that while the Bank has improved its resettlement record substantially over previous decades, Task Managers need to utilize social specialists to a greater extent.

The review reveals the Bank's weaknesses in several areas. The report highlights the need to promote people's participation in preparing, planning and implementing resettlement; ensure Borrower commitment to resettlement policies; strengthen the Bank's institutional capacity by hiring additional social scientists; and work more closely with NGOs.


Model legislation is not merely necessary to provide entitlements to the impoverished among the displaced. It is necessary to restore democratic accountability in the practice of development. [p. 170]

The papers in this book are from the “Development, Displacement and Rehabilitation” workshop held in New Delhi in April 1988. This event brought together activists, scholars and government officials to reflect on Indian experiences with displacement issues. The papers call for a new national policy for public participation in project planning and rehabilitation from displacement. The authors also claim that a new national ministry needs to be established to administer this new policy. The papers in this volume focus on the need for timely information dissemination to potential resettlers about project plans and for adequate compensation. This collection of articles is useful in drawing attention to a national level policy debate about changes in government planning on resettlement and development.

The life of the Nubian people, as described in the following pages, no longer exists. The Egyptian government has resettled the Nubians in new communities and on new lands north of the city of Aswan, near Kom Ombo. Waters of the Nile, backed up by the High Dam at Aswan, have covered the houses and flooded the area where these people lived hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. [p. 123]

This volume chronicles the building of the High Aswan dam and its impact on Nubian resettled communities. The book is written in three parts. Part I is Elizabeth Fernea’s personal account of fieldwork in Nubia written in the 1960s. She describes living among the Nubians with her two children and anthropologist husband Robert Fernea. She focuses on the role of women and children in the Nubian villages. The second part of the book is a rendition of Robert Fernea’s “salvage” anthropology project, where he ethnographically studied Nubian society and culture before the process of resettlement began. The final part of the book, written by Robert Fernea and Aleya Rouchdy, is based on recent visits back to the resettlement areas. In this final section, they comment on the cultural changes and new ethnic identities experienced by the resettlers.

The authors contend that while many aspects of traditional Nubian culture have been lost since the construction of the dam, resettler communities have a new sense of ethnic self-awareness that has resulted from resettlement. Before resettlement, villages were sparsely populated and isolated from one another. The resettlement process created a new densely populated community, which integrated Nubians into mainstream Egyptian society. The authors also suggest that with presently shared political and economic interests, Nubians have greater access to jobs and educational opportunities.

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As a vivid illustration of a major paradigm shift in process, the Narmada controversy represents a working out, in a specific time and place, of the nature of sustainable development and social justice in an ongoing process that shapes international consciousness and affects local, national and transnational communities. [p. 40]

This immense volume, almost 500 pages in length, comprises a collection of papers from a 1992 conference at Columbia University (New York) addressing issues of sustainable development in the Narmada River Valley. This book presents detailed perspectives about the dilemmas faced by national development planners. Fisher writes that his intention was to create a case study useful for classroom exercises. Contributors to this volume include representatives of local communities in India, governmental officials and World Bank staff responsible for monitoring the original financing, chairs of the Independent Review, and international environmental activists. While this book may be the most comprehensive volume on the Narmada case, it does not include the events that have ensued since 1994.

The introductory chapter provides a summary of Sardar Sarovar Projects, including the relevant
actors, resistors and transnational nongovernmental linkages. The seventeen chapters that follow present a wide range of views about the central controversies in the Narmada project, including resettlement, rehabilitation and technical design. Smitu Kothari’s chapter details his interview with Medha Patkar, a key activist with the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement).


The key to the dam question lies in the difficult relationship between Slovak nationalism and the Czech and Hungarians. Gabcikovo has become a symbol of Slovak national independence and pride, to be defended equally against Prague and Budapest. One might argue that if the relationships between Bratislava and Budapest and between Bratislava and Prague had been better, then the dam project could have been canceled in 1990 as both Prague and Budapest actually wanted. [p. 5]

The author is a Professor at the Institute of European Studies of Brussels and is Administrator in the General Secretariat of the Commission of the European Communities. This book describes the conflict between Hungary and Slovakia over the Nagymaros-Gabcikovo dam on the Danube River. This project was promoted by the Hungarian and Czechoslovakian communist regimes and by the Austrian banking and energy sectors. The dam was meant to control the Danube, extend its navigability and prevent periodic catastrophic flooding.

This book is based on primary research and discusses the perspectives of key players, including the role of international mediation and implications for regional security. Fitzmaurice writes that for the opponents of the project, the European Greens, it symbolized everything corrupt about communist politics. He also discusses how the fall of communism impacted this project.


In contrast to the Bank’s usual denial of its noncompliance with other reform policies, its own resettlement specialists have documented how operational staff and governments systematically ignored the policy’s key provisions. Between 1986 and 1993, 15 percent of total lending went to projects that would eventually displace at least two and half million people by official count. [p. 27]

This edited volume analyzes the origins of World Bank policy reforms and conflicts over how these reforms would be followed in practice. Jonathan Fox is an Associate Professor of Social Sciences at UC Santa Cruz. His collaborator, David Brown, is the President of the Institute for Development Research. The authors ask two analytical questions in this study: how has the Bank responded to NGO/grassroots environmental critique and to what extent have these advocacy campaigns, led by NGOs, represented project affected peoples. The case studies in this volume are limited to the World Bank, excluding other multilateral financial institutions.

The book’s thirteen chapters are organized into four parts. Part I addresses the different kinds of NGO and grassroots advocacy coalitions that have challenged the World Bank. Part II looks at four
case studies of conflictive project campaigns, including Kedung Ombo (Indonesia), Mt. Apo (Philippines), and Planofloro (Brazil). The third part of the book addresses bankwide policy reforms regarding indigenous peoples, involuntary resettlement, water resources, information disclosure and the Inspection Panel.

In the final section, the editors describe institutional mechanisms for change within the Bank. The editors conclude that while the impact of Bank reforms have been limited, the creation of the Inspection Panel has given the public important leverage in holding the Bank accountable for its environmental and social impacts. The authors also suggest that sustainable development project funding requires committed reform minded staff at the Bank, pro-accountability elements within Borrower governments and participation from local social organizations starting with the design process.


This book is concerned solely with micro-hydro, or small-scale hydro, which is one of the most environmentally benign energy conversion options available, because unlike large-scale hydro-power, it does not attempt to interfere significantly with river flows. [p. 1]

This book, sponsored by the Swedish Development Authority (SIDA), was written by application specialists from the Stockholm Environmental Institute and the Intermediate Technology engineering firm. This volume is a reference guide for designing and implementing micro hydro-power. In an even-handed and technical manner, the authors discuss general principles about head, power, and the advantages and disadvantages of micro-hydro. They focus on operations with a maximum capacity of 300 kilowatts. They cover pre-feasibility tests, estimating average daily flows of water, hydro site surveys, penstocks and turbines.

This book fills the void for integrated and accessible information on micro-hydro development. While the book does not discuss social issues and questions about participatory development, there is contact information for the authors to discuss such questions in detail.


Unpalatable as it must undoubtedly be to the dam-building industry, there is clear evidence that building large dams is not an appropriate means of feeding the world's hungry, or providing energy, or of reducing flood damage. For it to be so would be to accept as largely expendable the human and non-human population of the whole area affected by the dam simply in order to further the political and financial interest of a very small minority. [p. 345]

Goldsmith and Hilyard were among the first to systematically critique the politics of large dam building and resettlement. Their two volumes focus on the effects of water-logging, salinization and the mismanagement of large dams. Both volumes contain immense data about the destructive impact of large dams. The first volume also provides international examples of traditional methods of
irrigation. Volume 2 contains 14 case studies of large dam projects including examples from Senegal, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Egypt, and Bangladesh. This publication, and the subsequent work of both Goldsmith and Hilyard in *The Ecologist* magazine, gave impetus to a world-wide NGO movement challenging large dam development. Patrick McCully undertook to update Goldsmith and Hilyard's work with his 1996 publication *Silenced Rivers* (See McCully annotation).


Relocates with higher incomes and a better local standing not only have a better chance of influencing government policies relating to relocation and rehabilitation, but also have a wider range of resettlement options open to them, including self-relocation. [p. 280]

The editors of this volume are both anthropology faculty at the University of Florida, Gainesville. This volume includes thirteen case studies of resettlement, including work by Elizabeth Colson, Thayer Scudder, David Maybury-Lewis and Michael Horowitz. The book is divided into three sections categorized by the causal agents of migration: refugees from wars and other socio-political unrest, refugees from natural disasters, and oustees from planned development projects.

This volume is especially significant because eight cases involve longitudinal research where the authors have done one or more re-studies at project sites and have had continuous contact since the projects began. The authors address patterns of individual and group reactions to resettlement and similarities and differences between cases of involuntary and voluntary resettlement. Included in this volume is the often cited paper by Thayer Scudder and Elizabeth Colson “From Welfare to Development: A Conceptual Framework for Analysis of Dislocated People.” In this paper, Scudder and Colson lay out their resettlement model based on stages of community mobility and periods of psychological stress.


The numbers of people suffering collateral damage downstream from the Manantali dam vastly exceeds the 10,000 Malinke forced to relocate from the reservoir region, but this was anticipated in not a single of the literally hundreds of studies, project design documents, and appraisal reports dealing with Senegal River Basin development. [p. 172]

Michael Horowitz is an anthropology professor at SUNY-Binghamton and co-director of the Institute for Development Anthropology. This paper highlights how development agencies and scholars often neglect to understand the impacts of dam development on downstream users. Horowitz focuses on compensation for villagers living downstream of irrigation dams in the Senegal River Valley. He supports the establishment of controlled water releases from dams to maintain downstream ecosystems.

Sustained concern with gender and forced migration studies is in its infancy, and awareness of the evolution of the much more mature development discourse may therefore guide us and help us avoid costly sidetracks and pitfalls. [p. 2]

This volume presents a wide range of interdisciplinary issues and gendered case studies about the culture of aid and the history of forced resettlement. The authors are concerned with the interplay of gender issues, human rights and refugee determination in law and practice. The authors also delineate how and why women are often more vulnerable to forced resettlement than men. They also argue that the issues raised by scholars who study women and forced migration are seldom reflected in bureaucratic structures and relief agency programs.

The eighteen chapters in this book discuss case studies from Kenya, Tanzania, Eritrea, Afghanistan and post-Soviet Russia. Doreen Indra’s introductory chapter theoretically links gender and forced migration scholarship to gender and development studies and the evolution of feminist anthropology. Elizabeth Colson’s chapter entitled “Gendering those Uprooted by Development” reflects on her research experience with the Gwembe Tonga. Chapter Three is based on Indra’s interview with Barbara Harell-Bond, one of the founders of the Refugee Studies Program at Oxford University.


Hydropower is increasingly being used as a pretext to resettle ethnic minorities from upland areas to lowland areas, in keeping with the government’s policy of resettling shifting cultivators by the year 2000. Anticipatory resettlement is occurring in many watersheds and inundation zones, long before it is certain that a dam will be built. [p. 63]

This 1999 report is based on recent visits by International Rivers Network researchers to various proposed dam sites at the request of the Lao government. This book provides a comprehensive analysis of hydro-power development in Laos based on fieldwork and interviews. The six case studies of hydro projects presented in this volume are at different stages of implementation. The authors highlight issues of forced resettlement, inadequate compensation, uncontrolled logging and poorly researched environmental impact statements. The report focuses on the following projects: the Nam Theun-Hinboun, Nam Leuk, Nam Theun 2, Houay Ho, Xe Pian-Xe Namnoi and Xe Kaman 1.


“The challenge before all participants today and tomorrow is to invent a plan of action that will trigger real change…New ways of cooperating must replace the current gridlock of distrust and recrimination…If ways are not found out of the current logjam, dams will continue to be built,
but they will be built at a slower rate with great pain and at a higher human and environmental cost than necessary.—Robert Picciotto, Director General, World Bank [p. 133]

This publication records proceedings from a workshop held in 1997 in Gland, Switzerland organized by the IUCN and the World Bank. The workshop brought together representatives from government, the private sector, international financial institutions and NGOs to tackle the dam debate head-on and to propose an independent commission to review dams and suggest new standards, criteria and guidelines to inform future decision-making. As a result of this meeting, the World Commission on Dams was established in 1998 with a Secretariat based in Cape Town, South Africa (See organizational contacts).

The first part of the proceeding summarizes the workshop discussions. Part II includes overview papers commissioned for the workshop by Engelbertus Oud and Terence Muir, Thayer Scudder, Robert Goodland, and Anthony Churchill. These papers discuss dam engineering and economics, stakeholder issues, environmental sustainability and the future of large dam development.

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This report identifies the challenges and opportunities for better energy sector planning offered by the end of the big dam era…When carefully planned and implemented, smaller-scale dams can be less harmful to the environment and surrounding communities, less expensive and more suitable for rural electrification. [p. 5]

Juliette Majot is the Deputy Director of the International Rivers Network. This volume addresses alternatives to large-scale hydro-power. The authors discuss issues related to increasing equitable access to electricity, developing electricity sources that are environmentally friendly and eliminating forced relocation. The chapters in this book report on case studies from Nepal, Peru, China, Sri Lanka, and Norway. These case studies focus on financing small-scale energy projects, regulatory control and planning, and implementation issues from local, regional and national perspectives.

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The issue is not how national planners and social scientists can come together to plan, for instance, the most humane compulsory relocation programme, but how both groups can develop the deep and inner conviction that people themselves have a right to determine along what lines they will pursue their own development. [p. 166]

This volume, containing studies of both voluntary and involuntary resettlement, arose from a 1990 World Bank Consultants seminar on “Involuntary Resettlement in Bank Financed Projects in Asia.” The papers in this volume focus on experiences with resettlement in India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The authors discuss urban projects, health care concerns for oustees, compensation issues, and land
settlements. Controversial projects like the Kedung Ombo dam in Indonesia and the Narmada dam project in India are also discussed. H. M. Mathur, the editor of this volume, is an anthropologist and public administrator in India.


It is, however, far too early to write the epitaph of the large dam. Although the rate of building has declined sharply from the nearly 1,000 large dams which came into operation every year from the 1950s to the mid-1970s, there are still some 260 large dams being completed every year during the 1990s...If economic and political circumstances change and become more propitious for dam building, the industry is ready with schemes that would make Stalin's “Great Plan for the Transformation of Nature look environmentally sensitive. [p. 22]

Patrick McCully is Campaigns Director for the International Rivers Network. This book is the most comprehensive study of the political economy of large dams since Goldsmith and Hilyard's 1986 classic *The Social and Economic Effects of Large Dams*. McCully provides a thorough history of the dam building era, beginning with American experiences and early anti-dam movements against the Hoover, Glen Canyon and proposed Grand Canyon dams. Subsequently, he chronicles World Bank dam projects in developing countries.

McCully also writes about transnational movements against large dams, focusing on the Kayapo protest of the Xingu project in Brazil and protests led by the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement) in India. The book analyzes how U.S. and European NGOs have been at the forefront of anti-dam lobbying, including the work of the Environmental Defense Fund, Friends of the Earth and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

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Neither Bourassa nor his government had consulted any of the approximately 5,000 Crees and 3,500 Inuit living in Northern Québec in the early 1970s about the James Bay project before launching it, or even informed them. “We must conquer the North” Bourassa had written, and conquerors are not courteous. [p. 42]

This book describes why and how Hydro-Québec, a quasi-state utility, built hydroprojects in the James Bay region of northern Canada. McCutcheon focuses on the environmental and social consequences of building the Great Whale and La Grande II projects and discusses the resettlement of Cree communities. Chapters in this book describe the geologic history of the James Bay, sociological descriptions of communities living along the La Grande River, and a history of the Hudson Bay Company. The Québécois separatist movement is of central importance to the politics of hydro development in James Bay. McCutcheon also describes how the James Bay Committee organized environmental protests against these projects. Because this book was written in 1991, McCutcheon does not discuss the events in 1994/1995 that led to the cancellation of this project or recent discussions about resurrecting it.
...Whilst it is right to focus on the more spectacular, large-scale population-displacing projects one must not lose sight of the thousands of smaller projects which collectively account for even more total displacement. [p. 3]

The papers in this volume were presented at the first international conference on development-induced displacement organized by the Refugee Studies Program in January 1995. McDowell is an anthropologist and researcher with the Refugee Studies Program at Oxford University. This volume provides a thorough description of the history of resettlement studies and important areas for future research. This book is also tightly edited with chapters building on and referencing one another.

This volume focuses on initiatives that have caused development-induced impoverishment and resistance to resettlement. The introductory chapter by McDowell focuses on the conservative estimates proffered by international agencies on forced migration and the lack of official recognition that development-induced resettlement is a significant problem. This book includes detailed case studies of projects in India, Brazil, Mexico, and the Philippines. The authors focus not just on the fates of resettlers, but also on how host populations are affected.

Many chapters in this book focus on water projects. Thayer Scudder’s chapter discusses river basin development and compares the Cree case in the James Bay with the Southern Okavango Integrated Water Project in Botswana. The paper by Anthony Oliver-Smith discusses dams projects and resettlement resistance. Michael Cernea’s chapter describes current priorities in resettlement research and includes a description of eight processes that impact the overall impoverishment process.

Our findings indicate that the Sardar Sarovar Projects are beset by profound difficulties. These difficulties have their genesis in the earliest phases of the Bank’s involvement in the Projects, for they turn on the absence of an adequate database and failure to consult with the people whose lives and environment were and continue to be affected. [p. 354]

After heightened controversy around the World Bank’s involvement with the Sardar Sarovar Project in the Narmada Valley, World Bank President Lewis Preston commissioned an independent review of the Project, which is referred to as the Morse Commission. The Commission was led by Bradford Morse, a former U.S. Congressman and former Administrator of the UNDP. The Commission was asked to assess the measures being taken to resettle and rehabilitate the populations to be displaced by the project. They were also asked to review whether India had complied with its own policies on resettlement and amelioration of environmental impact. The Commission visited 65 villages and met with all relevant government officials and World Bank staff.

This volume is the Commission’s official report to the Bank. The first section of the book
includes the official letter by the Commission to President Preston condemning the project. The
subsequent chapters discuss issues related to tribal resettlers, individual case descriptions of project
development in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh states, and water management issues.
The concluding chapter describes the Commission’s findings and recommendations. The
Commission is unwavering in its findings that both the Bank and the Government of India failed to
carry out adequate assessments of human impacts from the Sardar Sarovar Project and that local
peoples, especially tribal communities, were not properly consulted.

This epic study is probably the most important independent project review in Bank history and
essentially led to the Bank’s withdrawal from the Narmada project. The findings of the Morse
Commission were pivotal in the creation of the World Bank Inspection Panel, which renders
judgments on cases brought before them by project affected peoples (See the annotation for Fox and
Brown’s book *Struggling for Accountability* for more information about the Inspection Panel).

Oliver-Smith, A. 1995. “Resistance to Resettlement: The Formation and Evolution of

Resettlement projects either involve or evoke rapid and radical changes, in environment, in
productive activities, in social organization and interaction, in leadership and political struc-
ture, in world view and ideology. An increasing percentage of cases of resettlement have evoked
a response of active resistance. [p. 198]

Oliver-Smith examines the formation of social movements resisting resettlement projects. This
article focuses on relations between national and local government entities and the extension of a
state’s hegemony over territory and populations. The author is concerned with factors that explain
the intensity of resistance and when and how people assess what is at stake before they decide to
protest resettlement. He also addresses how resistance can lead to project improvements.

The author suggests that communities experience tension and conflict with resettlement
programs because they feel a loss of control and lack of understanding about the implementation
process. He argues that a group’s capacity to mobilize itself is based on the social composition of the
community and its ability to reach consensus. The author also relates the importance of local
leadership and linkages between movements and unions. He suggests that a movement’s success is
also based on their familiarity with state bureaucratic structures and the availability of allied
organizations to support the movement (national and international). Oliver-Smith concludes that
the decision to resist depends on the quality of the resettlement project and whether or not the
process empowers relocatees.

Operations Evaluation Department. 1998. *Recent Experience with Involuntary Resettlement:

The emphasis should shift from restoring income levels, which suggests stagnation at pre-dam
lifestyles, to improving income levels, which brings the displacees into the developmental pro-
cess along with the project’s primary beneficiaries. [emphasis in original; p. 7]
This study is a follow-up to the World Bank Operation and Evaluation Department’s 1993 study titled “Early Experience with Involuntary Resettlement.” The original study evaluated four dam sites. This study has twice as many field sites and revisits three cases from the original volume to assess their recent performance. This report also evaluates the relevance of outside critiques of the Bank’s resettlement program. The selected projects all relate to involuntary resettlement for the construction of large dams. This document is the overview volume—six companion volumes detail the resettlement policies of each case.

The overview volume briefly describes case studies selected from China, India, Togo, Brazil, Thailand and Indonesia. The principal findings of the report concern compensation issues, relocation, income restoration, the Bank’s performance and Borrower performance. The overview also discusses the participation of resettlers and NGOs, especially women and indigenous groups, in planning procedures.

The report concludes that Borrower governments have a difficult time ensuring economic rehabilitation for resettlers, especially in terms of compensating them for losses in cultivable land and ensuring productive employment. The authors also conclude that knowing the difficulties governments face in adequately resettling people, there is a need to minimize the absolute numbers of resettlers and choose alternative designs which limit resettlement.


Unlike voluntary migration or colonization by self-selected, risk-taking, and comparatively better-off families, compulsory resettlement affects entire communities. It evicts the literate and the illiterate, the weak and the strong, skilled and unskilled, the poor and wealthy, healthy and crippled alike…Whether they are capable of moving or not, they all must go. [p. 375]

William Partridge is an anthropologist at the World Bank. In this paper, Partridge discusses the World Bank’s policy on involuntary resettlement and the baseline information that is necessary for Bank staff to appraise project plans. Partridge also reviews the underfinancing of resettlement programs and the concomitant environmental impacts. He claims that most resettlement research focuses on landholders and ignores the fates of non-agricultural sector workers like artisans and vendors. He also suggests that the responsibilities for resettlement are often passed down to local authorities because the construction agencies contracted to build infrastructure projects have a very limited capacity to handle resettlement.

Partridge also reviews the applicability of the Scudder-Colson stress model. This model focuses on four stages of change experienced by resettled communities: recruitment, transition, potential development and incorporation. In his critique of the model, the author suggests that it is hard to generalize the experiences of resettlers because some groups adapt more quickly than others.

One day, every last drop of water which drains into the whole valley of the Nile…shall be equally and amicably divided among the river people, and the Nile itself, flowing for 3,000 miles through smiling countries, shall perish gloriously and never reach the sea. [quoting Winston Churchill, p. 77]

This book chronicles the worldwide water crisis and efforts to conserve and sustainably harvest water. Pearce describes a range of water management projects from early “hydraulic” civilizations through the colonial era. Pearce reviews Karl Wittfogel’s 1957 analysis, which argued that modern urban societies grew out of a need for large-scale collection and distribution of water (p. 13). Individual chapters in this book discuss the Louisiana water works, the Hoover dam, irrigation in India, and Dutch approaches to dams and levees. Pearce also provides examples of the archeology of water management in arid landscapes from Native American regions, Israel and the Sahara.


The judicial structure in China has never held decision makers responsible for the effects of forcible resettlement. Rather, the decision makers are above the law: they are rewarded by the Party if projects are successful, but are exempt from penalty when projects fail. Chinese people have suffered the consequences of numerous policy disasters. [p. 228]

The first edition of this book was published in Chinese in 1989. The original book was comprised of interviews and essays by Chinese scientists, journalists and academics opposed to the Three Gorges project. The English edition was published in 1994 after the project received official approval. The English version includes ten new chapters that chronicle continued resistance to the project.

Adams and Thibodeau write that the publication of *Yangtze, Yangtze!* was a “feat of breathtaking determination” (p. xxiii). The original book was written in just four months to influence the delegates of the National People’s Congress and was effective in postponing the dam for five years. The original book was banned in China and the main editor, Dai Qing, was jailed without trial in a maximum security prison for ten months.

The articles in this collection condemn the Chinese government for building the Three Gorges project. These reports come not only from activists but also from long-standing communist statesmen, elder officials and scientists. Their criticisms depict the closed decision-making process involved in Three Gorges and the dismissal of important technical and economic objections. In addition to a critical analysis of the dam’s technical and economic failures, the book offers up a range of alternatives for flood protection, navigation and electricity.
More than any other project, Sardar Sarovar came to embody the Bank’s inability to change. By 1989, the Narmada River Valley and all of India were aroused by years of broken promises by the Indian government and the World Bank, which had failed to prepare critical environmental plans and a resettlement program for the 90,000 rural poor the dam’s 120 mile long reservoir would displace. [p. 151]

Bruce Rich is senior attorney and director of the International Program at the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, DC. Rich was a pioneer in the international campaign to reveal and reform the World Bank’s environmental performance. This volume is an authoritative history of the World Bank’s institutional dynamics. Rich details the legacy of past World Bank presidents, especially Robert McNamara and Lewis Preston, and their crusades against poverty and underdevelopment.

The first two chapters of the book introduce the reader to the Bretton Woods institutions, describing their missions and the environmental ramifications of their projects. Chapter Six discusses the forced relocation programs associated with the Kedung Ombo dam project in Indonesia and the Narmada Valley project in India. Rich describes the role of the 1992 Rio Summit in catalyzing a global campaign to reform the multilateral development banks. Rich also details the role played by U.S.-based NGO activists lobbying the U.S. Congress in support of project affected peoples around the world.

In his final chapter, Rich suggests that reforming the Bank into an accountable public agency is almost impossible given the size of its bureaucracy and its relative monopoly in development finance. Rich argues that the Bank needs to be “reinvented” into a new institution that can learn from the progress made by other development agencies in circumventing large government bureaucracies and investing in smaller projects at the local level.

When all is considered the resettlement was remarkably successful and passed without severe stress. Problems have centered on access to water in the dry season as the lake recedes from the villages. In some instances farmers found no substitute for lost alluvial soils and wetlands, or had to do with coarse and less fertile soils for their upland grains. [p. 10]

Wolf Roder is Professor of Geography at the University of Cincinnati. This study assesses the social and ecological impacts of the Kainji reservoir in Nigeria. Roder’s study is based on information collected by the FAO’s Kainji Lake Research Project and studies by other social scientists over the last thirty years. This volume provides detailed information about the construction of the dam, the rapidly changing ecology of the lake and the implementation of resettlement plans. This book also has detailed maps of the lake region before and after construction of the dam. Roder also includes detailed drawings of family compounds before and after resettlement.
This book describes the recent political and economic history of this region of Nigeria. Other chapters document population characteristics, agriculture, and the impact of resettlement on women. In his chapter on the lake’s ecology, Roder concludes that environmental changes have been “relatively minor” since construction of the dam. He also writes that the “viable and successful agricultural economy of the pre-impoundment period has survived and prospered” (p. 61). Roder believes that the Kainji resettlement program was successful because it closely involved resettlers with housing decisions and aimed to return to people what they had lost through resettlement.

The volume is particularly noteworthy because it is one of the few studies that concludes that resettlement was successfully implemented in a dam project. The author’s conclusions also raise questions about whether or not resettlement is more easily implemented in prosperous communities rather than impoverished ones.


In India over the last ten years the fight against the Sardar Sarovar Dam has come to represent far more than the fight for one river…From being a fight over the fate of a river valley it began to raise doubts over an entire political system. What is at issue now is the very nature of our democracy. [p. 2]

This very provocative and highly controversial essay by Arundhati Roy, winner of the Booker prize for her fictional book God of Small Things, is a lay person’s guide to the Narmada Valley debate. Roy chronicles the most recent chapters in this social movement, including the summer of 1999 “Rally for the Valley.” Roy’s article has the government of India considering charges of contempt against her for her accusations of government malfeasance and brutality.

This well researched and passionately written piece draws attention to India’s history of dam building and resettlement, highlighting the sacrifices made by tribal communities. Roy recalls her visits to several resettlement sites and her experiences working alongside Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement) activists.


The consequence of failure at the Three Gorges Dam would rank as history’s worst man-made disaster. More than 75 million people live downstream on an intensively cultivated floodplain that provides much of China’s food. It is therefore reasonable to expect that a key design criterion for the project is ensuring that the risk of failure is kept extremely low. [p. 107]

This report was produced by Probe International in Canada. The book reviews the 13 volume 1989 feasibility study financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and carried out by the World Bank, that recommended building Three Gorges. Probe International assembled nine experts from around the world to review the feasibility study and write this report.

This book examines various political, technical and administrative bodies that influenced the
Three Gorges debate and looks at the process of designing and planning the project. The authors critique all aspects of the dam's construction, including resettlement, flood control, energy production and its economic development potential. The Probe experts also reflect on the potential disaster that would occur if the dam were to burst or fail, impacting 75 million people living downstream.


It is not so difficult, alas, to understand why so many human lives have been destroyed by mobilized violence between ethic groups, religious sects or linguistic communities. But it is harder to grasp why so many well-intentioned schemes to improve the human condition have gone so tragically awry. I aim, in what follows, to provide a convincing account of the logic behind the failure of some of the great utopian social engineering schemes of the twentieth century. [p. 4]

This book, by the author of development classics Weapons of the Weak and the Moral Economy of the Peasant, is a tour de force examining failed cases of large authoritarian development projects. Scott analyzes Stalin’s collectivization programs, the Great Leap Forward in China, villagization schemes in Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mozambique, as well as the planned cities of Brasilià and Chandigrah.

Scott describes four combinations of elements relevant to all of these failed projects: the administrative ordering of nature and society, a high modernist ideology related to technical and scientific progress, an authoritarian state using coercive authority, and a prostrate civil society unable to resist these plans. To explain why these programs were massive failures, Scott argues that planners excluded the role of local and practical knowledge and informal processes from their projects. He contrasts the nature of practical knowledge, termed “metis,” with more formal, deductive forms of knowing. Scott also depicts how the instruments of statecraft, including censuses, cadastral maps and identity cards, allow a society to become legible to its government. In his concluding chapter, Scott calls for the creation of more “metis” friendly institutions that are flexible, multi-purpose and de-centralized.


As illustrated by the Gwembe study, researchers know ahead of time that entire communities are soon to be removed against the will of the majority. Pre-removal “bench mark” studies are therefore possible, followed by restudies at fixed intervals. Especially appropriate would be a research methodology for studying comparatively and longitudinally a number of carefully selected cases of community displacement and/or rehabilitation. [p. 126]

Written in the first person, this essay critically reflects on over 35 years of resettlement research with Elizabeth Colson among the Gwembe Tonga in Zambia. Their research project was the first
major long-term study of people undergoing relocation from dam development. Scudder and
Colson's work has followed the second generation of resettlers, the majority of whom have lived in
resettlement areas for over 35 years.

Scudder describes a five stage model for assessing sponsored settlements, arguing that the entire
process takes a minimum of two generations. In the first stage, project planners inform people that
they will be removed. In the second stage, resettlers are drawn into site preparation and initial
infrastructure development. During the third stage, communities are physically removed from the
site and endure psychological and physical stresses. In the fourth stage, which Scudder argues is the
most under-researched stage, the resettled community experiences economic development and
community formation. During this stage, families begin growing more high-risk crops and educate
their children. Community members also experiment with small scale commerce and reintegrate
customs and rituals. In the final stage, the resettlement area is handed over to the local citizenry to
administer social services.

Scudder applies this framework to the Gwembe case. He concludes that the government
planning stage was completely inadequate and much too short. Their demographic data
demonstrates that resettler communities experienced increased mortality and malnutrition rates.
Scudder also suggests that the second generation of resettlers could not sustain the development
process because of conflicts over limited resource use.

For more details about the initial Gwembe study, see the annotation for Elizabeth Colson's
book *The Social Consequences of Resettlement: The Impact of the Kariba Resettlement upon the Gwembe Tonga.*

the Middle East.* New York: Center for Migration Studies.

The question, however, is not which of the main causes of displacement (war or disaster or
development) is more important or prevalent. Nor is it always the number of people displaced
that determines the significance of the event. Rather, the important point to draw is that dis-
placement needs to be seen as an outcome of a combination of causes involving a multiple set
of factors. [p. 3]

This volume was produced by the Center for Migration Studies. The Middle East is often
underrepresented in comparative studies of displacement. This volume seeks to address this gap by
presenting cases of displacement from the countries of Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Oman,
Jordan and Palestine.

The authors in this volume look at the many different causes of displacement in the Middle
East including war, dams, sedentarization projects and natural disasters. They also inquire about the
links between voluntary and involuntary resettlement and address displacement as multicausal and
multistage. They address how regional economic patterns can lead to displacement, which often
creates a cheap labor pool for industry and agriculture.

The papers in this volume are divided into four themes: 1) urban renewal and conflict, 2)
agrarian resettlement and labor migration, 3) the diaspora and the state, and 4) the Gulf Crisis. The paper by Robert Fernea addresses Nubian displacement from the High Aswan Dam. A paper by Mostafa Kharoufi discusses forced migration in the Senegal River Valley. Other papers under the “Agrarian Policy” heading specifically address drought and resettlement.


For the World Bank, the need for involuntary displacement in certain projects raises complex questions about its role and obligations, both in promoting projects that cause displacement in developing countries and in developing policy, legal and operational procedures to reconcile national and local interests. [p. 183]

Ibrahim Shihata is the Vice President and General Counsel of the World Bank. This two volume work, totaling close to a thousand pages, is a collection of essays on the evolution of the World Bank. Shihata addresses issues of governance, policies for resettlement and the role of NGOs in Bank projects.

Chapter Two, in the first volume, assesses the role of the World Bank in instituting “governance” in developing countries. Shihata defines governance as general government decision-making power and the establishment of administrative policies. Shihata argues that the Bank is an important actor in promoting institutional development and public sector reform.

In these essays, Shihata describes World Bank policy frameworks for resettlement, including the legal properties of eminent domain and distinctions between the legal responsibilities of providing compensation and/or rehabilitation. Chapter Six, in the second volume, addresses the role of NGOs in projects that involve involuntary resettlement, reservoir construction and indigenous peoples.


Large dams, which concentrate the need for huge capital investments at a single site, were the ideal type of (World Bank) project. In 1949, the Bank’s first full year of lending outside of Europe, 79 percent of Bank loans were for large dam construction. The next year the figure was 51 percent and even by fiscal year 1962 when the Bank’s portfolio was considerably more diverse, large dams still accounted for 37 percent of Bank lending. [p. 12]

This brief publication is a treatise on World Bank financing of dam projects. Skylar and McCully cite that the World Bank is the most important public institution in the dam-building industry. They calculate all of the loans made by the Bank for dams in its 50-year history, and analyze the size, procedures and content of these loans. The authors argue that the Bank has not undertaken a comprehensive ex-post facto economic evaluation of the costs and performance of their large dam financings. They do cite some limited studies produced by the Bank’s Operations and Evaluation Department (OED).
Skylar and McCully argue that the papers and guidelines put forward by the Bank have resulted in few improvements in the Bank's lending program for large dams. The authors call for an independent assessment of the Bank's historical and current lending program for dam projects. This publication includes an appendixed list of all dams supported by World Bank financing up to 1994.


It is often difficult to measure the full social and economic costs of resettlement in economic terms. Therefore, wherever possible, resettlement should be avoided or reduced to a minimum. This requires that serious consideration be given to alternative sites or designs that would avoid resettlement or that would minimize the number of persons affected. After all other options have been explored, another alternative that should be evaluated is that of not pursuing the project at all. [p. 11]

This internal IDB report reviews topical and operational issues related to setting a policy on involuntary resettlement. The authors address gender issues, rehabilitation and the role of indigenous peoples. The operational aspects discussed include timing and project cycles, institutional frameworks, and reporting procedures.

This report documents that 120 IDB projects since 1970 have involved involuntary resettlement. The authors suggest that very little information is known about these projects in terms of the socio-economic profiles of resettlers and their levels of participation. The report underscores that when calculating the net benefits of a project, the costs of compensation and rehabilitation need to be internalized into project assessments. The authors also emphasize the importance of giving the “no-project scenario” serious consideration.


Since little or no effort was made to consult those affected, compensation was both inadequate and inappropriate. In the case of Hirakud, for example, the oustees found themselves totally at a loss. They had no idea about how their lands had been evaluated or their compensation calculated. [p. 16]

The editor of this book is a NGO coordinator with the Multiple Action Research Group in New Delhi. The contributors to this volume present five case studies that trace the lives of people displaced by dam projects in India. Four of these cases address large dams constructed in four different geographical regions in India. These four cases reveal that resettlement plans were ad hoc in nature and led to further impoverishment for displaced peoples. The last case refers to the Baliraja Dam in Maharashtra, a small scale project requiring no resettlement and built through public participation. In the concluding chapter, the contributors call for comprehensive resettlement and rehabilitation policies, which have adequate participation provisions for project affected peoples.
The Pangue Dam on Chile’s Biobio river may provide the clearest indication yet of how aid for
dams aids the rich, of the political nature of this kind of development assistance, and of how far
Nordic aid has shifted away from its mandate of helping the “poorest of the poor.” [p. 133]

This book explores the political economy of Nordic aid agency (Sida and NORAD) funding for
dam projects. This volume emerged from a 1994 NGO conference studying Nordic dam building in
southern countries. The book was commissioned by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.

The first part of the book introduces this study. The second part describes the contentious dam
building era in Norway and Sweden, including background information on the Alta Dam. The final
part of the book shifts the focus to Nordic dam building in the developing world after the 1970s.
The book chronicles three cases of Nordic dam development in southern countries: Chile (Pangue
and Ralco dams on the Biobio), Tanzania (Pangani Falls) and Laos (Theun Hinboun in the Mekong
region). These chapters are written by academics, poets and activists.

The editor argues that while the international dam debate has been focused on the Bretton
Woods institutions, bilateral aid agencies finance many dam projects. Usher focuses on Nordic
agencies because it is easier to trace political mechanisms within these smaller bureaucracies. The
author also argues that Nordic bilateral agencies are good places to improve accountability because
Nordic countries have the biggest foreign aid budgets, major dam building firms, active
environmental movements, and the most open Freedom of Information laws in Europe.
EXTENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY


WATER AND REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS

Acres International Limited
www.acres.com
480 University Avenue
Toronto, ON
Canada M5G 1V2
Tel: 416 595 2000
Fax: 416 595 2004
Email: toronto@acres.com

Relevance: Considered one of the best engineering consulting firms working on resettlement issues in North America.

American Rivers
www.amrivers.org
1025 Vermont Avenue, NW
Suite 720
Washington, DC 20005 USA
Tel: 202 347 7550
Fax: 202 347 9240
Email: amrivers@amrivers.org

Relevance: American Rivers is concerned with preserving the nation's outstanding rivers and landscapes. They have a hydro-power program that works to prevent new dams on the country's last free flowing rivers.

Both Ends
www.bothends.org
Damrak 28-30
1012 LJ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: 31 20 6230823
Fax: 31 20 6208049
Email: info@bothends.org

Relevance: Bothends networks between NGOs and community groups in developing countries on development related issues.

Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies
www.jhsph.edu/~c-rds
John Hopkins University School of Public Health
615 N. Wolfe Street  
Baltimore, MD 21205 USA  
Email: eplutt@jhsph.edu

Relevance: The Center’s operational research places special emphasis on community reconstruction and rehabilitation in areas affected by conflict as well as natural and ecological disasters. They also give technical assistance to organizations, support publications and conduct training programs.

Cultural Survival  
www.cs.org  
96 Mount Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA  
Tel: 617 441 5400  
Fax: 617 441 5417  
Email: csinc@cs.org

Relevance: Cultural Survival was founded as a non-profit organization in 1972 to defend the human rights and cultural autonomy of indigenous peoples and oppressed ethnic minorities. Cultural Survival develops educational materials that promote tolerance and understanding of other cultures, and respect for indigenous peoples.

Dam and Reservoir Working Group  
www.sandelman.ucnix.on.ca/dams/  
OPIRG-Carleton  
Rm. 326 Unicentre  
Carleton University Ottawa  
Canada ON K1S 5B6

Relevance: This working group maintains a website dedicated to providing information on dams, water diversions, impoundments, and hydroelectric projects. Their website is five years old and has an archive section.

Environmental Defense Fund  
www.edf.org  
257 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10010 USA  
Tel: 800 684 3322  
Email: Contact-EDF@edf.org

Relevance: EDF has an International Program that organizes campaigns and provides general information on international water issues. They also maintain a worldwide dam database.
European Rivers Network
www.rivernet.org
Main and West European Office:
ERN c/o SOS Loire Vivante
8 Rue Crozatier
43000 Le Puy, Southern France
Tel: 33 471 02 08 14
Fax: 33 471 02 60 99
Email: ern@rivernet.org

Relevance: The European Rivers Network aims to unite organizations working on rivers and to increase communication between these organizations in order to better preserve the natural rivers of Europe. This website has links to other dam organizations around the world.

Global Water Partnership
GWP Secretariat
c/o Sida
S-105 25 Stockholm
Sweden
Phone: 46 8 698 50 00
Fax: 46 8 698 56 27
Email: gwp@sida.se

Relevance: The Global Water Partnership (GWP) was founded at Stockholm in August 1996. The Partnership is an international network open to all parties involved in water resources management, including governments of developing as well as developed countries, UN agencies, multilateral banks, professional associations, research organizations, the private sector and NGOs.

Hunting Technical Services Ltd.
www.hunting.plc.uk
Thamesfield House
Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
England HP2 7SR
Tel: 44 (0)1442 231800
Fax: 44 (0)1442 219886
Email: hts_ik@compuserve.co.uk

Relevance: Huntington is an UK based engineering firm that works on resettlement issues and infrastructure projects around the world.
Institute for Development Anthropology
99 Collier Street
PO Box 2207
Binghamton, NY 13902 USA
Tel: 607 772 6244
Fax: 607 773 8993
Email: mhorowi@bingsuns.cc.binghamton.edu

Relevance: The Institute, co-directed by Michael Horowitz and Thayer Scudder, is a nonprofit research and educational center. The IDA focuses on environmentally sustainable development through equitable economic growth and respect for human rights. Researchers apply the comparative and holistic methodologies and theories of anthropology toward improving the conditions of the world’s poor.

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
http://www.ilri.nl/icid/ciid.html
48 Nyaya Marg
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021 India
Tel: 91 11 611 6837/ 611 5679
Fax: 91 11 611 5962
Email: icid@vsnl.com

Relevance: This organization, comprised of 86 member countries, promotes the development of techniques for managing water, drainage and flood control.

International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)
www.icold-cigb.org
ICOLD Central Office
151 Boulevard Haussman
75008 Paris France
Tel: 33 1 40 426824
Fax: 33 1 40 426071

Relevance: ICOLD is a NGO forum for the exchange of knowledge on dam engineering. It is popularly known as a dam industry lobby group.

International Rivers Network
www.irn.org
1847 Berkeley Way
Berkeley, CA 94703 USA
Tel: 510 848 1155
Fax: 510 848 1008
Email: irnweb@irn.org

Relevance: IRN is the foremost NGO working on dam issues in America. They have an exhaustive library on dams and provide research assistance and networking for NGOs and researchers.

International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
www.iwgia.org
IWGIA International Secretariat
Fiolstraede 10
DK-1171 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Tel: 45 33 12 47 24
Fax: 45 33 14 77 49
Email: IWGIA@login.dknet.dk

Relevance: IWGIA is a human rights organization that works to support indigenous peoples in their struggles for self-determination. They publish various documents and maintain several activist campaigns.

Lahmeyer International GMBH (LI)
www.lif.de/world-e/
Friedberger Straße 173
D-61118 Bad Vilbel Germany
Tel: 49 (6101) 55 0
Fax: 49 (6101) 55 2222
Email: li@lif.de

Relevance: This company is the largest German consulting firm that specializes in power, water, environmental and project management for large infrastructure projects.

OXFAM
www.oxfaminternational.org
Oxfam International Advocacy
733 15th Street, NW, Suite 340,
Washington DC 20005, USA
Tel: 202 783 3331
Fax: 202 783 5547
Email: advocacy@oxfaminternational.org

Relevance: The Washington DC office lobbies the IMF, World Bank and UN agencies on international poverty and development issues.
Probe International
www.nextcity.com/ProbeInternational/
225 Brunswick Avenue
Toronto Ontario
Canada, M5S 2M6
Tel: 416 964 9223
Fax: 416 964 8239
Email: ProbeInternational@nextcity.com
Relevance: This Canadian environmental NGO monitors the effects of projects financed by international financial institutions through bilateral agencies like the Canadian International Development Agency. They have developed a significant campaign against the Three Gorges Dam in China.

Refugees International
www.refintl.org
1705 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036 USA
Tel: 800 REFUGEE
Fax: 202 828 0819
Email: ri@refintl.org
Relevance: Refugees International provides early warnings in crises of mass exodus. They have conducted almost 30 emergency missions in the last four years. The organization mobilizes governments and engages the UN, as well as paves the way for relief agencies and human rights organizations to step in with life saving measures.

Refugee Studies Programme—University of Oxford
http: users.ox.ac.uk/~rspnet
Refugee Studies Programme
Queen Elizabeth House
University of Oxford
21 St. Giles
Oxford OX1 3LA UK
Tel: 44(0)1865.270722
Fax: 44(0)1865.270721
Email: rsp@geh.ox.ac.uk
Relevance: The Refugee Studies Program publishes the Journal of Refugee Studies and the Forced Migration Review. They also maintain a documentation center, the largest in the world, dedicated to forced migration.
Rios Vivos
www.riosvivos.org.br
Executive Office:
Rua 14 de Julho 3169
Campo Grande MS Brasil
Fax: 55 67 724 3230/724 9109
Email: ecoa@msinternet.com.br

Relevance: This coalition of NGOs from Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, organizes activism on water issues. They have developed a significant campaign on the Hidrovia waterway and alternatives for the La Plata River Basin.

Survival International
www.survival.org.uk
Survival International UK
11-15 Emerald Street
London WC1N 3QL England
Tel: 0171 242 1441
Fax: 0171 242 1771

Relevance: Survival International maintains offices in France, Italy, Spain and the UK. The organization works on behalf of tribal peoples’ rights through public education campaigns. They also draw attention to the destructive effects of World Bank projects.

UNESCO—International Hydrological Programme
www.pangea.org/org/unesco
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15 France
Tel: 33 1 45684002
Fax: 33 1 45685811
Email: m.cauchard@unesco.org

Relevance: This organization is sponsored by UN member nations. They manage and develop water resources information and conduct regional studies.

UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR)
www.unhcr.ch
C.P. 2500
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel: 41 22 739 8111
Email: resettlement@unhcr.ch

Relevance: The UNHCR maintains a Resettlement Section within the Division of Interna-
tional Protection. The Section’s website lists resettlement statistics, regional reports and links to other resettlement organizations.

World Bank—The Inspection Panel
1818 H St., NW
Washington, DC 20433 USA
(or to Bank field office)

Relevance: The Inspection Panel is a three-member, non-judicial body created in 1993 to provide an independent forum to private citizens who believe that their rights or interests have been or could be directly harmed by a project financed by the Bank. Affected people may bring their concerns to the attention of the Panel by filing a Request for Inspection.

World Bank—Public Information Center
Information Shop
1818 H Street, NW, Room J1-060
Washington, DC 20433
Telephone: 202 458 5454
Fax: 202 522 1500
Email: pic@worldbank.org
(or contact your local PIC office—a map of office locations is available at the website)

Relevance: Public Information Centers (PIC’s) are maintained at World Bank Local Offices to make Bank information available to the public. Local Office PIC’s worldwide, other than the European and Tokyo offices, will have documents specific to the country in which the office is located and often offer a library of Bank publications.

World Commission on Dams
www.dams.org
Fifth Floor
Hycastle House, 58 Loop Street
P.O. Box 16002
Vlaeborg, Cape Town
8018 South Africa
Tel: 2721 4264000
Fax: 2721 426 0036
Email: info@dams.org

Relevance: The World Commission was established by the World Bank and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Commission is currently conducting a global review of 150 large dams, developing decision-making processes on energy and water projects, and is setting internationally accepted criteria and guidelines on dam development.
York University Refugee and Migration Studies Programme
www.yorku.ca/research/crs/
Centre for Refugee Studies
York University
Suite 322 York Lanes
4700 Keele Street
North York, Ontario
Canada M3J 1P3
Tel: 416 736 5663
Fax: 416 736 5837
Email: refuge@yorku.ca

Relevance: The Centre for Refugee Studies fosters interdisciplinary and collaborative research and networks with Canadian and international development agencies and academic institutes. They also offer a certificate and diploma program in Refugee and Migration Studies.
FILM LISTINGS

Cadillac Desert (1997)

Cadillac Desert is a four-part documentary series about water, money, politics, and the transformation of nature. The series’ first three episodes, based on Marc Reisner’s groundbreaking book, delve into the history of water use and misuse in the American West. The final episode, drawn from Sandra Postel’s book Last Oasis, examines the global impact of the technologies and policies that came out of America’s manipulation of water. Produced by Sandy Itkoff. Available on video from Home Vision Select in the USA by calling 800-343-4727. A discussion and viewers’ guide is available from the Civil Rights Project at 617-867-4095. Further information can be found at http://www.crpi.org/cadillacdesert or http://www.pbs.org/cadillacdesert.

Kaise Jeebo Re!—How Do I Survive, My Friend! (1998)

This film describes struggles of uprootment and survival in India’s Narmada Valley. The feature length documentary film was compiled from footage shot over 6 years in the Narmada Valley and other areas where resistance has taken place. The film is in English, Gujarati, and Hindi, as well as the Bhilali and Gondi tribal languages. By Anurag Singh and Jharana Jhaveri. Available from the International Rivers Network in the USA by calling 510-848-1155 or at www.irn.org.

The Kayapo (1989)

The Kayapo Indians of Brazil’s Amazonian rainforest have fiercely resisted settlers invading their region. This film documents how the discovery of a huge gold mine on their land, necessitated the tribe to decide what to do with an income of two million dollars a year. By anthropologist Terry Turner. Available from Films Incorporated Video in the USA by calling 800-323-4222.

Large Dams and Small People: Management of an African River (1993)

This film documents completion of the Manantali dam in Mali, highlighting conclusions from anthropologists, hydrologists and agronomists that it is possible to manage dams with “artificial” floods to support ground water recharge, reforestation, and the economic well-being of small scale farmers, fishers and herders. Written and directed by Michael Horowitz. Available through the Institute for Development Anthropology in the USA by calling 607-772-6244.

Large Dams, False Promises (1994)

It is estimated that 200 large dams are built each year in the world. In this film, noted environmentalists challenge the common assumption that dams provide cheap electricity and
efficient water management. By bringing together the work of a dozen international filmmakers, this video delivers stories from India, China and Brazil about the social impacts of large dam construction. Written and produced by David Phinney. Available from the International Rivers Network in the USA by calling 510-848-1155 or at www.irn.org.

The Long Way Home

This story describes the refugee journey, tracing the plight of refugees in Africa as they flee their homes, live as refugees or internally displaced people, return to their homes or resettle in a third country. Filmed in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and New Zealand by Denholm Films Ltd. Available from World Vision at http://www.worldvision.co.nz/.

Narmada: A Valley Rises (1994)

The Sardar Sarovar Project in India is both a technological marvel and a sociological disaster. Shot over a period of four years, this film documents a 200 kilometer non-violent protest march led by 6,000 farmers and tribal people against the dam. This film is a dramatic and intimate portrait of this remarkable social movement. Produced and written by Ali Kazimi. Available from Mongrel Media in Toronto by calling 416-516-9775.

A Narmada Diary (1995)

This film documents five years in the life of the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement), which has spearheaded the agitation against the dam. Made by Anand Patwardhan and Simantinin Dhuru. Available from First Run Icarus Films in the USA by calling 800-876-1710 or by emailing info@frif.com.

Pantanal: Lifewaters (1998)

This video documents the proposed Paraguay-Paraná Hidrovia, which would channelize 3,400 kilometers of the Paraguay and Paraná Rivers for industrial use. The video also describes the efforts of the Rios Vivos Coalition in organizing local communities in opposition to the huge project. The documentary beautifully depicts the natural ecosystems of the Pantanal wetlands, as well as the cultural diversity the ecosystem supports. Through interviews with ecologists, indigenous people and developers, the film presents a regional look at development plans and development alternatives for the La Plata Basin. Available from the International Rivers Network in the USA by calling 510-848-1155 or at www.irn.org.
Power (1996)

This film follows the struggles of a small community of 15,000 Cree Indians defending their land against a major dam project in the James Bay region of northern Quebec in Canada. Shot over a period of six years, the film documents how the Cree, led by Chief Matthew Coon-Come, mounted a successful international campaign to force Hydro-Quebec to cancel the project. Directed by Magnus Isacsson. Produced by Glen Salzman. Available through Cineflix Productions in the USA by calling 800-343-5540.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation also distributes films about the construction of Hoover, Glen Canyon and Grand Coulee dams. Contact the Public Outreach Coordinator at the nearest regional office or contact their Film Division in Las Vegas by phone at 702-293-8778.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Founded in late 1996, the **BERKELEY WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS** emerged from a long-standing commitment to environmental studies on the Berkeley campus and from the presence of a core group of faculty whose research and scholarly interests linked environment, culture, and political economy. The workshop draws together over fifty faculty and doctoral students from San Francisco Bay Area institutions (the University of California campuses at Berkeley, Santa Cruz, and Davis, and Stanford University) who share a common concern with problems that stand at the intersection of the environmental and social sciences, the humanities and law. The Berkeley Workshop on Environmental Politics has three broad functions:

- to assist graduate training and scholarly research by deepening the theoretical and methodological toolkit appropriate to understanding environmental concerns in an increasingly globalized world;
- to bring together constituencies of local and international scholars, activists, and policy makers for transnational conversations on environmental issues; and,
- to bring community activists and policymakers to Berkeley as Residential Fellows, thus providing synergistic possibilities for developing new learning and research communities.

The Berkeley Workshop on Environmental Politics is funded by the Ford Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

**THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES** was established in 1955 to promote interdisciplinary research in international, comparative, and policy studies on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. The current emphasis is on the following intellectual themes: peace and security after the Cold War; environment, demography, and sustainable development; development and comparative modernities across regions; and globalization and the transformation of the global economy. The Institute has several major research programs, and provides support to Berkeley faculty and fellowships to Berkeley graduate students. Ongoing research colloquia bring together faculty, advanced graduate students, and visiting scholars for discussions. The Institute hosts distinguished visiting fellows who participate in Institute programs while in residence at Berkeley. Its public outreach programs include lectures, forums, conferences, interviews, and the *Connecting Students to the World* program. The Institute publishes *Policy Papers in International Affairs*, *Insights in International Affairs*, *Currents*, and the Globetrotter website <http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu>.