
GLOBALIZATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT: THE CHANGING VALUE OF WATER

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GLOBALIZATION, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASIN COOPERATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

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ABSTRACT: This paper examines transboundary cooperation in the Danube and Tisza river basins, focusing on Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Romania. It analyzes two concurrent factors external to the region, globalization and the reassertion of sovereignty after the Cold War, which exert opposing pressures on these riparian states and which both encourage and discourage cooperation on the multiple problems presenting these two river basins. The discussion is organized around four issue areas critical to these basins: flood control, navigation, contamination, and public participation. The history and current extent of cooperation around these issue areas is evaluated, and the factors that help or hinder cooperation are identified. Data are drawn from public, published and unpublished sources, such as documents from international organizations, consultant reports, academic research, national press, and interviews.

KEY TERMS: Danube, Tisza, globalization, transboundary rivers, sovereignty, cooperation

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