Secondary Sources

“Aswan High Dam.” Compton’s by Britannica. 2007.

From this article I learned more about the Soviet Union’s agreement to help with the Aswan Dam. I found out that about a third of the cost was underwritten by the Soviets. Also I learned of the compromise between Egypt and the Sudan regarding use of the reservoir and compensation for land covered by Lake Nasser/Lake Nubia.

Aswan High Dam. Personal Tour. 23 Nov. 2007.

Touring the high dam gave me an idea of how immense of a project constructing the Aswan High Dam was. I also got pictures and video to use in my presentation as well as information from the Egyptian perspective. I also toured the Russian monument that was described by my tour guide as being a “thank-you but get out of our country” building that was to symbolize Soviet-Egyptian cooperation. The monument also included scenes of the Nubians giving up their land for the reservoir. While I consider seeing both monuments as primary research, I also believe the important information that I received from my tour guide was secondary.

Building Big: Dams. DVD. 2000.

This video gave me an excellent overview of the building of the Aswan High dam, as well as some of the events leading to it. The historical footage and interviews made the documentary interesting and informative.


From this article I learned more about the Arab-Israeli war and President Nasser’s role in conflicts in the Middle East.


The sections of this book regarding water management gave me modern information about the Nile River and updated diagrams of the dams.


http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/sudan_darfuroverview.html

This website helped me to understand Unicef’s role in ending the conflict in Darfur.
Dolatyar, Mostafa. *Water Politics in the Middle East: A Context for Conflict or Cooperation?*

This book thoroughly expresses the theme that shortages of water will lead to compromises and cooperation rather than violent conflicts as other authors suspect. The author describes international water basins, like the Nile basin, and how scarcity leads to peaceful cooperation.


<http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Economy/Sectors/Agriculture/05030100000000001.htm>

This website helped me to understand current development in Egypt and to find pictures of agricultural development.


From this video I learned that the Aswan High Dam is considered one of Egypt’s most prestigious building projects since the time of the Ancient Egyptians. I also learned more about the building of the dam.


http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEM4PFYO4HD_FeatureWeek_0.html

This website gave me information about the new Three Gorges Dam in China as well as pictures of the dam.


This report describing the effects of the Aswan High Dam on the Nile valley was written by an anthropologist who has studied the settlement of humans connected with water projects, like the resettlement of the Nubian people because of the Aswan Dam. The detailed information helped me to further understand how the Aswan High Dam influenced Nubian culture.


This book was an excellent secondary source; it helped to give me a picture of Egypt
some years after the dam was built. Reading Golding’s work also told me how much the High Dam really affects Egyptian life.


This article gave me an idea of how some Egyptians view the High Dam. I had been getting predominantly western views on the issues regarding the dam, and this source helped me to compare and contrast. In this article, the author describes a plaque near the high dam that boasts “Years of collaborative effort have established a monument to Arab-Soviet friendship no less valuable or symbolic than the High Dam itself.” In a speech President Eisenhower declares that the nationalizing of the Suez Canal is a crisis, but in this author’s opinion it is a victory. “And we did fight, and we won and we nationalized the Suez Canal.” I was also interested in how the author describes the dam as a symbol of Arab nationalism and independence; in some ways it seems the most important features of the dam are not physical, but political.


The sections of this report on water management that related to the Aswan High Dam helped me to further understand the projects used to enhance water storage on the Nile River.


This article helped to give me a base of information about dams in general, like that they are used for drinking, irrigating, hydroelectric power, recreation, or all of these possibilities. But most also have downsides such as climate change, habitat destruction, and raising water temperature. I learned that the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act makes it harder for more American dams to be built, though they are still frequently built in other countries.


This book helped me to learn more about how conflicts around the world are affected by scarcity of resources such as water.


Mr. Kliot uses an engaging and interesting tone to describe the conflict over water resources in the Middle East. This source helped me to finally understand some of the issues of sharing the Nile River, and I saw Egypt’s ambitious Aswan High Dam in a new light. I learned that many of the projects on the Upper Nile benefit only Egypt and the Sudan, although the Nile
is shared by nine countries. Even the Owen Falls Dam in Uganda provides irrigation water for Egypt.


This article taught me about one of the important figures in the building of the Aswan High Dam, Gamal Abdel Nasser. President Nasser was in the military as a youth, and pushed for Arab nationalism. In 1952, he, and other military members, arranged a coup against King Faruk. In 1954 he became Prime Minister and in 1956, President. During his presidency there were many failed military skirmishes but he stabilized Egypt with works like the Aswan High Dam and nationalizing the Suez Canal. He fought for independence from western allies and the unification of the Arab countries.


This article helped me have a more in depth understanding of President Nasser. I learned that he had massive public support because of his goals to promote Arab nationalism. He also had goals to improve Egypt’s wealth with projects like the Aswan High Dam, but he was hampered by overpopulation and lack of resources.


This video gave me information about the size of the Aswan High dam and the function of another important engineering project in Egypt, the Suez Canal.


This article gave me an idea of how the western world perceived the actions of President Nasser. The article mostly criticized all his actions regarding unifying the Arab nations and the wars between Egypt and Israel. However, the author conceded that he had been one of the most popular Middle Eastern leaders.


This article gave me basic knowledge of one of the conflicts from the Aswan High Dam, the forced resettlement of approximately forty Nubian villages. I learned that this is still a conflict with the Egyptian government that merited a conference last April. I found one quote in the article particularly interesting that stated, “‘We are not against the dam,’ says Oddoul. ‘We are against forced migration.’” meaning that if the resettlement had worked out better there would not be so many bitter feelings.

This article gave me important information and opinions on the war between Egypt and Israel. I also learned about the actions of the United Arab Republic and more of the historical context surrounding my topic.


This book helped to give me an overview of the building of the dam as well as effects from it. Broad topics and facts from the text helped give me a general understanding of the historical context of my topic, and names of people and places I should further research.


Reading sections of this book helped me to learn about conflict caused by scarcity of water, and the importance of dams.


The section of this book that related to the British Occupation helped me to understand British motives for dominance in Egypt preceding the 1900’s. I also gained information on topics important to the historical context of my topic such as the building of the Suez Canal.


The articles I found in this huge reference book helped me to further understand issues such as the Egyptian-Soviet alliance, the nationalization of the Suez Canal, and the death of President Nasser.


This article about a modern-day conflict over water from the Nile River helped me to better understand how the 1929 Nile Waters Agreement still affects politics. While the agreement is decades old it still governs water usage!


This book described the effects of the Aswan High Dam in a more scientific manner.
I had mostly looked at the dam from a political viewpoint because of what it represented, but the dam was a significant engineering feat. However, as this source points out, there have been negative ecological effects such as salinization because of the Aswan High Dam. This book also described how the water management system in Egypt was changed and how it ran before.


This book which was geared toward children helped me to relate a current day conflict over water with the Aswan High Dam. I also learned that while this issue is prominent in the news few people know the origins of it. I was shocked while reading it when the author tried to simplify this complicated and awful subject so that a child could comprehend it.
Primary Sources


This book gave me an interesting perspective on the precursors to the Aswan High Dam. Most of the material concerned the building and heightening of the first Aswan Dam, but what I found most interesting was the account of the “imaginary” High dam. This particular author expected it to never be built, mostly because of politics from the revolution such as the nationalization of the Suez Canal. The author had worked on similar projects to the first Aswan Dam, and thought that Nasser had ruined Egypt’s chances for a second one.

“Arabs and Israelis Battle on Two Fronts; Egyptians Bridge Suez; Air Duels Intensify.” The New York Times 7 Oct. 1973: 1

This article helped me to better understand the Arab-Israeli conflict, an important part of the historical context of my topic.


This article gave me information about the crucial arms deal Egypt made with Czechoslovakia. I also learned about how Western powers reacted to this decision, and how it would affect their future dealings with Egypt. One of the reasons the United States did not finance the High Dam was because of this deal.


This speech helped me to learn more about the President who followed Nasser, and about how the Arab-Israeli conflict, part of the historical context of my topic, was resolved.


This picture shows the qualities I expect someone like President Nasser to have, he looks passionate about what he is discussing as well as professional.


This article described what was happening halfway through the dam’s construction, although the most important information which is mentioned are the changes to Nubian life the Aswan High Dam has brought about. This article states that 175,000 Nubians must be moved, a number larger than other articles had led me to believe. The author describes this as a “…modernization of the Nubian nation.” He does admit that they will have to adjust to off-river life and “…work and live cooperatively according to President Nasser’s new socialist order, most precepts of which never penetrated Nubia.” To encourage them to give up their lifestyles, the
government provided them houses with enough room for their families, animals, water from a
tap, schools, hospitals, and clinics.


This heartbreaking video was a montage of primary interviews with refugees from
Darfur. This current-day conflict also began over a water dispute but has grown to a feud
between the African and Arab residents of Darfur.

“Divvying up the Nile.” *Time* 16 Nov. 1959

One of the key compromises related to the Aswan High Dam is the division of the Nile
waters between Egypt and the Sudan. This article gave me more information about how this
compromise was reached after a long-lasting conflict.


This article describes American support for efforts to improve the Egyptian economy.
Forty million dollars in aid were pledged, along with reasonable support for the big project on
the horizon, the Aswan High Dam. A six hundred million dollar construction project, the dam is
described as part of the government’s ten-year plan of economic development. The author writes
as if the United States is much more high and mighty than Egypt whose economy still needs
development. About two years later however, the United States withdrew their help.

Dougherty, James E. “The Aswan Decision in Perspective.” *Political Science Quarterly* March

1959.

This article helped me to further understand the Soviet-Egyptian relations and the
decision to nationalize the Suez Canal.


This article from before the construction of the Aswan High Dam gave me more
information about how help from around the world was provided for its construction. In it the
author reports how the United States Technical Cooperation Administration was asked to make
an aerial survey. It also states that the work would be financed primarily by a loan from the
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.


This speech gave me an American view of President Nasser’s choice to seize the Suez
Canal and use tolls from it to finance the Aswan High Dam. You can even infer from the title
how hostile this action was; before, the canal had been international, but now Egypt was
claiming ownership. President Eisenhower describes the entire Middle East as dangerous and volatile.


This statement gave me further information about how the nations who depended on shipping through the Suez Canal were treating the nationalization by President Nasser.


Interviewing someone who lived in Egypt gave me a good idea of how people really view the dam. I gathered that most people have mixed feelings, that they don’t like the interference with nature but they know the dam has helped them. She told me that because of a drought in the Ethiopian highlands, water could have been extremely scarce if the dam had not contributed so much water. I also learned that because of the dam, three perennial crops a year can be grown instead of only one when the river floods. As a teenager when the dam was built, she was able to see the changes from before and after the Aswan High Dam.


In this article I learned even more about how the Soviets influenced the building of the Aswan High Dam. The Egyptian government already owed about 800 million dollars to the Soviets for their help, and while the dam ended up paying for itself, the benefits were slow to come, so the debts mounted up.


Reading this article gave me the perspective of someone present at the building of the Aswan Dam. I learned that the plans for the dam originated from American workers but Russian engineers were mainly responsible for all the building. The impression the author gave was that the project was greatly improving Egyptian welfare, increasing farmable land, creating a tourist attraction, and boosting the economy, but then a nonchalant line like “More than 200 workers died in accidents,” seemed to break the illusion. Another conflict mentioned in the article was the planned relocation of Nubian villages when Lake Nasser, the dam’s reservoir, flooded over forty villages.


This primary resource helped me to better understand President Nasser as it was written by his friend and advisor Muhammad Haykal. The descriptive information of both of their thoughts and opinions helped me to formulate my own about President Nasser.


This economic report helped me to understand the effect of the Aswan High Dam on the problems in Egypt’s economy. I received this report after writing to the World Bank Archives.


This transcript helped me to understand the decision of the World Bank against financing the Aswan High Dam. I received this transcript after writing to the World Bank Archives.


This transcript helped me to better understand the role of the World Bank in international finance as well as the role of the bank in the financing of the High Dam. I received this transcript after writing to the World Bank Archives.


This correspondence between President Johnson and President Nasser gave me information about how Egypt was working with other African Nations to encourage peace and how the United States endorsed such actions.


In this speech, the President gives information about how the United States has invested in saving the temple of Abu Simbel from inundation by the reservoir of the Aswan High Dam. The President also mentions the choice of Egypt to donate the temple of Dendur to the Metropolitan Museum of Art because of the United States support. Part of the speech is also a request for more donations from Americans to contribute to the costs of re-assembling the temples.

This book was written by a worker with UNESCO during the rescue of the Nubian monuments. The sections I read helped me to understand this important compromise.


This speech, regarding how the United States was dealing with foreign issues such as the Suez Canal, gave me information about how the United States viewed issues concerning the historical context of my topic.


This letter describes in detail how the United States would like to assist the United Arab Republic and the Sudan with the preservation of monuments that would be otherwise lost with the construction of the Aswan High Dam.


President Nasser’s sudden death before the completion of the High Dam would influence Egypt’s political relations worldwide. This article helped me to understand what a gaping hole Nasser left behind after he died of a heart attack.


This speech by President Nasser regarding the nationalization of the Suez Canal helped me to understand the Egyptian view of the issue. President Nasser argues that the canal is located on Egyptian soil, and so it should benefit the Egyptian people.


This book was a compilation of three documents written in the 1950’s by Gamel Abdel Nasser. The Charter was especially interesting, and helped me to comprehend Nasser’s political ideals.

This book (originally an essay for a newspaper) by President Nasser was an excellent resource that helped me to understand the Egyptian Revolution, an important precursor to my topic. Also, the book gave me insight into Egyptian opinions on my topic. A last important feature of this book was the personal opinions from President Nasser that allowed me to formulate a better understanding of his personality.


This newsreel helped me to understand the politics around a conflict related to the Aswan High Dam the nationalizing of the Suez Canal.


Understanding the relations between Egypt and the Sudan is key to comprehension of important documents concerning water management in the Middle East, such as the Nile Waters agreement. The most important information this source gave me was about how the Sudan has been important to Egypt’s domination of the Nile basin.


This article helped me to understand the effects of the Aswan High Dam on Egypt’s conflicts with Israel.


This interview helped me to get opinions about the High Dam from someone who lived during its building and saw its effects. Most importantly, I was also able to ask for opinions on the political leaders of the time who so affected the dam’s construction.


This statement helped me to better understand Egypt’s political relations with other nations in Africa and Asia. Understanding these politics is important to my understanding of the historical context of my topic.

This book helped me to further understand Egyptian politics regarding the revolution and the Arab-Israeli war. Understanding world events from an Egyptian view is important to understanding my topic. Anwar Sadat was part of the Revolutionary Council, and he became President after Nasser’s death.

“The Safeguard of the Nile Valley Monuments, as seen through ICCROM's Archives.”

**ICCROM.** CD-ROM Exhibit.

This compilation of hundreds of primary sources such as reports, letters, pictures, and interviews about the rescue of Nubian monuments gave me a full understanding of the event.


This article gave me primary views about an effect of the Aswan High Dam, the soviet exodus from Egypt.


This statement gave me the Soviet Union’s opinion on the events in the Middle East. Understanding this opinion helped me to form my own conclusions about why the Soviet Union gave finances for the Aswan High Dam.


This newsreel gave me another perspective on the nationalizing of the Suez canal. Where as President Nasser saw the decision as wholly beneficial members of the international community were shocked and outraged.


This article helped me to better understand the soviet exodus from Egypt.


This article from *Time* magazine gave me insights as to the benefits of the Aswan Dam, such as more industry and jobs. The article states that since 1960, 1,000,000 workers have been added to the country’s payrolls, increasing the national income and production by 30%. But I also learned that because Egyptians were increasing their salaries, a food shortage was caused.

This agreement is one of the only written compromises regarding water resources in the Nile Basin. The agreement allocates water to the United Arab Republic (Egypt and Syria) and the Sudan as well as detailing future plans for dams and canals that would benefit both parties.

“Visit of President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt Remarks on the Arrival of the Egyptian President.”


This exchange between President Carter and President Anwar al-Sadat helped me to understand more about the conflict of the Arab-Israeli war. I also began to understand the opinions of the leaders of the United States and Egypt on the conflicts in the Middle East.


Out of the articles I have read, few have focused on the roughly 100,000 people the High Dam’s reservoir displaced. I learned that Lower Nubia is in Egypt while Upper Nubia is in Sudan, though Nubians usually move freely over the border between lands. From this author’s perspective, it seems the Nubians have been slighted; in 1960, there had not been compensation for those displaced by the first Aswan Dam and President Nasser did not have time to visit Nubia when he went to the opening construction of the new dam. Nasser described the Nubians as being “sorely afraid they will find themselves scattered to become minorities in communities speaking and strange language and doing strange work with a strange and perhaps unfriendly people.” I am astonished that while there are so many articles to be found about the dam that so few mention this conflict.

“War in Egypt: British and French Bomb Its Key Cities.” 1 November 1956. <Archive.org>

This article helped me to better understand the war that resulted from the nationalizing of the Suez canal.


Information and opinions from this book, written by a foreign correspondent in Egypt before and after the revolution, gave me a more complete understanding of the politics before the building of the Aswan High Dam.

MasterFILE Premier.

This statement helped me to better understand why the nations of the world reacted as they did when Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal. As is stated, “All (the 22 nations involved) recognized the importance of dependable operation of the Canal as a major artery of world traffic.”