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The Importance Of Euphrates, Tigris And Asi Rivers In Turkey And Syria Relations

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Abstract

Water is a vital resource for the survival of life. The civilizations established throughout history have always settled around the great rivers and streams. Furthermore, countries that have significant water resources in the process from the past to the present have used these resources as political power. That is why the importance of water has increased even more due to the scarce water available in the world. Especially in the Middle East region where our country is located, water has scarce resources in terms of water resources compared to other regions. Euphrates and Tigris rivers two of the most important water sources and they pass through Turkey and Syria. In addition that the Asi River is one of the most important water resources in the region.

The aim of this study is to examine the available water potential of Turkey and Syria and take a look at current water status in the Euphrates, Tigris and Asi rivers which are vital importance in the region. In addition, these rivers which are forming a continuous problem between the two countries, The importance of bilateral relations in Turkey and Syria and what are the demands on these rivers, are among the aims of our study.

Keywords: Transboundary water, Turkey, Syrıa, Euphrates, Tıgrıs, Asi

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lntroduction

Water, which constitutes the main source of life, is a resource suitable for political purposes because it has both social value and economic value, unlike other sources in the world. Therefore, water-related problems often occur in areas with low water.

About 97.5% of the world's water resources are salt water sources, while fresh water resources are only 2.5%. 98% of them are in the form of ice in glaciers and under ground. It is clear that the amount of water that constitutes the main source of our existence is very small. Besides, the distribution of the highly scarce fresh water resources on the world is not equal[1]. Water resources are not distributed evenly across the world, while in some regions there is water abundance and in some regions water scarcity is experienced. Today, due to Global warming and climate changes, the water problem has reached a much more serious level in some regions. The Middle East is one of the most violent living areas. In the arid climate region of the Middle East, the current amount of water decreases even more due to the increasing temperatures, Global warming and duality changes. On the other hand, insufficient water management policy in the region, unconscious and over-irrigation in agricultural areas, causing excessive water consumption in science, industry and technology to improve themselves make the already scarce water resources worse. Due to the fact that the oil wealth in the Middle East is limited and temporary only with the resources determined, a serious water shortage in the region is expected in the coming years. In addition to the rapid depletion of the existing oil, the lack of alternative water in the region constantly increases the value of water. The countries of the region will face the depletion of the expensive methods they use to obtain fresh water from salt water by the depletion of the oil they produce[2]. Water, which is a

[1] Köle, M. Murat (2017). "1954-2016 Dönemi Türkiye Sınıraşan Sular Politikası". Marmara coğrafya dergisi, sayı: 35 s. 122-132.
[2] Durmazuçar, Vedat (2003). Ortadoğu'da Suyun Artan Stratejik Değeri. İstanbul: IQ Kültürsanat Yayıncılık.

vital element for the continuation of human life, will cause conflicts in the Middle East region if peaceful and sustainable solutions are not produced in the future. Because water is of vital importance for life, it also has an important place in the increase of welfare level for the states in the region[3].

Situated in the Middle East, compared to the countries in the region, Turkey's current water situation is in a better position in general though, there are likely to experience water scarcity when viewed for the later years. Turkey frequently faces problems with Syria because of the Euphrates, the Tigris and Asi rivers that are important water sources for it. While Turkey is an upper littoral country for the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, it locates in a lower position for Asi river. The policy pursued by Turkey on these three rivers are consistent. However, the policies pursued by the Syrian state in the Euphrates and Tigris and the policies of the Asi River in which they are uprooted contradict each other, and Syria follows only those policies that consider its own interests. Therefore, although the water problem between the two countries is becoming increasingly serious, a solution cannot be produced.

In this study, articles, books and researches have been used. A situation analysis and a future perspective have been tried to be used by making use of the studies.

The study consists of four main sections. In the first section, with the examine of the water potential of Turkey, it has been tried to present the current situation. In the second section, water potential and current situation in Syria are examined. In the third section, considering the water potential of the Euphrates, Tigris and Asi rivers, it has been tried to reveal how much water Turkey, Syria and Iraq benefit from

[3] İlhan, Serbay (2009). Türkiye ve Ortadoğu Ülkeleri Arasındaki Su Sorunu Eksenli Riskler ile Potansiyel Çatışmaya Etkileri ve Hidropolitik Yaklaşımlar. Yüksek Lisans tezi, Kocaeli Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Kocaeli.

these rivers. In the fourth chapter, water-based problems between Turkey and Syria that are encountered past and present have been discussed. In the conclusion section, solution suggestions on the problem are given. In the fourth chapter, it took place between Turkey and Syria, and water-borne problems that are being encountered are discussed. In the conclusion section, solution suggestions are given.

1. Water Potential of Turkey

Turkey, when compared with the Middle East countries in terms of available water resources in a better position, it is worse when compared with Europe. Today, approximately 20 million individuals that constitutes 20% of the population in Turkey, do not have the chance to reach the drinking water. However, as it can be seen anywhere in the world, due to global warming and climate change the temperature is also increasing in Turkey from year to year and reductions are seen in water resources. In the water report prepared by the United Nations, it is declared that as the drought will occur in 2005 in Turkey, it will experience water shortages in 2025, and by the year 2040, there might be wars in Turkey because of the water recources[4].

Annual average rainfall	643 mm/m^2
The area of Turkey	780.000 km^2
Annual rainfall	501 billion m^3
Evaporation	274 billion m^3
İnfiltration	41 billion m^3
Annual surface flow	186 billion m^3
Available surface water	98 billion m^3
Annual groundwater quantity	14 billion m^3
Total available water	112 billion m^3

Table 1: Turkey's water resources potential[5].

[4] Yılmaz, Ayşe (2015). "Küresel Isınmanın Dünya Su Rezervleri Üzerindeki Etkileri". Kent Kültürü ve Yönetimi Hakemli Elektronik Dergi, cilt:8, sayı 2, s.63-72. http://www.kentakademisi.com/kuresel-isinmanin-dunya-su-rezervleri-uzerindeki-etkileri/16792/ erişim tarihi: 08.03.2019.

[5] Yavuz, M. Yahya (2009). Cumhuriyet Döneminde Türkiye, Irak ve Suriye Arasındaki Sınıraşan Suların Yönetimi. Yüksek Lisans, İnönü üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Malatya.

Turkey has a total of 26 water basins. As seen in Figure 1, the average annual rainfall in Turkey is 643 mm and this amount equals to 501 m3 water annually. 274 billion m3 of this water is returned to the atmosphere in various ways and 69 billion m3 is mixed with groundwater. 158 billion cubic meters of water flows into rivers and lakes. In total, 193 billion m3 of this water constitutes the above ground water potential[6].

When the 41 billion m3 of underground water that feeds the parts also taken into account, available renewable water potential in Turkey reaches to 234 billion m3. In today's conditions, surface waters that can be consumed for various purposes are 95 billion m3 in total. Together with 3 billion m3 of water coming from outside Turkey's borders, 14 billion m3 of groundwater is consumed in our country. The total amount of water that can be consumed is 112 billion m3. However, approximately 45 billion m3 of it can be used[7].

According to the estimates of Turkey Statistical Institute (TSI), the population of our country in 2030will exceed 100 million. In this case, the amount of water per capita in our country in 2030 is approximately 1000 m3 per year. Considering Turkey's current growth rate and water use habits, pressure on water sources can be easily estimated. Therefore Turkey should manage existing water status well so that it can transfer water resources to future generations adequately and qualityly[8].

As can be seen from Figure 2, While the amount of water used per capita in 1960 was approximately 4000 m3 per year, this amount falls to 2000 m3 levels by the 2000s. Worse, it is estimated that the amount will drop to 1000 m3 by 2030. Even this data clearly reveals that in the

[6] Devlet Su İşleri. http://www.dsi.gov.tr/toprak-ve-su-kaynaklari accessed : 12.05.2019.

[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.

long-term, Turkey has the potential to encounter serious problems in terms of the amount of available water.

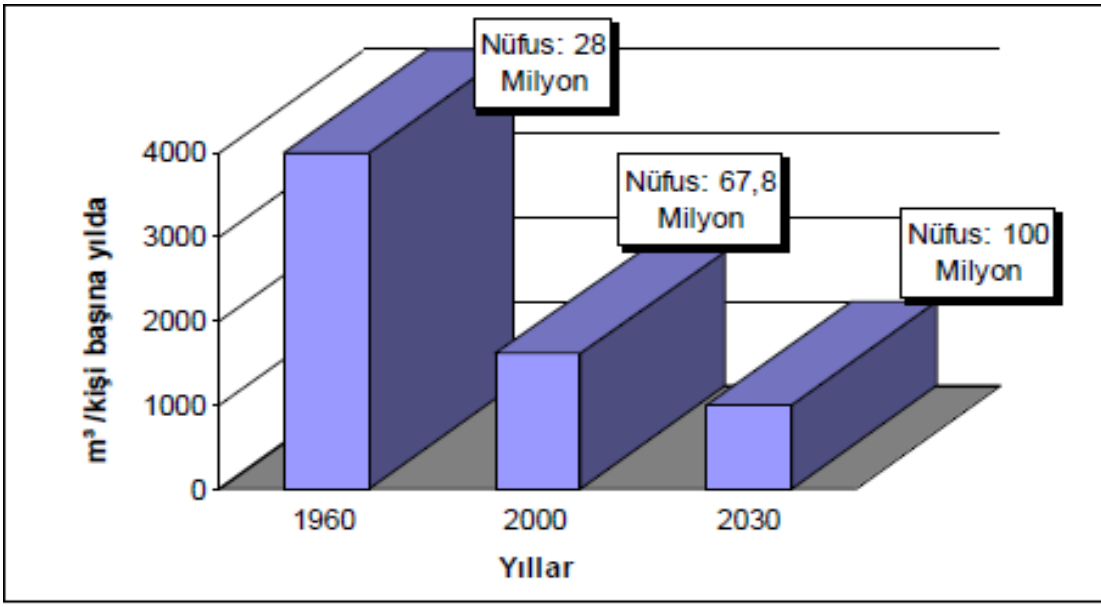


Figure 1: Amount of water per person per year[9].

The potential transboundary waters in Turkey's current water also has a very important place. Turkey's land border of 2753 km of rivers constitutes 615 km. Turkey has the right to sovereignty over the transboundary and has about 27 bordering waters[10]. Turkey, due to its geographical position, is at the downstream of some of these rivers and at upstream of some others. Among these rivers, the most important streams are Aras, Asi and Kocadere - Rezve river basins, especially those of Fırat, Dicle and Çoruh[11].

[9] Ibid.
[10] Tırıl, Alpay (ty). "Sınır Aşan Sular: Türkiye ve Paydaşlarının Sınır Aaşan Sular Politikalarına Siyasal ve Ekolojik Bir bakış".
[11] Ibid.

The amount of the annual flow of these 27 river basins to which Turkey is entitled to, is 27 186,86 billion m3. As 28.36% of this water potential is formed by Euphrates and Tigris rivers, these two rivers are very important for our country[12]. The upstream river basins that Turkey borders, constitutes one third of the renewable streams; 16% the Euphrates, 11% Tigris and 3% the Coruh River[13]. The potential of downstream river basins which Turkey borders, constitutes only 1%.

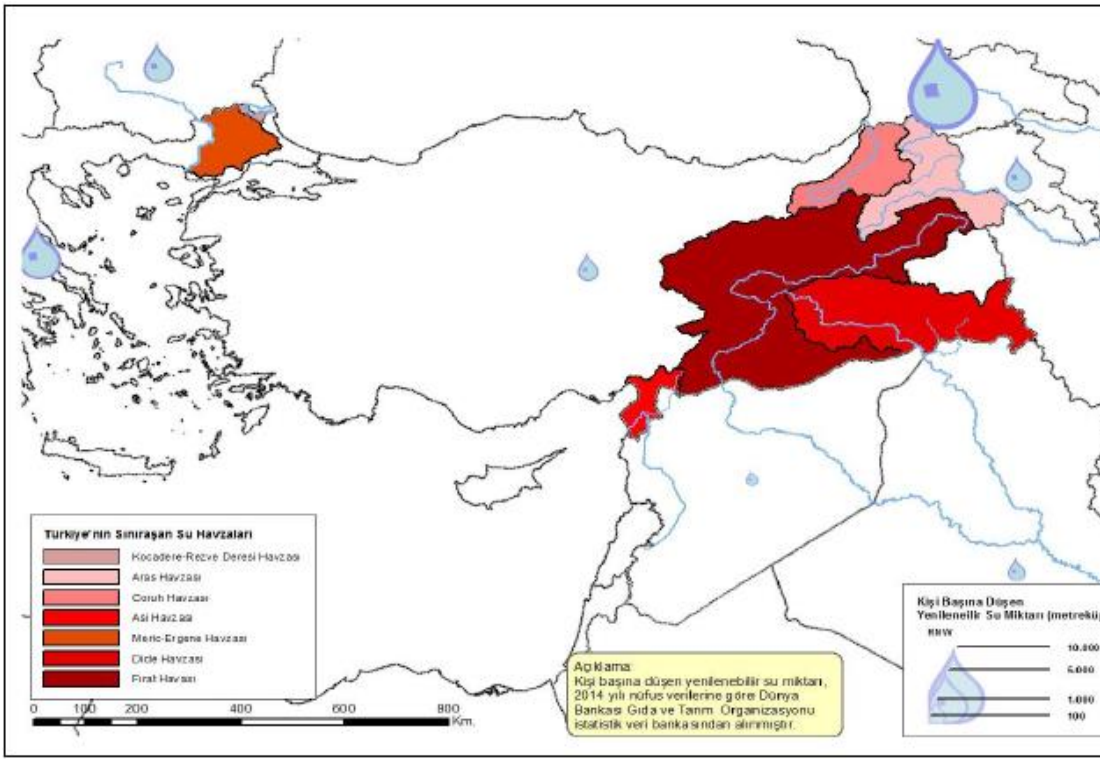


Figure 2: Turkey's Transboundary River Basins and Renewable Quantities[14].

[12] Çolakoğlu, Elif (2008). Suya Erişim Bağlamında Su Güvenliği. Yüksek Lisans tezi, Ankara Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Ankara.
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.

1. Water Potential of Syria

Syria's total aboveground water resources anually, except the Euphrates, is 9.94 billion m^3. In the protocol signed by Turkey and Syria in 1987, Turkey promised to supply 500 m^3/sec water to Syria. Later in 1990, Syria and Iraq agreed that lraq would receive 58% of the water that Turkey left and Syria would have the amount of 42%[15]. In this case, an annual average of 6.5 billion m3 of water is foreseen for Syria. This amount clearly shows the importance of water coming from the Euphrates River to Syria when the current water potential of Syria is considered.

River	Total Length (km)	Length in Syria (km)	Annual flow in Syria (million $m^{3)}$
Euphrates	3.000	710	28.000-29.000
Habur	300	260	1.500-1.780
Balikh	160	80	0.200
Asi	571	325	2.280
Afrine	129	85	
Barada	71	71	0.400
Awaj	66	66	0.100
Yarmuk	57	47	0.450
Others			1.191
Total Surface Waters			34.121-35.121

Table 2: The most important waters of Syria: Average water discharge[16].

At the point where the Tigris river forms the border between Turkey and Syria, there is the opportunity to benefit from the Tigris. The Tigris River is not the cross-border water between the two countries at this point but it is located on an equal geographical condition. Therefore, Syria must reach an agreement with Turkey on the topics

[15] Kıran, Abdullah (2013). Ortadoğu'da Su: Bir Çatışma ya da Uzlaşma Alanı. İstanbul: Kitap yayınevi.
[16] Ibid.

such as building dams and the amount of water it will receive. Considering the natural flow of the river in the boundary water zone, Syria will benefit from this river almost 2.5 billion m3 of water[17]. lt is seen that the total annual surface water of Syria is about 22 billion m3 with the amount of water that Turkey release[18].

Besides the surface waters of Syria, there is a significant amount of groundwater. Syria has a total of 30 thousand wells. However, most of them are consumed in Damaskus, Asi and Aleppo basins by using excessive and unconscious way[19]. An important part of the wells are dried up today.

3.Current Water Potentials of Euphrates, Tigris and Asi Rivers

The Euphrates River, which is one of the most important water resources of the Middle East, is approximately 2780 km in total, which is formed in Elazğ as a single river fed by two separate streams named Karasu from Erzurum and Murat from Van[20]. The length of the Euphrates River from the Karasu River to the Syrian border is 971 km and the length of the Murat river to the Syrian border is 1263 km[21] . The length of the Euphrates River within the borders of Syria is approximately 560 km and its length within the borders of Iraq is around 820 km. However, the river Euphrates in Turkey lies 155 thousand km2, while it is about 204 thousand km2 in Iraq and 85 thousand km2 in Syria. So, the river is fed from a total area of 444 thousand km2 basin[22].

[17] Bilen. Özden (2000). Ortadoğu'da Su Sorunları ve Türkiye. Ankara, TESAV Yayınları.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Şengül, F. Betül (2014). Dünden Bugüne Fırat-Dicle Bağlamında Türkiye'nin Güney Komşuları İle Su Sorunu. Yüksek lisans, İstanbul Ticaret Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, İstanbul.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Yıldız, Dursun, Özdemir Özbay (2011). Şu Fırat'ın Suyu. İstanbul: Truva yayınları.

The 62% of main and secondary sources of the Euphrates River is supplied by Turkey and 38% is from the Syrian land. In this case, while Turkey meets the annual volume of 89% of the Euphrates River, Syria, meets just the 11%. Measurement of average flow rate of Euphrates river is 910 m3 / sec, the highest flow rate of the river is 5340 m3 / sec and the most thought point is 115 m3 / sec[23].

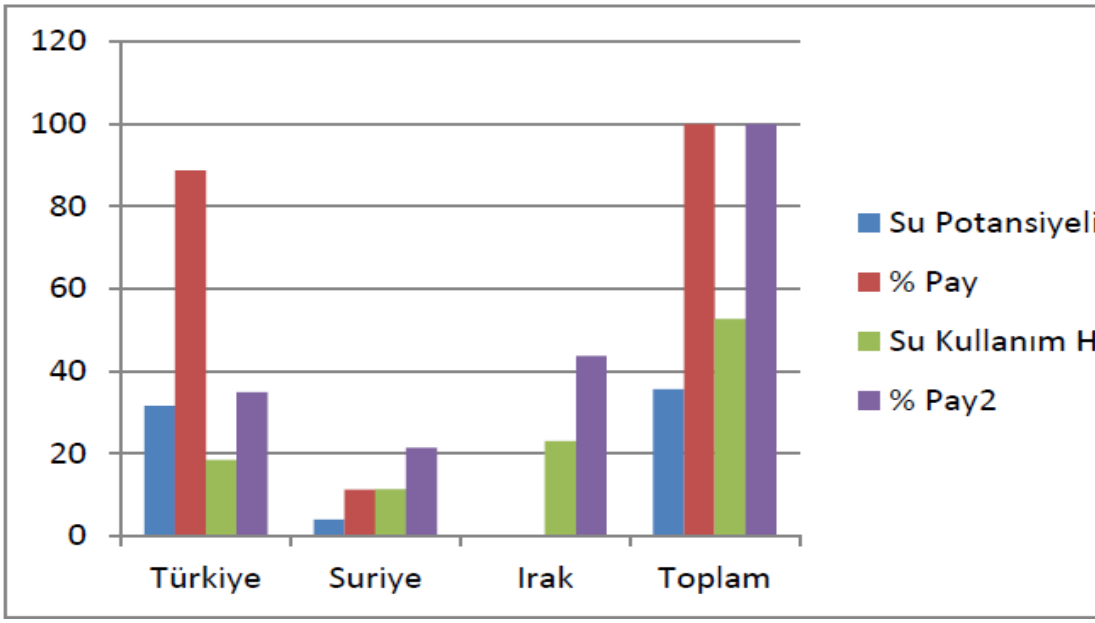


Figure 3: Current Water Potential and Water Use of the Euphrates River[24].

The annual average water potential of the Euphrates River in Syria and Iraq reaches 35 billion m3, while Syria's contribution to water is around 3.5 billion m3. Yet, Iraq does not have any contribution to the Euphrates. While the Euphrates river is fed from the lands of from Turkey and Syria, after entering into Iraqi land it does not receive any

[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid.

water. However, due to the high temperature in Iraq and the topographic characteristics, the evaporation rate is approximately 70%[25].

The amount of water of the Euphrates River can vary considerably from year to year and from season to season. Before the establishment of the Keban dam on the Euphrates River, two severe dry periods were seen in the area. In 1961, the water of the Euphrates river decreased to 14 billion m3 annually. This period lasted for about 4 years and the annual amount of water decreased by half. Another dry period was experienced in 1970 and lasted for about 5 years. In this period, the annual average water amount of the Euphrates river decreased to 18 billion m3. After this period, however, no serious droughts occurred due to the impact of the Keban dam built in 1989. There are serious changes in the waters of the Euphrates between the seasons. In the spring months, the water of the river increases dramatically due to the melting of snow and the effect of the rains. As a result, as Yıldız says,"This water of the Euphrates flows irregularly"[26].

The Tigris River is located in the mountain of Hazarbaba near Elazig and runs about 1900 km until it flows into the Gulf of Basra. The length of the part of the Tigris river from the source point in Turkey to the Iraqi border is 523 km. The total river basin within the borders of Turkey is 38 thousand km2. The Tigris River, with the average 629 m3 / sec amount of water, contributes significantly to the total amount of water of Turkey[27].

[25] Ibid.
[26] Ibid.
[27] Ibid.

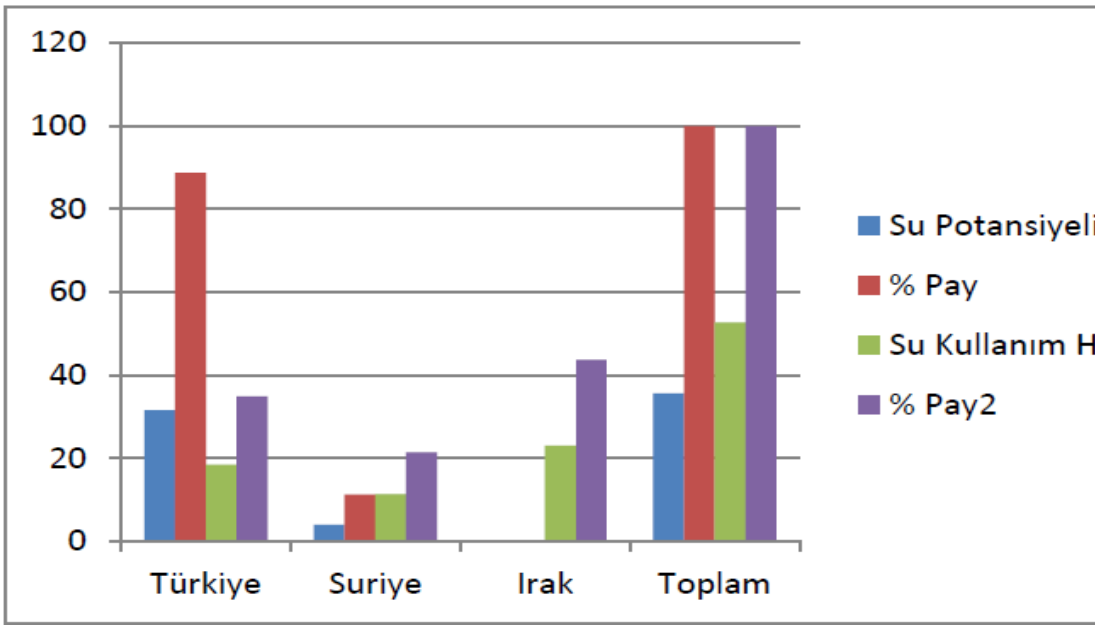


Figure 4: Water Potential of the Tigris River and the Use of Water[28].

Tigris River, after creating a line of about 30 kms between Turkey and Syria, it passes through the Iraqi border. The River Hezil and the large Zap Water, known as the branches of the Tigris River and emerging in Hakkari, join the Tigris within the borders of Iraq. The Tigris River, which is fed by these small branches and which increases in its Iraqi borders, merges with the Euphrates river near the Persian Gulf and forms a 180-km-long Shatt-ül Arab waterway and dumps into the Persian Gulf[29].

The Tigris River, unlike the Euphrates River, does not make a significant contribution to Syria, but provides a very important water to Iraq. The Tigris River reaches an average of 1340 m3 / sec in Iraq. Moreover, the contribution from all side branches to Dicle is 215 billion m3. With the 31 billion m3 of conribution from the Small Zap River, Adhaym and Diyala from Iraq and 21 billion m3 a contribution from

[28] Ibid.
[29] Ibid.

Turkey, the Tigris river reaches 52 billion m3 of water potential in total[30].

While 12% of the Tigris River lies in Turkey, 54% in Iraq, 34% in Iran, and Syria provides the lowest contribution with a portion like 0.2%. Tigris river, while it gets the 51% of the total amount of water annually from Turkey, 39% from Iraq, it receives a contribution of 10% from Iran[31].

Another problem experienced between Turkey and Syria is the river Asi. Unlike the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, Turkey is located in the downstream position in the Asi River case. The Asi River is born in the Bekaa valley of Lebanon and passes through the Syrian borders after 35 km it flows within the borders of Lebanon. The River Asi flows within the Syrian borders about 120 km and leaves Syrian land, passes the border of Turkey and flows into the Mediterranean Sea after running about 90 kms from Hatay. The annual average water capacity of the Asi River is 2.5 billion m3. This amount may vary in some sources. The 92% of the water of the river of Asi is produced in Syria, 6% in Lebanon, and the remaining 2% is fed from the sources in Turkey[32].

[30] Ibid.
[31] Ibid.
[32] Ibid.

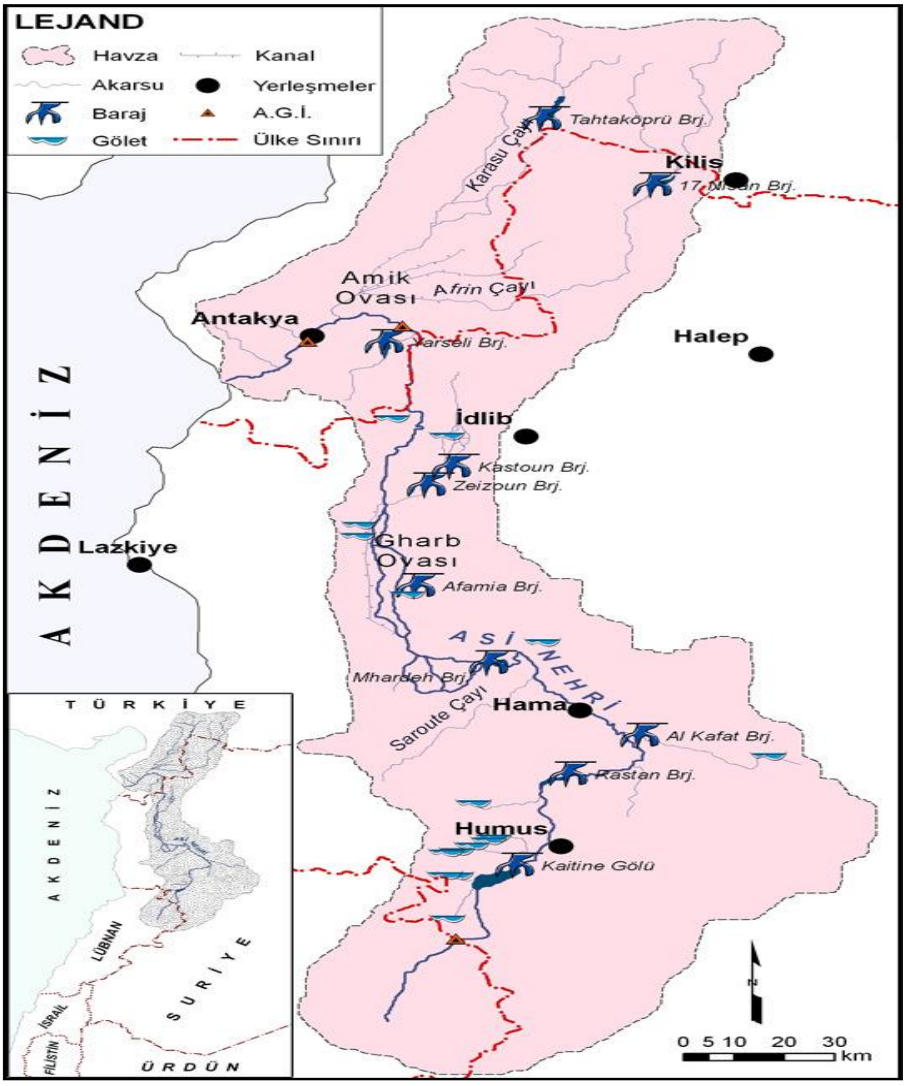


Figure 5: Basin of the Asi River[33].

The Asi River forms the border between Turkey and Syria about 22 kms. The most important waters feeding the Asi River are the Karasu and Afrin rivers. These two rivers are born in the lands of our country

[33] Korkmaz, Hüseyin, Atilla Karataş (2009). "Asi Nehri'nde Su Yönetimi ve Ortaya Çıkan Sorunlar". Mustafa Kemal Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi, cilt 6, sayı 12: sayfa 18-40.

and these two rivers run for a short time in Syria and flow back to our country and drain into Amik Lake. The Asi River has a total area of 38 thousand km2 along with its branches. The 50% of the basin is located in Turkey, 45% in Syria and the remaining 6% is located on the border of Lebanon[34].

4.Water problems between Turkey and Syria

Euphrates, Tigris and Asi rivers constitute the most important water issues between Turkey and Syria. Apart from these, Çağçağ water, Sempa Suyu, Sabuncu, Afrin and Kuveik waters are the transboundary waters between the two countries. The problems arising on the Euphrates, Tigris and Asi rivers are due to the changes in the water use quantities of countries[35].

Although the contribution of Syria to the Euphrates River is only around 11%, it demands about 12 billion m3 of water per year from the the river. Likewise, without any contribution to the flow of the Euphrates river, Iraq demands 23 billion m3 of water from the river. Turkey, however, contributes about 89% annual flow into the river but it demands only a total of 18.5 billion m3 of water annually. Unfortunately, the Euphrates does not have a water capacity that can meet these demands. The annual water capacity of the Euphrates River is 35.5 billion m3[36].

As regards the Tigris river, Turkey contributes to the river flow as 52% and it demands water from the river with a total amount 7 billion m 3. However, Iraq contributes to the flow rate of the river as 45 billion m3 per year and demands 48% the amount of annual water. Syria, which has no contribution to the flow rate of the Tigris, demands 2.5

[34] Akça, Çağatay (2014). Sınıraşan Sularla İlgili Uluslararası Hukuki Metinlerin Değerlendirilmesi. Uzmalık tezi, Orman ve Su İşleri Bakanlığı, Ankara.
[35] Taşkıran, Devrim (2018). "Türkiye-Suriye İlişkilerinde Su Sorunu ve Sorunun İlişkilere Etkisi". SocialSciencesStudiesJournal, cilt 4,sayı 24: s. 5059-5071.
[36]Ibid.

billion m3 of water annually from the river. As in the Euphrates River, the potential of the Tigris River is not sufficient to meet the total amount of water demanded by the three countries. The annual capacity of the Tigris River is 48.67 billion m3[37].

Until the 1950s, there was no problem between the two countries in terms of water. However, the development of irrigation projects on both the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and the start of dams to produce hydroelectric energy have also caused problems[38].

The first serious problem emerged concerning transboundary waters between Turkey and Syria, was the start to build the Keban Dam on the Euphrates River. Both Syria and Iraq began to react to the Keban Dam, which began construction in 1964. With the completion of the dam in the two countries, the water coming from the Euphrates river would be seriously reduced. Although there was some debates about the amount of water flowing between countries with the completion of the construction of the dam in 1974, the water problem did not come to the agenda for a while[39].

Turkey requested a loan from the World Bank for the construction of the Karakaya Dam planned for 1975. The World Bank presented a number of conditions for granting the credit which Turkey wanted, and the Bank replied that he would give the loan if the conditions were fulfilled. It was one of the most important conditions to make an agreement with the downstream countries, Iraq and Syria. Turkey had a meeting with the related countries to criticise this requirement and consequently he succeeded to get the loan after providing commitments of 500 m3 /sec water from the the Euphrates. The Karakaya Dam, of which construction started in 1976, was completed in 1987 and the committed amount of water has been given to the lower riparian

[37] Ibid.
[38] Ibid.
[39] Eroğlu, Yunus, ty, Türkiye, Irak ve Suriye Arasında Yaşanan Su Sorununun Hukuksal Çerçevesi. s. 1-16.

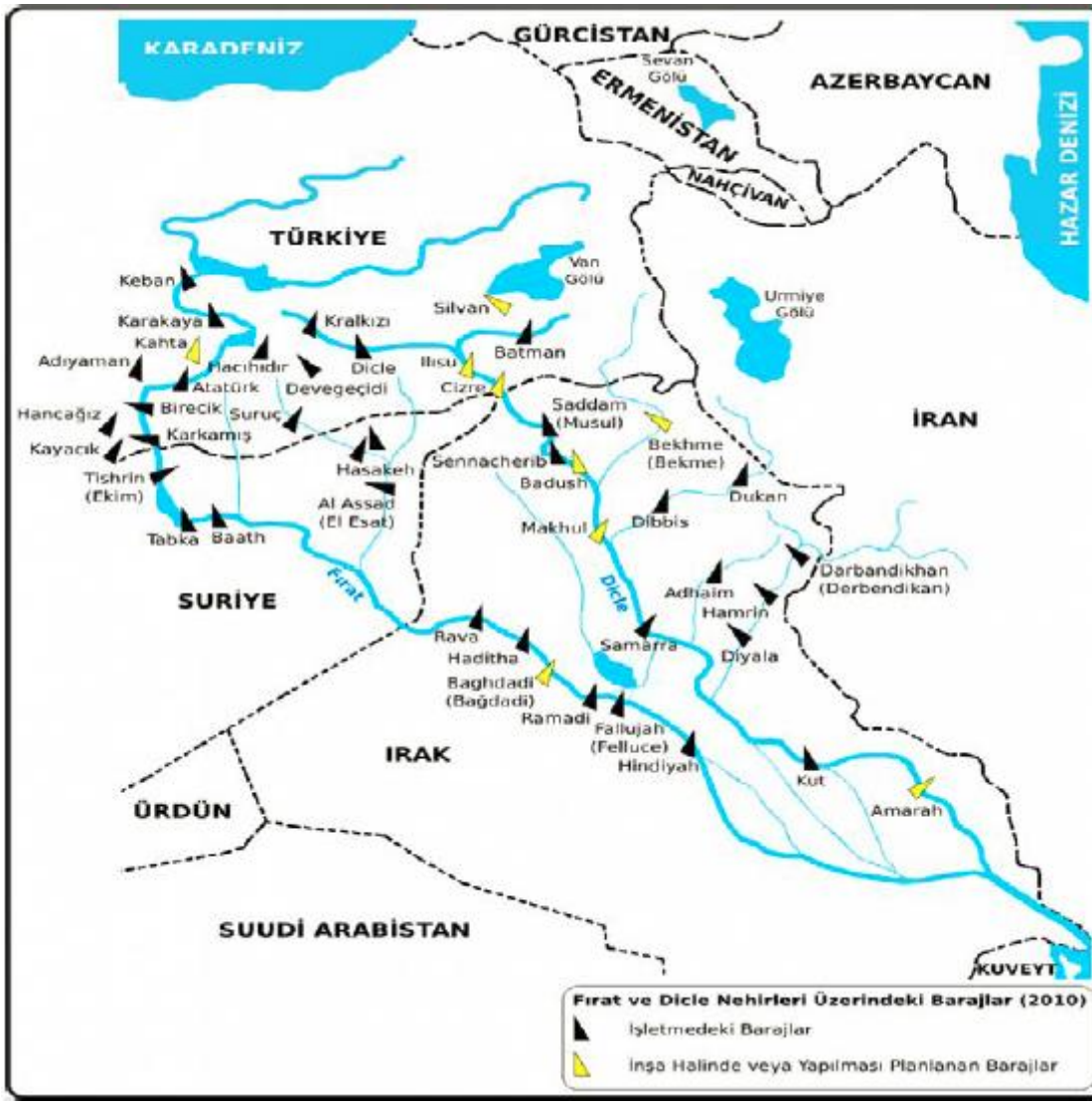
countries since then[40]. On the other hand, the states of Iraq and Syria demanded that the water separated for their part from the Euphrates River was no longer sufficient and that 500 m3 / sec of water should be increased to 700 m3 / sec.

After the problems in the construction of the Karakaya Dam, the other problem, which has reached serious dimensions between the two countries, is the Atatürk Dam which has been completed and caused serious problems in filling the reservoir. Turkey, after finishing the construction of the dam, when it came to filling stage, reported to the riparian countries' governments of Iraq and Syria that he would cut down the waters of the Euphrates river for 1 month. However, the declaration opposed violently in two states. Syria and Iraq described Turkey's cutting the waters of the Euphrates river down as a political decision. They argued that Turkey used both the Euphrates and Tigris river as a political material. However, the actions of the PKK terrorist organization, which Iraq and Syria openly supported, increased. Turkey accused both countries of supporting terrorism and blamed them for the terrorist incidents. Turkey was actually not using the so-called water supplies as a political tool against the riparian countries. This goodwill policy of Turkey did not change until the 1980s. However, the ongoing of Syrian support for the PKK in Turkey after the 1980s led Turkey to use it as an element of political power[41].

Turkey then accelerated the GAP projects to put into practice consisting of 22 dams and 25 irrigation systems on rivers Tigris and Euphrates. GAP has been Turkey's the largest and the most costly project. With this project, it was targetted to increase the welfare level of the region and reduce the development differences between the other regions to zero. However, the first serious problem between Syria and Turkey emerged with this project. The credit provided by the World

[40] Maden, T. Evrim (2011). "Türkiye-Suriye İlişkilerinde Suyun Rolü". Ortadoğu Analiz Dergisi, cilt: 3, sayı: 35, s. 33-40.
[41] Ibid.

Bank for this project had been cut due to the opposition of Iraq and Syria to the project. Nevertheless, Turkey did not quit completing the project but tried to complete it with its own resources[42].



[42] Ibid.

Figure 6: Dams on the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers[43].

Another river that forms promlem between Turkey and Syria is the Asi River. Syria wants to take the Asi River under its control in case of the decrease of the water coming from the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. In the sharing of the Asi River, there is no problem regarding the sharing between Lebanon and Syria. Since Lebanon accepts almost all of the offers coming from Syria on the Asi River, it does not cause any problems between the two countries and does not have a significant impact on the management of the river[44].

Asi River supplies all the agricultural irrigation needs for the Amik plain in Hatay. However, fact that Syria and Turkey cannot get an agreemnt on the river and that Syria has used the river almost completely in the summer months, affects the agricultural activities in the Amik plain negatively.

As Syria has started to save water in Moharda, Katuna and Mostar dams on the river, the amount of water that reaches to Amik Plain decreases with each passing day. Due to the lack of sufficient water and the attitude of Syrian Government, it is estimated that the Amik plain will dry out in the coming years[45].

The water coming from Moharda, Katına and Mostar dams, which were established on the Syrian River, started to catch water and the water coming down with each passing day decreased. Due to the lack of sufficient water due to this attitude of Syria from the Asi River, which is the main water source to the Amik plain, it is estimated that the plain will dry out in the coming years[46].

CONCLUSON

[43] Ibid.
[44] Ibid.
[45] Ibid.
[46] Ibid.

Bilateral relations between Turkey and Syria were already continuing in an unstable manner. The situation between the two countries, with the addition of water problems from the 1960s onwards, has not been solved. After the Project GAP that Turkey put into effect started to work, Syria and Iraq began to act together aginst Turkey internationally. They aimed at preventing Turkey's provision of resources for the project, as mentioned above. Syria did not only support the PKK terrorist organization, but also brought serious problems between the two countries.

Syria and Iraq have always brought constant problems with the dam projects on the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, two of Turkey's most important water source. The disagreement of interests on the two rivers and insecurity make it impossible to solve the problem. In fact, Turkey's dams founded on these two rivers are not just for the benefit of Turkey. The research results show that the presence of these dams within the borders of Turkey helps the deposit water evaporate less and that Turkey maintains regular flow of water which has serious benefits for these countries. While the river basins in Iraq and Syria are flat and large, the riverbed in Turkey is narrow and deep. So, the evaporation and temperature advantages make Turkey much more useful on behalf of the three countries.

Due to global warming and climate changes, snow and rain do not fall as much as before; the flow of water is not reduced by dams but by global warming. The research has shown that there had been a natural decrease in the river before the construction of Keban the first dam that Turkey built on the river. Also, according to this survey again if Turkey had not built dams on the two rivers, the amount of water released to Syria and Iraq would have been much less.

When considered the policies that Turkey maintains for the rivers Asi and Tigris, it will be seen that Turkey keeps a balanced, fair and equal practise. However, when we look at the policies of Syria on rivers, it becomes clear that they follow a series of policies that contradict themselves and refute their own thesis. In fact, Syria is in contradiction

with itself because it pursues policies that only consider its own interests. Therefore, there are serious differences in the policies he follows on these three rivers. When Syria changes its attitude and seeks a reasonable solution, water problems between the two countries can be solved. Unfortunately, with the civil war in Syria in 2011, due to the Syrian government's behavior, the relations between the two countries were severed. If political stability is achieved by the end of the civil war in the coming years, the bilateral relations between the two countries can recover again. In this case, if the water problems are brought to the agenda, the problem of countries can be found in the middle way and the water problem can be solved.

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