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Water Security in the MENA region



The resource associated the most with the MENA region and its states has been, for the most recent history, oil. Such presupposition was for a long time matter of fact that the Gulf States did profit enormously from oil extraction. However, nowadays, with accelerating changes what was the most common association is being surprisingly contested by an old, but well-known challenge in the region, the most crucial resource, even more than before water.

Arid climate, scarcity of ground resources, deserts and desertification of sparse green territories all lead to even larger decrease in countries' so-called 'water budget'. The concern that in the past was more or less manageable has become a threat amidst the climate change and even more radical transformation of already extre-

me climate in countries like the UAE, Qatar, Oman or Saudi Arabia. This could be a serious threat to the security of the region if its economies and societies do not prepare for it well enough. Aforementioned environmental factors, combined with population growth and urbanization, has led to the situation, where it is as hard as never before to secure water to, for example, irrigate the land. To tell what role the water plays in the economies of the MENA region there is one important indicator. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Oman, for example, use the highest percent of their aforementioned 'water budget' on agriculture, respectively 88% and 89%. This shows how water reliant entire sectors of economies can be. These circumstances lead to a necessity of maximising the extraction and efficiency in storing the water. Currently, an economy has only two ways

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