The Indus Water Treaty: Is everyone keeping their word?

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In a dry land, water rules all. This is exactly the case for two neighboring countries in very dry region, namely India and Pakistan. Both countries rely heavily on the Indus River for both agricultural and energy needs, but can two different nations share such a valuable resource efficiently? In the past the answer to this question is undoubtedly NO. In the 1940’s after partition, India went to war with Pakistan to maintain illegitimate occupation of its water sources. India deliberately stopped the flow of rivers into Pakistan where it owned the rivers head waters. India, one of the world’s largest water grabbers is said to have used water as a tool of war and as a tool of political coercion against countries such as Pakistan.

To alleviate such problems, Pakistan called for the Indus Water Treaty which was mediated by the UN. The treaty gives India rights to the Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas rivers and gives Pakistan the rights to the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers.

Since the signing of the treaty in 1960, India has twice tried to illegally build dams along its rivers that would violate the Water Treaty. The 1984 Wullar Barrage was stopped due to strong protest by Pakistan, but the Baglihar Dam in 2005 got permission to continue construction after some modifications. Is this treaty enough to keep both countries satisfied?

River or River Basin: Indus

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