



Hydropolicy in Ethiopia

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Abstract

The Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan was a five-year plan put forward by the Ethiopian Government to modernize, stabilize, and drastically improve the quality of life for everyone in Ethiopia. The plan was centrally focused on encouraging foreign investment opportunities, and undertake many large scale development projects. To accomplish this plan, Addis Ababa attempted to pursue grand power generating abilities and become a hydropower juggernaut in the region, and securing energy resources with membership in the East African Power Pool. This presentation evaluates how Ethiopia's developmental and intergovernmental efforts have helped in achieving the desired growth and transformation.

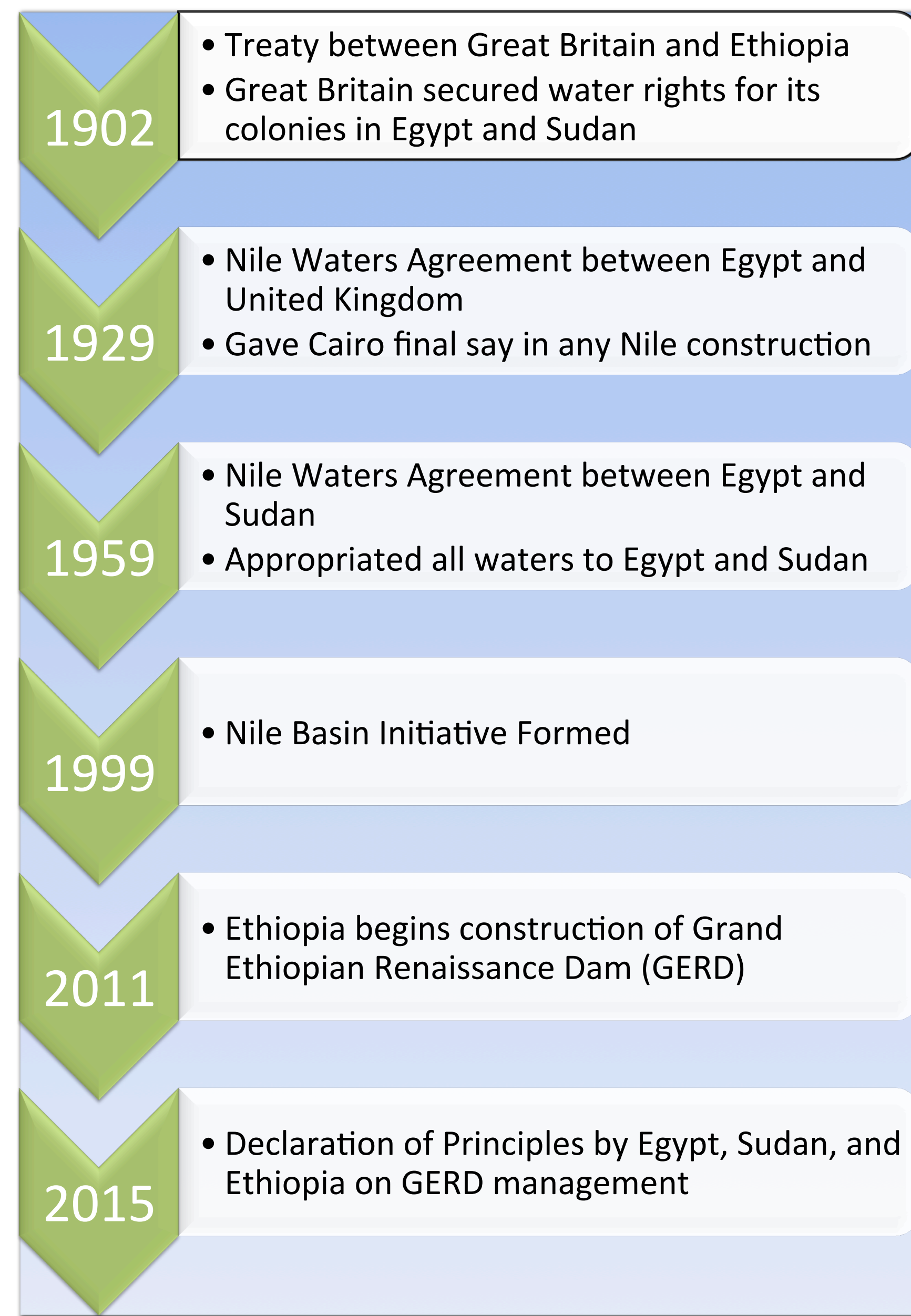
Introduction

Ethiopia's government is driven by a renewal, and a rebirth, to distance itself from its bloody civil war of the 70's and 80's, the war with Eritrea of the 90s, and election violence in 2005, and throughout all of these events, widespread poverty and famine. This push towards renewal is seen in the language of government programs. The five year plan aiming at growing Ethiopia's agriculture and industry is titled the "Growth and Transformation Plan", the latest Megadam along the Nile more explicitly carries this rhetoric, calling itself the "Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam"

Research Question

- How has Ethiopia used hydropolicy to effectively meet its goals set forth in its five year Growth and Transformation Plan?
- How has Ethiopia used hydropolicy to reshape how international relations in East Africa look?

Brief History of Nile Water Rights

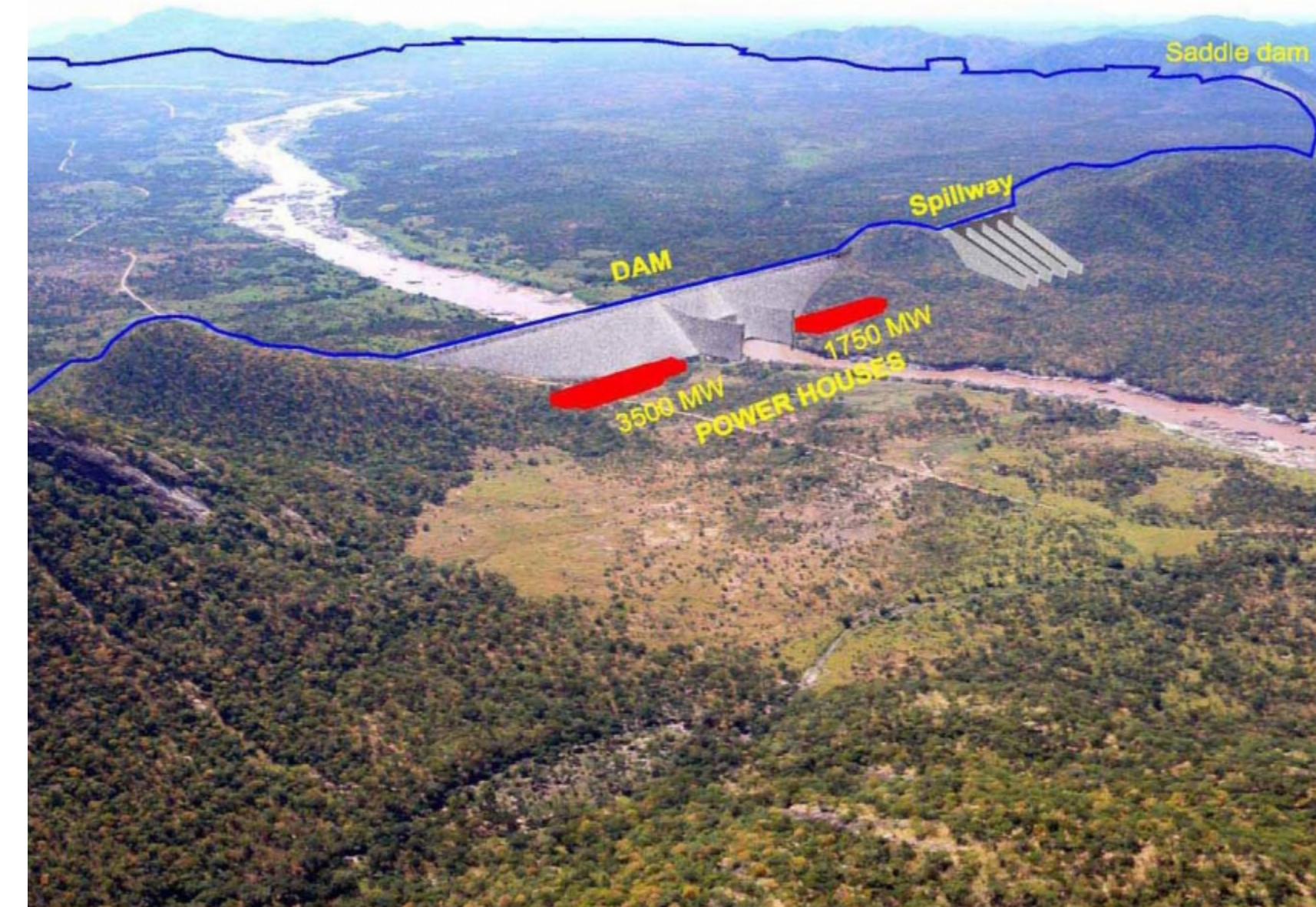


Hydropower Projects

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is currently under construction, and will lie forty kilometers from Ethiopia's border with Sudan.

Will be the largest and most powerful dam on the entire continent of Africa, eclipsing Egypt's Aswan Dam by generating over twice the electricity.

Ethiopia estimates this will displace at least 14,000 people, NGOs like International Rivers say this is far too low of an estimate.



Mockup of the GERD and its resultant reservoir via the NGO International Rivers

Conclusions

The construction of the GERD on the Blue Nile will displace tens of thousands of individuals from their homes, and will hold various other environmental and ecological consequences.

However, construction of the GERD is an effort by Ethiopia to both advance domestic policies in line with their Growth and Transformation Plan, and their foreign policy goals of a unified Africa, with Ethiopia as the hegemon.

The failure of Egypt and Sudan to block construction of the GERD signals their downturn as regional dominators, and a shift to a balanced regional cooperation by the riparian states.

Further Discussion

What is the human cost of the development of the GERD? Given the amount of citizens displaced, and the near forced financial contributions by Ethiopians to build the dam, can this be called an effective policy?

Current indicators are that Ethiopia will manage the Nile Water in coordination of regional actors, what aspects of this cooperation will ensure effective resource management in the face of climate change?

What precedent will this set other transboundary river conflicts around the world?

Ethiopia's Results

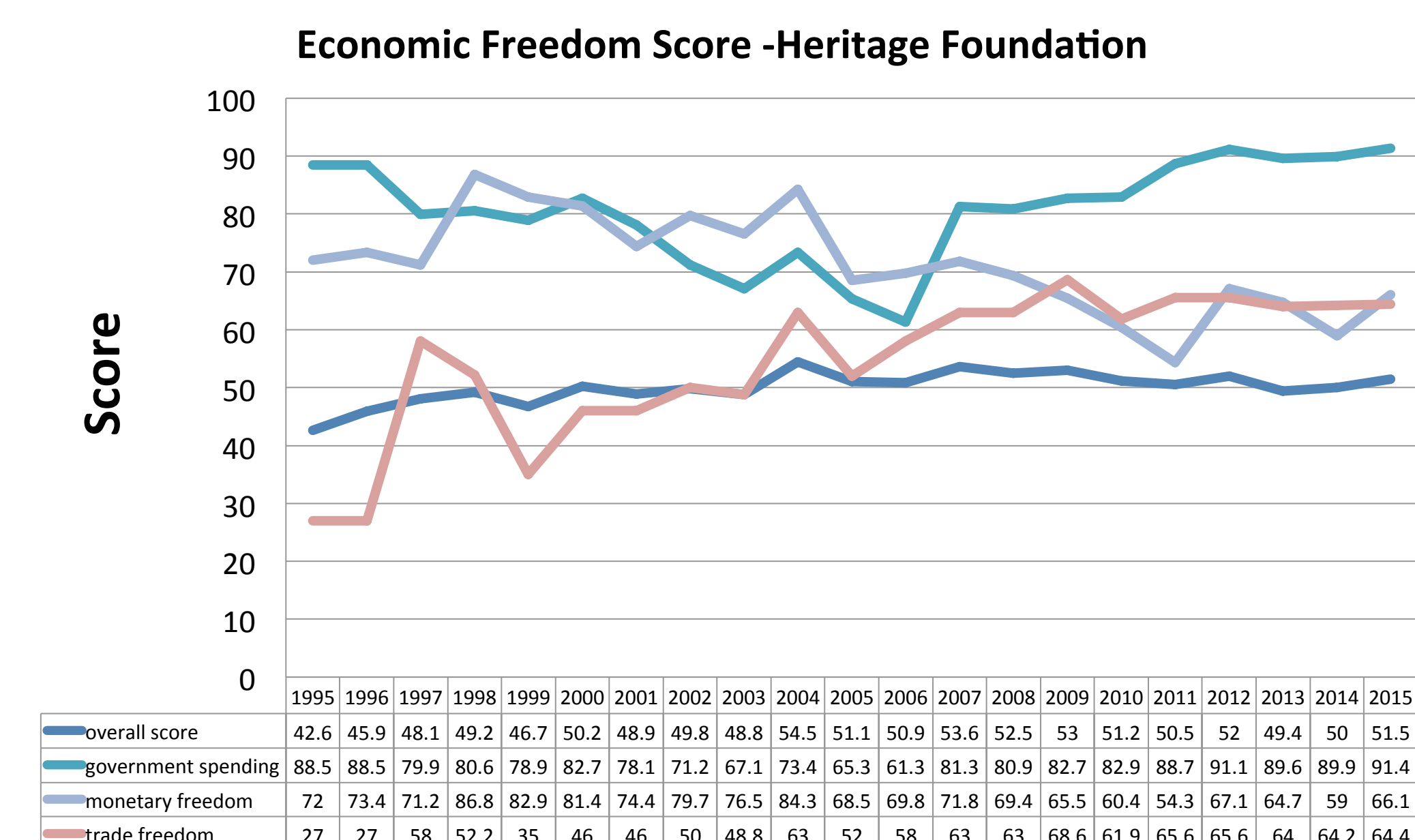
"The only matter that could take Egypt to war again is water" – Former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (1979)



Egypt's President Sisi, Sudanese President al-Bashir, and Ethiopian Prime Minister Desalegn celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Principles on the GERD in 2015. (via hornaffairs.com)

By attracting massive amounts of foreign investment during their Growth and Transformation period, Ethiopia has managed to make great strides in their infrastructure development

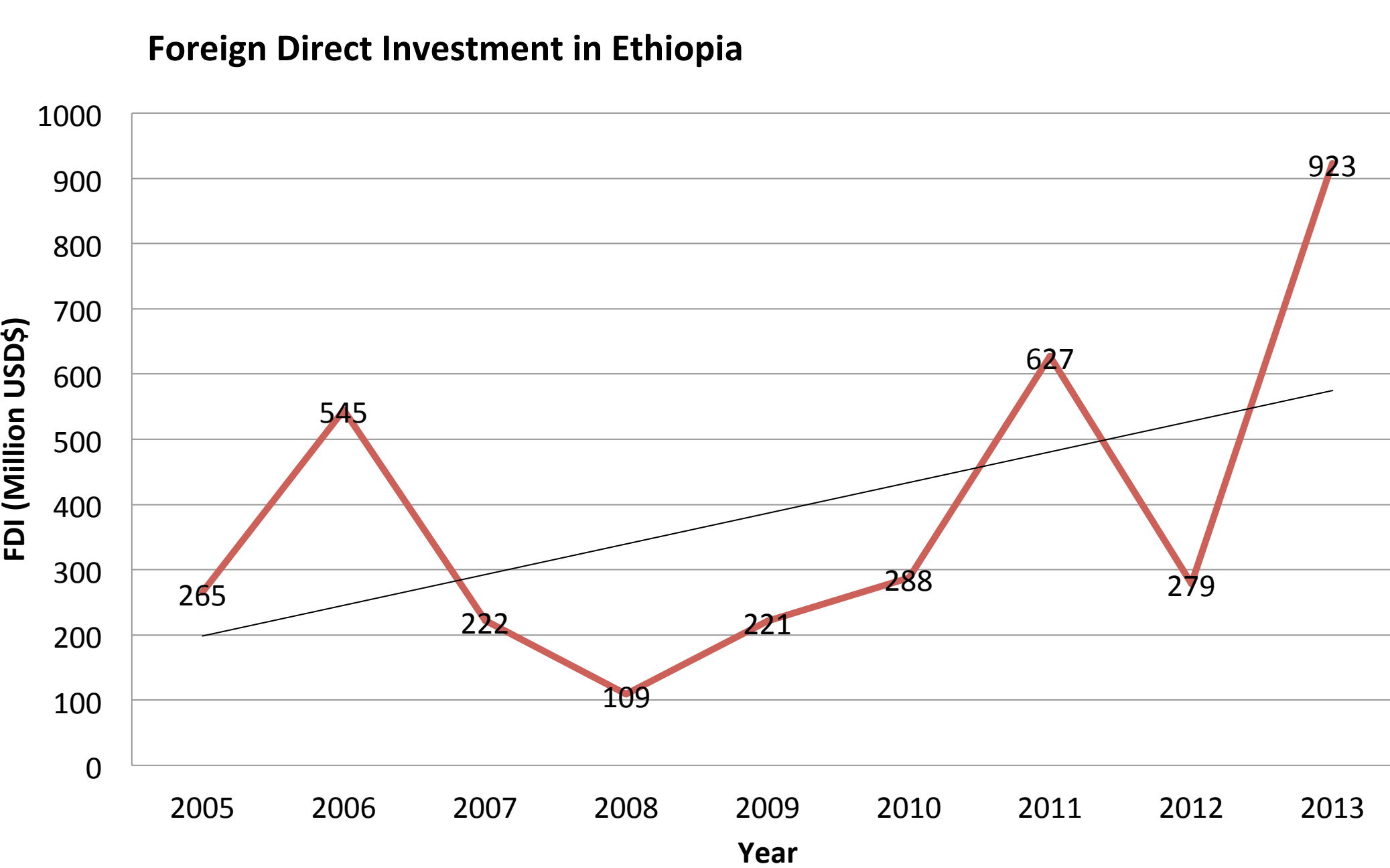
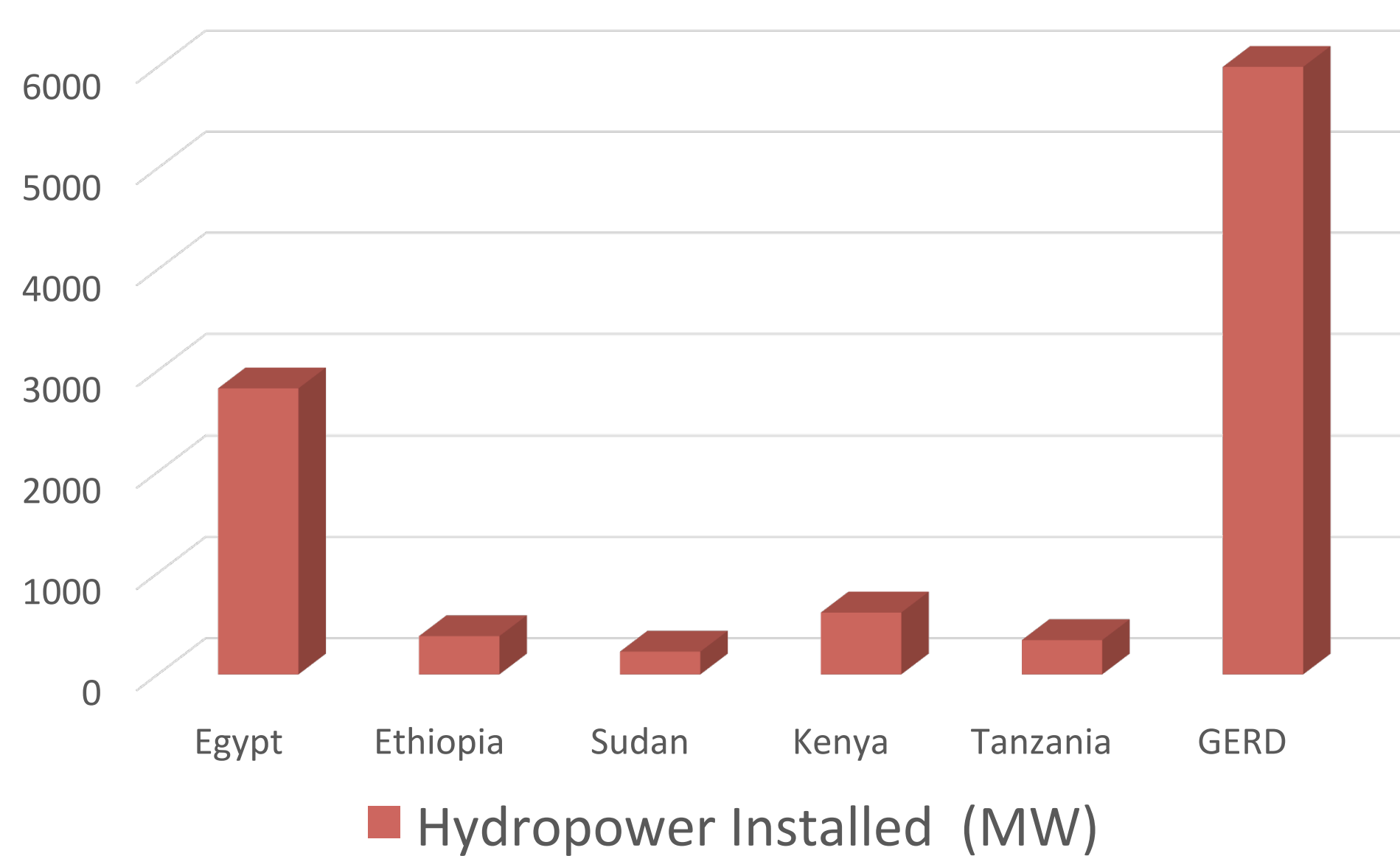
Ethiopia has effectively translated this power into the international arena, by asserting itself as the dominant hydrological power on the Nile



The World Investment Report released in 2015 indicated that Ethiopia was the third largest recipient of foreign direct investment in Africa in 2013, increasing roughly 240% compared to 2012.

China has been one of the largest investors of infrastructure and land in Africa, and especially in Ethiopia, helping to construct many dams much smaller than the GERD..

The GERD's \$4.7b however is financed completely by domestic and diasporic sources.



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