

Trade and preventing potential conflict in the Nile river basin countries

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Geographies for Peace conference, International Geographical Union Conference, Bolivia, April 2017.

Trade and commercial exchange has a great effect on preventing the eruption of violent conflicts and wars. That is because trade and the economic activities, in general, grow only in a stable and safe political environment. Consequently, local and overseas owners of capitals and investors usually function as pressure groups who pressure politicians and decision makers to make the situation in their countries more stable and uneventful to increase the commercial exchange and achieve economic growth. In other words, the commercial exchange may play an important role as the protective factor that prevents the outbreak of wars and thus, make peace spread and prevail.

The concept of war has developed from destructive military wars to cold wars, that includes economic wars, economic blockade, and the use of economic negotiations as an effective tool to spread peace by reducing the military intervention among countries.

The impact of economy on making peace is shown—for example—where countries share the same river basin, like the River Nile basin countries where the upstream countries want to seize the greatest share of water at the expense of downstream countries' quota. This may lead to a potential conflict. Accordingly,

augmenting trade exchange among basin countries may reduce the tensions and disputes among them.

This study shows that the trade exchange among countries of the River Nile basin is weak. Consequently, Water distribution among them may lead to many problems that can be reduced by increasing the trade exchange among them. Thus, this study presents some suggestions to encourage the trade among the Nile basin countries.