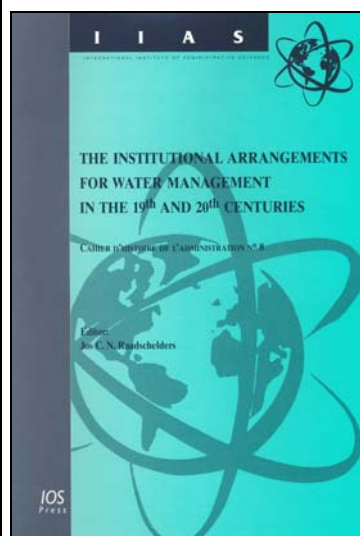


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The Institutional Arrangements for Water Management in the 19th and 20th Centuries

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People are seldom aware that the amount of fresh, drinkable water available in the world is the same today as it was 2000 years ago. But, the world population increased from about 300 million in A.D.1 to 6.3 billion presently. This means that the demand for fresh water is higher than ever before.

This volume provides a systematic comparison of the water management institutional arrangements (WMIA) that have evolved over the past 200 years in ten Western countries as well as a study of international cooperation in river management. The majority of these countries have had WMIA's for centuries; thus it is surprising to learn that the direction of institutional development is much less determined by historical experience with particular technologies and/or particular institutional arrangements than by population size and density.

The volume provides in-depth national studies on the basis of a theoretical framework presented in the opening chapter. Comparative observations are provided in the concluding chapter.

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