

**WEEK 14: Recitation/Reading Themes Re: Borders + Resources**

*Harris (NAVIGATING WATERS); Le Billon (RESOURCE GEOPOLITICS); Newman (LINES+BORDERS)*

**I) Definitions**

- a) Harris: “conflict geographies”
- b) Harris: “politics of scale” (see also links to Newman + boundaries)
- c) Newman: “borderless world” discourses (examples, critiques)
- d) Newman: “demarcation” (roles, significance)
- e) Le Billon: “resource war” (origin, transformation, application)
- f) Le Billon: “point” vs. “diffuse” resources (examples, importance)

**II) Concepts**

- a) Harris: State-centric thinking on conflicts and its limits
- b) Harris: Water in geopolitics...examples of shared basins + evidence of conflicts over scarcity
- c) Harris: How water is bound to spatiality + territory...and thus to geographies of war + peace
- d) Le Billon: Characteristics of resource “lootability” and “opportunity” re: conflict and violence
- e) Le Billon: Key ideas and aspects of “Geographies of ‘Resource Wars’”
- f) Newman: Consider “process” vs. “outcome” oriented views of borders and boundary-making
- g) Newman: Boundaries as narratives and discursive constructions vs. institutions or objects

**III) Questions/Criticisms**

- a) Are ‘water wars’ more or less likely in the future? How does attention to ‘scale’ color your view?
- b) How might changing water uses in Turkey affect local outcomes and/or the ‘Kurdish Question’?
- c) Are the geopolitical histories and geo-economic legacies of resource extraction relevant today?
- d) Is a ‘grand unified theory’ of “borders” or “conflict” possible? Is such an effort wise?
- e) Which academic discipline offers the most useful approach to understanding borderland(er)s?
- f) Does ‘globalization’ demand a borderless world? What contradictions do such questions expose?