



Water Agreements between the United States and Mexico

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Two are the main agreements regarding water resources distribution between the United States and Mexico: the Convention of 1906 and the Treaty of 1944. The convention of 1906 solved the problems of water allocation in the upper Rio Grande (Rio Bravo as it is named in Mexico) between water uses in the United States (Texas, New Mexico) and Mexico (Chihuahua). Several philosophical doctrines took place to address obligations and rights for both countries, such as 1) the Harmon doctrine or “total sovereignty doctrine” where every country has the right to use their natural resources, including water, at their own convenience; or 2) the Vallarta doctrine where every riparian country has the right to use an equitable amount of water and the sovereignty of one state do not authorize the right to use the water of the other state. The Convention of 1906 solved a small portion of the water distribution problems among both countries; however, this agreement set the tone for the philosophical and political discussion of the Treaty of 1944. The Treaty of 1944 defines the water allocation of both countries for the Colorado, Tijuana and Rio Grande/Bravo rivers; this agreement defines the rights and obligations for both countries regarding water distribution. This presentation will give a brief overlook of both treaties, as well as a quantitative analysis of their compliance, What was the performance expected when the treaty was signed and how does it compare with the actual performance? Performance criteria of reliability, vulnerability and resilience are used to evaluate the treaty performance.