



Passing over the conflict. The Chu Talas basin agreement as an example case for Central Asia?

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In the mid 1990s the conflict potential over water resources in Central Asia was rated as very strong. In recent years, the international community celebrated the agreement in the Chu Talas basin as a major 'break through' for Central Asia. In the agreement the two riparian states Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan accept cost sharing for the trans-boundary water infrastructure. The agreement has been presented internationally as an example case for Central Asia. It is argued that the lessons learned from this case could be transferred to the larger Central Asian rivers (Amu Darya and Syr Darya). The paper critically examines how the Chu Talas basin case has been positively presented and how other aspects which might have led to the agreement have been de-emphasised. Furthermore, it is questioned whether the knowledge gained from this basin can or even should be utilized for other Central Asian rivers.