PREFACE

Conflict over natural resources including river waters is an age old phenomenon in human society and history. In primitive society groupal conflict over fertile land and river waters was almost a regular event. Instances are there that the great emperor conquered and annexed territories to get more and more such natural resources. In the twentieth century, particularly after the post-second world war, conflict over the river waters was further intensified at all levels due to increasing population, higher levels of human activities and non-navigational uses of river waters. As a result, conflict resolutions for rational use and distribution of river waters have been a very complex task throughout the world. In addition, the trap of the population explosion, water resources depletion, pollution, controversies over the construction of big dams have worsen the situation in the developing countries during the past 25 years and all the current trends indicate that the situation is likely to become more complex in the coming years. Accordingly, settlement of conflicts over river waters have become a priority consideration for the future welfare of human kind.

The problem is further complicated by the fact that for resolving river water dispute there are often no universal solutions, both geographically and in terms of time. Solution that works in the United States may not be the most appropriate for China, or what may work well in China may not prove to be an efficient
United States, Australia and Canada for settling such disputes and to make the analysis more significant and meaningful development of international law to deal with water disputes amongst sovereign states has also been included within the scope of the present analysis. Thereafter, nature and origin of principal inter-state water disputes in India which have been either settled or awaiting settlement, constitutional and statutory provisions in India concerning inter-state water disputes, adjudicatory, non adjudicatory methods so far adopted in India for resolving the inter-state water disputes are analysed in order to explore the real shortcomings of the institutional arrangements. Finally, the whole analysis of the problem paves the way towards institutional solution.

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