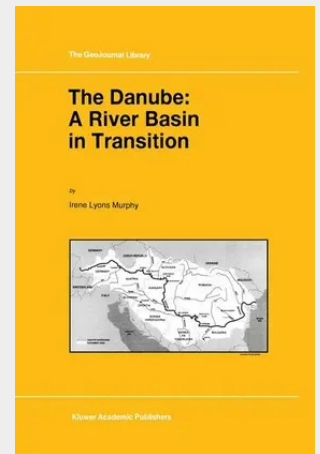


The Danube: A River Basin in Transition

International river basins first captured my interest while I worked on water resource issues in the US Department of the Interior during the 1970s and '80s. I was especially intrigued with the way the US resolved long and recurring disputes with Mexico over the shared use of the Colorado River. The elements of decision making common to basins throughout the world were present in these transboundary conflicts and their resolution. In 1985 I began collaborating with Dr. Eleonora Sabadell, who was then a specialist in water resources at George Washington University and who is now with the US National Science Foundation, on analyses of several international river basin agreements. The work combined her expertise as a civil engineer and mine as a political scientist and practicing policy analyst. We wrote articles, participated in panel sessions, and in 1986 directed an international workshop at IIASA in Laxenburg, Austria. By no means ready to retire in 1989 I nevertheless began to think of leaving Interior to spend full time exploring the challenge, and intrinsic value, of transboundary river basin agreements. I applied for a Fulbright research grant to develop for the Danube River Basin one of the most needed tools for successful management of an international river, a basin-wide information system. My proposal, for nine-months' study at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, was filed with the Fulbright Program on September 1, 1989.

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