

# Currents of Debt: Anthropology of Policy in South Asian Rivers

## : Navigating the Labyrinthine Currents of Water and Debt

South Asia, a region where rivers have shaped civilizations, is now grappling with a profound water crisis. In this intricate tapestry of human-river interactions, debt has emerged as a potent force shaping water governance and the lives of countless communities. "Currents of Debt: Anthropology of Policy in South Asian Rivers" delves into this complex terrain, offering a captivating lens through which to understand the entangled worlds of water, debt, and power.

## Chapter 1: The Waters of Life and Debt

Rivers, like liquid arteries, have long been lifelines for South Asian communities. They provide sustenance, facilitate transportation, and sustain livelihoods. However, as populations swell and economies expand, the demands on these precious resources intensify. Concurrently, the rise of neoliberal policies has introduced market-oriented approaches to water management, often leading to the commodification of water and the accumulation of debt. This chapter explores the historical and contemporary dynamics that have intertwined water and debt, framing the lens for the rest of the book.



## Navigating Austerity: Currents of Debt along a South Asian River (Anthropology of Policy)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2846 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 262 pages



## **Chapter 2: Dams and the Burden of Debt**

Large-scale dam projects, often hailed as symbols of progress, have become synonymous with debt in South Asia. The construction of these colossal structures, while promising benefits such as irrigation and hydropower, has often resulted in displacement, environmental degradation, and financial hardship. "Currents of Debt" examines the political economy of dam-building, revealing the complex ways in which these projects have burdened communities with debt and exacerbated social inequalities.

## **Chapter 3: The Politics of Water Privatization**

Water privatization, driven by the logic of the free market, has gained traction in many South Asian countries. This chapter analyzes the privatization of water services and its implications for rural and urban communities. It explores the ways in which privatization has led to increased water tariffs, reduced access to clean water, and the erosion of traditional water rights.

## **Chapter 4: Everyday Debt and the Struggle for Water Security**

Beyond the large-scale projects and policy frameworks, "Currents of Debt" delves into the everyday experiences of debt and water insecurity in South Asia. It examines the strategies that communities employ to cope with

water scarcity and debt, highlighting the resilience and agency of those who navigate these challenges.

## **Chapter 5: Reimagining Water Governance: Lessons from the Margins**

The final chapter of "Currents of Debt" shifts the focus to alternative approaches to water governance. It explores innovative and participatory models that prioritize the needs of local communities and challenge the dominance of debt-ridden water policies. Drawing on case studies, the chapter showcases the potential for transformative change in water management.

### **: Charting a New Course for South Asian Rivers**

"Currents of Debt" concludes by reflecting on the lessons learned from the anthropological exploration of the intertwined worlds of water, debt, and power in South Asia. It argues for the need to move beyond debt-centric approaches and embrace water governance models that prioritize equity, sustainability, and the well-being of both humans and the environment.

### **Call to Action: Join the Movement for Water Justice**

"Currents of Debt" is not merely a book; it is a call to action. The water crisis in South Asia is a pressing issue that demands our attention and collective efforts. By understanding the currents of debt that shape water governance, we can empower ourselves to advocate for change and chart a new course for South Asian rivers – and for the communities that depend on them.

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