The aim of this assignment is for you to lay groundwork for your final project on this module by identifying and reflecting on a potential area of research. There are no prescribed essay questions for this module. Rather, you are encouraged to develop a research project that interests you. In the report, you should identify and describe the water conflict/water culture that you wish to address. You should propose and comment on potential research questions related to that topic that you might address in your final project, identifying their relevance to global debates about water. The report should situate your research topic in relation to the key themes covered so far in the module (e.g. colonialism, capitalism, industrialization, human rights, etc.) and make use of at least three journal articles or books that feature on the module bibliography.

Week 7- lecture

This lecture will consider the realisation of the Human Right to Water (HRW) and its place in debates around the water commons. The HRW has now been recognised under international law. It has also been established in many countries for a longer period of time, such as being part of the Constitution of South Africa and through judges interpreting it as part of the 'right to life' in the Constitution of India. Yet, despite elevating to the highest levels of legal power, millions of people continue to lack access to clean water. We will explore some of the key debates around the HRW. Starting from the position that water is a shared resource, the first key issue we consider is privatisation and idea of water as an economic good. This has been a controversial issue, particularly with private sector involvement in water services and the pricing of water in the Global South. Can a HRW still be achieved if water services are privatised, commercialised and water is priced? Or does privatisation lead to efficiencies that improve realisation of the right to water? Do individuals have a right to a certain amount of 'free' water, even if water is priced? The second key issue is climate change. How will the human right to water be realised in a world where water is increasingly contested by different users? What affect will droughts, floods, and other climate impacts have on the realisation of the right to water?

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