RESISTANCE AND COUNTER-HEGEMONY IN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS

III Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony
12-13 May 2007

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STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

1 – Initial assumptions on Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony

2 – Theorisation on Resistance and Counter-Hegemony

3 – Mechanisms of Resistance and Counter-Hegemony
1 – INITIAL ASSUMPTIONS

Hegemony = Coercion + Consent

Consent vs. Contest

力を行使する

HEGEMONY

Attainment, maintenance and consolidation of the status quo

を反対する

COUNTER-HEGEMONY/RESISTANCE

Confrontation and/or opposition to existing status quo and its legitimacy
ABSTRACT MODEL OF HEGEMONY AND COUNTER-HEGEMONY
CONSTRUCTED COMMON SENSE

Clockwise – Hegemons
Common-sense making and reinforcement, through dominant hegemonic beliefs, ideas, discourse and knowledge [CONSENT]

Counter-clockwise – Non-hegemons
Deconstruction of constructed common sense (undermining legitimacy) and/or construction of alternative senses [BREAK THE CONSENT]

PLAYING WITH AMBIGUITY!?
“the most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressors is the mind of the oppressed”

Stephen Bantu Biko
Founder of the Black Consciousness Movement (South Africa)
2 – RESISTANCE AND COUNTER-HEGEMONY

• **Resistance** – Reactive in motivation and refractory in consequence [*RE-ACTIVE*]

• **Counter-Hegemony** – more deliberate as action, and comprehensive in terms of its transformative potential [*PRO-ACTIVE*]
“Hegemony always implies resistance (...) they are a dialectic pair” (Cox)

Binary relationship? No!

...Interrelated and Dynamic Continuum...

“Strategic resistance mixes with strategic compliance” (Scott)
ACTIVITY IS FLUID

Reasons:
organisational, opportunism, timing, pressures, threats, manipulation, ‘transformismo’
A POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Up in the scale

- More confrontational (anti-status quo)
- More organised
- More articulated
- More active/activism
- More challenging
- More strategic/programmatic
- More sustained/legitimated
- More audible
- More long-term targets
- More transformative potential

Down the scale

- Legitimacy
- Common sense
- Sanctioned discourse
- Quiescence
- Compliance
- Conformism
- Passivity
- ‘Catch-all’ arguments
MOMENT OF COUNTER-HEGEMONY

What can be defined as the Moment of Counter Hydro-Hegemony?

 CharSet Redistribution of water resources based on a truly egalitarian, rational and fair allocation? Assertion and extension of explicit water rights (for diverse users and uses)? Water classified as a public and collective asset?

OR

 CharSet Erosion of the current power configuration and replacement of the current hydro-hegemon by another one, but still based on asymmetrical allocation of water resources?

IDEAL!

SHIFT
3 – MECHANISMS OF RESISTANCE AND COUNTER-HEGEMONY

1 – Violent

2 – Functional

3 – Cooperative

4 – Liberating

See Nile case
Thanks!

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