



1st INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

MEDIATION PROPOSITION

Introduction:

The countries of **United Colonies of Maedigh (UCM)** and **Jalgistan** are deeply engaged in a complex, decades-long dispute over control of the **River Holeyle**, which serves as a critical resource for both nations. Historically rooted in colonial-era treaties, the issue has grown into a geopolitical conflict driven by competing needs for economic development, water security, and energy generation. This dispute centers around **Jalgistan's construction of the Horizon Dam**, which United Colonies of Maedigh fears could significantly reduce its water supply, threatening food security and economic stability.

Mediation is now urgently needed to avoid further escalation of the conflict, including the risk of military confrontation. **United Colonies of Maedigh** have sought international mediation to resolve their differences peacefully and equitably with Jalgistan. This proposition provides a structured framework for addressing the critical issues, facilitating dialogue, and finding a sustainable resolution.

Background and Context:

Geopolitical Landscape:

- **United Colonies of Maedigh:**
 - United Colonies of Maedigh is a downstream nation with a population of 85 million, entirely dependent on the River Holeyle for 90% of its freshwater. The river irrigates vast agricultural lands and supports **Golden Dam**, a key energy source producing 30% of the country's electricity. With an arid climate, United Colonies of Maedigh's economy relies heavily on its



agricultural output, which constitutes 40% of its GDP. The capital, Rivertown, houses 15 million people directly dependent on the river's water.

- **Jalgistan:**
 - Jalgistan, an upstream country with a population of 75 million, has abundant natural water resources but struggles with underdevelopment. About 60% of its population lacks reliable electricity. The **Horizon Dam**, under construction since 2011, is seen as essential for Jalgistan's national development. It is expected to generate electricity for large swathes of the population, support agricultural expansion, and lift millions out of poverty.

Historical Agreements:

- **1925 Treaty:** Signed by colonial powers, this agreement allocated 80% of the River Holeyle's water to United Colonies of Maedigh and limited upstream usage by Jalgistan.
- **1950 Agreement:** Reaffirmed United Colonies of Maedigh's water rights and introduced an international body to monitor water usage, though it largely favored United Colonies of Maedigh's interests.
- **1975 Accord:** Post-independence, this agreement allowed Jalgistan to undertake minor irrigation projects but prohibited large-scale water diversion or dam construction without United Colonies of Maedigh's consent.

The River Holeyle Coalition (2010):

Formed to address rising tensions, the **River Holeyle Coalition** includes basin countries such as Pattania and Kattentia. Despite multiple meetings, the coalition has failed to reach a consensus on water-sharing, as United Colonies of Maedigh insists on maintaining its historical water rights while Jalgistan seeks to secure water for its development projects.

The Horizon Dam Project (2011):

Jalgistan's unilateral construction of the Horizon Dam has been a major source of contention. Designed to store **25 billion cubic meters (BCM)** of water, the dam could reduce the flow of the River Holeyle into United Colonies of Maedigh, causing severe disruptions to its agriculture and water supply. United Colonies of Maedigh views the dam as a violation of historical agreements and a direct threat to its economic stability.



Declaration of Cooperation (2015):

United Colonies of Maedigh, Jalgistan, and Sudan signed a **Declaration of Cooperation**, committing to principles of “**equitable utilization**” and “**no significant harm.**” However, this agreement has done little to resolve operational issues surrounding the Horizon Dam, as Jalgistan has continued with the dam’s construction without significant input from United Colonies of Maedigh.

Economic and Environmental Stakes:

United Colonies of Maedigh’s Concerns:

- **Water Supply:** United Colonies of Maedigh’s reliance on the River Holeyle for 90% of its water supply makes any reduction in flow catastrophic. A significant decrease in water availability would devastate the country’s agricultural sector, leading to crop failures, food shortages, and economic instability.
- **Golden Dam Impact:** The **Golden Dam**, which helps manage floods and generates electricity, could become less effective if the river's flow diminishes, resulting in energy shortages and increased dependence on expensive fuel imports.
- **Social Unrest:** Water scarcity in United Colonies of Maedigh could lead to political unrest, mass migrations, and significant economic downturns.

Jalgistan’s Developmental Needs:

- **Electricity Generation:** The Horizon Dam is intended to generate 40% of Jalgistan’s electricity, a critical need for its rapidly growing population. Reliable energy access is expected to fuel industrialization and improve living standards for the 60% of the population currently lacking power.
- **Agricultural Expansion:** Jalgistan plans to use water stored by the Horizon Dam to expand its agriculture, aiming to reduce its reliance on food imports and bolster its economy. However, there are concerns about long-term sustainability and water management.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Concerns:** Jalgistan’s fast-growing agricultural sector and increasing demand for water have raised concerns about soil degradation and the potential for desertification downstream if proper management strategies are not implemented.



Military and Diplomatic Tensions:

United Colonies of Maedigh's Position:

- **Military Threats:** United Colonies of Maedigh has issued warnings that it might consider military action if the dam significantly impacts its water supply. Such statements have escalated tensions between the two nations, and United Colonies of Maedigh has begun lobbying for international sanctions against Jalgistan.
- **Diplomatic Channels:** United Colonies of Maedigh has approached international bodies, including the **United Nations** and **World Bank**, to mediate the situation, seeking to build pressure on Jalgistan to halt or modify the dam's construction.

Jalgistan's Response:

- **International Backing:** Despite its weaker military position, Jalgistan has secured foreign investment and technical assistance from global powers interested in the nation's untapped resources. This external support has emboldened Jalgistan in its negotiations with United Colonies of Maedigh.
- **Legal Considerations:** Jalgistan is contemplating referring the matter to the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** to seek a legal resolution to the dispute. Jalgistan maintains that the **Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA)** of 2010 gives it the right to pursue its development goals.



ANNEXURE – MAP

