

From Sea to Sand



The Story of the Aral Sea

Aral Sea



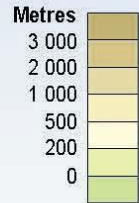


The Caucasus and Central Asia

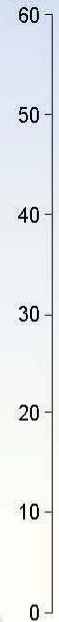


Water withdrawal and availability in the Aral Sea basin

- **Flow generation:** water available in the country from rainfall and glacier melt
- **Water abstraction:** withdrawal from surface water sources (rivers, canals and lakes)



km³ per year



Source: Diagnostic Report on Water Resources in Central Asia, ICWC 2000.

THE MAP DOES NOT IMPLY THE EXPRESSION OF ANY OPINION ON THE PART OF THE AGENCIES CONCERNING THE LEGAL STATUS OF ANY COUNTRY, TERRITORY, CITY OR AREA OF ITS AUTHORITY, OR DELINEATION OF ITS FRONTIERS AND BOUNDARIES.

MAP BY VIKTOR NOVIKOV AND PHILIPPE REKACEWICZ - UNEP/GRID-ARENDA - APRIL 2005

Source: UNEP/GRID-ARENDA: <http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/water-withdrawal-and-availability-in-aral-sea-basin>

A History of Water Management in Central Asia

In three parts

- Pre-Soviet



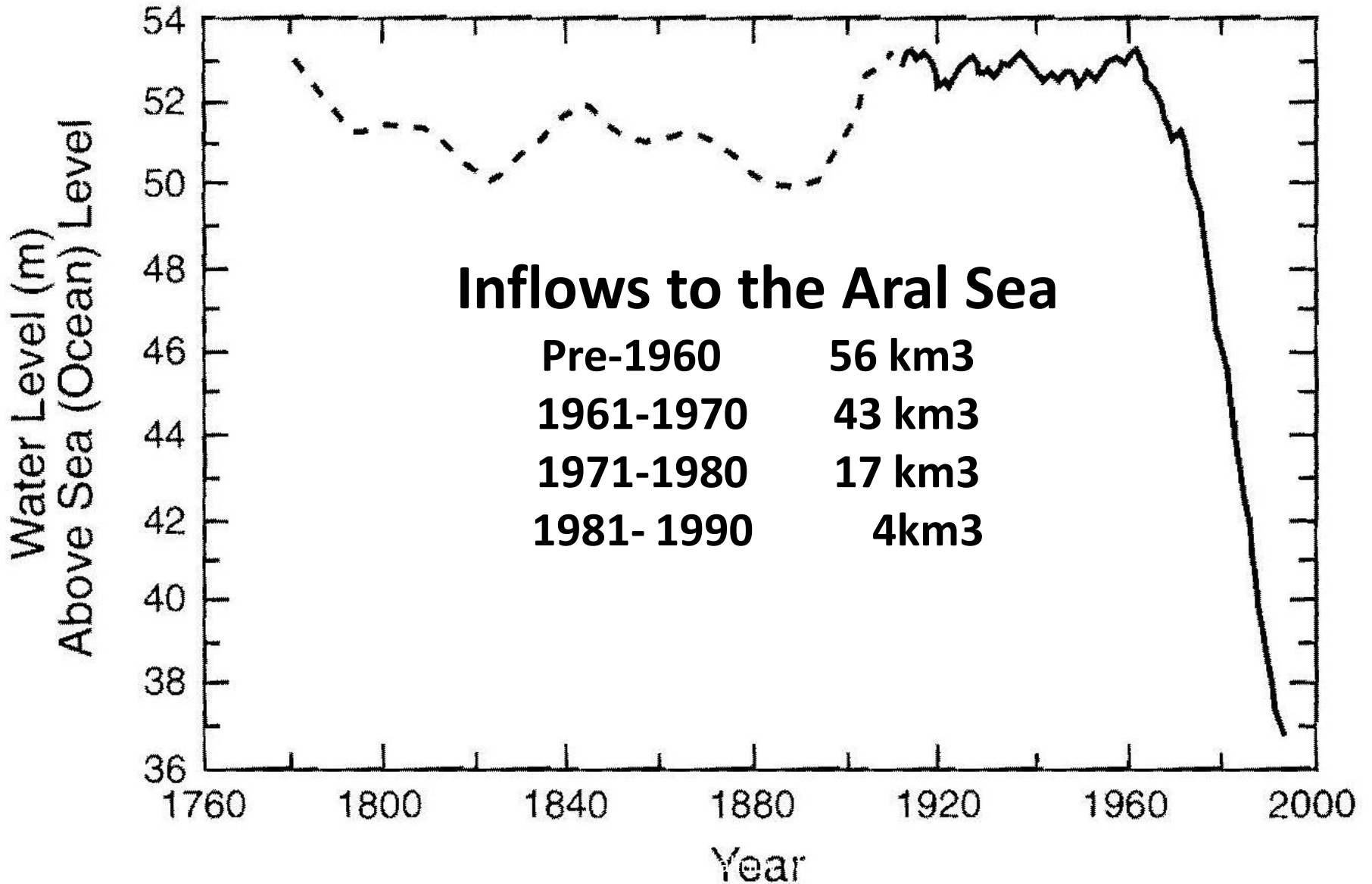
- Soviet



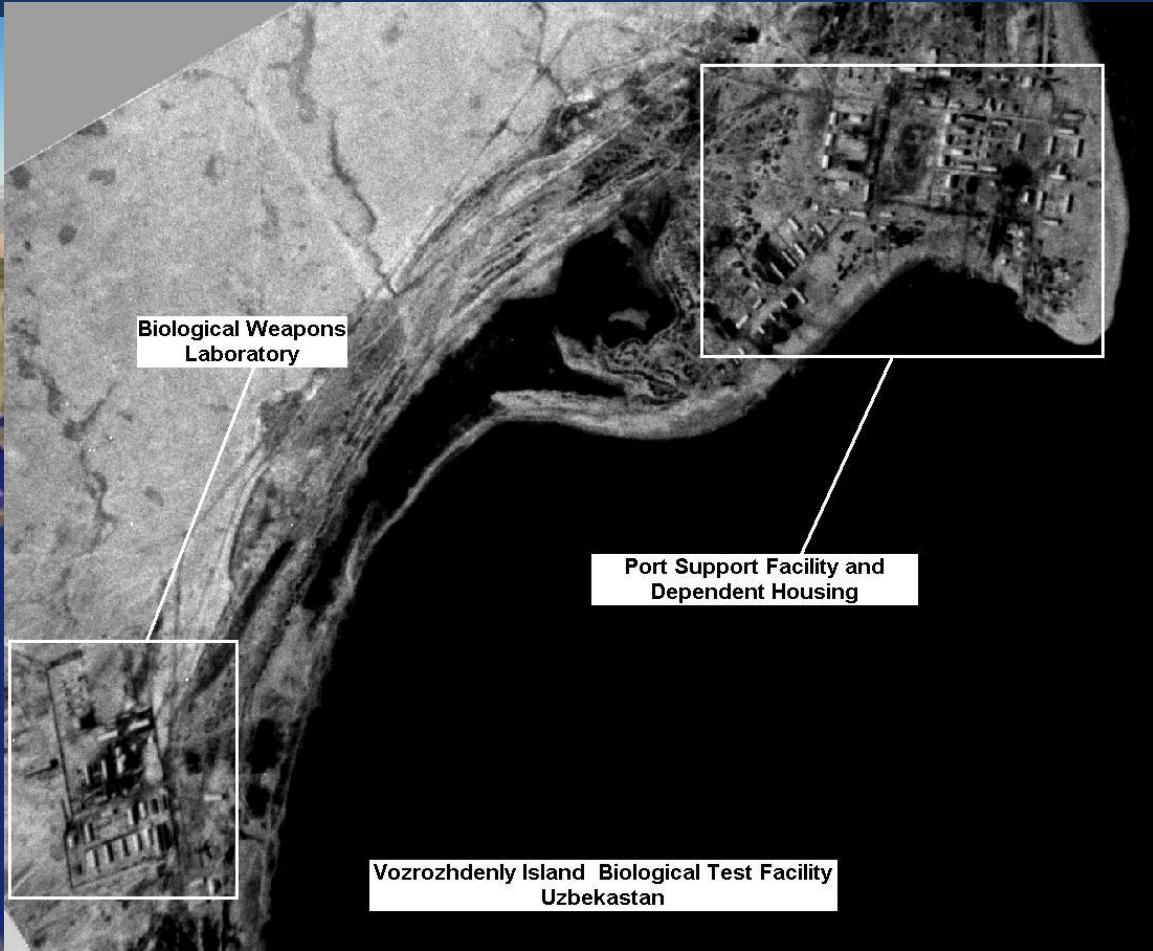
- Independence



Figure 3.1 Water-level fluctuations in the Aral Sea. Dashed line, from reconstruction; solid line, from instrumental data.



The Aftermath - Physical

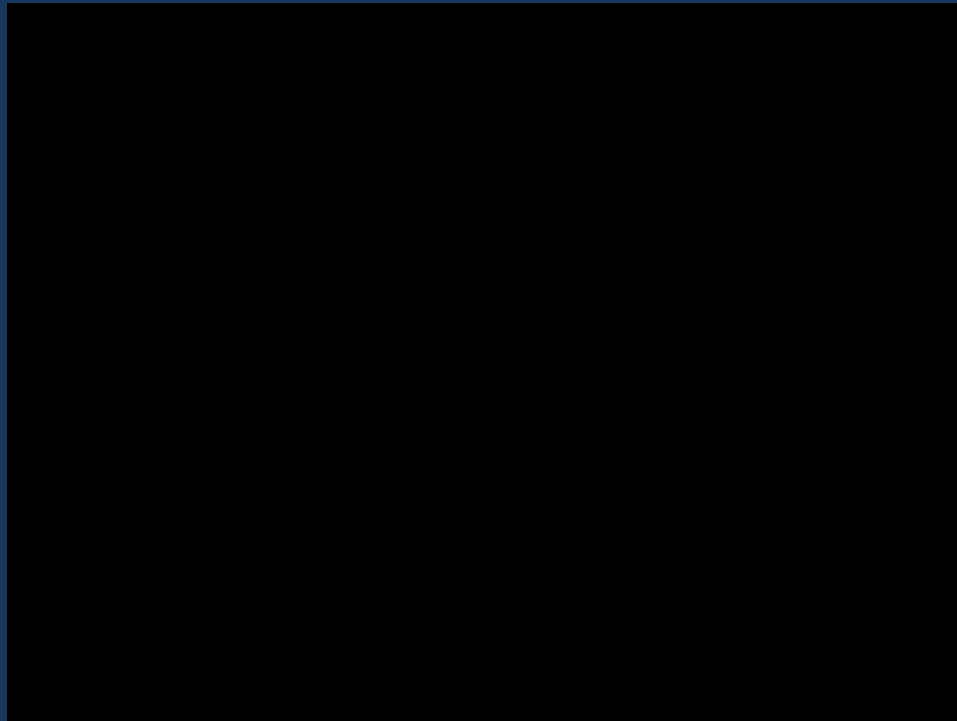


Biological Weapons Laboratory

Port Support Facility and Dependent Housing

Vozrozhdenly Island Biological Test Facility
Uzbekistan

A Trip to Vozrozhdeniye Island



The Aftermath – Socio-Economic

- Increased morbidity and mortality
- Fish stocks decline
- Bigger is better mentality
- Integrated infrastructure

**And Now For Some
Good News !!!**



April 14, 2007



April 15, 2005



Extended Reading

Chasing the Sea, by Tom Bissell

Eternal Winter: Lessons of the Aral Sea

Disaster, by Tom Bissell in *Harper's* no.
1823 (2002)

Circle of Blue for news and interviews