Water: Cooperation or Competition?

The following factors often lie at the root of water tensions:

**SCARCITY**
- When the demand for water exceeds the supply, competing uses and interests often result in conflict.
- Over-abstraction: When surface or groundwater resources are removed from their natural state to meet human needs.
- Pollution: From diffuse sources (e.g., agriculture, urban areas) as well as point sources (e.g., municipal sewage and industrial waste) or accidents.

**NEGLIGENCE OF TREATIES**
- When parties to bilateral and international treaties over freshwaters are not effectively enforced or are intentionally overlooked by certain parties.

**OVER-ABSTRACTION**
- When surface or groundwater resources are removed from their natural state to meet human needs.

**DIVERSION**
- When surface or groundwater resources are removed from their natural state to meet human needs.

**POLUTION**
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The Water Convention

Major industrial accidents may cause transboundary water pollution.

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