The purpose of this study is to analyse in the regional context the water-related events a few decades before the establishment of the State of Israel until the Six-Day War of 1967. I will follow a chronological order of the relevant historical happenings starting from the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, where the Zionist leaders demanded water-bountiful borders for Palestine in order to establish a viable economy for the Jewish National Home. It will be shown that when Jewish settlements increased in Palestine water became a very politicised matter and later on, it gained more ideological weight. The research examines U.S. diplomacy and water negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours in the 1950s, which could have worked as an incentive for a region-wide peace agreement at that time. The research also looks into numerous water-related armed skirmishes leading to the 1967 War, when Israel attained regional hegemony. It will be demonstrated that water was one of the factors that triggered the 1967 War and subsequently became a strategic weapon in the Middle East.

Water has been seen in the Middle East as a zero-sum game and not as a win-win situation whereby sharing the scarce water resources could be potentially beneficial to all the stakeholders. Another finding of my thesis is that even if regional water co-operation is achieved, introducing additional water from desalination of seawater and water imported from outside of the region, possibly from Turkey, will be the only sustainable solution to ease the Israeli-Palestinian interdependence on water resources. Even if water was not precisely considered "high politics" in regional decision-making, it was definitely very high on the political agenda.

The source material I have used consists of Middle East affairs specialised journals, political quarterlies, the New York Times, two Israeli daily newspapers, the Jerusalem Post and the Haaretz. Official UN records and documents have been useful published primary source material for the research. Series of letters and papers of the first Israeli President Chaim Weizmann, documents on British foreign policy 1919-1939 and selected documents of Israel's foreign relations 1947-1974 compose an integral part of the thesis.