

Many people believe history is shaped by people who conquer and control people. In the 1950's a group of researchers headed by Karl Wittfogel argued that history is shaped by people who conquer and control water.

They called them "Irrigation Civilizations" and specifically addressed Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, Central America, and China.

In this paper I will discuss the water control technologies of the earliest Chinese. Jungles were tamed, and indigenous peoples were beaten back, destroyed, or "civilized" by water control. I will argue that current numbers on earliest China's population density and agricultural productivity are grossly underestimated. And I will address the pivotal role of bronzes in this entire process.