

The three gorges dam



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How would you feel if the government decided to build a dam to produce electricity which was scarce in the region you live in and you and your family had to move? This is what families who live in the area of the Yangtze River are facing every day because of the Three Gorges Dam project. There have been arguments about the dam project. Economists think it is a great idea, yet the conservationists think it will ruin the environment. The hydro-electric dam will mostly benefit people living in big cities, as it will produce eighty-four billion kilowatts of power, but by building a gigantic dam across the river will destroy significant historic places and affect all the people living along the Yangtze. The dam will also kill unique environment in the river and in the large forests along the river. China has suffered from shortage of power since the seventies and the dam will provide power, but there are other places they can build the dam where it will be less populated and won't affect as many people. Also, one of the major concerns is dam safety.

There has been many big dam breaks in other countries. Why would The Three Gorges Dam be an exception? Listed three reasons why China will benefit from the construction of the dam, to produce hydro-electric power for the country, flood control and waterway navigation services. This means that the three gorges dam project will benefit the country with power and will give flood control to the area around the Yangtze. However to date, 179 factories and 83, 300 have been relocated, 6, 937 hectares of new land have had to be developed for houses. Therefore, by flooding over a hundred historic sites, the society will lose its cultural identity.

??? because of the dam in China these???™ relocations???™ have been treated like refugees in their own country??? (fang et al 1988.) Humans and animals

that live in the area of the Yangtze are going to suffer tremendously with the project. It is not a good idea to flood so many people's heritage and lives. Another bad point about the three gorges dam project is that it is going to effect the environment. The Yangtze River is home to the Yangtze River dolphin, it is only found in the Yangtze. The dolphins are one of the most endangered animals in the world, with only three hundred left in the world. Environmentalists worry that the project will possibly kill off all the dolphins.

Yangtze is also home to approximately 196 native fish species. Some of the native species water certain level and temperature. The building of the dam will reduce water temperature and raise the water in flooding season. This would mean that some native fish species may disappear. Not only will the aquatic population decrease but the species on the land in large forests will also become affected. Most of the land along the Yangtze will be flooded.

Most of the endangered species would have a high chance of becoming extinct. Thirdly, there has been a lot of dispute with the dam project and it is hurting so many lives. China could build dams along two different river systems. Experts argue that the Jinsha Jiang River would be a more suitable idea compared to the Three Gorges Dam project. This dam could have the capacity of 50, 000 megawatts and could have a formation of four to five dams.

The Jinsha Jiang area is less populated than the Yangtze so it is a good alternative. Environmentalists say that the dam will create less environmental effects compared to the Three Gorges Dam. Overall, the constructions of smaller dams will be less technically challenging than the

Three Gorges Dam. One goal of the Three Gorges Dam project is to provide enormous amounts of Hydro-electric power to the country, but is it a good idea The dam is moving millions of people out their homes to construct a dam that may not even solve the problem of the flooding. This is because the dam is to be built on an earthquake fault line which is very dangerous and may cause earthquakes that could break the dam, and flood many millions of people downstream. Overall, the Three Gorges dam project is a bad idea because, when the dam is finished the estimated population of resettlement is 727, 000 people, it will ruin the beautiful environment of the Yangtze where many tourists come especially to visit and there is another place where they can build a dam in an area that is more suitable. For these reasons I am against the project of the Three Gorges Dam in China.