From Purgatorial Wasteland To Reclaimed Garden: Hydrological Development, Water Politics, And Social Engineering In Pre-Statehood Central Arizona

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**Key Concepts**

- **Dimensions**: Although the capital and major towns of central Arizona, such as Phoenix and Tucson, were significant, the surrounding desert areas were vast and less populated. The central part of the state, which includes the Sonoran Desert and the Colorado Plateau, is known for its arid climate and rugged terrain.

- **Environmental Challenges**: The region faces challenges such as water scarcity, drought, and the impact of climate change on the state's hydrological systems. These issues have significant implications for water management, ecology, and human settlement.

- **Historical Development**: The development of water resources in central Arizona has been a complex process involving technological innovations, political decisions, and social engineering. This has been crucial in shaping the region's economy and the way its people live.

- **Water Politics**: The politics of water in central Arizona have been influenced by historical events, such as the completion of the Colorado River Project, which altered the flow of the Colorado River and had far-reaching implications for the region.

- **Social Engineering**: Social engineering in the context of water development refers to the efforts to modify human behavior and societal norms to accommodate the new water management systems. This includes changes in water usage habits, education, and community involvement in water conservation.

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**Timeline**

- 1820s: Spanish Conquest
- 1848: Mexican-American War
- 1862: Homestead Act
- 1872: Gila River Project
- 1878: Stewart Indian School
- 1900: Arizona Statehood
- 1930s: Depression Era
- 1950s: Water Crisis
- 1970s: Environmental Movement

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**Diagrams**

1. Dialytics of Water and Agriculture in Central Arizona
2. Colorado River Project
3. Salt River Project
4. Verde Water Conservancy

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**Further Reading**

- "From Purgatorial Wasteland To Reclaimed Garden: Hydrological Development, Water Politics, And Social Engineering In Pre-Statehood Central Arizona" by Samuel J. Schmieding, ASU Center for Environmental Studies/History Department.
- "Arizona’s Water Crisis: The History, Politics, and Implications" by Robert S. Santmyer.

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**Conclusion**

The development of water resources in central Arizona has been a significant factor in shaping the region's economy, ecology, and social fabric. It has involved complex interactions between natural systems, technological innovations, and social and political processes. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for addressing contemporary water challenges and for sustaining the region’s future.