Path Dependence: Water Allocation, Settlement Patterns and Urban Trajectories in the Salt River Valley, 1914-1979


Research Question
Do patterns of water allocation in the early Salt River Valley Water Users Association (SRWVA) affect the growth of Salt River Valley such that their influence on stages of settlement, reclamation, cultivation, and urbanization may, in turn, reveal a classic case of path dependency and spatial organization of cities?

Methodology

Adjustments

- Scattered canal systems, climatic fluctuations, unstable water supply.
- Confluent waterways, wide cultivation of desert, emergence of people's settlements along Arizona, Glendale, and Crescent Canals.

Consequences of ‘lock-in’
- Domestic water delivery through the system, formation of canals, added water supply and power generation capacity from the River.
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