Water Allocation Doctrines

1. **The Harmon Doctrine of Absolute Sovereignty.** The doctrine claims the absolute freedom of a riparian state, often the uppermost riparian, to utilize the waters flowing through its territory regardless of the effect of its actions on other riparian states.

2. **The Doctrine of Absolute Riverian Integrity.** This doctrine stipulates that a state may not alter the natural flow of waters passing through its territory in any manner which will affect the water in another state, be it upstream or downstream.

3. **The Doctrine of Limited Territorial Sovereignty.** This intermediate approach has been taken in resolving the majority of international water disputes.

   - Equitable and reasonable use of water resources
   - Prevention of harm
Principles and Practice

• Every single transboundary river basin or aquifer is unique:
  – natural characteristics
  – socio-economic structure and cultural heritage

• We need to find an individual way to develop transboundary cooperation and formulate it in bilateral or multilateral agreements
  – However respecting the basic principles as codified in the international water law