

Interactive comment on “Sustainable water services and interaction with water resources in Europe and in Brazil” by B. Barraqué et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 20 October 2007

General comments

In spite of the interest to peeps the sustainable urban water services, it seems difficult to compare Europe to Brazil, a continent with a country, a country with cities, to compare temporalities: compare different chronologies means “anachronism”. Brazil part is clever and clear, occupying a more recent temporality. European part seems too disperse in time and in space, except for last century for which the author is pertinent. To supply Chronos and Gea, to clarify the excellent topic, this article should be separated in two: one around Brazil great cities; and another on French big cities compared with other European capitals.

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Detailed comments

3442 L7 Piped water systems are not invented but practiced. Water supply network - connection of trunks and extremities - is conceived in Paris between 1826 and 1828, then exported to London. We find a great difference between USA and Brazil cities, between Paris, London and smaller cities like Lisbon, Nantes or Belfast. During the first half of 19th C., thanks to steam engines and private companies, water supply for domestic uses was more developed in Great Britain cities than in French ones. France developed water supply during the second half (JP Goubert *La conquête de l'eau*, Paris, 1985) with private companies (Général des eaux in Lyon, Lyonnaise des eaux in Villeurbanne). Abundance of water commands the growth of sewage, first in London, next in Paris between 1830 and 1850 (S. Barles, *La ville délétère*, Seyssel, 1995), up to hygienic consideration - thanks to Pasteur round 1865 - asking new water supply, drinking. Round 1870-80, west European and north American big cities built their drinking network to employ also workers without job. 1880 to 1930 = 50 years?

3443 L.1 water services: it depends on types of concession, London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Lyon, Soissons, Marseille have delegated water supply to Companies.

3444 L1. We have to separate for the purpose (water supply) industrial revolution and urbanization: during the 18th C. a lot of small cities chose to capture mountain water far from the walls to use gravity, the cheapest energy (D. Massouny, *Les monuments de l'eau: aqueducs, châteaux d'eau et fontaines dans la ville moderne (1661-1791)*, thèse Paris 1, 2000). Up to middle of 19th C., industry is satisfied with river banks, pumps and artesian wells. The first purpose of water supply in France is to find cheap but copious water to embellish, to evacuate city dust and to watering horses. The second purpose is to find virgin water to satisfy industry - mechanisation and workers hygiene (Goubert): there is not really a paradigm of long distance transfer.

L 13 "Private companies imagine..." In Paris since Middle Ages, some people paid for having water at home. Round 1785, Chaillot Cie imagined about a thousand houses

to pay bill for water. And in the 1730s, London owners paid water supply to grow the rent. To pay for drinking water is old.

3457 L 12 "Conversely, early sanitary engineers... public space." Through Police administration Archives in Paris, the Safety Council of Seine department in which was the engineer Girard, played a first role to conciliate people with public health (S. Barles, 1995; A. Guillerme, AC. Lefort, G. Jigaudon, Dangereux, incommode, insalubre: paysages industriels en banlieue parisienne, Seyssel, 2005, S. Schoonbaert, La voirie bordelaise au XIXe siècle, Paris, 2007.). During the 1870s, politics (the Police prefect of Paris) acted to separate hygienists and local authorities and blinded decisions. Infrastructures were located under common space (street) because this place had no right and because it should be appropriated by municipal public space, or state right. So, people is not "ignorant" in Paris, or Lyon, or Toulouse. And we don't know what happened in London or Madrid or Brussels. One case never forms a paradigm.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 4, 3441, 2007.

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