

THE ORIGIN OF MODERN HYDROLOGY

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The occurrence and movement of water have been the subject of speculation since the dawn of history. Until the beginning of the nineteenth century only a few isolated attempts were made to test this speculation by quantitative measurements. The period from 1800 till almost 1930 saw the emergence of improvements in the scope and accuracy of measurement which led to an accumulation of empirical knowledge. From 1930 to 1950 was a period of rationalisation which was followed by a period of theorisation (1950-1975) and then by a period of computerisation (1975 - present)