If I were able to rewind time I would travel back to the early 1900’s and attempt to advise Turkey when they were initially looking to build dams. First, I would have Turkey define their goals and objectives and then translate them into policies. I would then give them information about water structures and systems such as canals, wells, water pipelines, ways to use rainwater and recycling of water.

I am guessing if I am traveling back in time and advising people on water management, I would have gone to school to be a Water Resource Engineer or something similar. I would hope that my schooling and experience would show my credibility to teach them how to construct a good system that will stand the test of time. Also, we would need to take into account their specific constraints and advantages. I would do my best to give or show them as much information as possible on water resource management.

From what I was able to gather from reading the assigned articles and some other miscellaneous research, it doesn’t seem that there is a whole lot that I would want to keep the same. Turkey does have a substantial amount of dams that were built to regulate the flow of the rivers and aid in irrigation. Unfortunately, these structures are preventing water from flowing through to some of the downstream counties. Other impacts of dams are the high cost of building and maintenance, environmental destruction and the affect on marine life. I would recommend that they involve the citizens in key decisions about water management, come to terms with surrounding countries on how to share water resource equally and restore the peace, and promote education and innovation of new systems or techniques.

I think that the leaders would view my recommendations as worth implementing because its during a time where they have to stimulating the economy, build a system that will last and managing the amount that flows to other countries. I would make changes that would produce short-term benefits, such as more flow to down steam countries—this would allow everyone to see or feel some initial benefits, which would get the citizens of each country excited to see the bigger long-term benefits. I know that initially there would be a lot of resistance; as most people do not like change and there are many factors to consider that could make it seem impossible. I would present them with as much data and information as possible to show them that if we do not make a drastic change now, they will inevitably cease to exist.

Three pieces of information I would need about the past are: detailed information on past and current water management practices, the social and economic conditions, and information on the climate and natural resource. Social and economic decisions that might affect my recommendations would be the degree to which the citizens are educated, employment and regional disparities. Decisions that might affect Turkey’s leaders to accept or resist my recommendation might be education, employment and political agendas.

Most of the research information would be available from the library and Internet research. I would want to make sure that I get as much primary information as I can but secondary information will also be helpful. A Good resource might be the Republic of Turkey Ministries and various journals available.