

# **The Odd Couple: Indigenous Group and International NGO Cooperation Creates A Two-Pronged Approach to Halt Development of the Narmada River**

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In this era of accelerating globalization, there is increasing international cooperation and conflict between nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) of a broad spectrum of sizes, priorities, and functions. This paper examines the powerful alliance between the Indian indigenous-based grassroots organization the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) and a variety of international environmental non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in their mutual effort to halt further damming of the Narmada River in central India. By analyzing each group through the analytical frameworks put forward by Doyle and McEachern in *Environment and Politics* (2008), including Doyle and McEachern's interpretation of S. M. Lukes' faces of power (as explored in *Power: A Radical View* [1974]), I illustrate the elements of the collaboration that allow the NBA and its INGO partners to work towards the same goal while maintaining each one's distinct identities and priorities. Based on this analysis, I assert that the NBA is a post-colonial movement; functions as if in a pluralist system; and focuses on a behavior and values-level of advocacy, corresponding with Lukes' third face of power. Cooperatively, the INGOs are a post-materialist movement; function as if in a post-modern system; and work on the decision-making level of advocacy, corresponding with Luke's first face of power. The contrasting nature of NGO functions within the collaborative effort work to the movement's advantage, rendering it more effective on multiple usually-inaccessible levels. By maintaining distinct identities through contrasting methods and functions, both groups demonstrate a powerful framework for future INGO-grassroots NGO cooperation.