

What are the Causes of the Famine?

Desertification and Drought

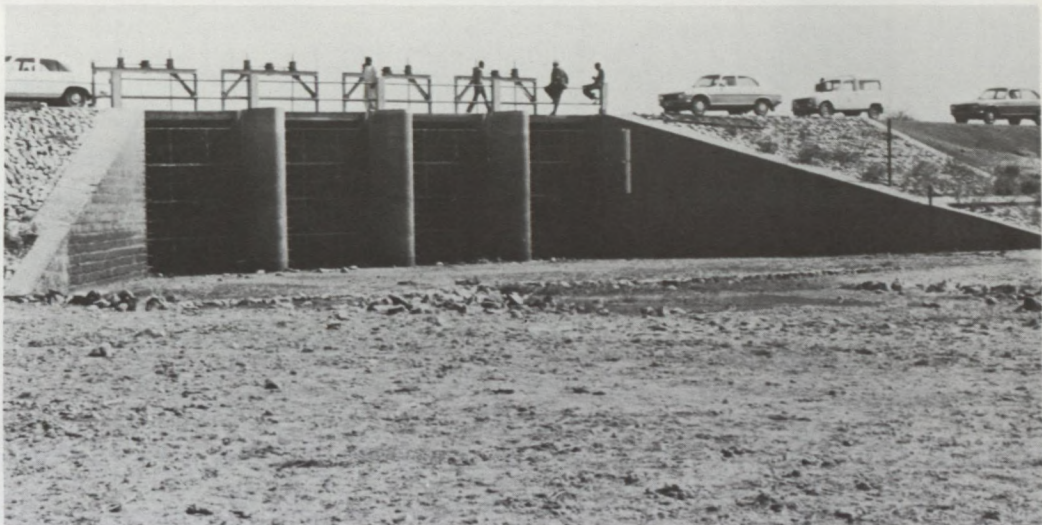
"Since the late sixties the northern part of the region has been affected by desertification. This is due partly to periodic droughts, but mainly to man through:

a. Overgrazing resulting from an imbalance between the number of animals and the carrying capacity of grazing land either due to a huge increase in the number of animals or due to their concentration around certain centres because of water availability or other social and climatic factors.

b. Removal of the tree cover for shifting cultivation and fuel needs of domestic and industrial users (households, bakeries, brick kilns, etc.)." — From Sudan *The Strategy of Kordofan Regional Government to Combat Desertification and Alleviate the Effects of Drought*.

Lack of Rain

- In Mali, the 1984 drought was the worst since 1905.
- In most areas of Africa suffering from drought conditions, rainfall is at a 40- to 50-year low.
- The Sahara has been advancing steadily along a line thousands of kilometers long between Dakar and Djibouti since the late 60s.



An empty dam in Niger.