Title: Europe's Battery:
A History of Hydroelectric Development in the Alps

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INTRO:

- **Tracing the history of hydropower development in the Alps shows the mountains were viewed as the crucial means of energy storage to enable the widespread transition to electricity in west-central Europe. The proliferation of storage dams in the Alps demonstrates the close relationship between energy regimes, political power, and environmental change.**

METHODS

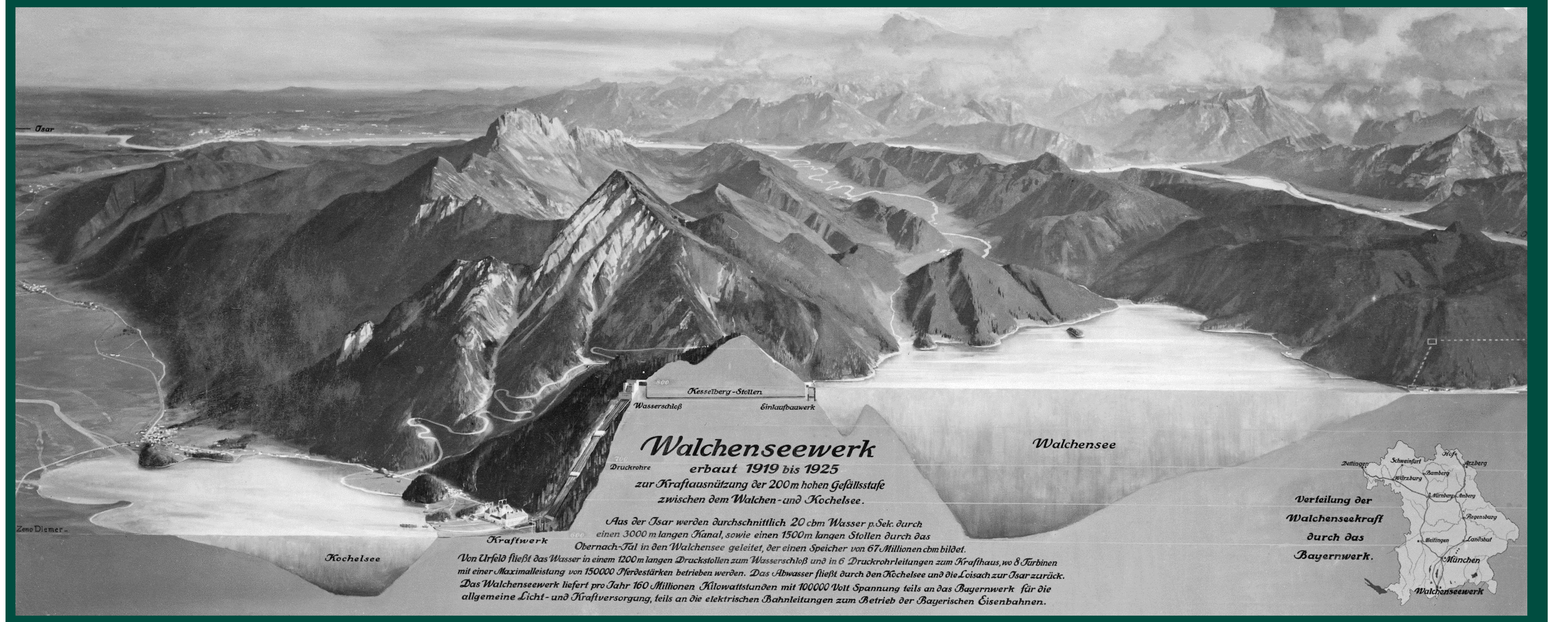
1. Historical archival research throughout west-central Europe
2. Collected government records, conference proceedings, trade journals, corporate archives, newspapers
3. Performed discursive analysis to determine motives behind hydropower development

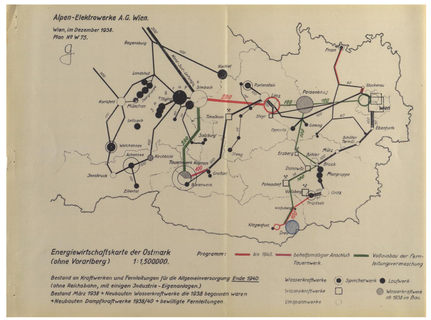
RESULTS

Congress Card: World Power Conference, Basel 1926

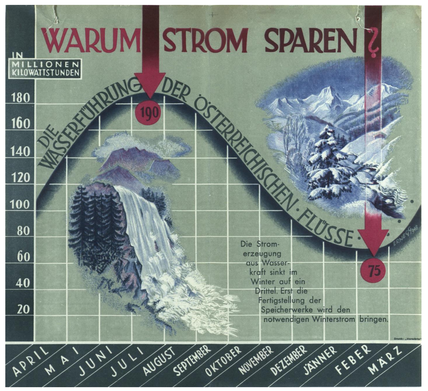
Plan for a German Electricity Grid, Munich 1938

Over the course of the twentieth century Europeans transformed the Alps into a giant natural battery because water was deemed too wild for a modern energy source





Energy Supply Map of "Ostmark" (Austria), Vienna 1938



"Why Save Electricity?" Vienna, 1948

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