Transforming the Future: The urbanization and Modernization process of Tehran Metropolis

Keywords: urban transformation, urban form, social transformation, urban plans, and Modernization, urban development

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Area of Research: Urban form transformation and Modernization process

Research Summary: In this study urban growth is understood through a series of transformations from one political, social entity to another. Each of these transitions is linked to a specific vision of society and city- expressed through particular urban plans and generic ‘images’. These ‘images’ and urban plans are related to a particular historical states and conditions of modernity. The thesis asks questions about the precise and empirical ways cities transform, or are reformed from one city to another and one society to another. It aims to establish a framework for understanding urban form transformation and its link to social transformation. Therefore this thesis study the city as a series of constructive and reconstructive projects of ‘modernisation’ constrained by its relations to its present and past. In doing so this study investigates the transformation of Tehran’s urban form as a process by tracing the relation between visions, plans and spatial interventions as well as spaces produced as practical politics. Therefore this research provides a means for better and more critically understanding contemporary changing form of the Iranian city and urban society in relation to modernization processes.

Research Methodology: In this research I used the term modernity as a tool to emphasize on the incessant change in cities. This research is divided into four models of modernity that each presents historically specific urban change and how authorities, state elites and technocrats attempting to control change through urban planning, which leads to particular production of space and particular socio-spatial order. Every period is historically specific phase of change that stages the encounter between tradition and modernity, Chaos and order. The four periods roughly correspond with different autocratic rulers and their respective visions of a modern nation state and society, since the mid-19th century.


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Main Question: What is the consequence of a successive series of modernization projects for contemporary non-western city?

Deliverables: Documentation of a series of transformations of the city of Tehran and its relation to modernization processes in the form of monograph.

Link(s):

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