Institute: Urban management techniques

University of Oum El Bouaghi

Module: Initiation to town planning 2

Course N **02**: **Urban policy in Algeria after the independence**

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**The early years of Independence are marked by an absence of any reflection on urban planning.**

The operations initiated by the French were simply completed, or a few limited programs for the construction of "housing estates" were started.

Construction, especially public construction, is slowed down. It takes place only in the urban peripheries in a very scattered manner, without a plan.

The inherited urban fabric remains unchanged, but its occupation becomes considerably denser to cope with the increase in urban population.

The urban crisis is evident. In addition to the housing deficit, there is a lack of collective facilities, such as educational and healthcare infrastructure, and the dramatic issue of unemployment.

During this period, urbanization is not accompanied by the implementation of an urban policy.

**The period between 1969-1974**

Within the socialist regime, Algeria, during the years 1969-1974, embarked on a phase of industrialization and the development of productive forces, a result of centralized political decision-making with the implementation of the 1st Four-Year Plan.

The industrial strategy prioritized the creation of giant units of vast dimensions, sometimes on the outskirts of cities such as Oran, Arzew, Annaba, Skikda, and Algiers, but often within the rural fabric.

* This strategy aimed at diversifying the economic base and job Creation to address unemployment and create new job opportunities to absorb the growing labor force and improve overall employment levels.
* The dissociation between economic planning and urban planning

**Impact of this development strategy on urban crisis**

* The strategy modifies urbanization processes, modes of urban growth, and the composition of the urban population.
* The creation of new industrial projects has accelerated rural exodus and urban growth. However, no planning has accompanied the new industrial installations.
* These transformations impact the urban world: in 1977, cities that house 40 percent of the population accommodate 68 percent of industrial workers, 70 percent of those in commerce, and 57 percent of non-commercial services workers.
* The already overcrowded urban centers were unable to meet this new demand due to a lack of accompanying measures, such as low investment in housing, transportation, services, and infrastructure.
* A beginning of construction in the new outskirts. Housing estates are emerging in the form of large complexes hastily implanted. In addition to their limited capacity, these cities are typically reserved for managerial personnel. Thus, new urban peripheries have emerged with a different appearance compared to the colonial past – a mode of urban growth in rupture with the previous one-
* The housing crisis is considerably exacerbated. The emergence of precarious housing and shantytowns in the few available spaces within the urban fabric and in proximity to factories. An example is the industrial zone of El Hadjar and its ring of shantytowns, Skikda and eastern Mitidja, and around the Arzew pole.
* In addition, the general dissociation of the workplace and residence leads to large-scale migrations.
* The infrastructure and facilities related to industrialization are neglected, leading to the congestion of connections between the industrial zone and the neighboring city.
* The industrial and peri-urban growth mentioned occurs at the expense of rural areas. These areas host new factories, industrial sites, warehouses, and service zones (accessibility). The gradual loss of agricultural land extends near urban development poles due to industrialization and uncontrolled urbanization.
* The graduation of agricultural space is characterized by agricultural exodus and a lack of water for irrigation, as industrial and urban needs take priority. Urban agriculture is shifting towards extensive cultivation systems. The marginalization of the agricultural sector has heightened food dependence.

**In 1975, a presidential ordinance aimed to preserve agricultural land, and other regulations sought to control urban growth while establishing the first tools for urban planning.**

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