

Urban planning for whom? Discussing spatially construction of counter hegemony

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Basic question for us, urban planners, is that for whom we practice this profession; %99 of the world or not. New urban space policy is required and it is inevitable. This era gestate a shift to radical urban policies regarding all issues such as public space, housing, daily life, working conditions, economy, production and consumption patterns, environment and so on. Since space is a mere subject of capitalism and power relations, the essence of planning and urbanism which is principally aimed at creating equitarian and collective community, well-defined, qualified and convenient urban public spaces, has got loose. Dialectically, urban social movements for "urban right" increase in recent time. Rise of these movements are more or less associated with urban question. This article presents this claim with certain illustrations and makes an analytical geographical mapping for Middle East.

Upon these frequently increased urban struggles and challenging urban policies, urban planning practices should develop a new way and discuss the radical urbanism. This article aims to represent critical assessment of the challenging/contradictory urban space policies, physical aspect of urban hegemony and call for radical urbanism forms. In especial, housing environment phenomena is focus of interest where significant inequalities take place and originate from, as daily life practices engrave there. How to plan justice is a deep problem and this study searches possible forms of constructing counter hegemony of urban space.

Capitalism has play a key role in shaping the world. It tries to create convenient space in order to reproduce itself and develop for furtherly. Apparently and materially, space is formed throughout the contradictions of among capital and labor, competition and monopoly, private and public property, centralization and decentralization, stability and mobility, dynamism and inertia, poverty and richness and different scales of

various practices. In line, Harvey (1985) proposes a wide explanation regarding the urban phenomena. He underlines that class struggles are not distinct from the urban praxis. These two are all interlinked each other. For the sake of capital or labor is the main question due to neoliberal politics dominance. In order to rechannel the capital, surplus value should be activated/mobilized. Hereby, as the limits of the entrepreneurial city, no doubt it is done through the built environment. Shortly, this is called “urbanization of capital”. Hereby, urban planning become a mean to realize the creative destructions for pulling through the crises of capitalism. It is used for generating certain patterns for capital accumulation. Gradually, this role of planning has brought the “*planetary urbanization*” problem, recently. Uncontrolled, sprawled, unequal, nonconnected, confusing, acontextual urban space (re)development is producing. Even more, implicitly, all we become a kind of beings shaped by meta throughout the patterns of capitalist urban spaces.

Time for radical urbanism

Until the financial crisis in 2008, triggering development endured mostly certain gains derived by speculative property balloons following each other. Meanwhile, protests around the world since 1979 represent that these have become repetitive and they have realized in urban areas. As the capitalism and urbanization overgrown since this time, the protests, struggles have expanded in response. Especially afterwards of 2008, these movements have rapidly increased. Dissatisfaction of majority the human being due to urbanism; expropriation the labor, not affording the urban living costs, the struggles have increased. For instance, the housing question is mere significant issue. Different types of ghettos are developing in urban areas. Struggles about housing affairs are very common in this respect. Confusing, challenging property relations stand behind this urban episode. Expropriating the land, living environment and daily life is commonly frustrating effort of the capitalism, but in response, the struggles are interwoven to break it. People experience contradictory conditions originated from dialectics and dichotomies.

Up to now, planning is used for on the behalf of capital accumulation; in commodification of urban and rural lands, inhibition of public spaces, dispossession practices and vice versa. Contrary to this condition of planning, some efforts should be

activated such as planning the crisis of capital accumulation, balancing urban-rural relations, configuring collective living space and social life organizations and rethinking the real "urban".

Remembering Marx's vowel advise; our duty is no longer understand the world, it should be changing the world. Also, Harvey (1985) states that "space is under threat if the soveign pratice does not change". As urban planners' fundamental occupation is directly practicing the space organization, it is time to subject radical urbanism, because %99 of the world is aside. Planning should discuss creativity for being founder of new construction and counter hegemony formulations.

Harvey, D. (1985). The urbanization of capital. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press.