THE EFFECTS OF POLITICAL CHANGES TO THE URBAN TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES: BELGRADE CASES

Socialism, transition and democracy
Belgrade is the capital of Serbia. It is located in southeastern Europe's Balkan Peninsula at 44°49′14″ north latitude, 20°27′44″ east longitude and at an altitude of 116.75 m. It lies at the confluence of the Sava and Danube. The river waters surround it from three sides and that is why since ancient times had been the guardian of river passages. Because of its position, was properly called "gate" of the Balkans and the "door" to Central Europe. Belgrade is the crossroads of Eastern and Western Europe to the river valleys to the shores of the Aegean Sea, Asia and the Middle East. The Danube flows through Belgrade in length of 60 km, the Sava 30 km. The total length of river banks of Belgrade is 200 km. The City of Belgrade has an area of 322,268 ha (immediate metropolitan area 35,996 ha) and is administratively divided into 17 urban municipalities. According to the census from 2002 on the Belgrade area live 1,576,124 inhabitants.
Hypothesis

In the case of Belgrade the political changes have grand influences to the urban planning processes.

This study should focus on the consequences of strong political ideologies and political changes, regression or progress, on plans and development of the city.
The Neolithic Starcevo and Vinca Cultures existed in Belgrade and dominated the Balkans about 7,000 years ago, they were the first known settlements on the territory of Belgrade. Some scholars even believe that the prehistoric Vinca signs represent one of the earliest known forms of alphabet.

The Romans created settlements with rectilinear street grid called Singidunum and Taurunum. Singidunum reached the highest rank of settlement—it was a colony of Roman citizens. Belgrade was at the border between two Roman Empires. The antique Singidunum was destroyed.

Slavic peoples appeared at the time and became so strong that they changed the ethnic content of all regions. Cities obtained Slavic names Beograd and Zemlin. In 11th and 12th century, numerous pilgrims and crusades passed through Belgrade and Zemun, which influenced their development. The city surpassed its delimitations. Outside the fortified city, suburbs grew to become several times larger than the city within the ramparts.

Since 1284, the first Serbian king to rule over Belgrade was Dragutin. Emperor Dusan conquered Belgrade in 1334, Hungarians’ rule later from 1346, and he regained it again in 1354. Following the Battle on Kosovo in 1389, the Serbian Empire began to crumble as the Ottoman Empire conquered its southern territory. Resist the Ottomans for almost 70 years. Belgrade was a haven for the many Balkan peoples fleeing from Ottoman rule and have had a population of some 40–50,000. After despot Stevan’s death in 1427, his successor Djuradj Brankovic had to return Belgrade to the Hungarians, and Smederevo became the new capital. During his reign, the Ottomans captured most of the Serbian Despotate, unsuccessfully besieging Belgrade first in 1440 and again in 1456.

In 1521 Belgrade was finally occupied by Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent becoming the second largest Ottoman town in Europe at over 100,000 people. The Austrians conquered Belgrade in 1688, but the Turks gained it back in 1690 and kept it until 1717. Austrian troops entered Belgrade and stayed there until 1739. During this period, the city was affected by the two Great Serbian Migrations, in which hundreds of thousands of Serbs, led by their patriarchs, retreated together with the Austrians into the Habsburg Empire. During the reign in Belgrade, from 1723 to 1736, the Austrian rule prepared plans for a radical reconstruction of the fortress and borough. During a short-term gain of Belgrade (1789–1791) the Austrians performed a detailed measuring and mapping of Belgrade, where they showed planimetrics proportions and construction bloc shapes, as well as layouts of architectural buildings.

After the First Serbian Uprising in 1804 Serbia perceived itself as an independent state for the first time after more than three centuries of Ottoman Rule and short-lasting Austrian occupations. An agreement of 1862, stipulating emigration of the Turkish population from all places in Serbia. The First Regulation Plan of the Borough in the Trench done in 1867 by the engineer Emiljan Josimovic. Not all ideas from Josimovic’s plan were realized, but the highlight was: new regular grid of blocs and traffic routes, which was preserved as to this day. It is on the basis of his plan that Belgrade has been transformed into a modern European capital.

On June 28, 1914 Gavrilo Princip’s assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie, in Sarajevo and it triggered First World War. Austro-Hungarian monitors shelled Belgrade on July 29, 1914. Master Plan from 1923, approved in 1924. Several original ideas were proposed, the one was the idea of transport system across the Sava-the tram which would connect Belgrade and Zemun.

In 1941, the government signed the Tripartite Pact, joining the Axis powers in an effort to stay out of the Second World War. But it didn’t stop the war. Belgrade was bombed in 1941 and 1944. The king moved to UK. In 1945 Josip Broz Tito proclaimed the Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia in Belgrade. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia was transformed into socialist republic. The new Master Plan for Belgrade from 1950 was planed as the reconstruction of the existing settlement and design of the new called New Belgrade. Despite Marshall Tito’s high-profile break with Soviet-style communism in 1948 and the much publicized reforms toward “market socialism” with the ideas of self-management initiated in the mid-1960s. Master Plan for Belgrade developed in 1972 was supposed to be conducted on the basis of special programs of spatial development and construction of Belgrade—step by step programs on the foundations of the self-management planning system. Master Plan of Belgrade from 1985 was based on the same principles as the previous Plan. In 1980, Josip Broz Tito died.

The end of block division and collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 marked at the same time the beginning of the democratization of Eastern Europe. In 1990s started division of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which caused the new Balkan War 1992-1995. NATO Alliance bombed Serbia during the Kosovo War in 1999.

After the election of Serbia’s first democratic post-communist government in 2000 and Belgrade started growing in a different direction. The new Master Plan of Belgrade 2021, had been adopted in 2003. It defines the nature of the spatial organization and construction in Belgrade, in line with the requirements and demands of a society in ‘transition’, which is characterized by the introduction of a market economy and the process of privatization.
In 1943, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was transformed into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the beginning of the democratization of Eastern Europe.


NATO Alliance bombed Serbia during the Kosovo War in 1999.

In 2000, the first democratic president won the elections.

1950, PLAN 1950 - "TUMOR"

1972/85, PLAN 1972/85 - "dreamer"

1985, 1989 - 2000, "TUMOR"

1999, NATO Alliance bombed Serbia during the Kosovo War in 1999.

2000, first democratic president won the elections.

2003, PLAN 2003 - "pricelist"

LAND PROPERTY (FROM 2010)

LAND USAGE

LAND USAGE

LAND USAGE

LAND USAGE

LAND PROPERTY

LAND PROPERTY

LAND PROPERTY

LAND PROPERTY

LAND PROPERTY

KINGDOM

SOCIALISM

SOCIALISM

SOCIALISM

SOCIALISM

SELF-MANAGEMENT

SELF-MANAGEMENT

SELF-MANAGEMENT

SELF-MANAGEMENT

DEMOCRACY - REAL TRANSITION

Josip Broz Tito

Slobodan Milošević

Boris Tadić

Petar II Karadjordjević
What I would like to discover?

Starting from the hypotheses trough this research I would try to find out:

• What is it that made a city socialist – or is there such a thing as a socialist city?
• Did the planned economy of socialism cause more or less creativity in architecture and urban planning then trade market economy?
• Does the evolution of urban planning in Belgrade during the socialist period attests to the changing nature of socialism in Yugoslavia?
• Was urban planning fundamentally different in socialist Yugoslavia than in free-market, liberal-democratic states?
• Is there thus a great deal of continuity in urban planning ideology between liberal democratic states and socialist states?
• What caused the transition after the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989?
• How the new democratic regimes after 2000 deal with the burden of the past?
• What change of the land use to the land property, market economy and foreign capital investments brought to Belgrade?
• Which is the position of planners in planning processes in different periods? Do they initiate them, role them or just participate?

The study should discover the mechanisms that provide city with a specific character over time, enabling it to maintain, enhance, or change it with future interventions. These answers will explain political climate in the given time in Belgrade and how the shift of the political regime influenced the change in the planning processes and urban morphology of the city.
How do I plan to discover it?

OBJETIVOS

EXPLAIN THE PROCESS OF URBAN REGENERATION

PRESENT THE EFFECTS OF THE POLITICAL CHANGES TO THE URBAN TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES

PRESENT THE CASE OF BELGRADE

ANALYSE HOW BELGRADE WAS AFFECTED

METHODOLOGY

THEORETICAL DATABASE ANALYSES

THEORETICAL DATABASE ANALYSES

THEORETICAL/HISTORICAL/ POLITICAL DATABASE

TECHNICAL DATABASE

REFERENCES

? • URBAN FORTUNES: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PLACE
• THE CITY IN THE SHADOW OF THE WAR
• THE CITY TRANSFORMATION: TOWARDS DE-POLITICIZATION OF URBAN ISSUES
• BELGRADE AND EUROPE 1918-1941...
• RATIONAL OR COLLABORATIVE MODEL OF URBAN PLANNING IN SERBIA: INSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS

• NEW BELGRADE: MODERNISM QUESTIONED
• EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST
• NEW BELGRADE: THE MODERN CITY’S UNSTABLE PARADIGMS
• PARADISE SPURNED: HOUSING POLICY AND THE LIMITS OF UTOPIAN PLANNING IN BELGRADE, 1950-1967
• THE MODERNIST CITY RECONSIDERED: CHANGING ATTITUDES OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND URBAN DESIGNERS IN 1960S YUGOSLAVIA...

• MASTER PLAN OF BELGRADE 1950/1972/1985/2003...
Calendar

December | January | February | March | April | May | Jun | July

Collecting bibliography

Bibliography research

The project of the theses presentation

Seminar*

Case study

Theoretical analysis according to the case study analyses

Conference

Synthesis

The theses presentation

* Transition: Informal Tactics and the Aftermath of Modernization
(May 6-8, Belgrade, Serbia)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Ljubica Gajević
ljubicagajevic@gmail.com