

# Post-Globalization and Urban Planning: The Case of Egypt, 1980-2005

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## **Abstract**

### **1. Introduction**

This paper is concerned with the problem generated by the differences between planning objectives, forced by the "Global Community" (before 9/11) or by the "United States" (after 9/11), and critical urban problems in Egypt during the last 25 years (1980–2005). Global Community imposes not only planning objectives, but also associated approaches, concepts, and techniques. The whole new package of objectives and approaches is considered a prerequisite for any financial or technical assistance, given by rich and developed countries or United Nations' organizations.

The new package, off course, conveys the concern of the donors, i.e. the rich and developed countries. This concern may not fit in the ladder of priorities of developing countries. In addition, the associated approaches assume that developing countries have enough number of trained and skilled planners to carry out these projects, as well as active, rational, and cooperative stakeholders, who are tied together with a democratic culture.

These differences create many problems, especially at the national level. The most important of them are wasting resources, confusing the order of priorities, and adopting ineffective approaches and techniques. This waste leads to more urban crises as it leaves the active and pressing problems without solutions.

The problem becomes more serious after the 9/11, i.e. in the age of post-globalization, for two main reasons. The first is that there is no room for developing countries to negotiate as happened during globalization era (i.e. before 9/11). The second is that planning framework has been changed due increasing profiling processes for the flows of capital, labor, and information. This new framework calls for more involvements of all departments of any state to control various intra or inter flows of capital, labor, and information. Meanwhile, these departments are requested to be committed to all norms of free and democratic society, which means it should leave all entities of the civil society to operate liberally.

The situation after 9/11 needs more understanding for the problems and needs of developing countries. This understanding may enable these countries to deal with their problems effectively as it permits developed countries to enable developing countries in dealing with their pressing problems.

The main two problems of Egypt are population distribution and land-use mixed patterns, while the global agenda, which is right, includes environmental issues, women and youth problems, poverty alleviation (sustainable livelihood approaches),etc.