Reframing (Neo)Colonial Planning in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa

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April 9, 2021

Planning's Colonial Legacy

- Colonial mindset endures – (neo) colonial planning
- Struggle to assert an African identity to urban planning
- Debt, Structural Adjustment, Economic Crises
- 21st century return of state-led blueprint master planning
- Increasing FDI flows, private investment in urban development
- Yet: persistent of informality and poverty in cities
- An "Afropolitan" alternative?

Case Study: Nairobi, Kenya

- Kenya's largest city, with 4.4 million people as of 2019

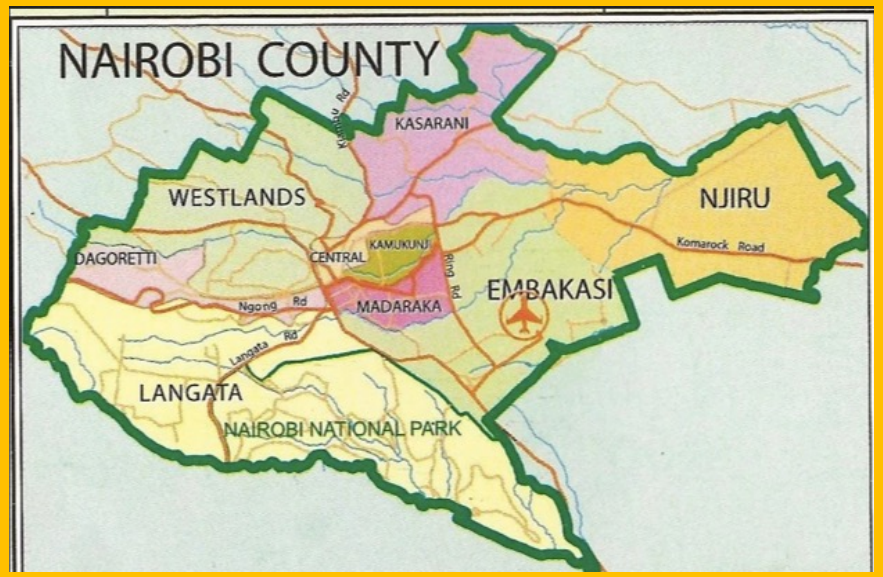
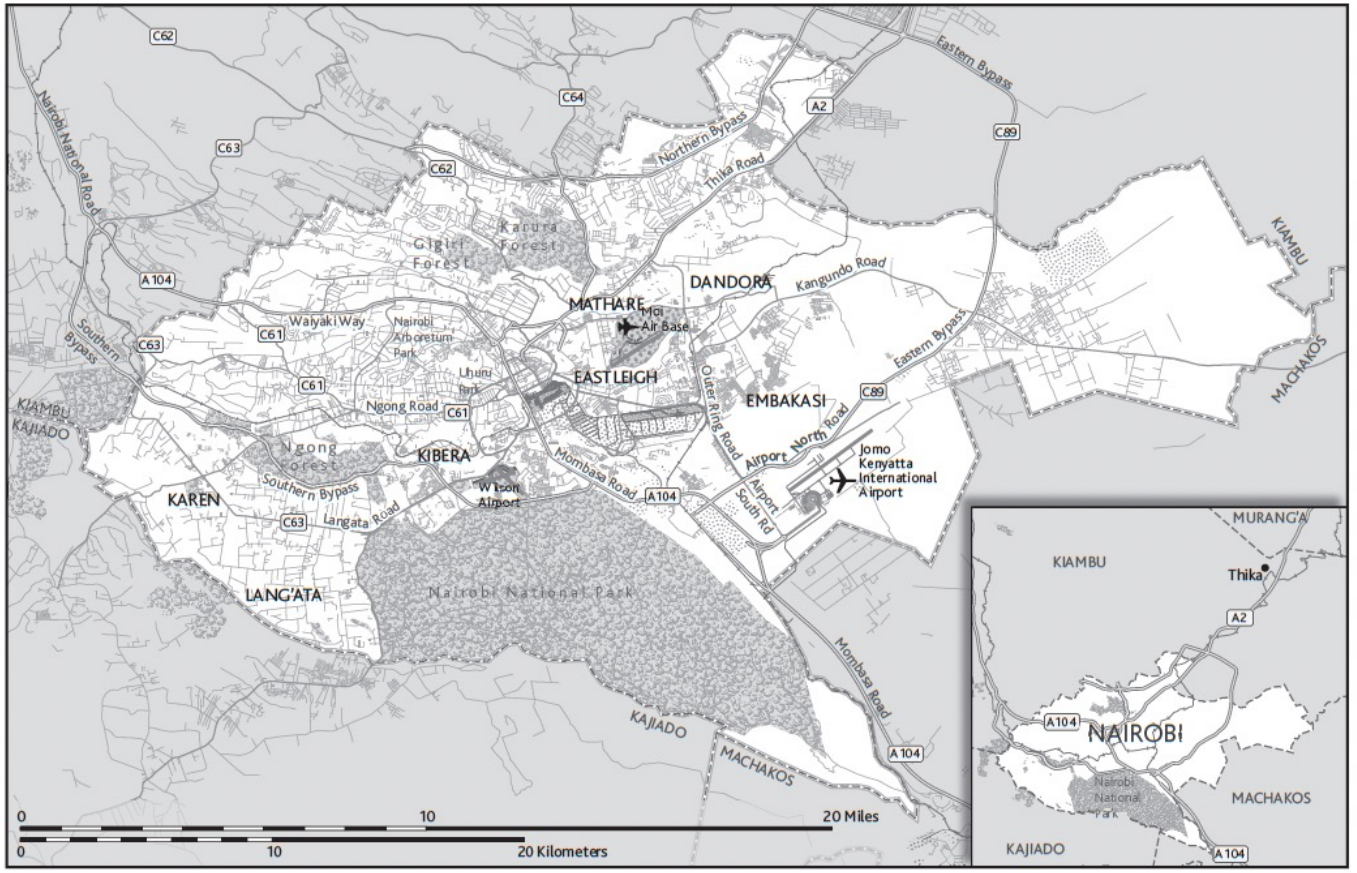


Figure 1.1: Map of Nairobi



The Establishment of Colonial Urban Control

- The “Scramble for Africa”
- British East Africa Company - East Africa Protectorate
- Little “professional” planning, but establishment of administrative towns
- Shift from EAP capital from Mombasa to new town of Nairobi, 1901 (no formal plan until 1926

The Formalization of Colonial Planning

- Interwar years, into World War II (1918-1945)
- Walton Jamison plan for Nairobi, 1926
- Establishment of racially segregated controls
- Small-scale neighborhood plans (example of Pumwani)

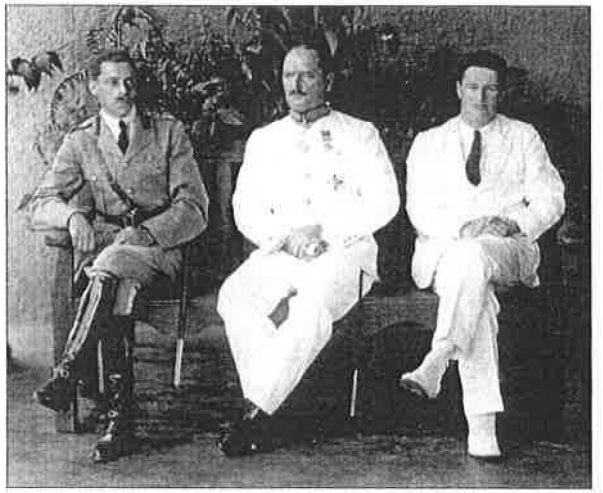


Fig. 4. E. A. T. Dutton, *right*, with Palmer Kerrison, *left*, and Governor Robert Thorne Coryndon, Nairobi, 1923. From Coryndon's papers in MSS AFR. s. 633 Box 14/1 fol. 1, by permission of the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford.

Fig. 5. Nairobi, 1928. From *Kenya Mountain* by Eric Dutton (London: Jonathan Cape, 1929).

Fig. 6. Government House, Nairobi. From *Architecture and Personalities* by Herbert Baker (London: Country Life, Ltd., 1944).

The Second Colonial Occupation

- Enframing Ideologies
- Thornton White 1948 Master Plan
- Mau Mau and the Emergency
- Reframing Planning? Surprising Continuities after 1963

Planning in the Early Independence Period

- Verticality and Iconography in the Nairobi CBD
- “Self-Help City”

Urban Planning amid Structural Adjustment

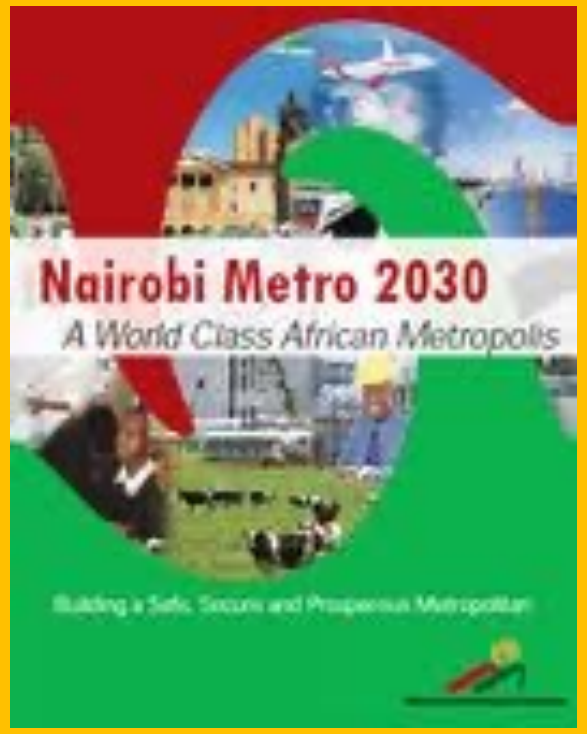
- IFIs and SAPs
- Decline of the role of the state
- Privatization and neoliberalism
- Failures in urban service provision
- Decline of master planning
- Rise of small-scale sectoral plans
- Skyrocketing growth of cities
- Informal settlements
- Example of Kibera in Nairobi

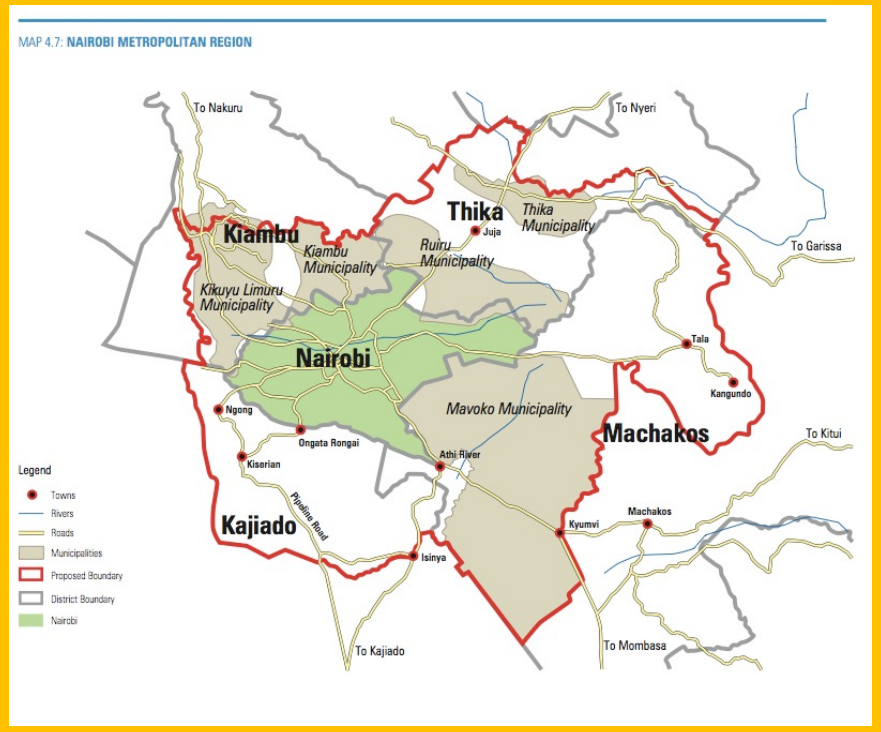
Crises and Opportunity: Africa's "Renaissance"?

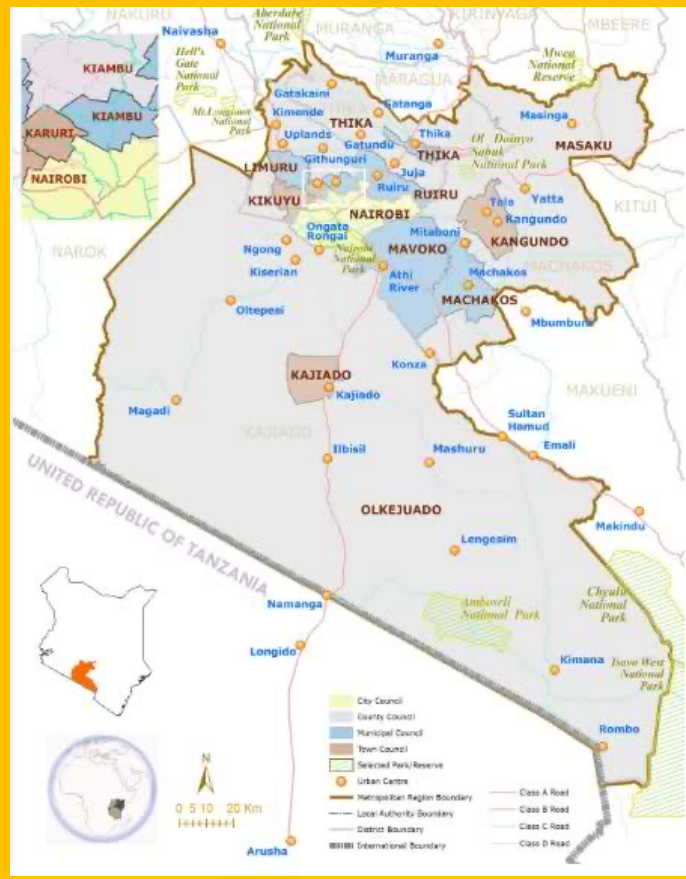
- 21st century roller-coaster ride
- Re-emergence of master planning
- Privatopia enclave urbanism
- The "New Scramble for Africa"
- Marginalization, poverty, deprivation, inequality
- Yet also: alternative planning

Example of 21st Century Nairobi

- 2010 Constitution, decentralization and democratization alongside continued authoritarian and top-down orientation
- 2008 Master Plan and its (non) implementation

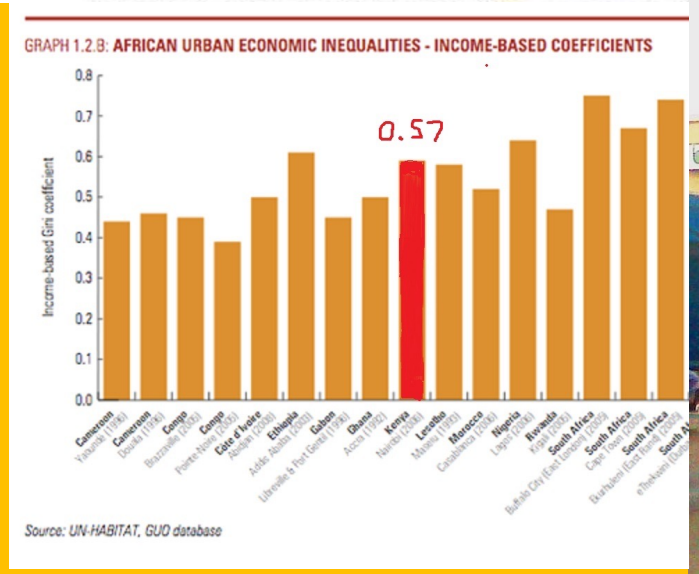






TO LIMURU
KIAMBU
TO THIKA
GITHURAI
KIKUYU
KANGEMI
DANDORA
RUAI
WESTLANDS
RIRUTA
MAKADARA
EMBAKASI VILLAGE
JKIA
EMBAKASI
NGONG'
O/RONGAI
KISERIAN
TO KITENGELA
ATHI RIVER
PROPOSED NEW LINES
EXISTING LINES
More...
Map
Satellite

JUNCTION


GRAPH 1.2.B: AFRICAN URBAN ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES - INCOME-BASED COEFFICIENTS
Income-based Gini coefficient
0.57
Source: UN-HABITAT, GUO database

Subway Dreams, Matatu Realities

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400 km
200 miles
PROPOSED STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY NETWORK
JUBA
SOUTH SUDAN
Nimule
Gulu
Pakwach
Albert Nile
Lake Albert
UGANDA
Ituri
Kisangani
KAMPALA
Kasese
Lake Edward
Mbarara
CONGO-KINSHASA
Lake Victoria
RWANDA
Lake Kivu
KIGALI
Lualaba
Mwanza
BUJUMBURA
BURUNDI
Lake Tanganyika
Lomami
Kigoma
Tabora
Isaka
TANZANIA
Nakodok
To Addis Ababa
ETHIOPIA
Dawa
Lake Turkana
Lodwar
Moyale
KENYA
SOMALIA
Malaba
Isiolo / Archer's Post
Kisumu
Rongai
Phase 2
Tana
Garissa
NAIROBI
KENYA'S STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY PROJECT
Phase 1
Lamu
Arusha
Moshi
Voi
Mombasa
Tanga
INDIAN OCEAN
To Dar es Salaam

National Politics and Nairobi

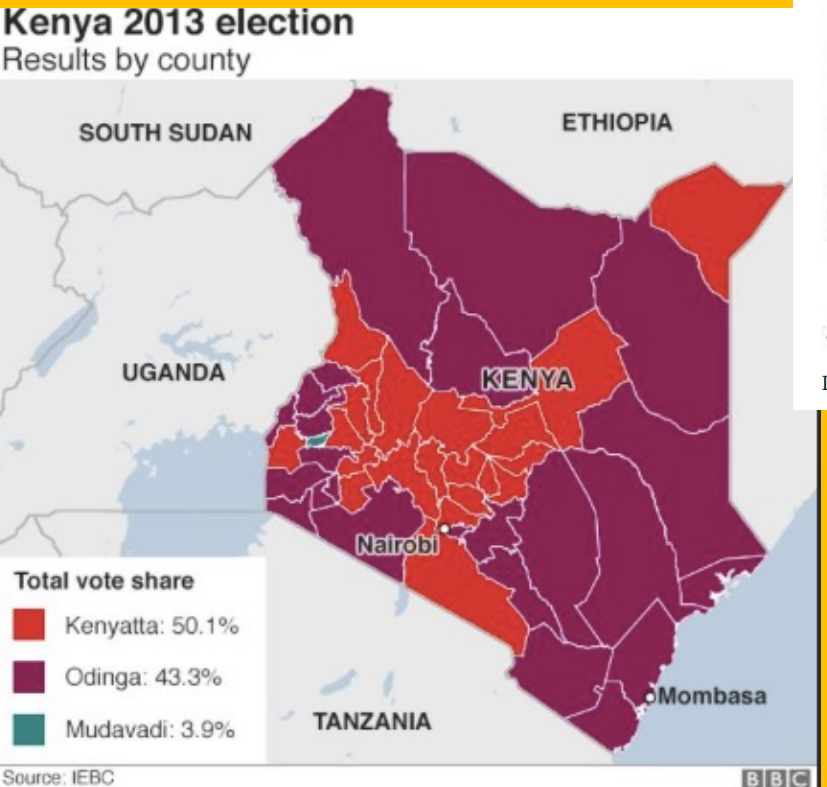
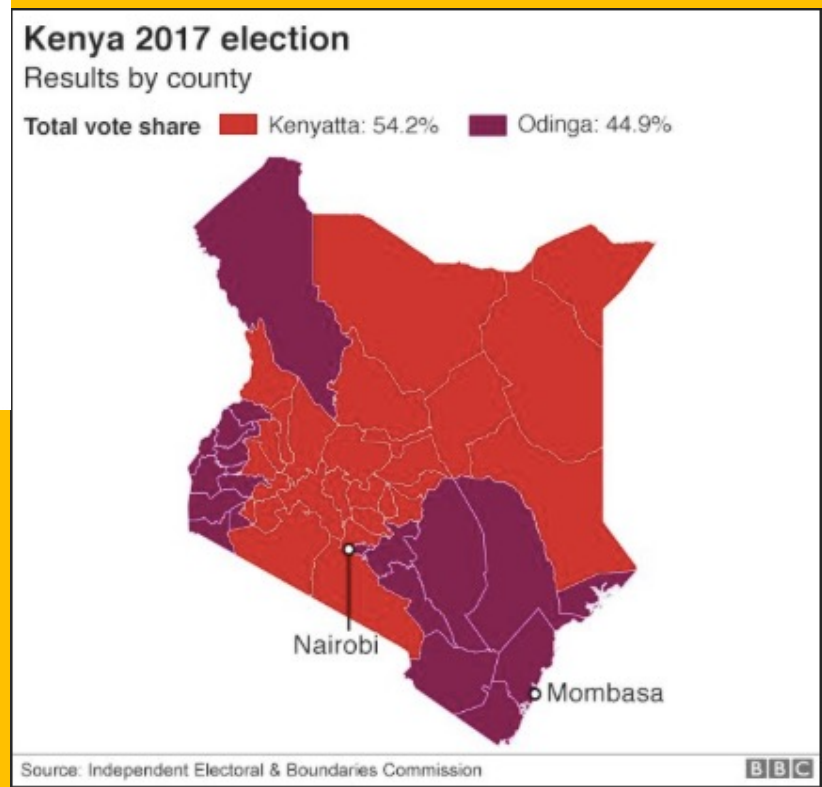
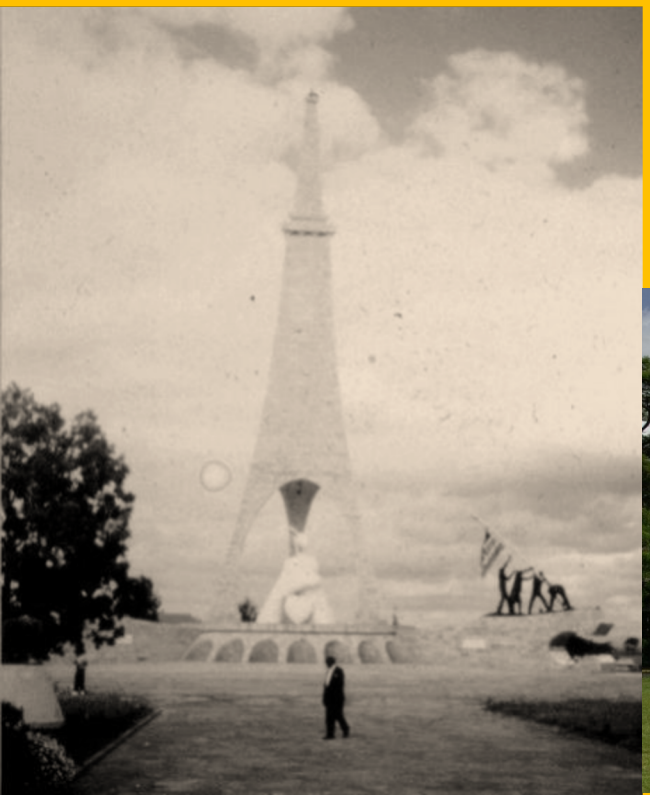


Illustration: Gado



Conclusion

- Overcoming colonial legacies
- Seeing Nairobi and Africa's cities as belonging to the world



MODERNIZING VIETNAM: A TOUR

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ITINERARY

Brief history of Vietnam

Regionality of Vietnam

Early Land Reforms

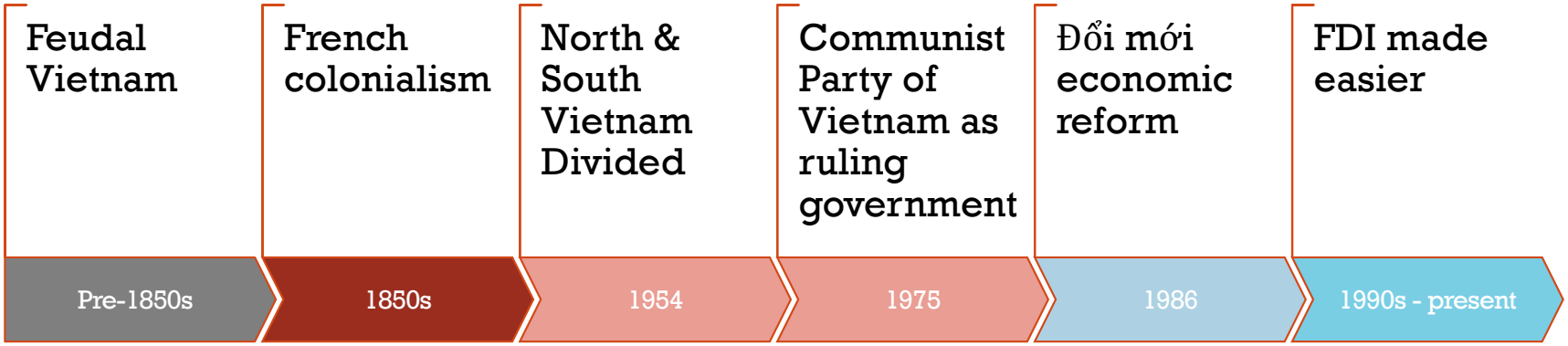
Modern Planning in Vietnam

Major Forces Shaping Modernization

Planning in Ho Chi Minh City

Street Vendors: class or culture?

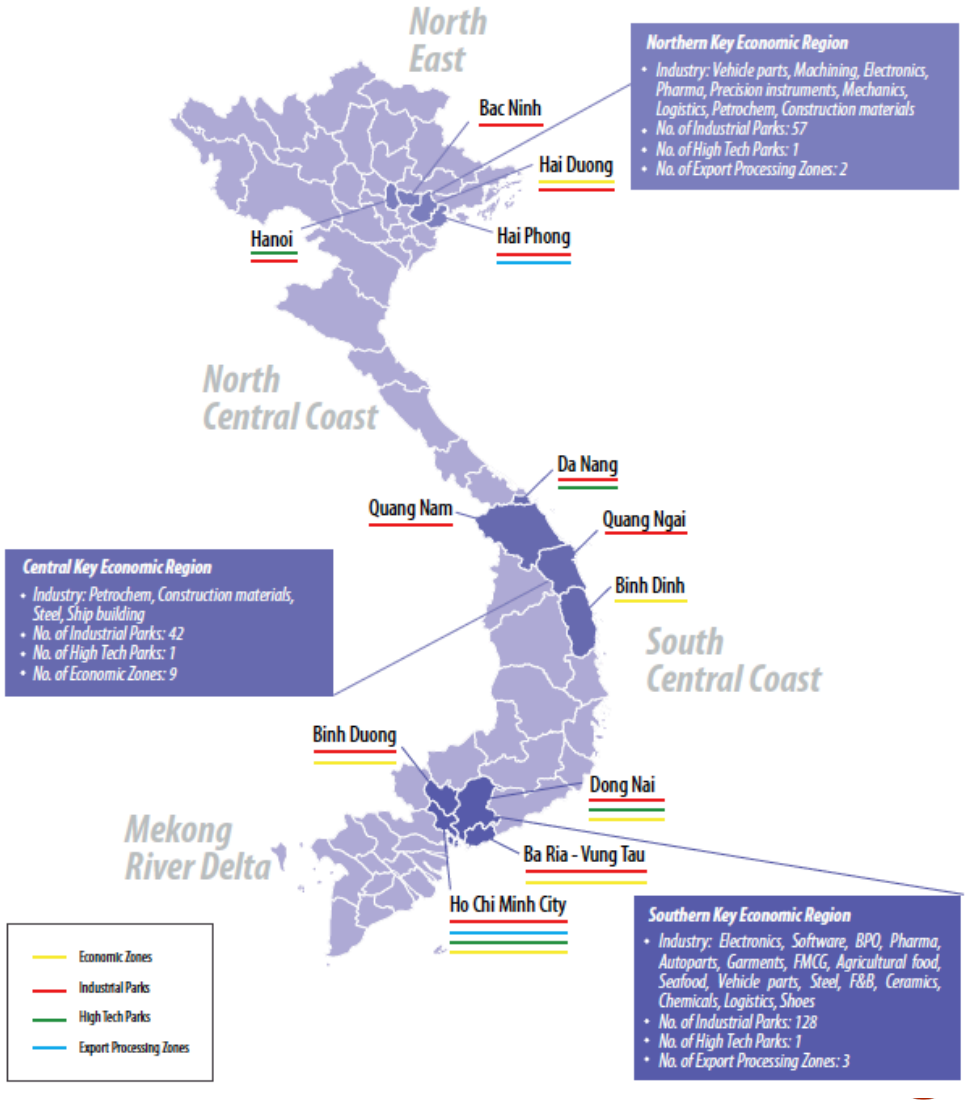
BRIEF HISTORY OF OF VIETNAM



PLANNING = MODERNIZATION

industrialization
urbanization
globalization
preservation

REGIONALITY OF VIETNAM



EARLY LAND REFORMS

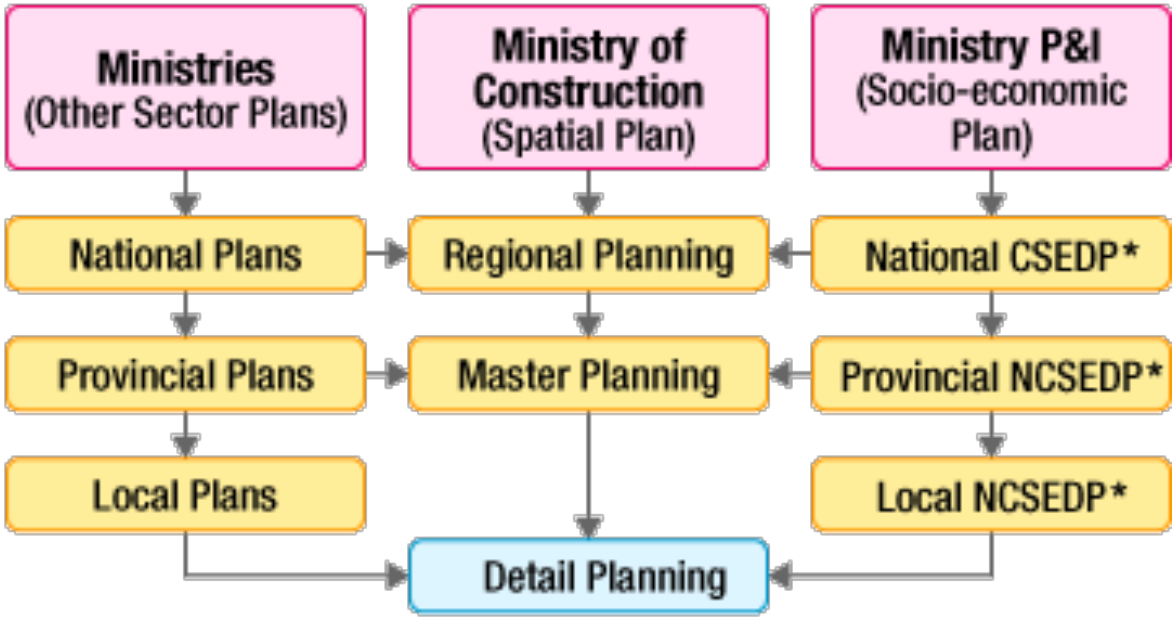
Feudal Vietnam, farmers did not own land

After 1954: The Northern and Southern government have 2 different land reform systems

Co-op Owned vs. Household Owned

1979- 1993: Transitioning from farming co-op to 20-years lease for small farm holders

2016: Landholdings transferred from smallholders to private companies



* CSED: Comprehensive Social & Economic Planning System

MODERN PLANNING IN VIETNAM

Master plan and zoning

Real estate developer driven projects

Industrial zones

Agricultural production

Tourism attraction

Cultural preservation

Climate change

Transportation

Geopolitics

MAJOR FORCES SHAPING VIETNAM'S MODERNIZATION

The Government	Foreign Investors	The Informal Economy
• Centralized • Localized	• Overseas Vietnamese • Corporations • International Development Agency	• Householders • Artists • Entrepreneurs

PLANNING IN HO CHI MINH CITY

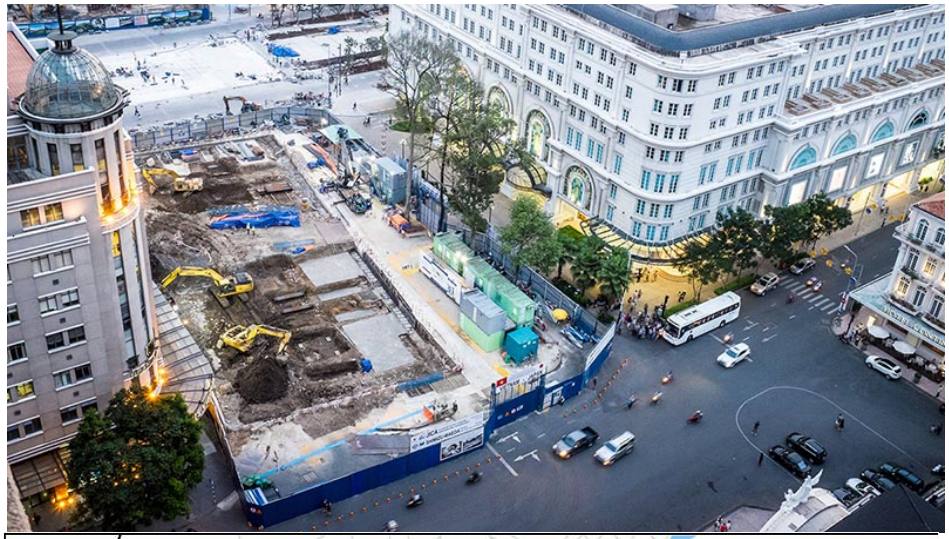
Continues to be a center of commerce and internationalization

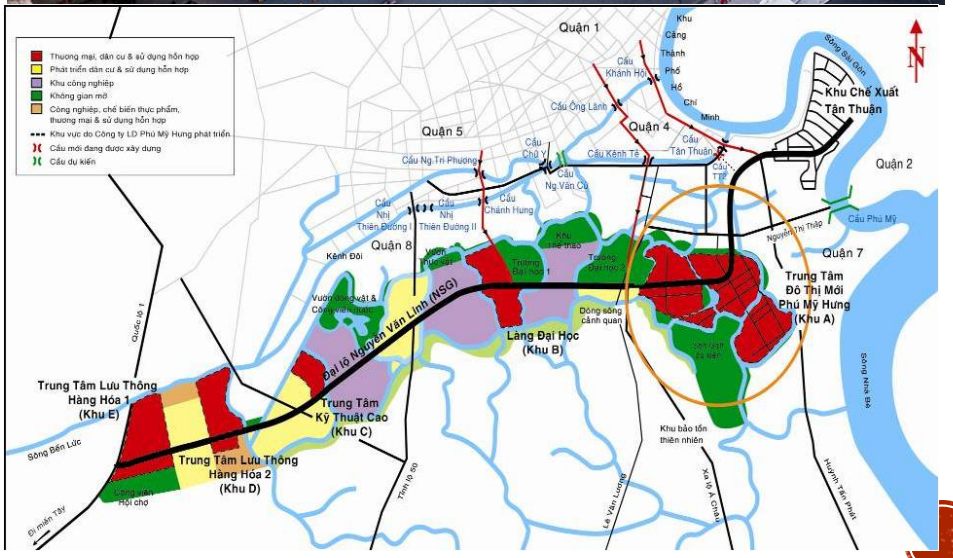
De-densification of the urban core

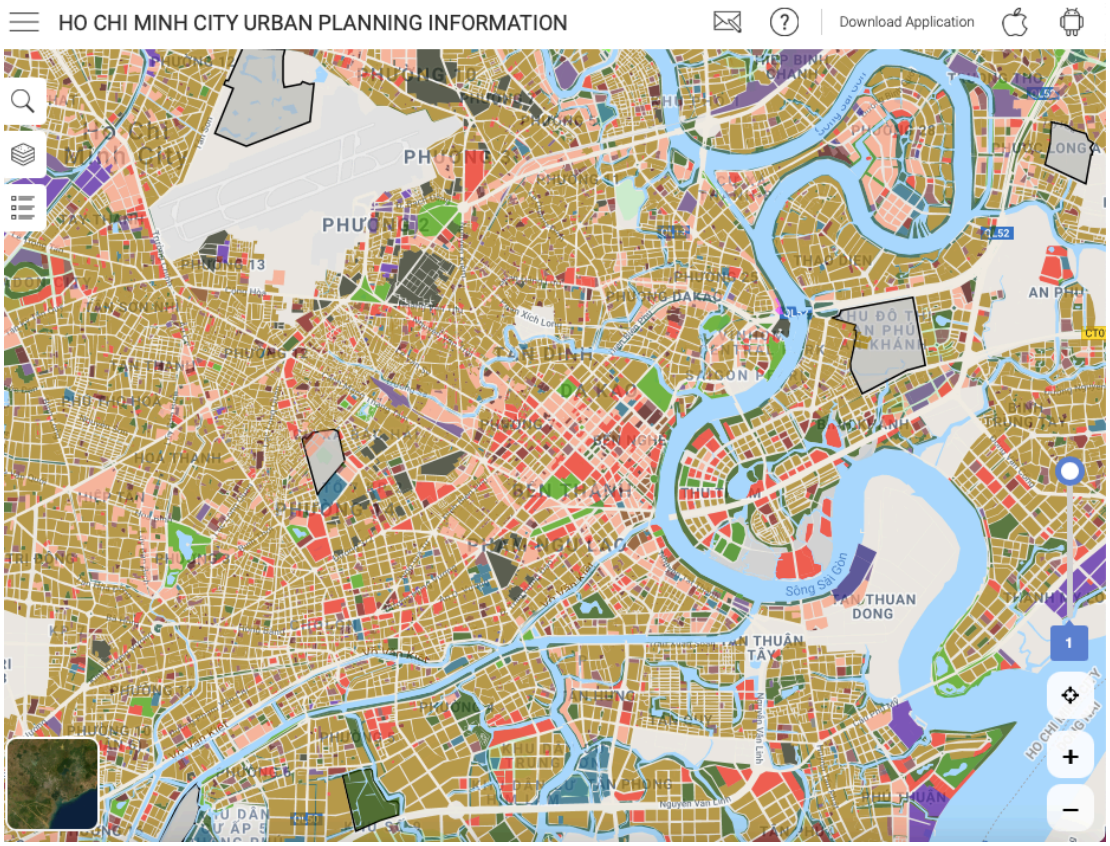
- Satellite city
- Urban Fringes

People driven wealth building in old neighborhoods

Rapidly evolving technology






HO CHI MINH CITY URBAN PLANNING INFORMATION
Download Application
PHƯỜNG 13
PHƯỜNG 12
PHƯỜNG 11
PHƯỜNG 10
PHƯỜNG 9
PHƯỜNG 8
PHƯỜNG 7
PHƯỜNG 6
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STREET FOOD VENDORS: CLASS OR CULTURE?

STREET FOOD VENDORS: CLASS OR CULTURE?

CONCLUSIONS

Forward looking mentality

Highly efficient government but lack of public accountability

Challenges that comes with modernization

- Wealth/Service gap
- Environmental issues
- Culture & Identity

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

LATIN AMERICAN CITIES

FEAR AND HOPE AS TRANSFORMATIVE FORCES

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rmoris@uc.cl

Santiago | 2021.04.09

THE SPANISH GUIDELINES

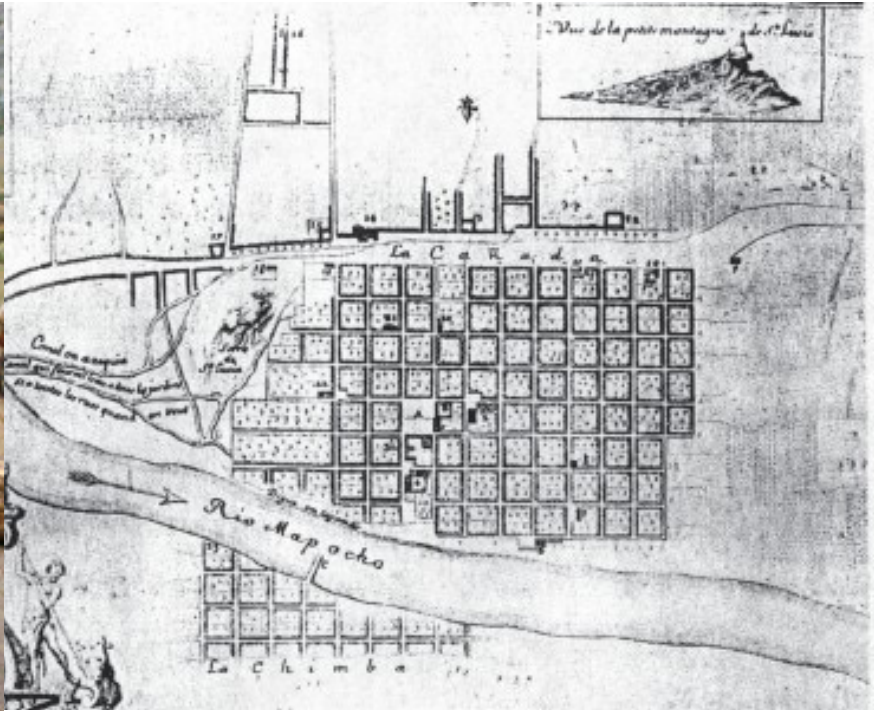
Conquest of Granada and expulsion of the Moors (1492)

Christopher Columbus & the capitulations of Santa Fe

Santa Fe, Andalucía

Santa Fe, Andalucía

Foundation of city of Santiago (1541)



INDUSTRIAL CITIES AND WORKERS CONDITIONS

Industrial cities

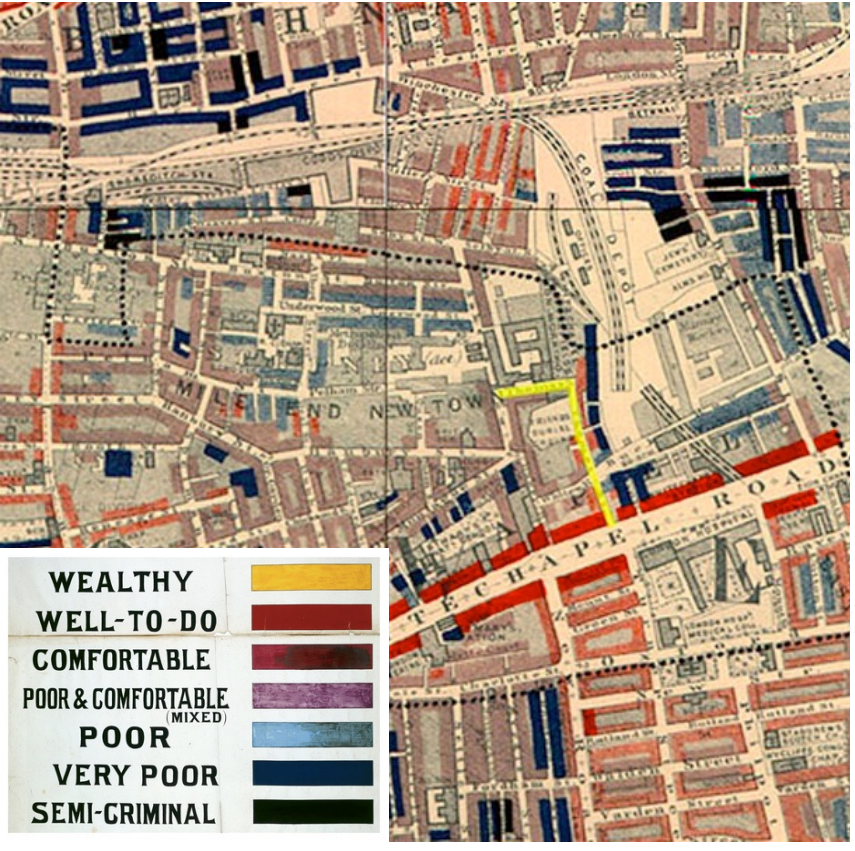
Londres & Manchester (1.800 – 1.900 D.C.)

- Technology development generated massive migration from the countryside to the city. Lower demand in the countryside and new demand for industrial production in cities.
- In the US 1800, 85 - 90% agricultural workers 50% (1880)
- Low transportation costs (train) and port development
- Smaller-scale cities changed their scale, welcoming the new population and activities without previous standards
- New need for basic services, transportation and construction systems

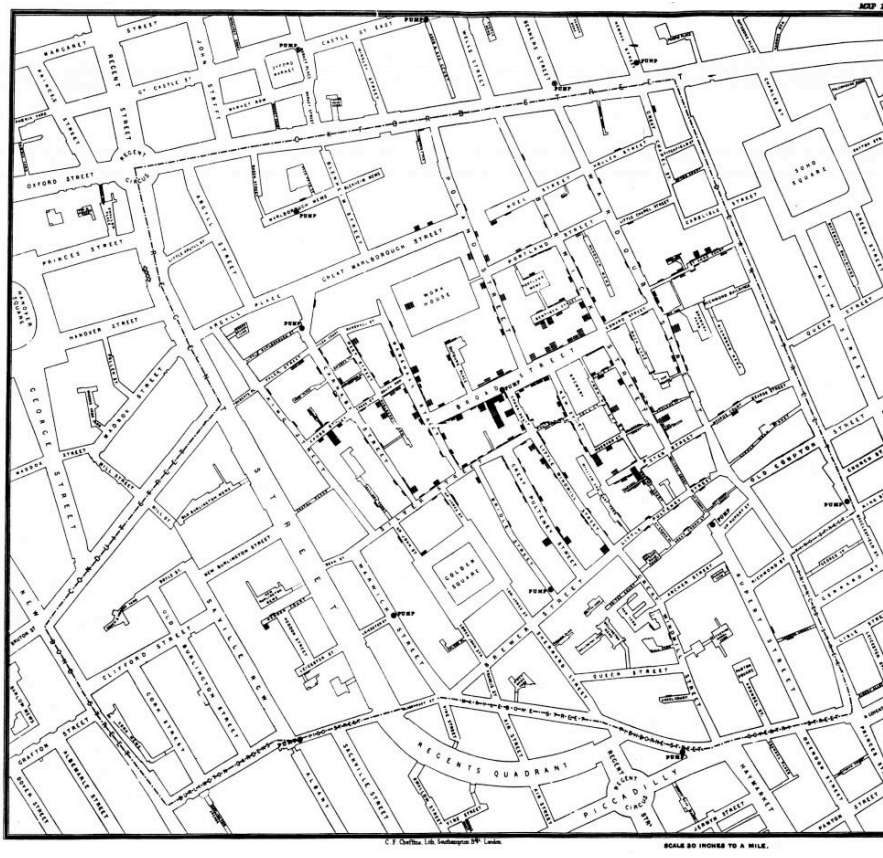
Living conditions (Santiago de Chile)

Living conditions (London)

Charles Booth (1889)



John Snow (1854)



Worker condition

Friedrich Engels (1844)

- Neighborhood analysis in industrial cities (Ravenrookery in London).
- Terrible habitability, environmental, health and security conditions.
- Inequality within the city (between neighborhoods).
- It projects social conflicts and a future in chaos with the population living in isolation, fearful of the public.
- Correlation between the worst locations and the worst homes.

Rev. Andrew Mearns (1883)

The Bitter Cry of Outcast London:
An Inquiry into the Condition of the Abject Poor

- "What he proposes to do ... ... We will point out the fact that without state interference, nothing effective can be done on a large scale. And it is a fact".

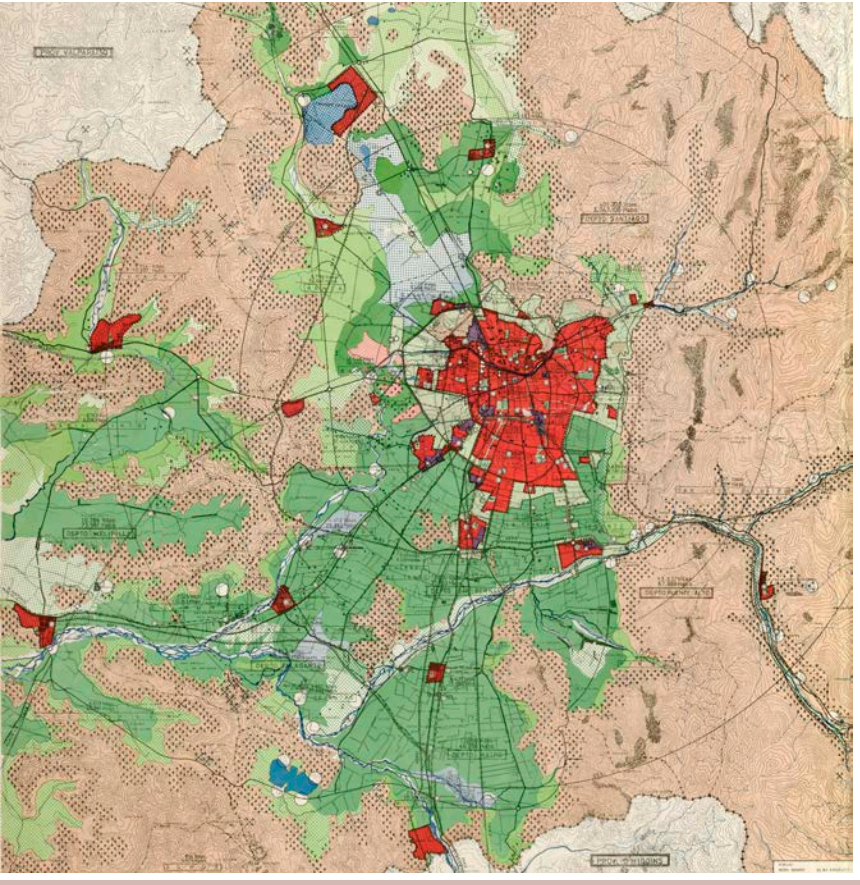
- "While we have been building our churches and basking in our religion and dreaming that the millennium is approaching, the poor have become poorer, the wretched more miserable and the immoral more corrupt".

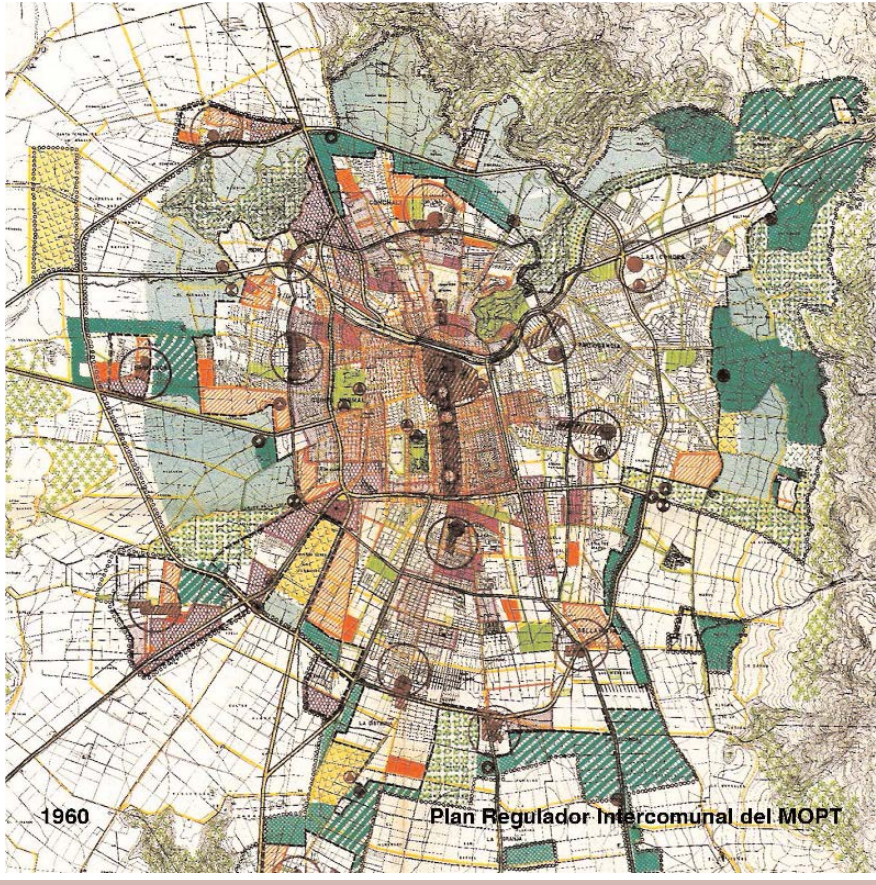
- THIS TERRIBLE FLOOD OF SIN AND MISERY IS WINNING OVER US.

- Immorality has generated a breeding ground for citizen unrest and the understanding of the power of the masses and their capacity for transformation.

TRANSFORMATIVE FORCES

Santiago’s regional and urban planning (1960)





Valdivia's earthquake (May 22, 1960)

9.5 MW
the most powerful instrumentally recorded in the history of humanity
2,000 dead and more than two million victims (25% population)

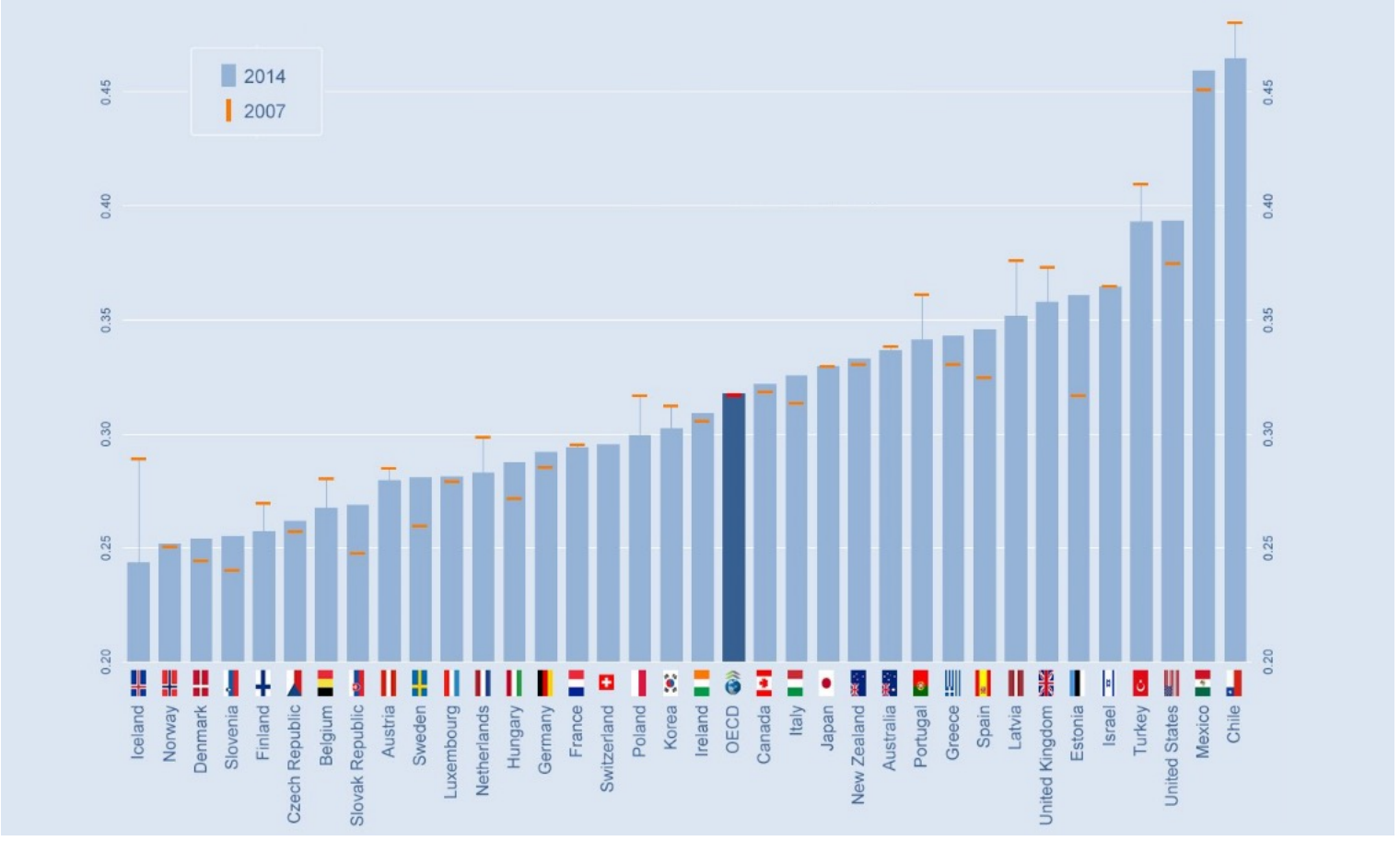
Popular unity government (1970 - 1973)

Coup d'état (September 11, 1973)

- 17 years of dictatoship
- 28,459 tortured
- 2,125 killed
- 1,102 disappeared

“The Chilean Miracle”:
The neoliberal experiment

Levels of income inequality (2007 & 2014)



Social uprising in neoliberal Chile (Oct,2019)

Social uprising in neoliberal Chile (Oct,2019)

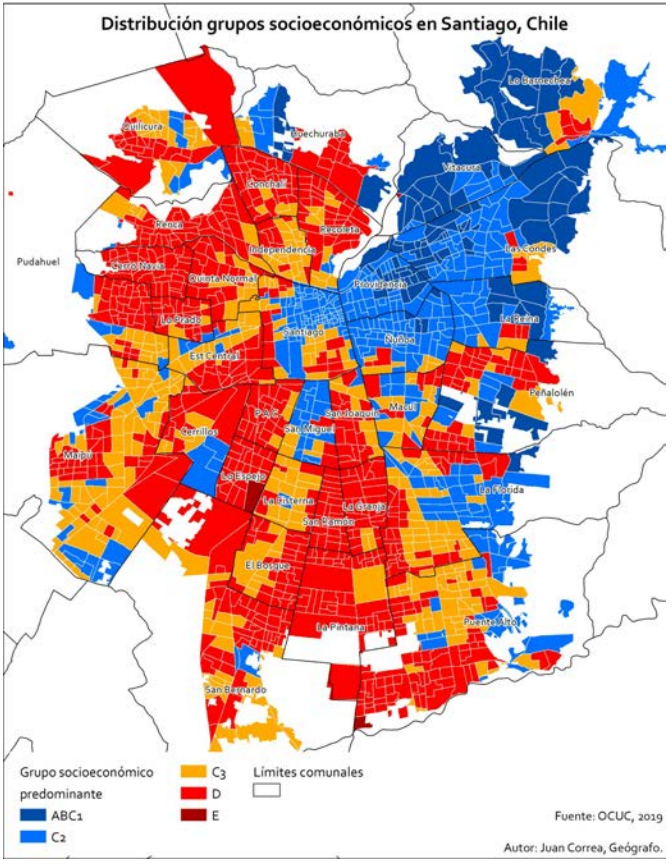
Chile during the COVID crisis (2020 – 2021)

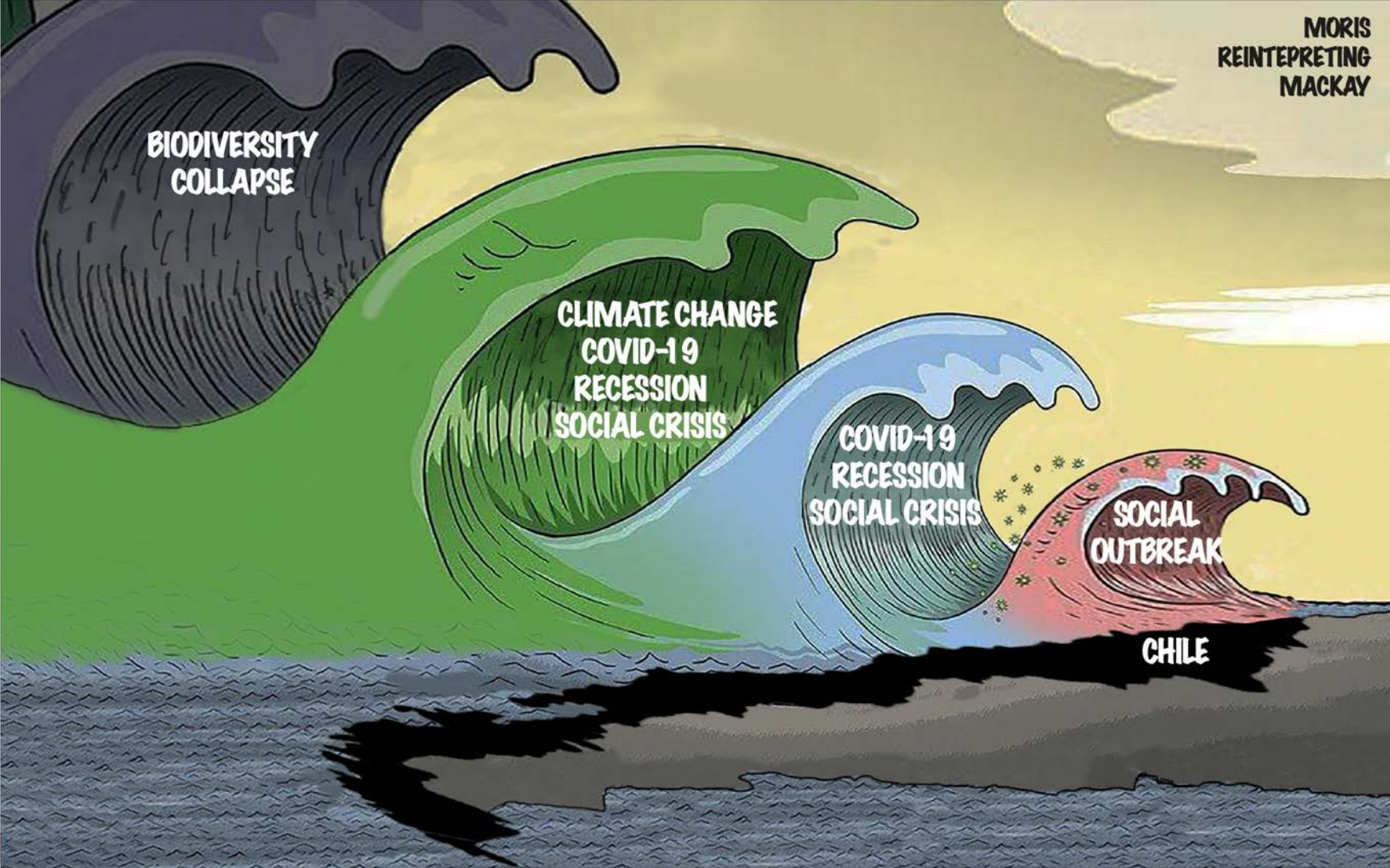
PERFORMANCE CONDITIONATED BY UNDERLYING RISK FACTORS

- Urban inequalities
- Urban vulnerabilities
- Governance failures
- Institutional distrust

COMMON PATTERNS WITH SOCIAL UPRISING (OVERLAPPING FACTORS)

- Inequality
- Frustration
- Sensation of discrimination
- Public response with the use of police and military force
- Violence (physical, political, social, criminality, etc.)




MORIS
REINTEPRETING
MACKAY
BIODIVERSITY
COLLAPSE
CLIMATE CHANGE
COVID-19
RECESSION
SOCIAL CRISIS
COVID-19
RECESSION
SOCIAL CRISIS
SOCIAL
OUTBREAK
CHILE