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Cairo's Urban Development

World Cities Lecture Series | The College of Wooster



Outline

- About Egypt (History & Background)
- Cairo
- Planning of Cairo
- Recent Urban Projects
- Problematizing The New Plans for Cairo
- Open Discussions on Suggested Solutions

Location

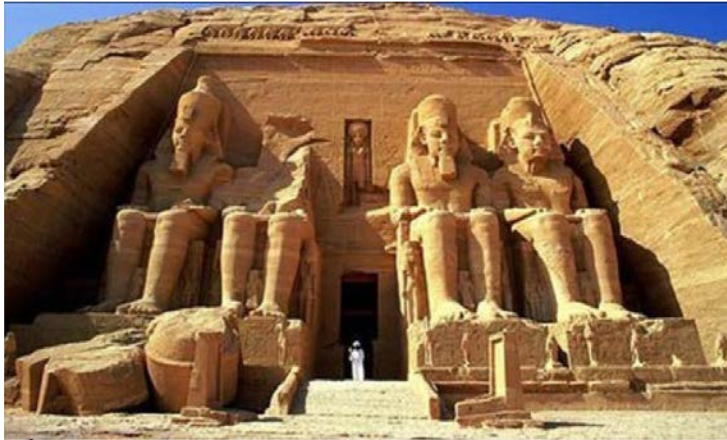


Area, Population & Currency

- Egypt is a country linking northeast Africa with the Middle East, dates to the time of the pharaohs.
- Old monuments sit along the fertile Nile River Valley, including Giza's colossal Pyramids and Great Sphinx as well as Luxor's Karnak Temple and Valley of the Kings tombs.
- The capital, Cairo, is home to Ottoman landmarks like Muhammad Ali Mosque and the Egyptian Museum, a trove of antiquities.
- Population: 109 million
- Currency: Egyptian Pound (1US\$ = 29.8EGP)
- Bordered from the East with the Red Sea, from the North with the Mediterranean Sea, from the West with Libya and from the South with Sudan



History



Pharaonic Egypt



Islamic Cairo



Coptic Cairo



Contemporary Cairo

Political Change

Sultanate of Egypt
1914-1923



Kingdom of Egypt
1923-1952



Republic of Egypt
1952-1958



United Arab Republic.
(The word *Egypt* was removed after the unity with Syria)
1958-1971



Federation of Arab Republic
1971-1984



Arab Republic of Egypt
1984-2018



The Giza Pyramids

Egypt has about 138 pyramids, the most famous ones are found in Giza:

Khufu, Khafre, & Menkaure.



Khufu Pyramid



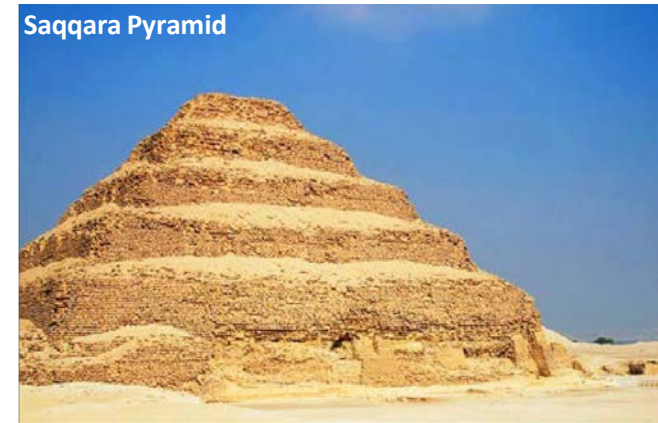
The Sphinx



Dahshur Pyramid



Saqqara Pyramid



Contemporary Cairo (*in the morning*)



Contemporary Cairo (*at night*)



Cairo's Urbanism



Courtesy of: Hany Helmy



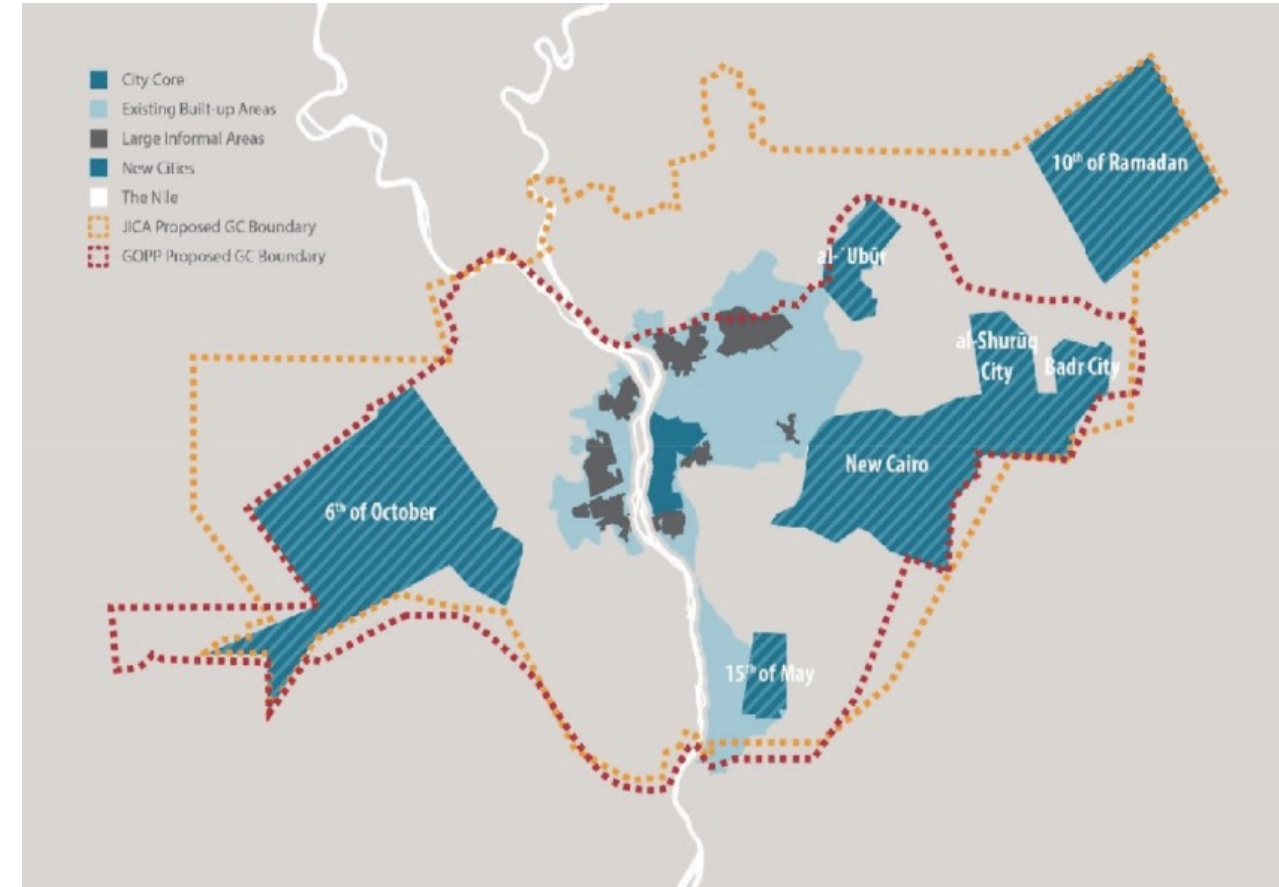
Planning of Cairo

1956 MASTER PLAN

- Proposed 6 suburban communities
- These were -more or less- industrial towns in nature,
- One was realized (Helwan in the South) as industrial suburb
- Another one materialized was Nasr City as residential

1973 MASTER PLAN

- Started in 1970 where the city was going through rapid expansion.
- The plan was approved in 1973
- The target population was set for the year 1990
- With projected population that range of 14.7 to 16 million
- The plan defined the ring road as the outward boundary of the city.
- It proposed new urban communities outside of the urban areas, namely: 6th October in the west, 10th Ramadan and El-Obour in the east and 15th May in the south, were constructed following this master plan.



Planning of Cairo

1982 MASTER PLAN

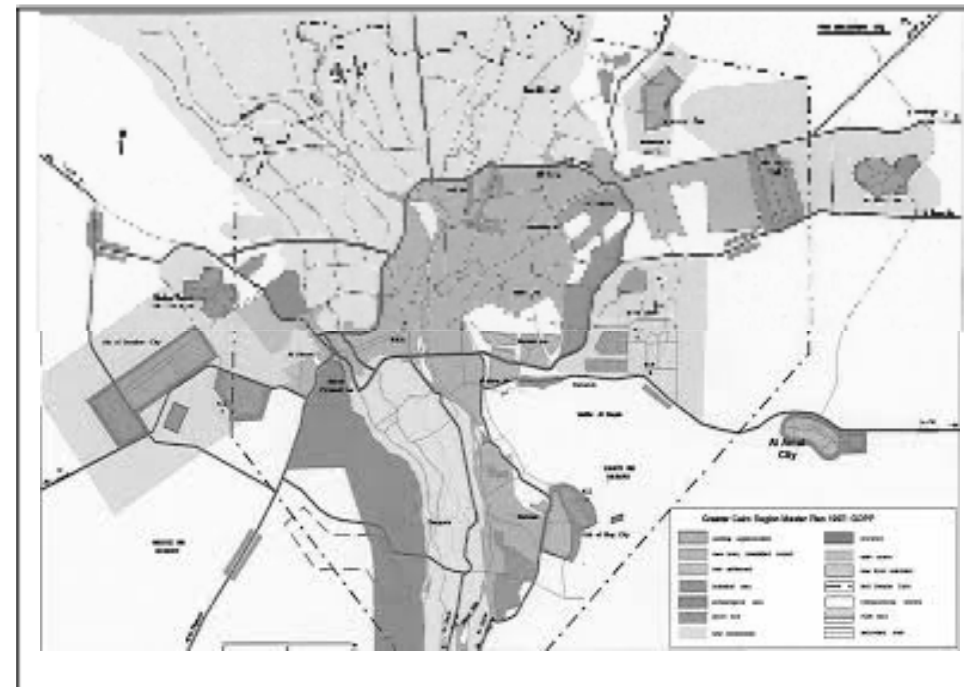
- Developed with the assistance from France, as a joint undertaking with GOPP
- Rapid population growth had been experienced in GCR and the Master Plan called to limit the growth
- Later it is realized that this is an unavoidable growth of GCR
- The importance of use the private sector (i.e. real estate developers)
- Proposed 5 Urban Corridors that connects Cairo with external cities, namely:
 - 1) Alexandria;
 - 2) Suez;
 - 3) Sokhna;
 - 4) Ismailia; and
 - 5) Upper Egypt to the south



Planning of Cairo

1991 MASTER PLAN

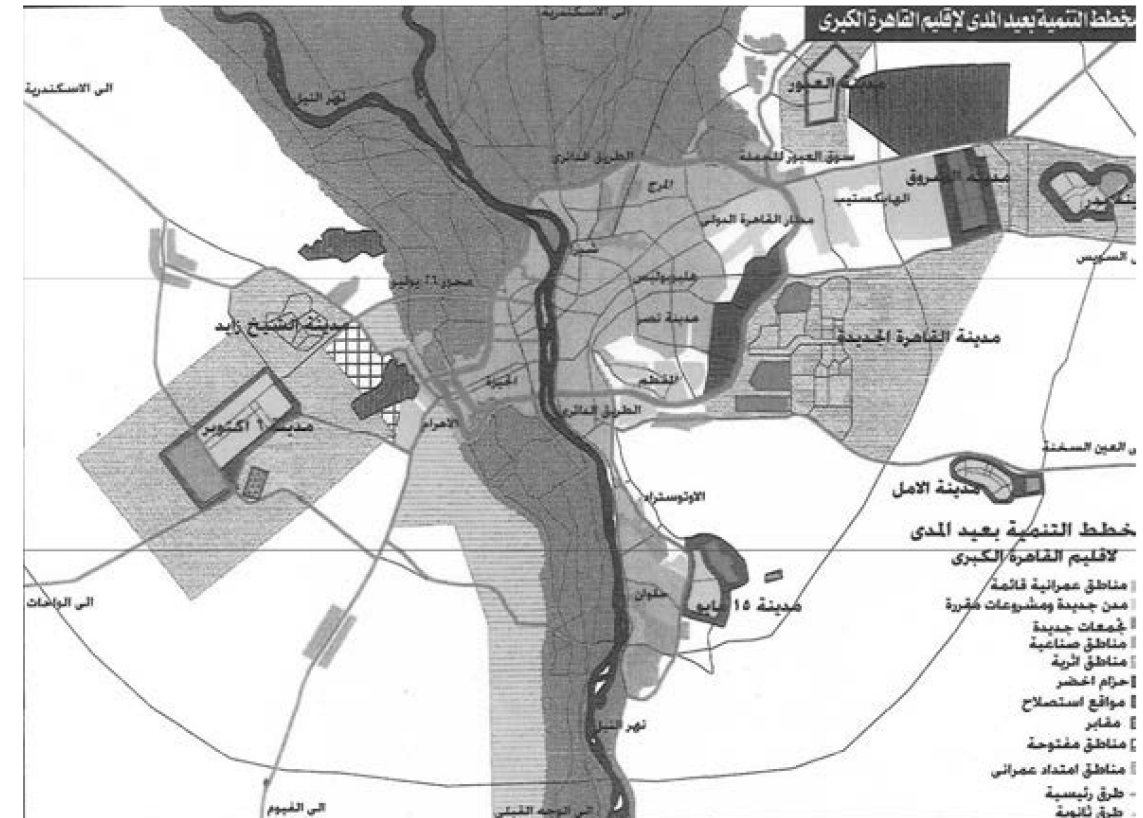
- Considered partial revision of 1982 plan
- It was based on the work of GOPP with French assistance
- Did not change major planning parameters (such as population)
- The ring road proposed in Plan of 1982 was almost complete by this time and the revised plan showed the ring road.



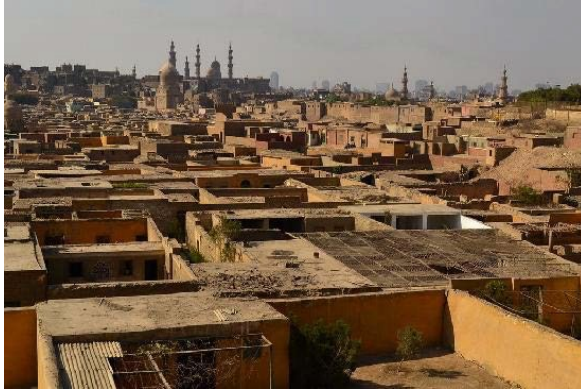
Planning of Cairo

1997 MASTER PLAN

- Considered a second revision of the Master Plan of 1982 was conducted
- The population of the Greater Cairo reached 13 million so the new target of 24 million was introduced for the target year of 2020.
- The population of GCR in 2000 was 16 million, the projected increase up to 2020 would be 8 million in total.
- The 1997 plan indicated that that 5.8 million of the 8 million increase be accommodated in NUCs
- The remaining 2.2 million in and around the existing urban conglomeration.
- This plan thus accelerated the construction of NUCs outside of the ring road



Cairo's Urbanism - *Now*



City of the dead



Slum/Informal Areas



Mohandesine Housing



Villas/Golf Courses

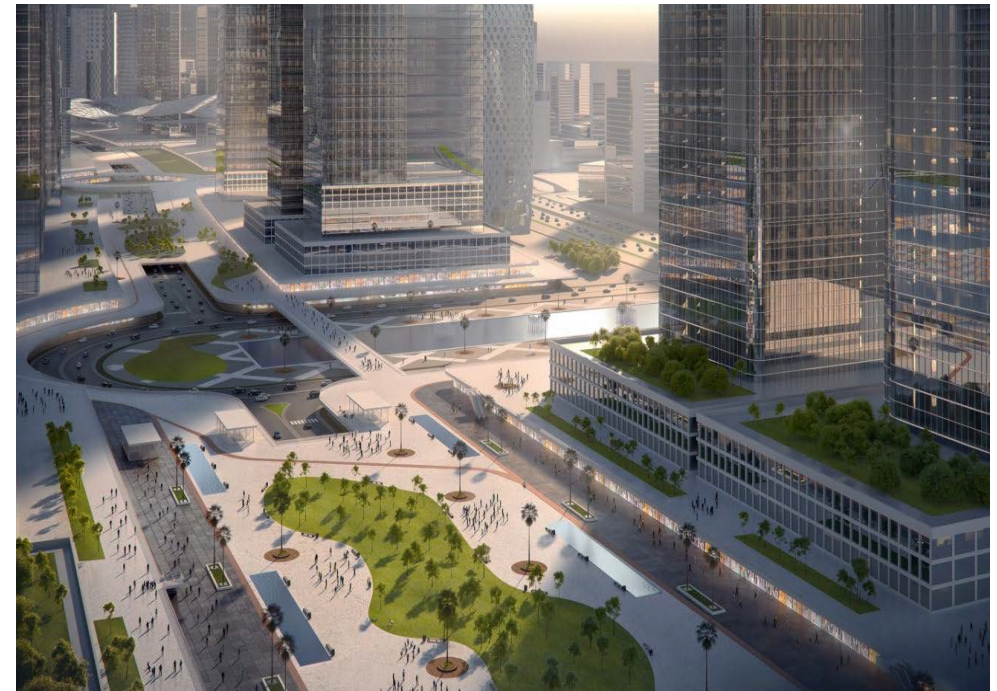


Gated Communities



Mohandesine Housing

Government's Vision for Cairo



Inspired by Dubai, the new visions of Cairo are attempts to modernize the city without paying much attention to:

- Its existing urban fabric,
- Its cultural complexity,
- Its ecological settings, and
- Its residents' needs

But how to transform
“This Cairo”

to

That Cairo?



Urban Fabric in many parts of Cairo East of the Nile



The proposed urban scheme to develop Cairo

Problematizing Current Interventions

1- Bridges in residential areas



New bridges adjacent to existing homes



Proposed Bridge (currently under construction)

Problematizing Current Interventions

2- Removal of matured trees



Removal of city parks and exiting matured trees in order to create spaces for new development

Problematizing Current Interventions

3- Destruction of historic monuments



Removal of existing heritage sites (historic tombs) to create space for new roads, highways and urban development

Problematizing Current Interventions

4- Introducing Cairo eye



Introducing Cairo eye as a proposal brought lots of complains from the local residents as it will create:
Traffic, parking, congestion, and environmental problems in Zamalek district.

Problematizing Current Interventions

5- Urban development projects with no respect of local context



Egypt's New Administrative Capital



Egypt's New Administrative Capital

- approximately 45km (28 miles) to the east of Cairo, on a swath of desert equal to the size of Singapore
- the New Administrative Capital, which is expected to house embassies, government agencies, the parliament, 30 ministries, a spiralling presidential compound and some 6.5 million people when completed.
- the government committed to allocate 15 square metres of green space per inhabitant in the new development. The new capital will have a central “green river”, a combination of open water and planted greenery twice the size of New York’s Central Park
- cost about \$40bn. Fifty-one percent of the Administrative Capital for Urban Development (ACUD), the company which oversees the project, is owned by the Egyptian military and the remaining 49 percent by the Ministry of Housing.

Egypt's New Administrative Capital may not do much to help ordinary Egyptians, but it will provide some key benefits for the Egyptian President:

Stability, Legitimacy & Legacy

Suggested Solutions

- Integration of disciplines.
- Integration of community in the decision making process.
- Capitalise on the knowledge of key personnel & community leaders.
- Sensitive urban areas need to be looked at with understanding to its local context. Not every project can be done everywhere.
- Heritage and cultural sites at threat of new development.
- Share examples of other projects where community knows more (community-led solutions).

Thank You

Open For Discussions, Questions, Comments,
Reflections and More



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