

How Globalization Impacts the Urban Fabric in Modern Arabia Cities: Dubai The Global City

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Abstract

Globalization seeks to encompass all countries in one economic unit, possibly without governments or borders. Globalization is one of the forces determining the spatial pattern of cities, and a force not coming into play for the first time in recent times. It must be seen as the extension of forces already present over a much longer period of time. Over the past few decades, the Arab region has been subject to dramatic external interventions and western influences. The colonization, and associated cultural imperialisms of Arab and Europe, and more recently the rapid modernization have all transformed and internationalized cultures, conceptualization and planning ideologies which affected the spatial development and the pattern of urban spaces. The objective of this paper is to analyze the spatial pattern of urban fabric in Arabian cities and how they change under the impact of globalization. This transformation is examined in relation to the global city of Dubai, the second largest city in the United Arab Emirates. Dubai is chosen as a case study because it has been a subject of colonialism, and has been significantly shaped by various imported ideologies: Arab, Persian and British; particularly with regard to contemporary planning policies. In addition to that, the fast urban development that followed the 1971 federation completely changed the character of the city. Globalization has affected the urban fabric of the Arabian cities, in positive as well as negative ways.