



Aid, Development and the Lessons of History: Urban Reconstruction under Ayub Khan

In the mid-60's Pakistan's economy was known as bubble economy because at that time the growth rate was significantly high as a lot of development projects were started including the Mangla dam from which Pakistan is still getting a major portion of energy. The major objective of the webinar was to discuss the development of Pakistan in the era of President Ayub Khan.

Key Points:

- Dr. Markus said that the major issue is the lack of trust of the government on the local contractors to build the projects. They hire the foreign construction companies and contractors even though local companies have the ability to construct. At that time the military was dominant as Mr. Ayub Khan came into power and argued that politicians are unable to solve Pakistan's problems. So, no one has any question about his actions.
- The Harvard Advisory group drafted Pakistan's first five-year plan and Doxiadis was responsible for the housing and settlements section within that plan. The first project which was given to Doxiadis was the establishment of Korangi. After the completion of this project within six months Doxiadis got a really big job, the Islamabad Plan for which Doxiadis lobbies excessively.
- Furthermore, his main points are:
 - Development discourse depends on politics and aid as much as on 'science'.
 - Development projects mean different things to different people.
 - Development is not inevitable.
 - Development history does not have to be a prison.
 - History is a great communicator.



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- President Ayub Khan was not really interested in development discourse at that moment. Further, his regime was not subscribed to any particular version of what actually needed to be done. They were interested in demonstrating that they could get something done. So, executive capacity rather than policy was the main consideration. One of the aims to establish executive capacity is to be used for propaganda purposes. For sure at that time Doxiadis had a different propaganda objective which was to advertise himself as a development consultant.

In the 1950s, Pakistani policy makers did not actually understand the role of their own country in terms of development. Moreover, he argued that Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan was the politician who really thought about what Pakistan needed.

- There is difference between reconstruction and development. Reconstruction is essentially a one-off effort to remedy a problem that has been inflicted by some kind of crisis. Whereas, development is a long drawn-out process for the next couple of decades.
- Policy that wants to improve economic and social wellbeing. Simply based on what are the objectives of the policy and then an open discussion of how these objectives can be achieved without any reference.

Conclusion

- Doxiadis was the right man, at the right time and at the right place and has a great role in urban reconstruction in Pakistan.
- Development projects can have different meanings for the Pakistan government and it meant something completely different for Doxiadis.
- Pakistan did not involve in any idea of development in policy needs. So, there is a dire need to get involved in the idea of development in the first place.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lhkj7Cw-mM&feature=emb_logo

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