

# SELECTED URBAN PROBLEMS OF WARSAW AFTER 1989. A REFERENCE TO THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF BELGRADE AFTER 1986.

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## ABSTRACT

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This thesis addresses selected urban problems of Warsaw observed after the change of the regime in 1989 until now, with a reference to Belgrade after 1986; it was the time when the International Competition for the New Belgrade Urban Structure Improvement was held, which was a breakthrough in the urban planning system followed by Belgrade's urban planners.

The first chapter is an introduction with justification for tackling the problem, a description of research to be carried out, and the research objectives: an analysis of directions of change after 1989 until today, an assessment of the general principles of modern urban planning, presentation of the situation and core problems of Warsaw, as well as a reference to development and similar phenomena as part of the changes Belgrade underwent post 1986.

Highlighted are the material and territorial scope as well as the time period under analysis. There are presented the research results so far, the research specification, and the research methodology; the following thesis was advanced and the following research questions were posed:

1. Post-war Warsaw is still under reconstruction.
2. Is there urban planning nowadays?
3. Are projects commenced by investors?
4. What happens to historical urban axes and layouts? What is the value of new trends in urban planning?

The second chapter is an overview of the contemporary theories of development of existing towns and cities. The third chapter presents a brief history of Warsaw before the outbreak of World War I and after the end of World War II; it also describes the project entitled "Warszawa Funkcjonalna" (Functional Warsaw).

The fourth chapter is entitled "The determinants of the urban structure of Warsaw – the significance of axes and dominant urban planning solutions". There are presented the main urban layout axes of Warsaw (Saska, Stanisławowska, Al. Jerozolimskie), the squares around the original Saxon Garden, the streets as characteristic elements, the residential towers as the contemporary trends in urban planning, as well as the National Stadium which influenced the panorama of Warsaw on the right side of the Vistula.

The subsequent chapters depict the role of the Vistula in Warsaw and the urban development along the river banks after 1989 and large layouts of the city – residential estates.

The seventh chapter is a description of the Belgrade's urban structure development post 1986.

The eighth chapter constitutes a comparison of Warsaw and Belgrade, and the last chapter summarises this thesis up with conclusions and a discussion on to what an extent the thesis advanced here is correct; it also includes a description of how the research allowed to answer the questions posed.

War damage, increased traffic, regime changes, lack of interdisciplinary collaboration and project coordination – these are only few factors discussed here that affect the contemporary urban layout of Warsaw today. The problem of the Polish capital city are its search for identity and the formation of public space.

*Warszawa, 16.06.2017r.*

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