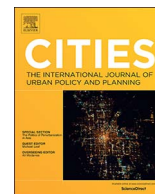


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Industrial heritage as a catalyst for urban regeneration in post-conflict cities

Case study: Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Urban regeneration
Post-conflict
Architectural heritage
Social sustainability
Participation

ABSTRACT

Achieving sustainability goals within urban regeneration processes has become essential for our future. This is a particular challenge in post-conflict areas, where among the sustainability factors /economical, ecological and social/, the social one is the least represented, and at the same time the most important one due to the disrupted social structure. In this paper industrial heritage, which is thought to be a heritage category unburdened by issues resulting from a conflict, is discussed as a potential catalyst in conducting a successful socially sustainable urban regeneration in post-conflict contexts. The hypothesis states that endangered industrial heritage sites, due to their societal, historical, architectural, and technological values, present a fruitful base for incorporating sustainability principles and can be seen as a catalyst for urban regeneration of post-conflict areas in the future.

1. Introduction

The main goal of urban regeneration since the 19th century onwards was to reactivate disused urban areas and structures. Contemporary urban regeneration, as a comprehensive process looking for the long-term solutions for urban areas, is closely connected to sustainability initiatives aiming to satisfy economic, environmental and social demands of a city. Complexity of this task is best seen in post-conflict areas: emerging places worldwide in urgent need for successfully conducted urban regeneration processes.

In this context, disused heritage sites present a great basis for incorporating sustainability principles and can be seen as a catalyst for urban regeneration in the future due to their societal, historical, architectural, and technological importance. Achieving sustainability goals within an urban regeneration process has become essential for our future.

In post-conflict areas architectural heritage could be a carrier of positive changes, not only in a material sense, but also regarding the regeneration of the community's damaged social structure. Authors that have dealt with this topic (Murphy, 2012; Zotter, 2005; Calame, 2005a, 2005b; Malas, 2013) agree that the social pillar of sustainability is the least examined one when discussing urban regeneration processes in post-conflict areas. The need for deeper understanding of social sustainability in order to achieve successful urban regeneration is emphasized. In situations of armed conflict, places and buildings of architectural significance are sometimes a deliberate target, with the aim of such attack being to destroy the morale of the enemy and disrupt

social relations more profoundly. Buddha statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan; Old city of Dubrovnik, Croatia; Old Bridge in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Old city of Sana'a, Yemen; an ancient city of Palmyra, Syria are just some of the examples found worldwide (UNESCO, 2017).

ICOMOS emphasizes in its guidance on "Post trauma recovery and reconstruction for World Heritage cultural properties" (ICOMOS, 2017) the importance of understanding tangible and intangible aspects of heritage and underlines the necessity for sustainable development and engagement of communities.

The intent of this paper is to question the choice of appropriate heritage category in post-conflict areas suitable for conducting socially sustainable regeneration firstly by developing a theoretical framework for incorporating social sustainability factors in the regeneration processes and secondly by testing the method on the case study in the city of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, the paper seeks to explore if it is possible to produce a net of potential heritage sites, approved by inhabitants, which can serve as a basis for broader scale urban regeneration in post-conflict areas.

2. Analysis

By studying relevant literature and examining known cases it has been noted that there are no quick fixes after the war damage is done, even though such 'quick fix' solutions were applied in many cases as an attempt for regeneration. In many post-conflict situations governing bodies have limited capacity and authority, and communities are often displaced and replaced by populations without specific cultural links to

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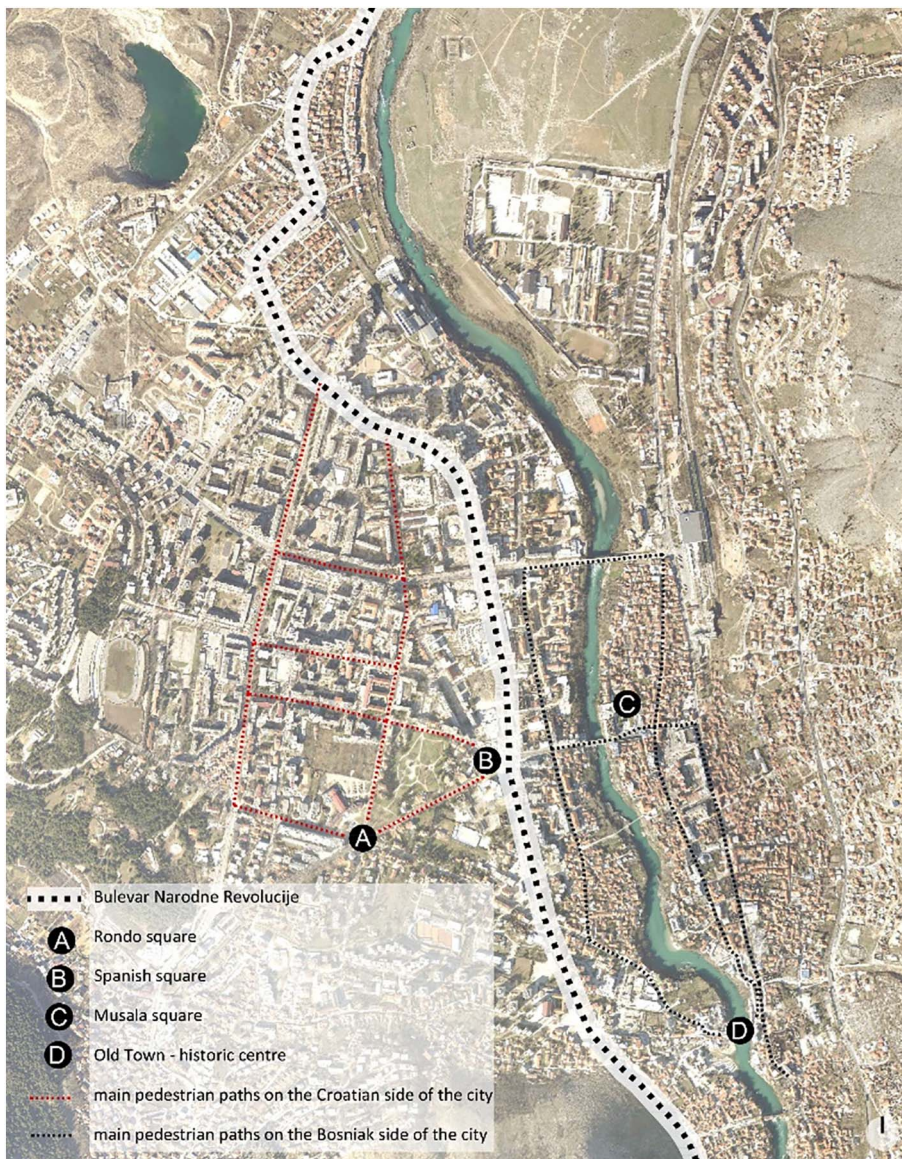


Fig. 1. Main pedestrian pathways and public places formed after the war.
Source: author.

the place (ICOMOS, 2017). The cities suffered severe losses and depended on the international community for financial support in the process of reconstruction, but due to poor city administration and a lack of coordination between external and local communities, the reconstruction process did not achieve significant improvements in many cities (Calame, 2005a, 2005b). Post-conflict regeneration programs are frequently short, project-driven, and often imposed by donors, instead of providing long-term strategies for sustainable recovery. They are often alienating for the local communities and therefore achieve limited success (Zotter, 2005). In a post-conflict situation, where the attempts of urban regeneration were continuously unsuccessful or absent in the years after the war, there is a need to look for the right approaches to start a successful path towards an urban regeneration.

2.1. Introducing the case study: Gaps in urban regeneration processes in post-conflict Mostar

The war that took place between 1991 and 1995, led to the collapse of Yugoslavia as a socialist state and to the formation of new independent democratic states of Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Noutcheva & Huisseune, 2004). Religious diversity and multiculturalism, that

characterized Bosnia and Herzegovina more than any other ex-Yugoslavian republic, were skillfully used for devastating war events which occurred in this area, and the consequences of which are felt to this day (Malcolm, 1996).

Mostar, located in the southern part of the country, is labeled as the most destroyed city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many times mentioned as a “City case” due to its complex history, diverse cultural and religious backgrounds have left deep marks on its structure and community. The civil war in Mostar resulted in 5000 deaths, 40,000 refugees and economic activity being cut in half (Calame, 2005a, 2005b). As the World Monuments Fund states, 75% of housing stock was lost during the war (World Monument Funds, 1999). The war has not only destroyed the physical urban tissue, but has also served as a trigger for a new planning approach that transferred authorities from national and local planning systems to private investors representing self interest groups (Župčević & Čaušević, 2009) (Fig. 1).

In Mostar, no single master plan for an overall city reconstruction has been created since the end of the war. The Institute for Spatial Planning was dismissed during the war, and in the years following the war all attempts to structurally reorganize it failed. The Institute was reopened in 2006 and one of its primary aims was to develop strategies for spatial and regulatory plans for the city (Grad Mostar, 2006). The

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