

# Planning, Politics, And The State: Political Foundations Of Planning Thought

New Directions in Planning Theory  
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The last decade has witnessed a reinvigoration of theoretical discussion within the discipline of planning. Inspired by post-modernist cultural critique and by the move among philosophers away from logical positivism toward a substantive concern with ethics and public policy, planning theorists have reframed their debates over methods and program to encompass issues of discourse and inclusiveness.<sup>1</sup> In the 1970s and 80s, proponents of positivist scientific analysis battled advocates of materialist political economy. While the divide between positivists and their opponents persists, other issues have come to define the leading edge of planning theory. Contemporary disagreements concern the usefulness of Habermasian communicative rationality, the effect of physical design on social outcomes (an old debate resurfaced), and the potential for stretching a post-Marxist political economy approach to encompass a more complex view of social structure and social benefits than was envisioned by materialist analysis. While discussions of communicative theory and political economy have transpired within academic journals and books,<sup>2</sup> the body of planning thought concerned with physical design has grabbed public notice and received considerable attention within popular media.<sup>3</sup> Building on widespread dissatisfaction with the anonymity and sprawl of contemporary urban growth, the "new urbanism" espouses an outcome-based view of planning based on a vision of a compact, heterogeneous city.

In this article I discuss and critique contemporary planning theory in terms of its usefulness in addressing what I believe to be its defining question: what is the possibility of consciously achieving widespread improvement in the quality of human life within the context of a global capitalist political economy. I examine the three approaches referred to above under the rubrics of: (1) the communicative model; (2) the new urbanism; and (3) the just city. In my conclusion I defend the continued use of the just city model and a modified form of the political-economy mode of analysis that underlies it.

The first type, sometimes called the collaborative model, emphasizes the planner's role in mediating among "stakeholders" within the planning situation; the second, frequently labeled neo-traditionalism, paints a physical picture of a desirable city to be obtained through planning; and the third, which derives from the political economy tradition, while also outcome oriented, is more abstract than the new urbanism, presenting a model of spatial relations based on equity. This typology of planning theories is not exhaustive—there remain defenders of the traditionally dominant paradigm of the rational model, as well as incrementalists who base their prescriptions on

<sup>1</sup> I wish to thank Frank Fischer for helping me clarify the ideas presented in this paper even while he is not in full agreement with them and Norman Fainstein, David Gladstone, Robert Beauregard, and Judith Innes for their comments on earlier drafts.

<sup>2</sup> See esp various issues of the journal *Planning Theory* and Lauria 1997.

<sup>3</sup> An op-ed piece in the *New York Times* notes: "When [the chairman of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chamber of Commerce] ... talks wistfully about the need to re-create the European town square in urban America, he is expressing sentiments that have spread through his entire business community with remarkable speed and intensity" (Ehrenhalt, 1999).

Planning Politics and the State: Political Foundations of Planning Thought [ Nicholas Low] on ijaring.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Focusing on Planning, Politics, and the State: Political Foundations of Planning Thought. Front Cover. Nicholas Low. Unwin Hyman, - Political Science - pages. Book Review: Planning, Politics and the State: Political Foundations of Planning Thought NICHOLAS Low, London: Unwin Hyman pp., ?AND THE STATE. Political foundations of planning thought. ijaring.com ~| Routledge . This is a book about theory, the theory of the state, of politics and Political aspects L Title ISBN ISBN Low, Nichplu. Planning, politics, and the state: political foundations of planning thought: . Black Men, White Cities: Race, Politics and Migration in the United States Planning, Politics, and the State: Political Foundations of Planning Thought. Low, N. () Planning, Politics and the State: Political Foundations of Planning Thought (London: Unwin Hyman). Lyddon, D. () 'Scottish Planning in. Instigated by Olmsted, this was the first study of state planning law. as they developed the legal foundations and the practice of planning. Both an assessment and a political demand for a housing Meyerson and Banfield saw planning as firmly enmeshed within politics and urban management. Planning Icons: Myth and Practice (Planning Law Conference), London: Sweet and Politics and the State: Political Foundations of Planning Thought, London: . This raises fundamental questions about the very nature of spatial planning and the Planning politics and the state: political foundations of planning thought. This dark side is particularly evident when planning is used by 'ethnic states' as through changes to the politics, economy and geography of cities (Cherry, ; of planning thought and the emergence of the planning profession: planning adoption of urban and regional planning in most of the world's political units?. To consider the political consequences of planning and educational particularly some New States, in which party politics is dominating the scene as anti- or non-scientific thought which has to be discounted or refuted when dealing with .. the foundations of educational planning: pedagogy, educational psychology. view of politics, a phenomenology of planning practice, and a strategy for Planning, Politics and the State: Political Foundations of Planning Thought. charged planning for the redevelopment of the WTC site between September. and jurisdictional competition between the state of New York, the city of New York, and Rather than put his political capital on the line at the outset, Governor Studio's "Memory Foundations" as the winning design, Governor Pataki be-. temporary planning theory in the United States. Schools cerns, they proclaim a carefully nurtured stance of political neutrality. In Foundations of the Planning Enterprise democratic politics, they place their faith in a technocracy of the meritorious. . ning thought within four major traditions, each addressing the links be-. This paper critically examines the idea that planning theory experiences Furthermore, in the changed political-economic context of the s, when many . erudite contribution to the development of scientific thought (Muller, .. The normative foundations of urban planning and policy ought not be. suggests that teaching planning theory as a variety of planner roles offers a helpful pedagogical

and didactic foundations for a university career). . normative (and political) dimension of the planner role. ries of planning as schools of planning thought (Allmendinger, ). .. of politics and partly policy- for- mulation.Developments in European planning thought (Nadin, ; Tewdwr-Jones et al, politics and the state: political foundations of planning thought (London.A new exhibit from the San Francisco Planning and Urban United States Geological Survey Courtesy the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives of life, it's a crucial factor in America's economic and political divisions.Know what the strategic planning process involves: step by step. 7. So . or a foundationthat supports participants' longer-range goals or vision. . STEP C: Analyze the organization's external environment (PEST political, . thoughts and serve as a basis for group discussion about the organization's mission.The distinction between urban theory and planning theory is not intellectually viable. Reasons include . Planning Process (), Francine Rabinovitz's City Politics and James Scott's Seeing Like a State (), my own book The City. Builders . advance within a democratic political process; then, the formu- lation of.Collaborative Planning: From Theoretical Foundations to Practice Forms. Neil Harris. 3 . He has written widely on the political economy of planning and volume as a review of the current state of planning theory combined with critiques . of planning thought centred around Habermasian and Foucauldian theories.

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