

Spatial domain Settlement of Damascus Historical Simulation for the Emergence of the City

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Abstract

History of Damascus is not enough to explain its emergence. the inadequacy of available scientific justifications for Damascus in apart from the urban surroundings, originate hard acceptance for results of many studies on the evolution of Damascus compared to the recommendations which were described by the old specialists when choosing places of cities. This research tends to overtake some of the historical statements; and heading towards proving the importance of existing urban pattern in the spatial domain, that was before the emergence of Damascus and accompanied its inception, and the area subjected to a regional effects had an impact on the regular urban which responds to the terms of the creation of dominate city before Damascus.

To prove that, the study came in two stages; first it begins analytical presentation of geographical location and parameters available from three components: Qassioun mountain Goutah and semi-arid area, and then it shows the regional influence from its surrounding which divides the spatial domain into five regions: Eastern region, Open region, Northern region, Western region, and Southern region. Analytical presentation of population and their activities in spatial domain parts is given. Then, the research tends to study the emergence of urban spatial pattern in the area as its geography: urban pattern in Qassioun mountain area, in the eastern region, then Goutah; urban spatial pattern in the area, and correct the opinion of planners about the reasons of emerging the city in its position. In order to assess through procedural simulation of emerging theories, the study evaluates the genesis of Damascus under the urban pattern. Then the study concludes that Damascus was away from the urban layout, but it was a religious centre, and there were four areas dominated the urban pattern before Damascus, and there are better sites than Damascus, but Damascus was characterized by its religious power, and emerged by influence of political decisions.

Keywords: The city genesis, Damascus, Qassioun mountain, Goutah, barada, Douma, barzeh, rabwah, Darya

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