

Planning Ethics: What Can Unimplemented Master Plans for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip Teach Us?

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ABSTRACT

This article explores a little-known chapter in the planning history of the Gaza Strip. It discusses two unrealized master plans for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip formulated in the summer of 1967, focusing on their conceptual differences, ethical implications and the unresolved questions that persist. The plans were developed by two of the country's leading planners at the time: Eliezer Brutzkus of the Ministry of the Interior and Raanan Weitz of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department. While Brutzkus envisioned an urban-industrial future based on a compact urban system, Weitz proposed relocating most of the refugee population to the El-Arish region, and developing an extensive agricultural-rural settlement system, based on large-scale irrigation projects. Despite their differences, both plans reveal shared failures and blind spots in how professional expertise engages with its ethical and conceptual foundations. In light of contemporary proposals for planning Gaza, these forgotten plans, and the questions planners grappled with at the time, remain highly relevant.

Keywords: Planning History in Israel; Planning in the Gaza Strip; Planning in the West Bank; Israeli Occupation

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