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Donald Okeke

# Integrated Productivity in Urban Africa

Introducing the Neo-Mercantile  
Planning Theory

 Springer

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# Foreword

In this book, *Integrated Productivity in Urban Africa: Introducing the Neo-Mercantile Planning Theory*, the author endeavours to and successfully makes a valuable contribution to the theme by introducing neo-mercantile planning theory to the development of spatial systems. Consequently, this unique treatise focuses on those components that direct integrated productivity within the urban components of Africa spatial systems. The book addresses the resilient gap in existing knowledge and related approaches through application of planning instruments as a necessary measure in redressing the urban productivity question typical of the African economic systems.

The contents of the book is well structured in terms of the reigning perceptions of urban productivity in Africa and the building blocks consisting of definitions, terminology, methodology, analysis and conclusions. The book includes a critical assessment of the neoliberal philosophy and its interface with related theories from both urban and regional perspectives.

Both academics and practitioners share the need to formally address the challenge of integrated productivity in the African spatial context through the adoption of applicable planning theory based on neoliberal influences and developments. Dr. Okeke points out that the neoliberal planning serves as the delivery instrument within neoliberal economies. In focusing on the failure of neo-liberal planning theory and practice deriving mainly from inherent vitiation of green growth and spatial justice in Africa, the critical thinking and analytical abilities of the writer are brought to bear.

In particular, the writer addresses compliances to neoliberal participatory planning within certain national spatial systems of South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Tanzania and its implications for the transformation in the education systems. It is essential to rethink the role of current education, training and practice, if sustainable development in both economic space and spatial development is the focus.

The book proposed a new direction in the application of neo-mercantilism, and the way its related theory and planning instruments is developed. It rethinks the traditional planning and development orthodoxies and approaches in terms of an alternative theory with supporting territorial planning framework instruments to promote spatial integration. It establishes the development of alternative spatial planning theory within Africa, a continent that is historically and otherwise being dominated by the influences and impacts of colonial legacies as far as spatial planning and development are concerned. This book contributes to the development of international theory in line with existing spatial, economic and political realities on the African Continent. I believe the work is a ground-breaking publication as it concerns the understanding of urban spatial systems and planning in Africa.

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# Preface

The relevance of this book draws from the engagement with sourcing new Southern perspectives on urban and regional planning. For a long time and until now, there exists a resilient gap in knowledge regarding the determination of appropriate planning instruments for redressing urban productivity decline which has plagued African economy. The intellectual community has contended with this challenge in the context of global hegemonic influences on planning theory. The dynamics in planning theory exacerbated with the ascendancy of neoliberalism as global economic orthodoxy since 1980s. This reality unleashed changes epitomized in neoliberal planning theory. Neoliberal planning serves as delivery instrument in neoliberal political economy. After more than three decades of experimentation, neoliberal planning theory is called to serious question due to indications of its poor performance in the delivery of green growth and spatial justice in Africa.

Regardless the generally appreciable level of compliance to neoliberal participatory planning and the above average compliance identified for some African countries specifically South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Tanzania, the move for reforms in the curriculum of planning education in favour of neoliberal planning model is literally put on hold following recent recourse to rethink neoliberal participatory planning paradigm. The rethink, which is intended to reinforce the theoretical arsenal of planning, informed the sub-theme of South-South engagements: new Southern perspectives on urban planning in the 2014 AAPS conference. The forthcoming 2016 World Planning Schools Congress: Global Crisis, Planning & Challenges to Spatial Justice in the North and the South, organized by the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN), is also concerned with exploring Southern perspectives for planning.

The content of the proposed book is a timely response that postulates a theoretically compelling Southern perspective of planning in the African context. Given the precarious disposition of African political economy and planning experience, the book proposes a new direction, which rethinks neoliberalism as meta-theory of planning in Africa. It pioneers an original school of thought that presents a general theory of planning for Africa in the twenty-first century.

The book analyzes the development of planning paradigm in Africa since the turn of the twenty-first century. The primary purpose is to provide an insightful rethink of trends in the development of existing planning orthodoxies. These planning orthodoxies, which were conceived in the 1980s and thereafter with the mindset that upholds neoliberal values, are diagnosed to have difficulties with delivering spatial integration in Africa. Thus the book is particularly curious about the vogue of informality in planning and argues that it derives from the meta-theory that subjects Africa to dependent capitalism. The book contributes an alternative planning theory along with territorial planning framework instruments that are sensitive to the delivery of spatial regional integration for African renaissance.

The wide range of end users anticipated, which embrace the political class, the intellectual elite, and the academia who are concerned with planning, will find the book useful at the meta-theoretical, theoretical and practical levels. At the meta-theoretical level, neoliberalism as development ideology for Africa is called to question. This is done against the backdrop of concerns for epistemological foundations of external domination and ideologies in African political economy. The re-engineering of imperial trends is topical for new regionalism which currently engages the attention of the international community—the political class and the intellectual elite especially political scientists and role players at the African Union (AU). The theoretical level discusses the dynamics in the science of planning, its links and relationships with meta-theoretical issues, and the contributions of the academia and research institutes as primary role players in this arena. Thus the book contributes planning theory reforms as an entry point to impact the pending review of academic curriculum for planning education in Africa. Then at the practical level the book serves as food for thought for the intellectual community and as point of reference for planning consultants and development agencies.

Enugu, Nigeria

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# Abbreviations

AAP	African Association of Planners
AAPS	African Association of Planning Schools
ADB/ADF	African Development Bank
AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
AMCHUD	African ministerial conference on housing and urban development
APRM	African peer-review mechanism
ASDP	African spatial development perspective
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CAP	Commonwealth Association of Planners
CBA	Community-based approach
CBD	Central Business District
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CDS	City development strategy
CEMAT	European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Regional Planning
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DCs	Development corridors
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAP	Environmental Action Plan
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central Africa States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMR	Extended Metropolitan Region
EPM	Environmental Planning and Management
ESDP	European spatial development perspective
EU	European Union

FDI	Foreign direct investment
GDP	Gross domestic product
GDS	Growth and Development Strategy
GIS	Geographic information system
GT	Growth Triangle
HOS	Heckscher–Ohlin–Samuelson
ICT	Information and communication technology
IDP	Integrated development planning
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPPP	Integrated physical planning approach
IRDA	Integrated Regional Development Act
LEED	Local Economic Empowerment and Development
MCA	Multi-criteria analysis
MDG	Millennium development goal
MPA	Master planning approach
NAIRU	Non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment
NBG	NEPAD Business Group
NEPAD	New perspectives on Africa development
NIRDA	National Integrated Regional Development Act
NSDP	National spatial development perspective
NWU	North West University
O&OD	Opportunities and obstacles to development
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PSDS	Spatial development strategy/framework
PUDs	Planned unit developments
R&D	Research and development
RAIDS	Resource-based African industrial and development strategy
RIFF	Regional Integration Facilitation Forum
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SCP	Sustainable Cities Programme
SDF	Spatial development frameworks
SDIs	Spatial development initiatives
SEED	State Economic Empowerment and Development
SEP	Sustainable Enugu Project
SEPM	Strategic environmental planning and management
SIP	Sustainable Ibadan Project
SIPA	Spatial integration planning approach
SIPs	Spatial integration planning
SKP	Sustainable Kano Project
SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
SUDP	Strategic Urban Development Plan
SWOT	Strength, weakness, opportunity and threat
TIPs	Thematic Integration Planning

UDF	Urban development frameworks
UGBs	Urban growth boundaries
UK	United Kingdom
UMP	Urban Management Programme
UN	United Nations
UNCHS	United Nations Center for Human Settlement
UNDAF	United Nation's Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nation's Development Programme
UNEP	United Nation's Environmental Programme
USA	United State of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WHO	World Health Organization