



A Historical Review of Foreign Ideology in Planning Practice in Vietnam

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Within 2,000 years, Vietnam was ruled by China for more than 1,000 years, was colonized by France for almost 100 years, and was divided into pro-American and pro-Soviet Union camps for more than 20 years during the world's cold war. It can be stated that Vietnam's political, social, cultural and other aspects contain deep foreign trails, the same as urban planning. The article reviews some foreign thoughts, their practices and their influences that appeared in the history of Vietnam. With limited historical data and imperfect research foundations, these papers aim to reconstruct a clue about planning characters and planning events. Based on the source of thoughts, this article summarizes the perceived historical information and divides it into four parts: China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, presenting in chapters while focusing on an important feature of urban planning in Vietnam, which is the superposition of multiple dimensions of urban and rural concepts, construction techniques and concept technology of different cultures in the same physical space dimension. In the conclusion, the article will analyze this feature, explains how it has been formed and what kind of influence and effect it has had on urban planning since 1986 Đổi Mới.

Keywords: Planning history of Vietnam, Planning history of French colonial, Modern history in Southeast Asia cities, Modern Vietnam

1 Introduction

Vietnam is a country that has experienced many political changes during its own development. Most of these changes are related to foreign countries, as Vietnam was ruled, colonized, received a military or technical assistance, etc. Within 2,000 years, Vietnam was ruled by China for more than 1,000 years, was colonized by France for almost 100 years, and also was divided into pro-American and pro-Soviet Union camps for more than 20 years during the world's cold war.¹ It can be stated that Vietnam's political, social, cultural and other aspects contain deep foreign trails, the same as urban planning.

Urban planning in Vietnam consists of a technical and political process. Its evolutionary phases have been highly affected by foreign influences. First of all, it drew on ancient Chinese social and natural philosophies, including planning for maintaining national political and adapting to the universe and nature; Secondly, it accepted the science and technology of France from the 19th to the 20th century, including the Vauban fortress, port-city planning, municipal engineering and management, urban expansion and remediation planning; Thirdly, in the wave of socialism in the second half of the 20th century, Vietnam had learned from the Soviet Union about planning for industrial cities and industrial zones, planning for towns and villages network and residential units in centrally planned period; Finally, in the second half of the 20th century, in the territory south of the 17th latitude line, it imitated the US market economy concept and introduced theories such as the new city planning, the regional planning and organic growth theory. To summarize it, these thoughts and practices are not only valuable experiences and lessons for Vietnam but also serve as basis to answer questions about "local theory", "national identity" and "regional features" when facing globalization and considering the path of national modernization.

Therefore, the article reviews some foreign thoughts, their practices and their influences that appeared in the history of Vietnam. The research object is divided into two main parts: (1) foreign planners implement planning and construction on Vietnam's territory; (2) Vietnamese use foreign thoughts to explore and plan. With limited historical data and imperfect research foundations, these papers aim to reconstruct a clue about planning characters and planning events. Based on the source of thoughts, this article summarizes the perceived historical information and divides it into four parts: China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, presenting in chapters while focusing on an important feature of urban planning in Vietnam, which is the superposition of multiple dimensions of urban and rural concepts, construction techniques and concept technology of different cultures in the same physical space dimension. In the conclusion, the article will analyze this feature, explains how it has been formed and what kind of influence and effect it has had on urban planning since 1986 Đổi Mới.



2 China

The ancient Chinese planning was not a pure plan or construction technique, its knowledge system spread over various aspects of the country's executive rule and management functions.² However, it cannot be said that it only belongs to the field of political management, and it also includes the ancient Chinese people's understanding of the universe and their understanding of the geographical environment in which they live.³ Of course, a short exposition cannot make it easy for us to understand this dispersive and extensive knowledge system, however, if we choose important content, it is mainly manifested in two aspects: one is planning for maintaining national politics; the other is planning for adapting to the universe and nature. Since Emperor Qin Shihuang unified China, the concept of these two aspects has profoundly affected the planning and construction practices in Vietnam with the ten-century rule.

2.1 Planning for maintaining national political

In the history of being ruled by China, Vietnam had constructed basically unchanged local political system - the system of prefectures. It is a system implemented throughout the country by QinShiHuang after the unification of the six nations and has continued throughout the feudal era. We can understand this simply: divide the country's territory into a number of "counties" with a radius of 2500km²(方圓百里;千里百縣), then combine more than 20 counties into a prefecture and establish a magistrate of prefecture, and the country's ruling system is built on all counties.⁴ We will further understand the operating mechanism of the prefecture: it will be a national territory covered by approximately 50,000 km²; The ruler builds a shire ruling city (local administrative center) at its most convenient point of transportation; The prefectures government will be about 100 kilometers away from the prefectures where it is located.⁵ In this way, when there is a riot, a thief or a disaster in any part of the prefectures, the intelligence will arrive in the hands of the ruler day and night, and the ruler can completely arrange military or administrative work to arrive in the local within 3 days. It should be emphasized that an operability of this system is very flexible, and a size and number of prefectures and counties are variable. The location arrangement of the prefecture city and the county city are also based on different geographical conditions to meet the resource supply, transportation, and military defense. However, the military system and the county system can be combined or separated. In short, as a structure of the feudal society, the prefecture-county is a plan for the preservation of national politics in terms of planning thought. In the national territory of Vietnam, the important figures for the construction and updating of the county system are the feudal rulers from the Qin, Han, and Tang dynasties, representative figures include ZhaoTuo, ShiDai and MaYuan.

ZhaoTuo of Baiyue is the first person to implement the prefectures system on the territory of Vietnam. ShiDai of the Western Han Dynasty systemized it, and MaYuan (14 BC - 49 AD) of the Eastern Han Dynasty was to further construct the system into a complete state. From 42 to 44, Ma Yuan investigated the local territory and population, adjusted administrative divisions, and built at least one prefecture city and most county cities. 《後漢書》 records the specific conditions of these tasks: "馬援奏言西於縣戶有三萬二千，遠界去庭千餘裡，請分為封溪、望海二縣，許之。援所過輒為郡縣治城郭，穿渠灌溉，以利其民" .It means that Ma Yuan has investigated 32,000 households in Xiyu County (Red River Delta Area),⁶ and the distance from the furthest boundary to the political center has exceeded the distance of more than a thousand miles (427.5 km), thus referring to the emperor that this place can be divided into two counties from the original one county (because of a large number of people, there is a demand to increase political institutions). It can be said that Ma Yuan actually formulated the vague prefecture system in Vietnam strictly in accordance with the Eastern Han standard model. Most importantly, he had done a systematic survey of the population and geography and had fully implemented the system of prefectures into a physical space.

2.2 Planning for adapting to the universe and nature

According to the above explanation, we will also find another part of planning method that parallels political planning- adaptation to nature, and its philosophy consists of three steps: First, a geographical environment survey; The second is to choose suitable habitat or political or military locations; The third is to plan living space and future development space according to laws of nature. In Vietnam, Ma Yuan in the Eastern Han Dynasty had basically completed its first step, and the remaining two steps were completed by the Tang Dynasty's military governor GaoPian (? -887) and the MingDynasty exchequer Huang Fu (1362-1440).

In 866, he was under Emperor Yizong of Tang's orders to study the geographical situation in Vietnam. He spent the last 20 years of his life and conducted a comprehensive survey of the Red River Delta region, and statistics of the 27 imperial land (帝王貴地 possible to build a political center) and 569 expensive places (血脈貴地 environment with suitable habitats) in the region are given. These surveys were recorded by later generations



in historical materials such as 《高駢安南地藁記》 (Figure 1), 《安南地理彙·高同謹撰》 (Figure 2). In the 17 years (1407-1424) of the Ming Dynasty's Huang Fu working in Vietnam, he continued his work and extended the scope of the investigation southward to the Sông Lam basin. As a minister of the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of War in feudal China, his work was recorded in detail in the Ming Dynasty historical materials such as 《安南地脉》 and 《奉使安南水程日記》. In short, Huang Ping and Huang Fu built many cities, towns and villages. In addition, he had left many references for Vietnam to build towns. Today's Hanoi is actually Gao Pian's site, and he also had formulated the initial spatial structure (political area, production area, Development Zone).

According to the 《大越史記全書》, after becoming an independent autocratic monarchy (10-19 century), the feudal rule of Vietnam took an initiative to accept and study China's planning ideology. Li Gongyun, the founding emperor of the Li Dynasty, explained these thoughts on the Transfer of the Capital.

“昔商家至盤庚五遷，周室迨成王三徙。豈三代之數君，徇於己私，妄自遷徙？.....況高王故都大羅城，宅天地區域之中，得龍蟠虎踞之勢，正南北東西之位，便江山向背之宜，其地廣而坦平，厥土高而爽塏，民居蔑昏墊之困，萬物極蕃阜之豐，遍覽越邦，斯為勝地，誠四方輻輳之要會，為萬世京師之上都” (Edict on the Transfer of the Capital).⁷

This section describes Li Gongyun's reflection on the relocation of capital by the Shang and Zhou dynasties and appreciates the ancient capital that was built. From this emperor's analysis of the situation, position, front and rear, mountains, terrain, vegetation and residential areas, it can better illustrate the ancient planning of Vietnam were deeply influenced by China.



Fig 1: 《高駢安南地藁記》. A geographical survey to find human settlements

Fig 2: 《安南地理彙·高同謹撰》. A geographical survey to find human settlements

3 France

3.1 Vauban fortress

During the Vietnam Tây Sơn civil war(1771-1802), GiaLong emperor who led the military forces of the South, in order to resist military forces of the North, entrusted the missionary Béhaine to the West to seek military assistance from Europe.⁸ Béhaine went to France in 1786 and returned to Vietnam in 1789. Due to the outbreak of the French Revolution, he failed, but he came back with military technology, including technology to build a military Vauban fortress.⁹ With the assistance of Béhaine, GiaLong emperor finished the plan of the capital of Gia Dinh in 1792. Main experts in a construction of Giadinh capital are as follows: First, Jean Baptiste Marie Dayot who was the French Navy's lieutenant, as Technical Consultant of tactics and defense; Second, Victor Olivier de Puymanel who was the director of planning and architecture, responsible for mapping and designing urban pattern; Third, Théodore Lebrun who was a French engineer, responsible for the construction and management of the project; Fouth, Trần VănHọc who was Béhaine's disciple, as the interpreter and was mainly responsible for



directing the workforce and setting up the urban roads and zoning. In addition, as the true master of the capital, the emperor put forward strict requirements on the design of feng shui and etiquette space organizations.¹⁰

In the later period of the Civil War, the Giadinh model was transplanted to various new occupation sites along with the victory of the Royal Army's advancement to the north, such as the Mỹ Tho(1792), Diên Khánh (1793), Vinh (1803) and Thanh Hóa (1804) etc (Figure 3 and 4). In 1805, the Nguyễn Dynasty unified country, the model of fortress was modeled by the state and gradually merged with the administrative divisions, eventually it evolved into a standardized city system that covered Vietnam's territory.



Fig 3: the Citadel of Diên Khánh

Fig 4: the Citadel of Vinh

3.2 Port-city planning

After the "Tianjin Treaty" (1858), in order to improve participation in the colonial movement that divides the Chinese market, on February 17, 1859, French occupied Saigon in order to meet the crossover needs of military and trade.¹¹ Taking Saigon as temporary capital, the French gradually expanded their military power and eventually annexed the territories of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (Historically known as French Indochina) in 1897. In the construction strategy of the Vietnam region, they set up these coastal cities as French colonial cities, including Saigon, Quy Nhon, Nha Trang, Da Nang, Hai Phong, Hanoi, etc. In this context, with the construction of a free trade port, Port-city planning technology was transplanted to Vietnam.

Taking Saigon as an example, on February 22, 1860, the governor Le Page initiated the construction of Saigon Port during the emergency period, proposing the construction of urgent projects as soon as possible, taking into account the future development of the city. He arranged the engineer's captain D'Ariès to make a plan which is "plan for new buildings" (Figure 5).¹² With the victory of the war and the thriving trade of Saigon port, Napoleon III and captains of the navy, Charner and Bonard, announced that they would permanently rule the territory of Cochinchine, delineate the "urban area" of Saigon and build it into "French's Singapore". They invited military engineer Paul Coffyn to plan and design for the city. On April 30, 1862, he proposed a plan called "Saigon 500,000 Civil Engineering Projects" (Figure 6).¹³

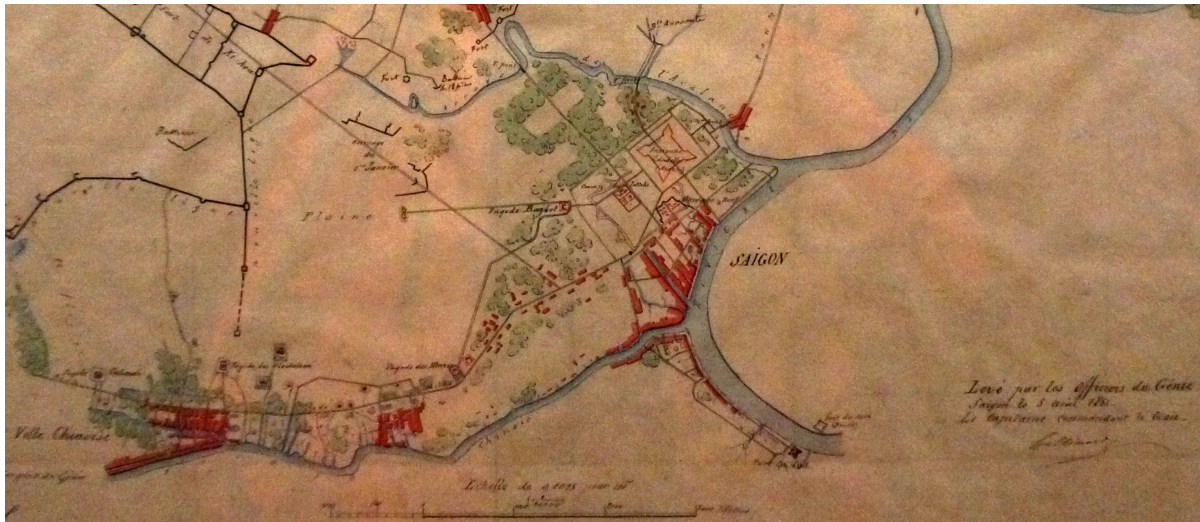


Fig 5: The construction of Saigon in 1861 under the war environment



Fig 6: Paul Coffyn's "Saigon 500,000 Civil Engineering Projects"

3.3 Municipal engineering and management

The French colonial cities in Vietnam, in fact, serve Europeans (not only for the French).¹⁴ In the early days of establishing the city, their first task was to establish an official municipal system when facing multiracial citizen groups. This system will set urban operating rules and public policies for the realization of colonial economic goals.¹⁵ After 1870, most of the contents of urban planning were incorporated into the municipal system, forming the administrative techniques for the two objectives: the first one is to plan and build urban public land; the second one is set up regulations and supervision for the construction of private lands.



In Vietnam, Hanoi and Hai Phong, were colonial cities that were basically built through municipal planning. Before the official rule, the colonialists firstly established the "Commission Municipale Provisoire", and then clearly specified that the organization should take over the planning and construction of the city.¹⁶ For example, Hanoi's City Committee" started taking over urban planning and construction work in February 1888, and this agency has completed the following tasks: Firstly, formulate urban boundaries, urban suburbs and municipal development reserved areas; Secondly, count and divide urban lands into public lands and private lands(Figure 7); Thirdly, set administrative and civilian areas, and focus on the construction of administrative districts and European settlements(Figure 8).¹⁷ It can be said that the French municipal plan has a far-reaching impact on urban redevelopment in Vietnam, namely, clearly distinguishing cities and villages, standardizing public and private lands, modern transportation, sanitation, public security, fire prevention and so on, all of these contents have changed the Vietnam's understanding of cities and urban planning.



Fig 7: Road planning in Hoan Kiem Lake

Fig 8:Hanoi City Administrative Center Planning

3.4 Urban expansion and remediation planning

From 1920 to 1922, the Socialist Party Maurice Long came to Vietnam to serve as Governor. In order to response to French Cornudet Act,¹⁸ he immediately established Central Services of Urban Planning and Architecture in Hanoi and hired Ernest Hébrard, a well-known planner, to serve as director. Ernest Hébrard who was a member of SFU (société française des urbanistes) and also an architect of the Rome Prize winners, drew urban expansions for six cities with a population of 10,000 in Hanoi (Figure 9), Haiphong, Nam Định, Hue, Saigon and Phnom Penh (Cambodia) from 1920-1930 and drew optional administrative capital plan for Dalat (Figure 10) These planning programs of Hébrard emphasized sanitation, urban beautification and public space, using modern planning techniques such as land division, urban functional zoning, heritage protection and green belts. In addition, he was a pioneer in proposing locality in Vietnam, setting up "new (racial) mixed neighborhoods" and "new types of local neighborhoods" for Vietnamese residents.¹⁹ After Ernest Hébrard left Vietnam in 1930, these urban planning programs were still disputable among politicians. Although only a small part was implemented, its planning theory was gradually recognized in the latter period. French planners such as Louis Pineau, Mondet, Lagisquet, who took over Hébrard's work, gradually completed his thoughts and paid more attention to the protection of local characteristics and natural environment.

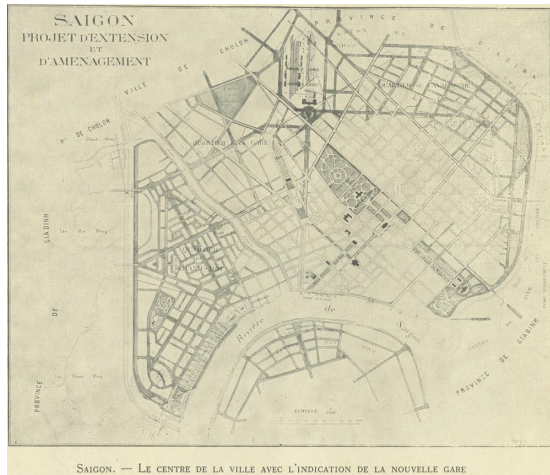


Fig 9: Hébrard's Saigon Plan (1924).

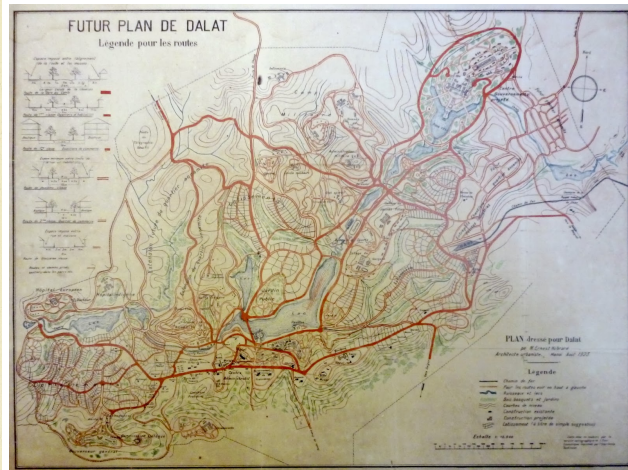


Fig 10: Hébrard's DALAT future plan (1924).

4 The Soviet Union

After the end of the first French Indochina war in 1954, Ho Chi Minh had led North Vietnam following the path of communism. On one hand, North Vietnam seek assistance from the Soviet Union and China, on the other hand, adopting a socialist approach towards development models based on the Marxist-Leninist ideology. After the agreement name “The Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement” of the Soviet Union and North Vietnam signed in 1955, many experts from the Soviet Union and other communist countries had arrived to support Vietnam.²⁰ In the field of planning, at least ten countries had built expert groups to work in Vietnam. The main focuses in their works included a preparation for emergency war, development planning, and post-war reconstruction planning. The main objects of planning practice can be divided into three major types: planning for industrial cities and industrial zones, planning for towns and villages network, planning for Residential units.

4.1 Planning for Industrial cities and industrial zones

In 1960, planning experts from Poland, Russia, and China had arrived in North Vietnam. Piotr Zaremba(1910-1993),²¹ a professor from Poland, was the first expert who put forward a proposal of “Capital regional plan” for Hanoi. He suggested building three ring roads and one railway surrounding West Lake to transform it into a new geographical center and arranged industrial and manufacturing sites along sides these transportation projects. His proposal was complemented and completed in 1962 by a Russian architect name I.A.Antyonov. In 1973, Sergei Ivanovich Sokolov represented for the Leningrad Scientific Research Centre for Town Planning and Construction (LRCTPC) to make the planning for the region of Hanoi.²² Once again, the ideas of Piotr Zaremba was adopted to complete Hanoi-Leningrad plan which had profound impacts on the development of modern planning in Vietnam (Figure 11).



Fig 11: Hanoi-Leningrad plan

Besides of Hanoi, Poland experts also made plans for Haiphong, an industrial port city. Meanwhile, Chinese experts were working on the planning of two industrial cities, ThaiNguyen (iron and steel industry) and VietTri



(chemical industry). From 1965 to 1975, East Germany sent many experts to help planning Vinh, a manufacturing city. Romania experts assisted in planning ThaiBinh (focusing on agricultural production), North Korea assisted to plan the BacGiang industrial zone, Cuba assisted to plan the Donghoi Industrial zone, Hungary assisted in the planning of HonGai and BaiChay so on.²³ In general, these planning practices share a common feature: stressing out industrial production in order to eliminate the characteristics of the colonial economy which paid more attention to the trade. At that time the Communist party perceived trading cities as non-productive cities.

4.2 Planning for towns and villages network

Facing frequent air strikes of US army, the government of North Vietnam put forward the decentralized development model which constructed the networks of production in rural areas. Planning and constructing a network composed of multiple small towns and villages. With the help of experts from China and the Soviet Union, Two counties around Hanoi (ĐàoViên and KhoáiChâu) were designed according to this model and gradually extended to HảiHung, AnSở, QuỳnhLư, ĐôngHung, NamNinh and other places.²⁴ In this process, the planners from Bulgaria put forward new concept for whole provincial region, a dynamic planning program accord to the development stage, to guide the traditional villages to the large-scale production model and eventually become a number of modern villages. This model had laid the foundation of the modern rural planning in Vietnam.

4.3 Residential units in centrally planned period

The destruction of cities in war and the industrial development caused housing shortage, which was also a major issue for the urban construction during 1955 to 1965. This housing problem was clearly noticeable in many cities such as Hanoi, Haiphong, Vinh, Namdinh where industrial sites were concentrated. In an effort to solve this problem, the expert group from East German had proposed a planning concept for the urban center of Vinh city. The core idea is to choose a region with the most convenient traffic and transform it into a residential area which can accommodate a large-scale population (Figure 12). In addition, the experts from LRCTPC also proposed the model of neighborhood unit, as an alternative solution built in suburbs of large cities (Figure 13).²⁵



Fig 12: Residential estates QuangTrung in Vinh (2001)

Fig 13: Residential estates KimLien in Hanoi (2000)

5 The United States

In 1955, on the other side of the 17-degree line, the U.S. government with many goals and ideas began to assist South Vietnam. Besides the financial, military and food aid, Washington had assisted South Vietnam through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also in drawing up plans and implementing several projects. But, first of all, we must explain some of the civil wars that occurred in South Vietnam at that time.

Unlike for North Vietnam, the war situation faced by South Vietnam was not air defense, but guerrilla warfare. As a result, it caused many problems for a development of the city. In the 15 years from 1960 to 1975, most of the people in South Vietnam migrated to big cities, where they thought might find a sense of security. Under this circumstance, cities such as Saigon, NhaTrang, DaLat, VungTau, BienHoa, and other cities have ushered in an extra population that is several times greater than the original. According to statistics, from 1950 to 1975 in Saigon,



the urban population increased by 2 times.²⁶ Therefore, the handling of issues such as outsiders, refugees, crowded space and rapid and disorderly expansion has become the primary task of South Vietnam's urban planning at this time. The United States technical experts who had faced these problems before proposed two experiences for South Vietnam: one is the planning of the new city; the other is the regional planning and organic growth theory.

5.1 planning of the new city

In 1965, commissioned by USAID, Greece's Doxiadis Associates (DA)²⁷ formulated the first edition of the master plan for Saigon.²⁸ They did a thorough research on resources, climate, landforms, soil quality, internal and external financial capabilities, and even local customs, however, the plans they made were not implemented due to the wrong planning ideology. It had used the old city of Saigon as a starting point to determine the four new cities in the neighboring cities that can accommodate the migrant population, actually, it is a planning concept that makes the city develop linearly (Figure 14). This plan rigidly concentrates the traffic to the axis that runs through the center of the old city and a new city, making the connection between the old and the new very weak. DA's idea was simple: first, to plan a relatively isolated area for the inhabitants; secondly, to design a mega block on the area; finally, to develop a high-density simple housing in a huge street profile. DA believed that this approach is a good way to deal with the largest number of migrants for the least amount of public finances. However, such planning has wasted too much land resources, making the land redevelopment phase facing many obstacles, and it would also require too many government interventions.²⁹

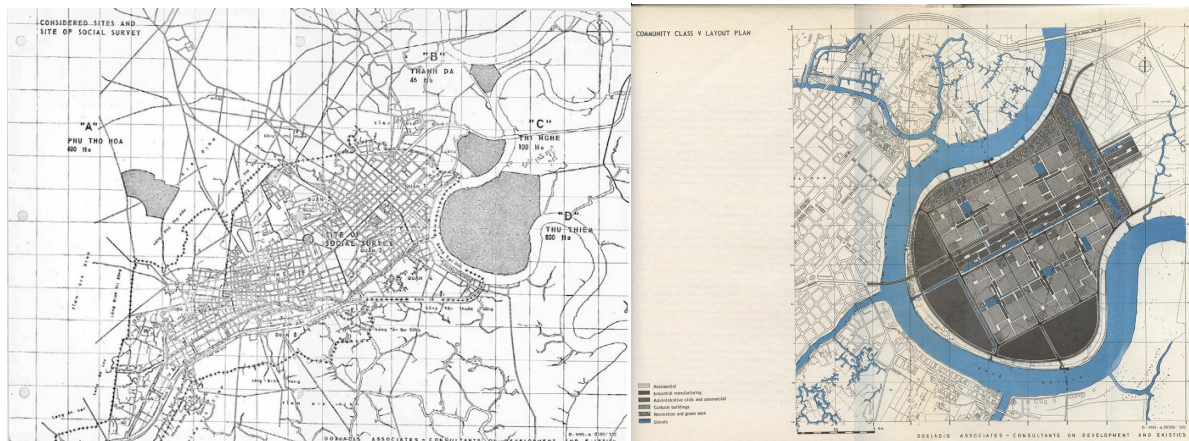


Fig 14: master plan for Saigon by Doxiadis Associates (1965). Comments: DA point to determine the four new cities in the neighboring cities: "A" PhuThoHoa 400Ha, "B" ThanhDa 46Ha, "C" ThiNghe 100Ha, "D" ThuThiem 800Ha.

Then, in 1972, USAID commissioned Wurster, Bernadi and Emmons (WBE) in San Francisco to re-plan the most important new city for Thu Thiem Peninsula.³⁰ From the viewpoint of land value potential, finances and implementation policies, WBE hoped to promote the development of an entire west side of the Saigon River area through the development of the region, and then plan Saigon to become a dual-center structure city (Figure 15). The idea of WBE was also not implementable. The plan would be more suitable for an era of development and requires broader internal and external financial capabilities. As the result, in the time of the war, most of the new arrivals were "war refugees, and WBE's plans became unrealistic.

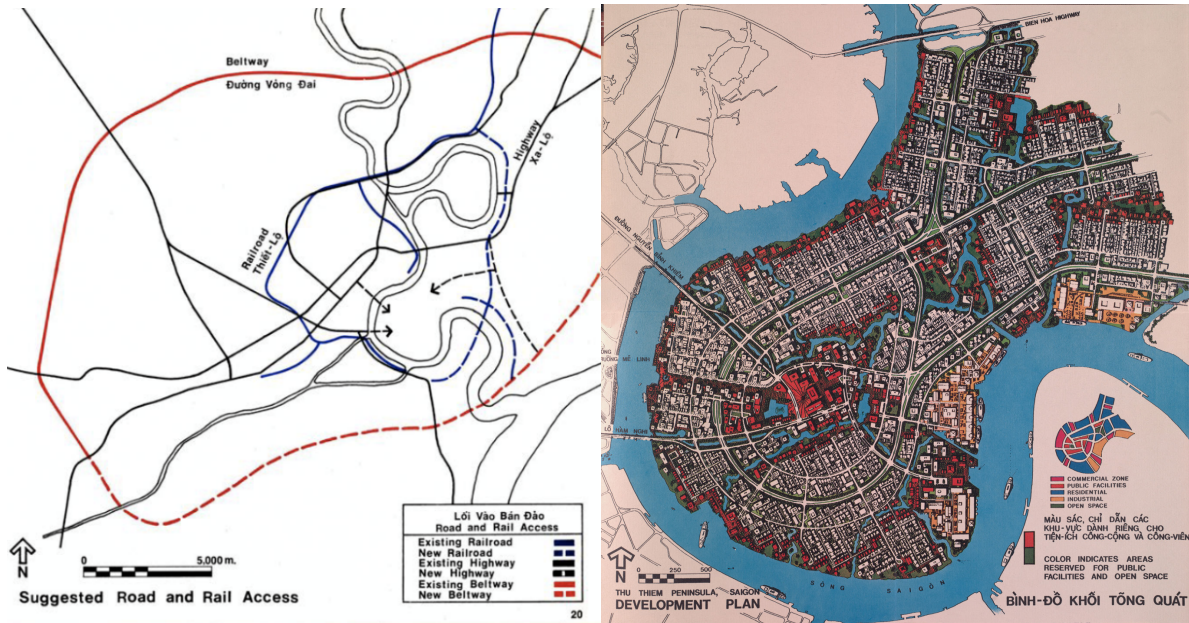


Fig 15: WBE's Saigon Plan.

5.2 Regional planning and organic growth theory

In the absence of urban planning in 1965 and 1972, USAID commissioned Frank Pavick and James Bogle, two U.S. urban research experts in 1974, to find a solution for planning problems. The two experts collaborated with the Urban Design Bureau of South Vietnam (affiliated with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works) to place urban development issues in a wider space, the Saigon Metropolitan Area, through the perspective of regional planning. They found more space for the Migrant population and also assumed several leapfrog spatial development methods. In addition, through the prediction of three factors of land development, further analysis of the actual situation of local financial capacity, and finally put forward an organic growth plan for the urban space in Saigon District(Figure 16).

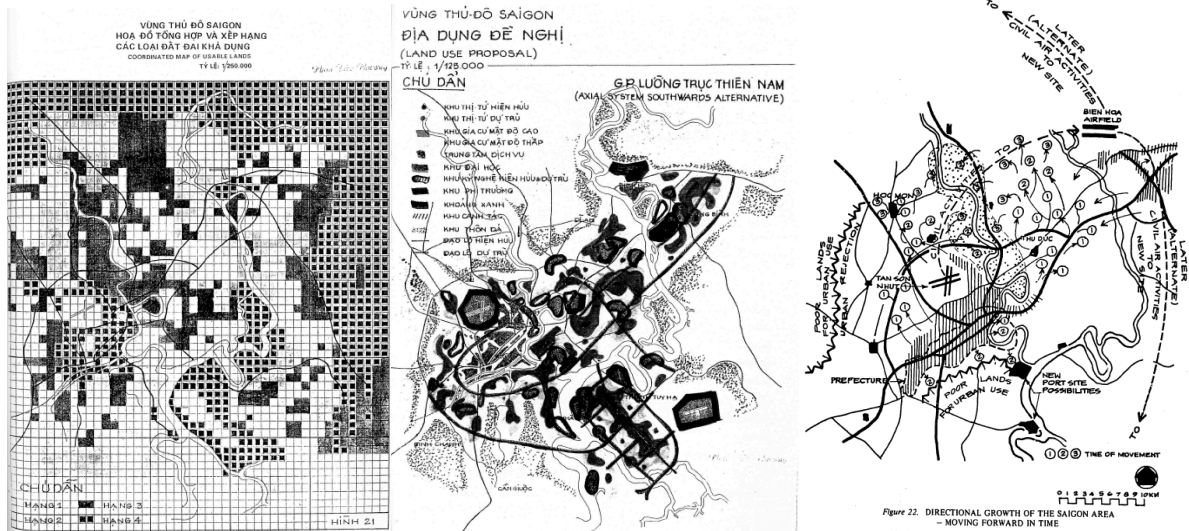


Fig 16: Frank Pavick and James Bogle analysis and proposal.

6 Conclusions

From the above analysis, we can see that urban planning in Vietnam from ancient times to the present is certainly not as simple as following other countries when they ruled or receiving assistance and finding themselves when they are independent. This process can be regarded as superimposed on the same dimension by the



spatialization of multi-layered urban and rural concepts, construction technologies and concept technologies of different cultural colors. On the one hand, this superimposed effect is embodied in the physical space, presenting a city or town that is spliced by different cultural plates; On the other hand, the superposition effect has also created many fuzzy areas in the planning ideology space, especially manifested in the value of the “foreign planning” of Vietnamese rulers, planners and even the entire society. In other words, when a certain foreign planning in history is placed in front of Vietnamese policymakers, it will generally show two sides: one is modernity, superiority or humanity; the other is ruled, colonized, imperialist or unforgettable hunger. This led to Vietnam’s urban planning (including disciplines and administration) to be a kind of cross-cultural interaction since 1986, but not the incubator of a flourishing hybridity, but ambiguous, which is sometimes praised or despised when it comes to the foreign planning of their own experience. We can find the basis for the important urban planning documents of Vietnam in the past 30 years (the master plans of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Hue) and the urban planning academic literature, especially in the analysis of localization, national identity, foreign, China, France, Soviet Union, United States and other related keywords.

It should be noted that the urban planning in Vietnam from ancient times to the present has rarely crowded out foreign plans, but more inclined to rely on foreign experience when facing new challenges or when there is a necessity to change its own theoretical system. Because of this, there will be two questions: the first one is “How many of the foreign plans that have been experienced have been absorbed into their own knowledge? The second one is “when facing a complex historical background and historical space, how can we see ourselves and which foreign culture system will we use for reference?” Of course, these two issues only proceed from a historical perspective, but this paper believes that it is the source of a series of theoretical and practical problems, such as “Urban Heritage”, “National Identity”, “Cultural Identity”, “Local Characteristics”, “Root Culture”, “Branding City”, “Planning Education” and “Planning Effectiveness”.

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Notes

1. The Vietnam War(1954-1975), it was the second of the Indochina Wars and was officially fought between North Vietnam and the government of South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese army was supported by the Soviet Union, China and other communist allies and the South Vietnamese army was supported by the United States, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and other anti-communist allies.
2. Sun Shiwen. “The Discipline”, 107.
3. Tan Ying. “Harmony Between”, 5.
4. See Yang Hongnian, Ou Yangxin, *History of China's political system*, 311. It regards the view of “千里百县，县有四郡” in Zhou Li.
5. Ming Ming. *Chinese knowledge*, 19.
6. Fudan University Institute of History and Geography, *Chinese historical*, 282.
7. See Edict on the Transfer of the Capital in https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edict_on_the_Transfer_of_the_Capital.
8. Mantine, Frédéric, and T. A. Nguyễn, *Les relations*, 147.
9. The Vauban fortress refer to citadels that were designed and built according to the military theory proposed by Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633-1707). Based on the prototype of the early Italian bastion, it replaced the “high tower” monolithic city walls with a multi-layered fortification by dwarfing and deepening the city walls so as to highly integrate ordnance and geometry, at the same time it also exhibits good aesthetics.
10. Ký P J B T V, *Souvenir historiques*, 7.



11. Tsuboi Y, *L'Empire vietnamien*, 63.
12. Tainturier F, "Architecture and Urban Planning", 73.
13. Tôn Nữ Quỳnh Trân, Trương Hoàng Trương, "Viết thêm", 16.
14. Vann, Michael G. "Building Colonial Whiteness", 279.
15. See Fonds de Maire de Hanoi N°1 document in National Storage Center 1 in Hanoi.
16. See Fonds de la Résidence Supérieure au Tonkin N° 71344 document in National Storage Center 1 in Hanoi.
17. Đào Thị Diễm. *Hà Nội thời Pháp*, 205-219.
18. See Dubost, Françoise, "Les nouveaux", 154.
19. See Fonds de Maire de Hanoi N° 4168 document in National Storage Center 1 in Hanoi.
20. Logan, "Russians on the", 443.
21. Piotr Zaremba (born June 10, 1910 in Heidelberg, died October 8, 1993 in Szczecin) - Polish urban planner, co-founder of the Polish school of spatial planning, the first Polish president of Szczecin (1945-1950), prof.
22. See S. I. Sokolov, "Gorod na Karasnoi Reke", 26. The team included M.G. Vasil'eva, N. V. Romnyuk, A. Shelekhov, L. I. Symikov and S. N. Samonia. A. Kucher.
23. Lưu Đức Cường, "Thành tựu", 22.
24. Lưu Đức Cường, "Thành tựu", 23.
25. Logan, *Hanoi: Biography of a city*, 204.
26. Desbarats, Jacqueline. "Population redistribution", 45.
27. Doxiadis Associates was one of the most influential urban planning consultancy firms in the world in the 1960s. One of the most important constructs of the project is the Islamabad capital of Pakistan.
28. Erik Harms. *Luxury and Rubble*, 141.
29. An evaluation of the 1965 DA plan based on the 1972 plan text.
30. Erik Harms. *Luxury and Rubble*, 149.

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Image sources

Figure 1: Institute of Hán-Nôm Studies in Hanoi.

Figure 2: Institute of Hán-Nôm Studies in Hanoi.

Figure 3: Google Earth.

Figure 4: Google Earth.

Figure 5: Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Figure 6: Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Figure 7: National Storage Center 1 in Hanoi.

Figure 8: National Storage Center 1 in Hanoi.

Figure 9: National Storage Center 2 in Hochiminh City.

Figure 10: National Storage Center 2 in Hochiminh City.

Figure 11: manuscript of architect Huỳnh Tấn Phát.

Figure 12 and figure 13: Google Earth.

Figure 14, Figure 15 and Figure 16: Architecture Magazine of Vietnam Association of Architects.