

The "Israel 2020" Plan and a Proposal for 2050: Looking Back for the Future

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ABSTRACT

This paper offers a reflexive, mainly social, look at the planning project known as "Israel 2020". This is not a usual paper on two counts: an uncustomary structure and an emphasis on the personal perspective. I present below a series of insights on the large project from the viewpoint of a sociologist-planner who has been studying Israeli society for decades, as well as participating in the planning effort. The first part puts the plan in its context and characterizes the persons who created it, highlighting their common identity and cultural perspective. The second deals with the roles of planners, through the optic of the project's participants. The third part outlines 'the social alternative' for the future of Israel, developed for the project by the author and 'the social team'. The leaders of the evaluation of alternatives ranked it low for 'economic efficiency', 'probability of adoption', and 'success in implementation', and hence, 'the social alternative' was totally neglected in the final 2020 plan titled 'The Picture of the Future'. The fourth part focuses on the turn taken by the plan in its relation to Arab populations, in Israel and abroad. The fifth part suggests a brief evaluation of the plan's long-term impact. The last but not the least - outlines a vision for planning Israel 2050.

Keywords: Israel 2020 plan; critical evaluation; social evaluation; role of planners; doughnut economics

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