

The Failures of National Planning: From the Sharon Plan, Israel 2020, and National Plan 35 until National Plan 1.

Yosef Jabareen

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the failure of national planning in Israel and analyzes four comprehensive national plans over seven decades: the Sharon Plan (1951); The 'Israel 2020' Plan, National Plan (TAMA) 35; and the recent TAMA 1 (2020). The article shows a profound dissonance between the planning vision and the overarching declarations on advancing social goals of equality, fairness, and social justice, and the final planning products expressed in land-use schemes and legal regulations. In addition, the analysis shows how national planning has been ignoring the fundamental spatial and social needs of the Palestinian Arab society in Israel— hence ignoring one of the most critical social issues of planning in Israel. Not only did the planning exclude Palestinian society from decision-making regarding national space, but it also gave unquestioning legitimacy to the spatial, social, and environmental inequality between Jews and Palestinians. The four national plans have been physical blueprints that conceal a political and demographic agenda of organizing the land, while displacing and 'enclaving' Palestinian society and intensifying its distress in housing, services, the environment, and employment. The most recent TAMA 1 is a "technical" plan, devoid of any social or environmental vision of sustainability, that ratifies the spatial deprivation of various population groups, especially the Palestinians. Overall, national planning has failed for over seven decades at the moral and ethical aspects of promoting spatial and social justice. It has thus functioned as an exclusionary and discriminatory statutory tool beneath a mask of comprehensive national planning visions.

Keywords: national planning; Arabs in Israel; justice; land uses; vision

Prof. Yosef Jabareen researches and teaches urban planning at the Technion, Haifa, and taught and researched at MIT, USA and Ben Gurion University, Beersheba. This year he is Visiting Professor at Reading University, UK. Jabareen served as Deputy President of the Technion for Arab Student Affairs and planning consultant to the Monitoring Committee of Arabs in Israel. His last book is *The Risk City: Encountering Climate Change: Emerging Planning Theories and Practices around the World* (Springer). jabareen@technion.ac.il