Two Cities in One: The Genesis, Planning and Transformation of Kampala City 1900 -1968

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The system of indirect rule in Uganda, like most British colonies was made to ensure that the ‘Native Societies’ would not be polluted by the ‘sophistication’ of European based trade, mining and administrative urban centres. Therefore, for several years there existed two worlds in one, with limited contact and little understanding of each other - the world of the European and the world of the African - the ‘Native’, each with their planning ideologies and culture. Planning as an activity was technical and so was a domain of a few technocrats, mainly consultants from the United Kingdom who used planning as a tool to further the manipulation of space as a means of fostering hegemony and thus the alienation of native residents from the modern urban environment. Through review and deduction of archival and documentary resources, this paper focuses on how the city has transformed over time and the planning ideas at play since the evolution of territorial and administrative dualism in the late 19th century, an aspect that for a long time has remained almost unstudied.

Keywords: Two cities in one, planning ideas, urban transformation.