



Suburbia against Socialism. United States' Proposals for the Metropolis of the Twentieth Century

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It is widely known that the fifties were a critical decade for the United States Urban Planning. Suburbia, which is an actual wide spread urban pattern, were then highly criticized by intellectuals and medias. However, the perception surrounding the phenomenon of suburbia was no longer viewed as problematic. For a few intellectuals, suburbia was changing the American way of life. For others suburbia was only the same traditional way to live, under a different urban pattern. Suburban pattern was a fifties and sixties problem, but it was also the opportunity to discuss United States Urban Politics.

This paper intends to analyze the position of several intellectuals across the fifties and sixties, who shared an original way of analyzing the urban sprawl phenomenon. In order to avoid future urban sprawl, those intellectuals were inspired by the British 'Garden City' discussion with the aim to change private urban patterns into public urban examples. They intended to achieve a new urban pattern under a contrasting political ideal. However, it meant a radical political challenge for the country having dramatic implications, amongst which, the commitment of public land property.

Such discussions were highly criticized but despite this, remained in the academic milieu. We are going to revise these intellectual's proposals in order to explore the United States fifties and sixties' urban conflict from another perspective: the fear of a 'mal interpreted' socialism. By taking five different books, we will highlight the discussion on metropolitan government. We will raise questions about Suburban reality in contrast to Suburban ideal. We will look deeply into the suburban pattern as a way of private development. We finally will bring a new comprehension of the suburban sprawl under political attitudes, and how those attitudes are against a sustainable development. This paper could provide new ways in understanding our current urban problems and explore potential solutions.

KEY WORDS: Urban sprawl, garden city, public property, public transport, satellite cities, metropolis, government, urban politics, United States