



## URBAN RECONSTRUCTION IN POST-CONFLICT ZONES: A CASE STUDY OF THE NATURE OF THE CONCEPT.

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### Abstract

This study argues with the nature of the concept of urban reconstruction in post-conflict zones as a long path that includes a variety of economic, social and security processes, and aims to create a stable security environment after the end of the conflict and the elimination of chaos, and from here it overlaps with the concepts of state-building and peacebuilding And development, to prevent a second slide towards war, by ensuring a transition to peace, but the concept faces many challenges related to the goals of the actors that fund it and benefit from it. Multiple tracks rebuild state institutions in a way that ensures the return of the state to perform its basic functions and guarantees security, which is the goal of a policy of urban planning and design for post-war reconstruction.

**Keywords:** urban reconstruction, post-war cities, conflict zones, development

### 1. introduction

Achieving international peace and security is one of the most important endeavours of the international community, but despite the continuous endeavour of the United Nations to resolve international conflicts and disputes by peaceful means, especially since the end of the “Cold War” and the subsequent change in the nature of armed conflicts between states to conflicts within states, separatist movements and strife Ethnicity have increased with the rapid development of various security threats that affect human security before the state, such as

illegal immigration, terrorism and organized crime. Here, "United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali" presented his report to the Security Council in 1992 under the title "Peace Plan" as an opportunity to achieve the objectives of maintaining and ensuring international peace and security (Jeffrey M., (1993).

The proposed plan is based on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacebuilding after conflict, and the concept of urban reconstruction in post-conflict areas is linked to various communicative, social, political and security measures as a long-term strategy, which allows countries that have collapsed due to wars and conflicts to eliminate the causes of conflict, ensure stability and manage their affairs, This leads us to question the nature of the concept of urban reconstruction, and the various concepts intertwined with it, as well as the institutions involved in it.

architects and researchers have differed in defining the concept of urban reconstruction in post-conflict areas because of the practical difficulty associated with the form and nature of peace in the post-war phase, so the question posed in this study is: What is the nature of the concept and urban reconstruction in post-conflict areas?

I will address the issue by addressing the following points:

- a) case study of the nature of the concept
- b) Distinguishing the concept of urban reconstruction from similar concepts
- c) Difficulties and challenges facing post-war urban reconstruction projects.
- d) Discussion and Concluding Remarks

## **2. case study of the nature of the concept**

### *2.1. Historical background of the concept:*

The urban Reconstruction is related to American history in the period between 1877-1863, which witnessed the outbreak of the American Civil War and the destruction of the infrastructure and economics of the American South, along with the extermination of 40% of livestock, and the cost of government expenditures in the war amounted to 3.3 billion US dollars, as Most of the population migrated to the cities. This is where US President Abraham Lincoln began On Implementing A Practical Plan To Bring Back Reconstruction and the unification of the nation, but with his assassination, his successor Andrew Johnson opposed the reconstruction project, yet the US Congress formed military districts in the south and used the army to administer them until a federal government was formed, and abolished slavery and allowed marriage for slaves and the right to vote for adult men (Eric F., 2019). The term appeared again, and more in the "post-World War II" period, which was characterized by the development of the global economy and a great trend toward international cooperation, especially in the aftermath of 1950, Europe witnessed Japan, a deficit in its balance of payments and sabotage of its infrastructure, economic and social, necessitated the necessity of reconstruction, which was provided by the United States of America, which acquired eighty per cent of international gold, and on this basis, the United States called for the establishment of the Burton Woods system, which established the Marshall Plan to help Europe Or the so-called European Recovery Program, from which the International Monetary Fund was established (Key M., 2010).

## 2.2. *Definition of Reconstruction*

is defined as a comprehensive collection of efforts to meet the requirements of countries emerging from war, including those of the impacted population, minimise conflict escalation, avoid a return to violence, address core causes, and ensure long-term stability. (peace in African Union., 2006, p. 6). The World Bank defines urban reconstruction Ages pos-war It is the rebuilding of the social and economic framework of society, and the restoration of the environment conducive to the establishment of a community that works in peacetime, especially government and the rule of law as the two main elements for building this social structure. The ability to set and implement economic policy has been restored as part of the economic management process that relies on self-sufficiency to a large extent, and for the reconstruction process to be successful, a return to pre-war income levels and growth rates cannot be accepted, but rather they must be higher than them. The recovery is based on A social transformation and a set of institutional, legal, and political reforms that allow countries to lay the foundations for sustainable self-development. Reconstruction means creating a new system of political economy (Jeffrey M., 1993). Reconstruction for the post-conflict zones is the measure that seeks to consolidate peace, promote development, and rehabilitate the production sectors of agriculture and industry. and services, as well as caring for the person most affected by the conflict, in addition to the reconciliation process, ensuring stability and leading the way to A new post-conflict situation, (Jamil O., 2018). The consolidation of internal security and social stability means meeting a set of needs, efforts and goals that fall under the item of reconstruction, in addition to settling the displaced and facilitating comprehensive locally oriented development that helps establish political legitimacy and then try to revitalize local communities through what follows: -

- Providing basic services including health care, water, energy, and sanitation.
- Rehabilitation and housing construction.
- Get an education.
- Providing job opportunities.
- Restoring freedom of movement and trade (Anna, J., 2011).

Researchers specializing in reconstruction studies often agree to describe reconstruction as a multi-faceted process aimed at political, economic, and social development to create conditions for a transition to a permanent peace that prevents relapse into the abyss of war. However, the definition faces several Among challenges, (Krishna k., 1997). Reconstruction is a comprehensive term with multiple faces and meanings based on many meanings, and scientific research is the most important of them, and this relationship is based on the common relationship between research teams in various urban, economic, social, and political aspects in line with the nature of the community fabric (Badescu, G., 2015).

Reconstruction is a phrase About restoration, fearing the loss of cultural heritage, the 1964 Venice Charter and before it, the 1931 Athens Charter set the principles and methods for restoring historical monuments after the devastation of “World War II”, and after it in the 1989 Washington Charter, which provides for the preservation of historical cities and urban areas, followed by the Vienna Memorandum 2005 included in the 2011 Valletta Principles (Valletta Principles for Conservation., 2011). The 2015 Guidelines for the Preservation of World

Heritage also expressed the growing concern about World Heritage. To prepare a post-conflict strategy for rebuilding damaged world heritage with techniques, capacity-building and sharing of better conservation and management practices, and to prepare a guidance manual on reconstruction expressed in Commission Resolution 2016 (Hasic, T., 2004), and defined by the United Nations Supplement to the International Peace Agenda as a process of making comprehensive efforts to determine and support structures that This would support to keep and consolidate peace, and promote a sense of trust and well-being among people through agreements to end wars. This process may include the disarmament of warring parties, restoration of order, return of refugees, advisory service and training support for security, election and observation staff, efforts to advance human rights protection, reform and promotion of Governmental institutions and participation in the political process by official and non-official actors in the state. (ICOMOS., 2001), Although the reconstruction operations have political goals, their implementation stems from an economic ground (Badescu, G., 2015).

The “World Bank” defines the urban reconstruction post-war process as providing support to the process of transition from war to peace by rebuilding the country socially and economically, and the United Nations gives a second definition of the reconstruction as a long-term strategy with economic, social, and political dimensions Reconstruction is a process of making comprehensive efforts to identify and support structures and institutions that seek to consolidate peace. This process includes disarming the warring parties, restoring order, returning refugees, monitoring elections, and reforming and strengthening government institutions. Reconstruction aims to spread a culture of peace and build the collapsed and fragile state after the war (Michael.D., 1995).

### **3. Discrimination Reconstruction concept about concepts Similar to it**

#### *3.1 Peacebuilding*

It can be said that the early features of this concept - peace-building - began with Wilson's Fourteen Points, which were seen as pillars of the permanence of peace after the First World War, and as a means of preserving the gains made on the path to establishing peace, through the establishment of a compromise peace and guarantee its permanence With the establishment of an international sponsoring institution, the League of Nations, but the concept of "peacebuilding" was used for the first time by Johan Galtung. Galtung in an article in 1975 and included it within three paths of peace: peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.

Johan distinguishes between negative peace associated with the absence of physical violence through the peacekeeping measures and positive peace related to the absence of structural violence through “peacemaking” and “peace-building” (Wendy L., 2011). The “peace plan”, included a continuous link of four terms that enhance the capacity of the United Nations to build peace from preventive diplomacy and then peacemaking to peacekeeping to reach the stage of peacebuilding (UN Doc., 1992.). In a 1998 report on the causes of conflict and work to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development in Africa, Boutros Boutros Ghali pointed out that “post-conflict peacebuilding is the measures taken in Ending the conflict to promote peace and prevent a return to armed confrontation, a term that is consistent with new threats. Peacebuilding involves researching the deep causes of conflict through rebuilding infrastructure, which pushes to end the conflicts (Haji E, and Zargari A.,1989), It is a process

that begins with armed conflict and involves efforts of Several international and local parties to maintain the steps that have been achieved that led to an end to the conflict on the one hand, and the establishment of a new phase that would ensure the sustainability of these results on the other hand.

The United Nations in New York, and Vice-President of the International Institute for Peace ( as the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts by promoting peace, as it seeks to address the political, structural, social, cultural and economic causes (Jeffry M., 1993), Peacebuilding in the preparation and building of society and the consolidation of a culture of peace, as it aims to lay the foundation stone for future reconstruction and development These include education, support for a culture of human rights, the safe return of refugees, economic development, partisanship, tolerance and acceptance of others, and the promotion of harmony between the individual and the group. It and between the individual and the environment (Anna, J., 2011.

### *3.2. Peacekeeping*

The term peacekeeping refers to all the efforts that are taken during the conflict to reduce it or eliminate the manifestations of the conflict and to establish the interactions of the conflict on a degree of nonviolence, with which methods can be explored to solve and repair the conflict. The purpose of peacekeeping is not to resolve conflict at its root, but to restore nonviolence, which is the process by which one party performs A third is to deploy military teams within the framework of a preventive approach to prevent the escalation of violence and stop clashes, or to supervise the ceasefire, or the implementation of the terms of peace agreements between the conflicting parties, and they can also be recruited in humanitarian relief operations aimed at restoring normal life in cooperation with other civilian bodies In this field, such as aid to establish the political system (Key M., 2010).

Peacekeeping operations have evolved to include non-traditional jobs, and the nature of its staff, including military, police, and diplomats, has diversified. Peacekeeping has become one of the methods of conflict management, the goal of which is not to resolve the conflict, but rather to require the containment of violence. “Peace is achieving a minimum level of peace, and peacebuilding can only be achieved through the presence of peacekeeping, which can only be achieved by defining a security context that helps peace missions implement their projects” (Boutros G., 1992, p.192).

### *3.3. Peace Enforcement*

means to end the war, through direct military intervention under the auspices of multilateral actors such as the 1991 Gulf War and the 1951 “Korean War” (Jeffry M.,1993), or by complying with resolutions and sanctions imposed for the sake of peace and order it, and thus peace enforcement efforts may include non-military measures like sanctions, and military measures that are used in conflict situations in which the peacekeeping mission is not possible or the international forces have been attacked by one or several parties, as happened with the United Nations Mission in the Congo in 1960, Somalia in 1993, in Liber 1990, and in the Darfur region of western Sudan 2008 (Key M., 2010).

### *3.4. Peace Making.*

Peacemaking refers to activities and processes aimed at encouraging warring parties to establish a peace agreement by peaceful means such as discussion and dialogue, as well as the use of diplomatic means to resolve the conflict. Peacemaking does not entail the use of military force against any of the parties to terminate the conflict if the imposition of peace refers to the use of armed force or threat to compel the concerned party to comply with the imposed resolutions and sanctions (Kaldor, Mary and Rangelov., 2003).

### *3.5. Nation-building:*

The conclusion of the Cold War ushered in a new era of external involvement with fragile post-states. Foreign countries and multilateral institutions like "the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as international non-governmental organizations like the Red Cross, the Yellow Crescent, and Doctors Without Borders" are all involved in the conflict (Key M., 2010). As weak and failed states have emerged as a primary security facility, the issue of rebuilding states, societies, and economies in the post-war phase, as well as the participation of many external actors in the overall governance of foreign states, has evolved, along with the re-imagining of post-Cold War threats. Understanding the state's weakness and fragility has shifted the political spotlight on the conflict's aftermath, which is explicitly justified by the conflict's legacy (Jeffrey M.,1993).

The criminalization of both the state and society has been a legacy of global wars, which have been characterized by the bringing together of numerous state and non-state actors, military, civil, legal, and criminal into the institution of war, and their legacy is the effective use of ethnic and sectarian identities for political ends (Almosawy S., Aljaberi, A., Alrobaee, T., & Shamkhi, A., 2021). "Nearly two decades of external engagement in rebuilding domestic political power in foreign environments has kept the recurrence of violence futile, as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, yet despite the changing scope and nature of external engagement, the goal of building sustainable and legitimate states remains elusive to a large extent, the demonstrations of domestic resistance to external actors and their domestic projects embodied by the Taliban in Afghanistan point to a crisis in practice and theory, just as an international intervention in Libya shows that military intervention may not necessarily follow comprehensive engagement after the conflict, as in Kosovo" (Michael D., 1995).

The security threat represents a departure from the security competition of the major powers, where the threat was considered proportional to crippling the state of the "post-Cold War" framework. "The failure of local governance is increasingly seen as a source of insecurity across national borders, as evidenced by criminal activity, terrorism, and mass refugee and migration flows" (Kaldor, Mary and Rangelov, I., 2003).

Development is a central point in the framework of the peace-building process in the short term, to build confidence in peace efforts, and ensure that the warring parties join the state-building project, to draw attention to the roots and causes of conflict such as poverty. The United Nations peacekeeping efforts contributed to the development of infrastructure to improve access to trade and industry and return refugees to their roles. Peacekeeping missions

also participated in drawing up long-term economic policies to achieve sustainable development to maintain peace and order (Key M., 2010).

#### **4. Difficulties and challenges facing post-war urban reconstruction projects.**

- a. The huge cost to be allocated to reconstruction programs, is related to the amount of destruction that affected the infrastructure and is often large, for example, Libya, according to the estimates of the World Bank for the year 2016, needs more than 100 billion dollars for reconstruction.
- b. The simultaneous timing of the reconstruction of the collapsed states, which throws double burdens on the financial budgets allocated for reconstruction operations, international and regional donors fund both Sur Oh, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia at the same time.
- c. Protracted armed conflicts.
- d. The struggles of businessmen and financiers over the reconstruction contracts, which is evident in the areas of conflict.
- e. The problem of politicizing the contributions of actors that require a change in the structures of existing political systems.

#### **5. Discussion and Concluding Remarks**

What can be said after the study is that the concept of reconstruction expresses a long process that includes various long-term economic, social, security and political measures that seek to rebuild the state, with the participation of all local, regional, and international actors.

Through the study, I reached the following conclusions:

- urban Reconstruction pos-war is the most important peace-building mechanism, as it aims to create a stable security environment, promote sustainable development, and eliminate chaos to prevent a return to a state of war again.
- The urban reconstruction process is based on a group of international institutions and organizations like the United Nations UN and the World Bank WB, and regional organizations such as the African Union, as well as countries financing various reconstruction projects.
- Urban Reconstruction projects in countries go through four stages, starting with the stage of monitoring the current situation and estimating losses, followed by the stage of developing operational plans and programs, including identifying implementation mechanisms, participating parties, means of financing and other details of the reconstruction programs, then the stage of implementation and operation of the project, then a stage Post-operational maintenance and evaluation, and the first stage is the most important and dangerous, as the shortcomings that may occur at this stage may spoil the reconstruction process and threaten the fate of the housing projects completed by failure.
- There are multiple parties involved in financing urban reconstruction projects, including government agencies, which participate in less funding due to the war's depletion of state resources and the economic collapse accompanying the post-war phase.

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