



A Survey upon Creating a “Successful City”: Neoliberal Urbanism and Gentrification in the Host City, Karaj Verification

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Abstract

Since the last decade of the 20th century, the intensification of capital accumulation, especially in its financial dimension, has been one of the keystones for the triumph of neoliberalism. Iranian neoliberal policies have focused on the flexibilization of the real estate sector, leading to the specialization in the secondary circuit of accumulation. This has generated a third real estate boom which has been accompanied with an outstanding housing bubble. In Karaj, a capital city, the center city of Alborz province, neoliberal urban planning policies have been implemented in order to convert it into a “successful city” within the global urban network competition. These policies have led to Karaj’s uneven geographical development through processes like gentrification. This research has a profound observation of the verification of urbanism in a super city such as Karaj and a view upon its prominent suburb, Fardis. Also, the verification of some related problems such as migration and residency in this city is paid special attention in this research.

Key words: neoliberalism, capital, province, successful city, financial, urban, real estate