

Recalling the Omitted

Exploring the spatial development of the modern industrial legacies in Egypt.
The case of Alexandria

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Background and Research Problem

1. Egypt's modern industries of the 19th and 20th centuries had significant tangible and intangible impacts in a variety of areas, both within and beyond the country's borders. Modern industries helped accelerate Egypt's historical path towards the global economy and contributed to the diversification of its social and urban structures, among others.
2. At present, Egypt still lags behind other countries in the accelerating global initiative to document and safeguard modern industrial heritage. This is clearly visible in the vast destruction of its historical industrial structures, an action justifiable due to the perplexing official recognition of its (in)tangible witnesses
3. The documentation and recognition model of modern industries in Egypt still focuses predominantly on weighing the significance of industrial structures based on their architectural aesthetics and monumentality. Their contributions to urban development that in turn convey spatial attributes as part of urban heritage remain unexplored.

Aims and objectives of the dissertation

4. The research is an attempt to steer away from the singular investigation of selected modern industrial sites and to instead recall their historical development and to document them in terms of their collective impact on the spatial development of their urban surroundings.
5. The city chosen for this study is the port city of Alexandria. While Cairo was and is the Egyptian capital as well as the pivotal node between agro-industries in Upper and Lower Egypt via the inland Nile port, the port city of Alexandria was a pivotal node between Egyptian and global markets – predominantly Europe.
6. Looking beyond only those industrial structures still standing today, what were the industries developed in Alexandria during Modern Egypt? How were they developed both conceptually and spatially? What kind of contributions, in turn, were they able to make, especially in terms of meaning and value?
7. The aim of this study is to explore the spatial contribution of modern industries to the development of the city of Alexandria during the phase of Modern Egypt, between the 19th and 20th centuries. The study attempts to generate insight into the explanatory weight of the comprehensive development of modern industries in the city. This is achieved by considering their significance as a collective, rather than their fragmented monumentality.
8. The study is conducted based on the following research objectives:
 - Uncover the various types of industry established during Modern Egypt in Alexandria.
 - Map the location of modern industries and capture their urban layering.

- Translate the reconstruction through exploring and analysing their spatiality. This will contribute to understanding the spatial interrelation of modern industries to the development the city's modern structure.

State-of-the-Art

9. Globally, the documentation of modern industries first began with the recording of their materialistic characteristics. Evaluation of the intangible facets of modern industries was incorporated later. The spatial dynamics of historical industries have been interpreted generally based on their spatial order and spatial rationale in relation to city districts.
10. The start of Egypt's Modern period is historicized differently by the country's Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism on the one hand, and by historians on the other. The former designates as its start the 1798 French Campaign in Egypt; whereas the latter uses the 1805 accession to power of the viceroy Muhammad Ali.
11. Relevant studies on the history of modern industries in Egypt have mostly covered the industrial instigations by geopolitical and socioeconomic effective presences. The history of the industrial players of both the foreign agents mainly but also the strives of the working class were also within the research scope by multiple social historians.
12. The historians' contributions to modern industrial history have also addressed the technical expertise of architects and engineers in the modern industrial constructs. The tangible aspect of modern industry has only been covered in the past 10 years, in a limited number of publications. This work has fallen within the field of industrial architecture, with a focus on single blocks or specific sites, predominantly characterized by their easily discerned monumentality.
13. A few scholarly pieces have emphasized the importance of taking actions towards preserving the extant fragmented urban form of modern industries in Egypt. The study of the spatial development of modern industries, however, has received little attention by scholars. Understanding the spatial development of modern industries is a mean to understanding the settings and locations of activities that connect(ed) to meaningful spatial narratives about history, culture, and identity.

Methodology

14. With the limited secondary source data available on modern industries in Alexandria, the dissertation relies predominantly on primary sources. Based on limited site visits and extensive archival research in Egypt, Germany, and France, this study seeks to advance scholarly understanding of the topic by contributing novel synthesis of quantitative and qualitative data to the literature.
15. The uncovering of the industries established in Alexandria during Egypt's Modern period was done in part through a review of the industries mentioned in the various relevant secondary source publications, but mainly through visual and textual archival

research. This study adopts the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism's definition of the beginning of Egypt's modern industrial period.

16. The mapping of modern industries was reconstructed with the help of a collected atlas of historical maps and cross-checked with archival documents and secondary literature specifying the locations of the industries. This resulted in generating georeferenced maps based on the Geometrical Information System program QGIS as the georeferencing mapping tool.
17. The reconstruction of the historical spatialization of modern industries within the city was a key element towards recontextualizing their spatial dynamics, order, and rationale. This in turn contributes to the identification and comprehensive understanding of the characteristic spatial exemplars and meanings of modern industries with their different perceptual modalities and the different symbolic representations of their qualities and images.

Main findings and outcomes

18. During the 19th and 20th centuries, modern industries played an influential role in modern economic, technological, and urban growth both nationally and globally. In Egypt, the physical witnesses of modern industrial history industries are referred to by the author as the Omitted Heritage. This is defined by the modern industries in Egypt that are intentionally, unintentionally, and forgetfully excluded in terms of physical documentation, evaluation, appreciation, and integration within urban development plans.
19. The Omitted Heritage is that which recalls remembrance; this is uncovered by exploring beyond the listed modern industries in Alexandria. The study analysed the spatial development of modern industries during the 19th and 20th centuries.
20. The method used excavated the richness of forgotten historical industries in Alexandria, which can be seen in their quantity and diversity. The geospatial mapping allowed a more in-depth reading of the numerous modern industries and their urban morphogenesis in terms of spatial and conceptual development.
21. The generated maps were a benchmark towards unveiling in depth spatial contextualization of these industries, which were not to be perceived easily by only listing them. The historical spatial reconstruction of modern industries in Alexandria unveiled their contextualization regarding their spatial periodization and spatial dynamics.
22. The foundation of the diversified modern industries in each phase was in relation to the historical drivers at the time. In the case of Alexandria, the spatial development of modern industries is divided in four chronological phases: Nascence, Forward Momentum, Deployment, and finally, Culmination.
23. There was no clear evidence for either realized or even planned efforts to establish any modernized production during the French Campaign in Egypt. The outset phase of Modern Egypt, as defined by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism, is in this

scope, inconsequential. Nevertheless, the author drew out some pre-industrial seeds that still justify these years' inclusion in the dissertation.

24. The *Nascence* phase endorses previous scholarly statements of the introduction of Modern Egyptian industries during the first half of the 19th century. Industrial development was being pursued to support the political, commercial, and agricultural modernization goals of viceroy Muhammad Ali at that time.
25. The *Forward Momentum* phase was mainly based on standardization; it is defined by the establishment of various industries in Alexandria, which was coordinated to stimulate urban development and advance Egypt's primary international commercial objective at that time – the exportation of cotton. This phased began in the 1850s and ended in the 1880s
26. The *Deployment* phase stretched from the 1880s (the start of the British occupation in Egypt) until the 1910s, with the outset of WWI. It represented a rationalized reordering of the city's social and physical structure, in conjunction with the development of new industries. The primary objective of this reorganization was the advancement of the interests of Egypt's colonial occupier, namely Britain.
27. The *Culmination* phase reflects the notion of Egyptianized consolidation between the 1910s and 1950s. This is attributed to the foundation of multiple industries and industry-related facilities under the aegis of the national industrial independence movement. In this phase, Alexandria's industries levelled off in terms of quantity and comprehensiveness of industrial classification and relatedly their visual expression in relation to their industrial spatial connectedness
28. The spatial and context-related exploration of modern industrial history points to new perspectives on knowledge, transcending the physical borders of industrial sites. These reviewed the modern industries in Alexandria, looking beyond their spatial solitary fragmentation and their architectural aesthetics. This in turn revealed a deeper understanding of the historical, urban, social, and technological parameters of modern industries. The different parameters are re-interpreted according to their spatial relationships with the city, the subnational region, the nation, and the world.
29. As a final statement, modern industries are de facto an integral part of other historical manifestations of Modern Egypt. It is, therefore, of critical importance to transform the reviewing of these modern industries locally, nationally, and globally by re-acknowledging them from a legacy déclassé to a legacy re-classé.

Recommendations for further research

30. The study draws on important analytical aspects that transcend the boundaries of modern industrial sites, elevating their significance on the urban, national, and even international levels. Its recommendations and suggestions for further research are also divided into those levels.

- 31.** On a city scale and with the help of the generated QGIS mappings, a survey can be conducted easily to uncover those industries still standing. This will enable more researchers from different fields to conduct in-depth studies on the extant industries.
- 32.** Uncovering the historical industrial structures which are still standing will help to connect these structures with the existing discourse on heritage preservation and assist in their recognition and reintegration within the city's urban planning.
- 33.** The author recommends the incorporation of the generated QGIS mappings within the present city cultural mapping endeavours and the integration of existing industrial heritage sites within the city's touristic scheme(s).
- 34.** On a national level, the author recommends a proposed legal framework for the categorical documentation and safeguarding of industrial heritage. The divided official recognition of modern industries between two ministries and the basing of official recognition mainly on architectural features contributes to an undervaluation of the rich and multivalent characteristics of a wealth of national heritage.
- 35.** The urban development of modern industries can be investigated on different scales – the village, the industrial town, or even an industrial belt like the Suez Canal. Recognizing and investigating these various scales can contribute to deeper and more synthetic understanding.
- 36.** On the international level, this dissertation recommends the extension of its approach to the spatial and conceptual development of modern industries in Alexandria to other comparable port cities. With the help of the mapped and uncovered modern industries in Alexandria, future studies can also be conducted regarding integrating these modern industries within global discourse of shared and sharing heritage.
- 37.** Finally, much work remains to be done in the proper indexing of the documents, relating to industrial heritage, which are held in public and private archives around Egypt. This also includes uncovering the different international archives hosting valuable documents that contribute to modern industrial heritage in Egypt.

End of synopsis