THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HISTORICAL GROWTH AND
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT GROWTH OF THE BALQA-AYMAN REGION OF JORDAN

by

FAROUK YAGHMOUR

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ABSTRACT

In the last three decades the Third World countries have almost exclusively depended upon the transfer of western-style development models and technology to aid them in identifying and achieving their nations' development objectives. The success of development efforts in most of these countries has more and more been questioned. Success in achieving objectives by this transfer of development approach, and as important appropriateness of the selection and definition of those objectives in the first place, must be explored and tested.

This study explores via a case study the appropriateness of the transfer of western-style development. The case study focuses on the development objectives and implementation strategies identified in the Regional Plan for Balqa–Amman Region of Jordan. This Regional Plan like most others in the Third World, was prepared by western consultants with the assistance of native professionals most of whom trained in the West. The study identifies alternative models for development and analyzes and compares them with respect to their capability to help identify objectives, to actually guide development to desired objectives, and to do so without upsetting the desired cultural and social equilibrium in this region.

The study begins with discussion of the historical development of the region, emphasizing recent urban and social trends in the area, and the factors bearing upon these trends. This section provides the social and historical context which is used in part as the basis for making comparisons between models of development.

The different models of development used as the basis for comparative analysis in discussing the appropriateness of the transfer of western-style
development are:

(X) model: Development guided by traditional social and cultural forces.

(Y) model: Development transferred wholesale from the West.

(Z) model: Development based and produced within the developing nations borders.

(Z') model: Modified form combining factors and approaches found variously in the (X) and (Y) models.

The study concludes that many of the objectives identified by the Balqa-Asman Region Planners are in part or whole inappropriate for the region and that the planners neglected to consider cultural and political forces in setting these objectives. The study also finds that the Regional Plan relies too much on western solutions and not enough on regional opportunities for problem solving.

The study recognizes that the efforts herein are focused on one case study and that much work needs to be done before broader conclusion about the transfer of development may be made.