

## Conservation and development processes in multicultural historic cities: Test cases – Stone Town and Jaffa

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Urban conservation became a common practice in urban planning during the last decades. Concepts of conservation are increasingly influenced by post-modern and neo-liberal ethos. The cases of Stone Town and Jaffa demonstrate how postmodern conservation practices are too ambitious leading to failure in their implementation. Five goals were set for an ideal type of postmodern conservation policy: Aestheticizing national monuments; representing local ethnic and other marginalized identities; closing economic gaps among social groups; improving the aesthetic qualities of the city and financing the conservation by the private sector. In the neo-liberal context the last principle expelled the other goals and the past has been exoticized in favor of promoting tourism. This led to distortions of the national past and of representation of the local identities in the conservation projects in both cities. In addition economically weak groups found themselves being pushed out of the conserved quarters due to the rise of prices.

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