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# A Critical Analysis of Urban Development Using the Application of Genealogy over Metropolitan City of Mashhad Iran

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this research is to explain how and why to use the genealogy approach in order to understand the evolution of the role of cities over time with special emphasis on the city of Mashhad. "The role of the city" and its developments can be analyzed with different approaches such as the economic approach or the urban geography approach. But in this research, Foucault's genealogy was used, and the city and its role were investigated under the influence of the power of governance and its mutual relations with space and knowledge. The basic questions are: Regardless of the initial formation and the geographical and political background of the city of Mashhad, what is the dominant role of this city now? How have these roles been formed over time and what discourses have been effective in creating these roles? Does this city have new power and capacity for development? Based on Foucault's theory of genealogy, the analysis of the development process of urban roles can be done using power-related tools and knowledge products. Based on this, the dominant role of cities has been formed during historical periods and between historical breaks, and new spatial links of manifestations of power and knowledge have been created in the urban space. The urban space of Mashhad and its historical, physical and social developments have been formed under the influence of an interconnected network of knowledge and power.

**Keywords:** Genealogy, Power-Knowledge, Role of City, Urban Development, Tourism and Valuable Places, Land Use

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## 1. Introduction

Genealogists use historical records, oral interviews, and genetic analysis to uncover information regarding specific characteristics of cities in order to show relationships. The results of this type of analysis are written in the form of graphs or scientific narratives. The main motivations of researchers to search for the history and origins of the city are their desire to create a space for living in a larger historical picture, and to create human responsibility for protecting the historical identity of the place, for future generations, with the aim of its promotion, transformation and evolution.

Today, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. Cities have unique cultural and architectural features, quality,

comprehensive social and power resources, as well as many opportunities for economic development. They are the centers of knowledge and the resources of growth and innovation. However, they also host a population that suffers from problems and inequalities and social deprivation (a particular social group), high housing prices and environmental problems [41].

The urban space is the result of a historical process and unequal accumulation of time and is really a social consequence. The urban space is the place where old patterns occur and also the possibilities of future events. [2]. The functional dimension of space shows that structural elements, both individually and in an interactive and collective way, have functions and create roles in the geographical environment in accordance with the needs of humans. A geographic space can have a productive role and function,

sphere of influence, identity (both cultural and historical), or sacred role (beliefs, religious beliefs, and respect for space due to beliefs).

In this regard, understanding the sources of power in cities and utilizing them to develop city with a purpose to look the current and future needs of urban stakeholders, on one hand, and to protect the existing resources and meet the requires of the next generation, on the other hand, is an issue that is envisaged in urban planning and management models and theories, such as sustainable urban development, healthy city, sustainable city, ecological city, etc.

The formation of city and its function and role from Foucault's genealogy perspective are influenced by power and the relations of elements of power in space. Accordingly, when analyzing the role of city, it can be said that city is a part of the country and is an island within it [34]. Today, however, the link between politics and the city is not a one-way relationship that is dictated by decision-makers on the city's inhabitants. Cities affect its policy-makers and decision-makers and sovereignty through its construction, function, population (citizens and inhabitants), elements and spatial production.

According to the analysis of the role of cities, various approaches have been presented by town planners, architectures and theorists. From the perspective of structuralists and according to theories such as political economy, urban systems are often a changing system. The importance and reviewing the economic basis of the present form of city is that it enables a clear understanding of the concept of city with regard to the special role of different cities within the framework of their national economic system. However, the political economy governing on a geographic region is not the only factor creating its phenomenal atmosphere, but is one of the determining factors. The thought behind any spatial planning as the outcomes of power play, involving political economy approaches to the development and development barriers, can guarantee the success of the program according to its objectives. In the realm of radical geography, each economic ideology and political philosophy creates its own geographic space. So, in geographic research, it is necessary to examine and analyze three levels of the processes of the topic under discussion. The first level is the superstructure of the emergence of space, in which the roles of ideologies, institutions, states, and governments are taken into account. The second level is the processes creating the space and the required level or the basic structure of the phenomenal atmosphere is the influential presence of political economy and political philosophies [39].

In the genealogical approach to the analysis of the role of the city, Foucault analyzes the urban space as a result of power and knowledge relations and considers the formation of the social space of the city and the change of its role over time as the product of this process and relationships.

Genealogy examines the dominant roles of the city regardless of the primary factor, the discourses that created them, and finally, the power and capacity of the city to diversify new roles. The purpose of this research is to answer

the mentioned issues about the city of Mashhad.

## 2. Review of Relevant Literature

Since the introduction of the genealogy approach by Foucault and even earlier, numerous scientific works on the geography of power and the spatial relations of elements of power in space have been conducted. In sum, the study of scientific sources related to the subject indicates that studies on the role and function of city and the powers relations elements in determining and strengthening the role of cities, are mainly based on the study of economic developments in geographic areas and urban spaces, and economic indicators such as employment status of urban population in the main sectors of the city's economy have been the basis for analyzing the role and function of cities. The subject "City role analysis" in developed countries, which has a longer history in modern planning literature, has been studied richer and more robust, some of the most important sources of which will be discussed in the following. Cornish [7] analyzed the large capitals (metropolises) from the historical geography perspective, and emphasized the influence of various political, economic, social and other factors over time and throughout the history on the formation and changes of the roles and functions of these metropolises. In his research, Gottmann examined the role and function of metropolises playing the role of a capital, and analyzed the factors influencing the assumption of such a role [20]. Peter Hall [23] analyzed the changes in the role and function of capitals (cities with capital role) and considered a six-level ranking for these cities based on the role. In a book titled "Cities in Transition".

In another study, the World Bank's Urban Infrastructure Development Group in 2000 discussed urban and local governance strategy, the outlook of sustainable cities, the way to urban transition and the requirements to achieve the mentioned strategy and outlook. Harrington discusses the dynamics of economic spaces and economic, organizational, theoretical and methodological processes of urban policies, and reviews a set of geographic factors that make economic changes, and the role and function of geographic spaces. Economic rapid changes at the national and regional levels, frameworks, issues and methods are discussed and the processes that need to be transformed are analyzed [24] This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the leading topics, theories and debates in modern social theory. Jackson discusses in his book the future of city based on all available alternatives, suggested indicators and the efficiency of indicators for planning the future of cities. Zimmerman [45], in his research, analyzed the policy-making and space in relation to each other and analyzed the environment and the type of planning resulting from the relationship between the two factors. In his opinion, the economic dynamics and the role and function of cities are influenced by the type and form of policy-making, and create different forms of cities, metropolises and capitals.

Interestingly, Campbell [6] analyzed the Nature and role and

function of metropolises (capitals) in the global arena. In this study, the role of economic and political factors, international relations and international communication networks are among the most important factors influencing the change of roles. In his research [32], Mayer investigates the role of spatial and economic factors and policies, world-class theories and Cosmopolis in the dynamics of cities (capitals), and believes that a framework for the study of economic and political dynamics of large cities, especially metropolises and capitals can be suggested by approaching three different theoretical fields, regional approach to innovation system, the concept of spatial politics and the political system perspective. Stephen Blyth, emphasizing on the relationship between citizenship power and the creation of the geographic space future called city. In 2008, Pain investigated [35] this issue in his specialized articles and analyzed the relationship between the world's economic systems and its effect on the change of urban geography, clustering of cities, strategies and challenges of urban governance. Bowles also believes: "We need new approaches for the development and strategic management of towns and cities [5].

The concept of power in/on city and how it is distributed among the elements of power was first used in 1968 by theorists such as Lefebvre, as "The Right to the City". The book on which the idea, the right to the city, was raised, describes the negative impact of capitalist economy on cities that makes cities a place for the accumulation of capital [31, 37]. As well as Richard Peet in "geography of power" considered political philosophies and spatial policies as effective in spatial-temporal changes of geographic locations, and paid attention to the environment and spatial planning in the form of knowledge relations and power in space [36]. Knowledge and knowledge structures created by power institutions that assume scientific and technical support of dominant discourses in space, as well as educational systems and their impact on the learning of people in the society and the analysis of spatial relations of power- knowledge have been investigated in numerous scientific works and by many theorists and researchers, most notably Foucault's own works. The works of Foucault, published mainly between 1969 and 2007, have greatly described and analyzed the geographic dimensions of the relationship between knowledge and power and its spatial effects, including *L'archéologie du savoir* [the Archaeology of Knowledge] [10], *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* [12], *Power/knowledge* [13], *The Subject and Power*. *Critical Inquiry* [14], *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* [15], *The Language of Space* [16], *Questions on Geography* [17].

There are also numerous articles based on his theory published in scientific journals. An example is a study published by Berthoin *et al.*, [4] which emphasized the importance of knowledge environments and spatial relations in the formation and organization of learning and education. Elden and Crampton in 2007 examined the subject of space, knowledge and power in a single article. Hoskin and Macve in 2002 examined a genealogy of disciplinary power [26].

Also, some authors believe that monitoring cities has many

similarities with Foucault's thought [18, 25, 40]. Cities can be seen as "laboratory of power" [11]. In both cases, the control and monitoring factor "links knowledge, power and space" [25]. In cities, people are controlled, classified, ordered and normalized without any particular reason [29]. According to the weaver; The term "urban crisis" appeared in the United States in the 1950s. Ever since the phrase came into common use, it has been used to advance a wide range of political and economic interests [42]. Plouger also argues in his research that Foucault paid attention to the role of urban planning in "Biopolitics" [38].

From the genealogy perspective, the relation between the elements of exercising power in geographical spaces such as "city" is analyzed as the manifestation and the place of the formation of complex human society structures, in relation to the place and as the main source of the analysis of power relations and how and why it is formed, persisted or waned. Although each of these studies has somehow analyzed the power relations in urban space management, the genealogical lens leading to decode and explain how and why of the city's role and function has been emerged over time by the redefinition of historical discontinuities and the analysis and formulation of discursive zones before and after these discontinuities, is a topic that has been fully addressed in the genealogical research, and in addition to analyzing discourses, the things beyond them influencing the relationship between the elements of exercising power in the city and the emergence of knowledge / power relations are also taken into account.

### 2.1. Power-Knowledge Inter-Relations of Time-Place

Geographers have been paying attention to the relationship between knowledge, power and space since ancient times, but this attention was raised again with the critical theories of Foucault and Gramsci. According to Michel Foucault, space is fundamental in every exercise of power, and knowledge and power merge with each other. Innovations and new information technologies affect the ways in which power holders can produce, store, evaluate and transmit information. It has also affected the distance that the rulers or headquarters of the organizations can give orders and implement control. The spatial division of labor, the scope of supervision and the optimal places to exercise power have a lot to do with the distance from the center of power, because it indicates the importance, reputation, competence and reliability of a geographical space. This increases the chances that experts and scientists will gain public attention and be able to influence key decision makers. Centers can act as points of truth, and places of knowledge production, information control, and power enforcement [22].

According to West-Pavlov, the beginning of Foucault's thought is the importance of space in the development of knowledge, and then he analyzes the concrete and material spaces that are the product of disciplinary discourses [43]. In Foucault's concept of power/knowledge, space is a tool for exercising power. It is an exercise of power/knowledge in space, through and by space [21]. Foucault also emphasizes the role of expertise in achieving systematic observation and

acquiring new knowledge [43].

In the morphological analysis of knowledge, Foucault refers to the existence of fundamental knowledge formats called Episteme. Episteme is not the sum of the knowledge of a period, but a complex set of relations between the knowledge produced in a period and the rules through which new knowledge is formed. The advent of episteme requires a geographic space which is a combination of physical substrate and human nature.

Genealogical analysis shows how struggles, conflicts, alliances are formed as a result of the actions of institutions and the exercise of certain powers, many of which have been forgotten over time [19]. Thus, "today" is shaped through complex power relations and struggles: "genealogy is not the power to predict meaning, but the dangerous game of dominions." [9].

The purpose of the present paper is not genealogy education, since numerous scientific and philosophical sources have been written about the nature of genealogy and Foucault views. The innovation of this research is how and why the genealogy approach is used to study the role of cities.

## 2.2. Why the Role of City Is Analyzed by Genealogy

The city is a place for the accumulation and concentration of human, economic and natural resources, and the outcome of ideas and ways of thinking and the aspirations of human community to future prospects, and the basic forms of the thoughts building based on the power-knowledge relations through which human being has become subject and these subject forms and manages the space.

As knowledge can be examined in terms of domain (in the administrative, financial or military sense), field (in the political-legal sense), movement and transfer, we can consider knowledge as a form of power. Because there is a type of knowledge management, knowledge policy and power relations that are formed by knowledge [13]. It seems that, in the study of the city from the perspective of power and knowledge relations, the relationship of forces in the exercise of power is important, that is, an uncoordinated and different set of strategies and mechanisms that are scattered in society and a wide cluster of relationships for have formed the exercise of power. Therefore, exercising power in a space-place (such as a city) is done by many institutions, organizations, individuals, etc. at different times.

From Foucault's genealogy perspective, space is related to the functional requirements of power resulting in the emergence of a new set of spatial practices and procedures that link to the development of space [city] and "ruling" [14]. Therefore, such analysis of the urban space determining the past, present and future role and function of city can be explained through the analysis of the existing social, economic, political, and ideological structures dominating on the city's space over time, as well as the study of knowledge structures formed at various levels of the social space of the city. The recognition of historical descent of the human phenomena (city) and the discovery and analysis of historical discontinuities and milestones, sometimes leads to a change of direction of urban

development, and sometimes strengthens the previous direction of development. Identifying the discourses dominating on space among historical discontinuities and the effects of discourses on space, in physical (environmental, urban, etc.) and socio-economic dimensions, will be feasible through the genealogy of the role of city.

Since genealogy is a method that examines the evolution of a phenomenon over time and analyzes the tension in knowledge-power relations over time, so it can be used in the analysis of the transformations of the "role of cities", which is the result of past developments.

## 3. Methodology

The genealogy of the role of cities means discovering the relations of power and knowledge that shape this role over time. Genealogy research is based on exploratory theoretical foundations. The inherent nature of genealogy is to use old evidence to review the past, so it uses past historical evidence and sources for analysis. But if he does not have access to these sources, he uses field information collection methods such as interviews and people's historical memory. The methods of data analysis in this type of research are as follows:

- 1) Genealogical analysis: the past and present roles of the city are analyzed by examining discourse areas, historical discontinuities, and analyzing the effects of dominant discourses on the urban space and power-knowledge relations that shape the role of the city.
- 2) Historical analysis: examining the history of the development of discourses about the role of the city, historical discontinuities in the formulation of macro and micro discourses formed in discourse domains.
- 3) Content analysis: analysis of development documents at the national, regional and local (urban) scale, as well as related scientific research.

### 3.1. Process of Genealogical Analysis

The figure 1 shows, the process of genealogical analysis of the role of city. The role of city can be studied from different angles and theoretical approaches; however, the study and recognition of the nature of knowledge and power in a society is a genealogical approach that extends the research scope of this methodology to the micro-level of society, institutions, deeds and behavioral patterns, social and even political events, and thus lead social and human geography scientists to examine human phenomena, practices and institutions with the aim of analyzing the complex knowledge-power relations, the manifestations of exercising power, domination, resistance, and knowledge forms of society. This method of analyzing issues can be generalized to geographic spaces that have become geographic spaces as a result of geographic locations under social actions.

What was discussed in the definitions and concepts of genealogy of the role and function of cities in the previous pages can be seen in this image.

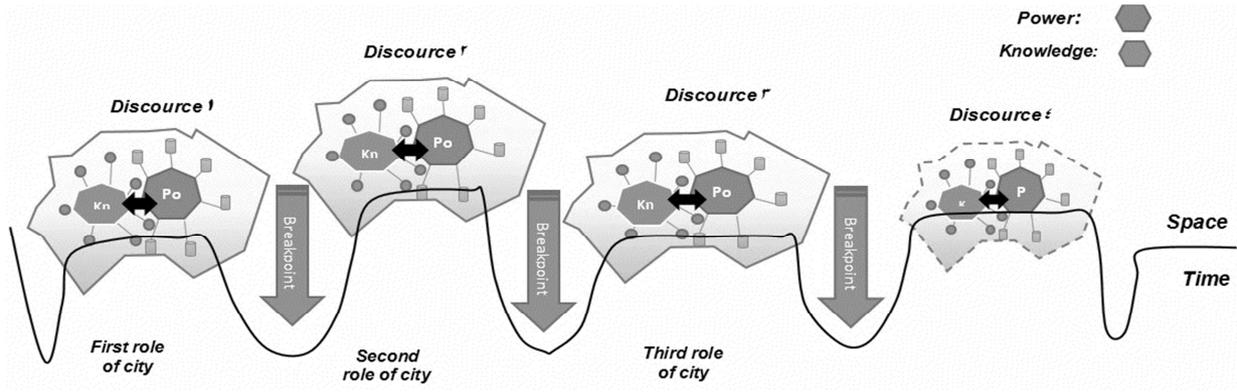


Figure 1. Genealogical analysis of the role of city design.

3.2. Study Area

The city of Mashhad is located in the northeast of Iran, at a geographical north of 36° and 59° east longitude, 1000km from Tehran (the capital of the country), in the plain of Mashhad, among the Kope Dagh mountains in the north and Binaloud in the south. Mashhad is the largest urban center in the eastern part of Iran and is the second largest city in Iran.

Its population is 3.5 million people (2022), it is the only metropolis in the east of the country and the capital of Razavi Khorasan Province. With 351 square kilometers, it is the second largest city in Iran after Tehran. It is located in the catchment area of Keshaf River. The minimum height of the city is 115 meters and the maximum is 950 meters. Its climate is variable, but it is prone to cold and dryness. Due to the presence of Imam Reza's tomb, it is one of the most

important travel destinations for Shia pilgrims and receives more than 26 million pilgrims from all over Iran and other Islamic countries every year [30]. The geographical location of Mashhad is shown in Figure 2.

The most important factor affecting the formation of habitation in this area over time is the Natural location of Kashaf River basin. This basin has been the main center for residing in Khorasan in all post-Islamic periods and even before. Physical development and population growth in Mashhad have been increasing in harmony for some decades. But with the advent of new urban developments, changes were made in the city. These changes reflected rapid population growth and severe physical expansion of the city, resulting in uneven urban growth In Figure 3, the physical development stages of Mashhad are shown in the years 1921 - 2016.

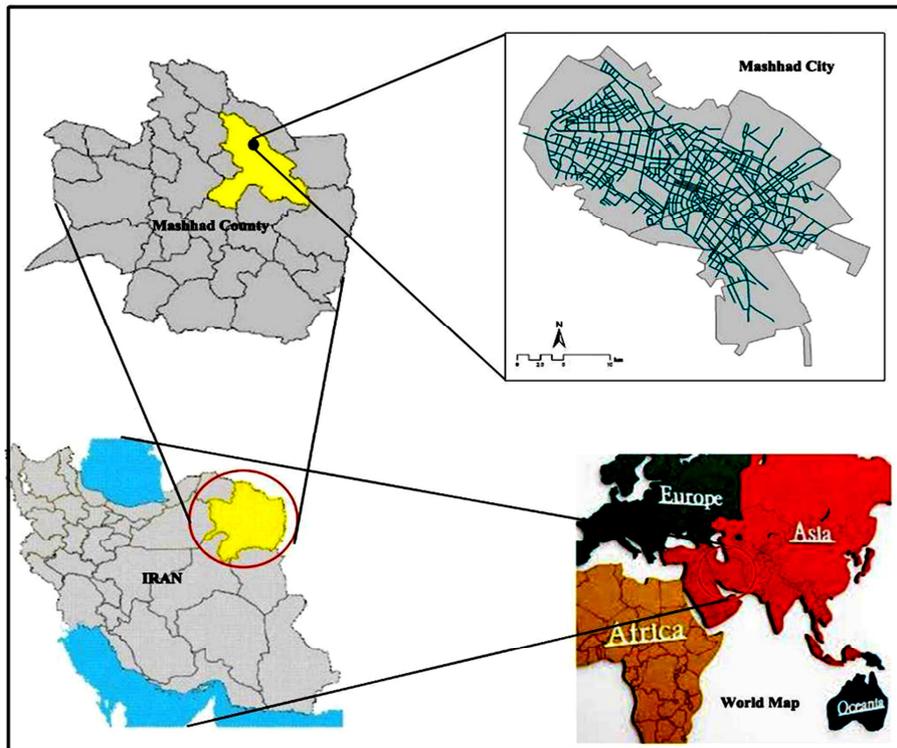


Figure 2. Geographical location of Mashhad.

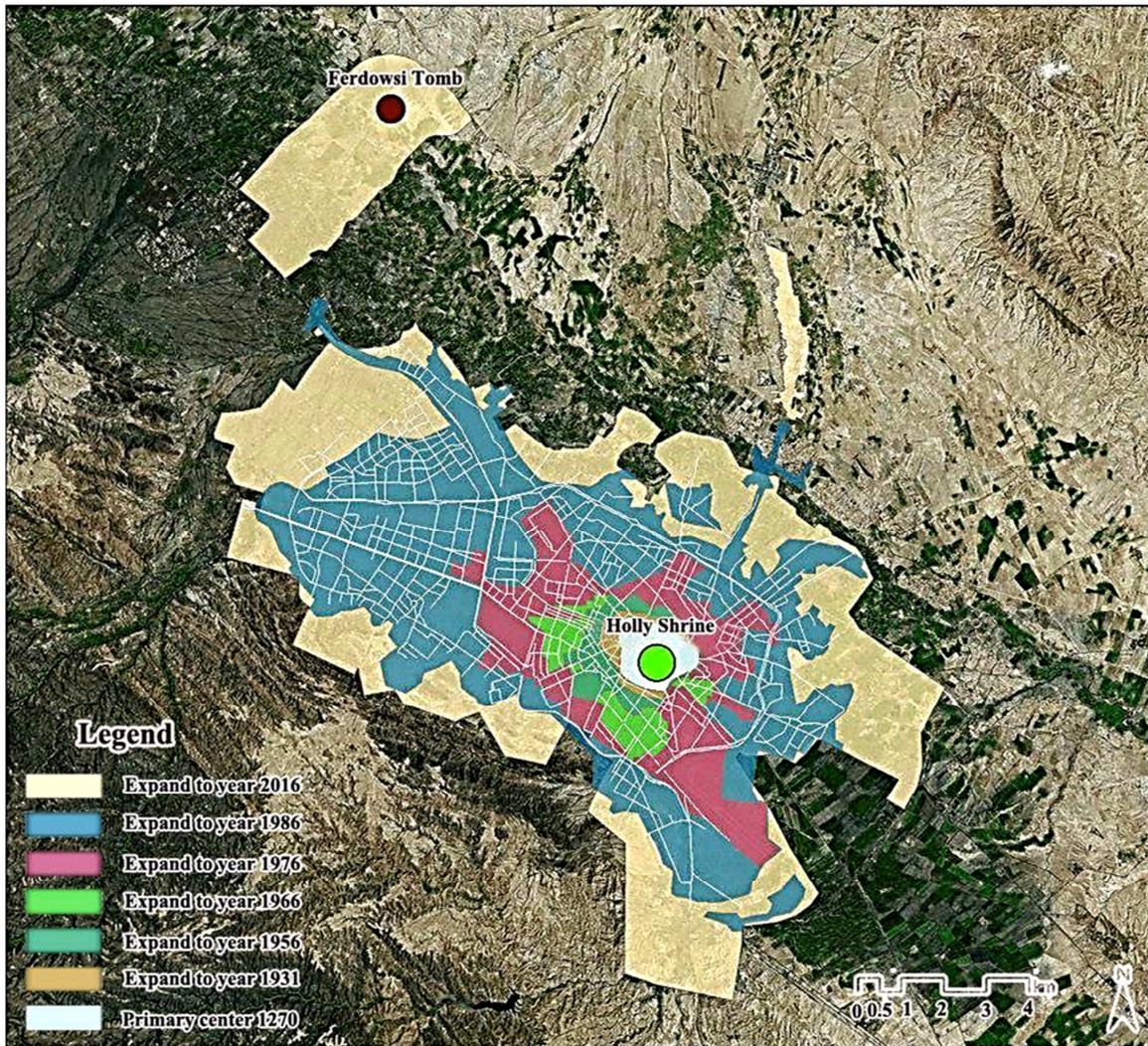


Figure 3. Physical development of Mashhad (1921-2016). Adapted from Mehrazan & Farnahad Consulting Engineers (2014 and 2006).

## 4. Discussion

Analyzing the role of the city in developing countries, including Iran, is affected by the theory of political economy and its urbanization. In this theory, urban systems and urban centers reflect the role played by the national government in the international economic system. The functioning of the Third World City, as an institutional structure that allows for the concentration of capital, is always a flow of capital flows from the periphery to the central points that this pursuit leads to the underdevelopment of the periphery.

According to the theoretical foundations and studies we have done about the city of Mashhad, which in order to analyze the dominant roles of the city of Mashhad and determine the breaking points and discourses influencing the developments of Mashhad, we should emphasize the roles of "management-politics" and "tourism-pilgrimage" of the city of Mashhad [27]. Accordingly, in this research, the following steps have been taken to achieve the goals:

- 1) Identify historical breaks;
- 2) Find Discourses Before and After the Break; and

3) Analysis of the effect of discourses on the accepted roles of the city that includes the following:

- 1) The Formation of Discourses and the Identification of Historical Breakpoints The role of Mashhad is evident in the two metamodels of premodern and modern discourse. This categorization is due to the sudden and profound changes between these two historical periods in Iran and facilitates the explanation of discourse and metaphorical relations. Discourse analysis has been examined through the study and analysis of the content of texts, historical documents, and legal documents... at three levels of national, regional and local;
- 2) At the national level, the country's general policies and development prospects of the country have been analyzed, and the rules, strategies and policies supporting the dominant roles of the city of Mashhad have been extracted;
- 3) At regional level, the most important documents and resources as well as regional development projects in Khorasan Razavi province and Mashhad city have been investigated; and
- 4) On the local level, the most important documents

and projects of urban development in Mashhad that define the selected roles of Mashhad at the present time, and during the history of the formation and development of this city, played a fundamental role in the transformation of physical, economic and social space. It has been reviewed.

The study of documents and studies carried out at various levels of country planning showed that Mashhad has a multi-

level administrative-political role. In all of these documents, the city of Mashhad has been considered as a regional city and sometimes as a city with national functions. Although most of these projects emphasize the economic, political and cultural importance of the metropolis of Mashhad, the city's prestigious position is less seriously considered in terms of geopolitical policy. The main functions of Mashhad at these planning levels are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Planning and functional levels of political-administrative role of Mashhad on transnational to Local scale. Adapted from Farnahad Consultant Khorasan Razavi Provincial Government (2014 and 2006).

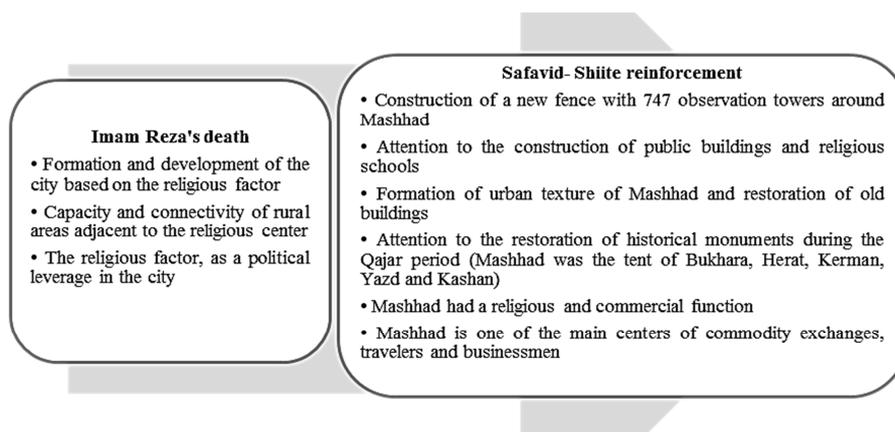
Function	Planning level	Functional infiltration	Mashhad Administrative - Political Functional Scale
1. Important geopolitical function in Iran 2. Communication Center with neighboring regions and countries 3. Guiding and enhancing historical cultural and religious relations between nations and neighboring regions and countries 4. Directing and strengthening trade and economic relations between neighboring regions and countries	1. National Physical Plan 2. Land use plan 3. Iran's 2025 vision 4. Medium Term Development Plans of Iran 5. National Land Use Regulations	Geopolitical areas around the eastern region of Iran including: Caspian Sea, Central Asia, Iranian Plateau, Oman Sea and Indian Ocean	Transnational
1. National and religious unification and identification 2. Linking the eastern region of Iran with the national market 3. Participation in the national development process 4. Offering excellent public services, tourism and pilgrimage at national level 5. Participation in the process of political development	1. National Physical Plan 2. Land use plan 3. Iran's 2025 vision 4. Medium Term Development Plans of Iran 5. National Land Use Regulations	Iran	national
1. Physical-spatial and land-use equilibrium and development contagion at the level of Khorasan and Southeast region 2. Provision for the creation of a regional market 3. Improvement of human development indicators in Khorasan and south east region	1. Physical plan of Khorasan region 2. Physical Plan of the Southeast Region 3. Provincial Preparation Plans 4. Other regional projects	Khorasan region (North, South and Razavi) South East of Iran (Sistan & Baluchestan & Kerman)	regional Trans-regional
1. Extending the development to the entire Mashhad area and complex 2. Manage, organize integrated development management at Mashhad area and municipal complex 3. Help to promote human development indicators at Mashhad area and conurbation	1. Mashhad area program 2. Mashhad Urban Collection Program 3. Comprehensive Mashhad Metropolitan Programs	Mashhad metropolitan area Mashhad conurbation	Local

In the era of traditional discourse, before the advent of modernity in Iran, the role of the pilgrimage of Mashhad was more prominent than its administrative and political role. At this point, there were two major breakpoints:

1. Imam Reza's death; and

2. Establishment of the Safavid rule occurred. The discourse between these two breaks, before the advent of modernization into Iran, affected the functional space of Mashhad. In figure 4, The Effects of the Prehistoric Discourse on Mashhad have been shown.

**4.1. The Effects of the Prehistoric Discourse on Mashhad**



**Figure 4.** The effects of the prehistoric discourse on Mashhad.

#### **4.2. The Effects of Modern Discourse on Mashhad City: Discourse Areas (from the Beginning of the Constitutional Movement to Now)**

The macro of modern discourse can be analyzed in the context of six historical breakpoints and discourses between these breakpoints. Modern discourse began with the Constitutional Movement in Iran (1906), one of the first constitutional movements in eastern societies at the beginning of the twentieth century with the aim of diminishing the power of the government, strengthening the rule of law and consolidating civil rights of citizens. Mashhad, during the first Pahlavi era and the beginning of urban modernization in Iran, has undergone many changes. A central square was created around the Astan Quds complex and part of the city, and four sides of the city were connected to the central square through several main streets. Another center was set up at this time, which today was named as the Martyrs Square, and most of the government buildings were built around the center. From a genealogy perspective, the main elements of power in Mashhad were "government" and "Astan Quds Razavi" during this period.

Third breakpoint after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979, the discourse of Islamic Republic, as the dominant discourse on the country's management and policy, and the engagement and exchange of power among its actors, came to fruition. In four phases, the change in political support and political orientation caused changes in the social, political and, consequently, physical, geographical areas of the country, including the metropolis of Mashhad. From a social point of view, the dominant sub-discourse that emerged from the late Pahlavi era and could be overcome after the Islamic Revolution can be called the "traditionalist discourse". The social context of the emergence of this discourse was the breakdown of the traditional society as a result of modernization in the Pahlavi era and the emergence of mass society in this period. In this situation, the need for solidarity, the use of traditions and the ideology of religion was provided [3]. This discourse and the tendency toward tradition and religious ideology have impacted on the structure of the country's planning, and in particular the cities. Its indications can be found in the content of the principles of the Islamic constitution. What has affected the whole content of the constitution of the Islamic Republic is the religious basis of having a government that takes its legitimacy and laws from religion [1]"The ideological tradition of discourse has sought to create a subordinate people [3].

The fourth breakpoint and the development of sociological discourse and the formation of civil discourse within existing traditional discourse also contributed to the implementation of regional and local development projects in cities such as Mashhad. But ideological views were still dominant in planning, and power institutions (political and economic) continued to emphasize the role of the single pilgrimage of Mashhad, and the development and implementation projects.

After the fifth breakpoint and the entrenchment of new

fundamentalist ideas on the country, power-knowledge relations and interaction of power elements in creating the physical and social atmosphere of Mashhad and explaining the role and function of the city are visible in the set of policies of the third comprehensive urban master plan of Mashhad. The great role of large private and public owners in guiding the development of the city (Astan Qods, the owner of the city of Mashhad, with 51% of the total urban land). Development of urban infrastructure with the aim of strengthening the role of Mashhad as a metropolis and maintaining its prominent political and administrative position at the regional and national level. Strengthening the role of tourism and pilgrimage of the city in pursuing the principles and policies based on Islamic-religious ideology in the law of the fourth development program of Iran was one of the most important results of that ruling discourse.

After the sixth breakpoint and the domination of civic discourse, the reformist and democratic ideas of the constitutional era were somewhat reminded, but this process took place within a traditionalist structure, and new values did not replace traditionalism. At the local and regional level, the establishment of city and village councils was one of the important signs of modernization and the distribution of power and empowerment of local and regional executives. Although these councils were formed, however, the authority and freedom of action to guide, organize and direct the development of geographical areas did not occur. So, this idea still remains strong.

#### **4.3. How the Relationship Between Power and Knowledge Shaped and Created the Dominant Role of Pilgrimage - Tourism in Mashhad**

The formation of discourses and the creation of the regime of reality is the connection of ideas, ideologies and the thinking of creators and activists that happened in space. Analyzing the role of Mashhad, whose current identity depends on its geopolitical position as well as its religious and pilgrimage affiliation, is possible if the origins and contexts of this identity can be found. What has created the vision of Mashhad today is the interconnected power and knowledge structure, which can be seen in scientific-technical-specialized productions and guidance texts centered on this topic (major documents). The proposed strategies for transnational documents and patterns of cooperation and participation of power actors have finally led to the creation of the existing discourse, the production of the resulting urban and social space. The analysis of dominant discourses in explaining the roles of Mashhad shows that the political and administrative role of Mashhad is considered as the first role of the city, and the role of tourism and pilgrimage as its second role has created its special function in the city.

Investigating projects related to pilgrimage and tourism in Mashhad in various organizations and institutions as well as in the private sector shows that about 134 research centers and private companies related to this issue have done research, about 203 research projects and thesis In this regard,

these devices and centers have been carried out that indicate the support of these devices for pilgrimage and tourism in the city of Mashhad and the correlation of the elements of power (decision-making, policy-makers and implementers) and knowledge-producing institutions (research centers, Educational and academic institutions). The study of pilgrimage research has shown the strengthening of this relationship (power-knowledge) since the 1370s onwards. From the total of 203 researches completed in this area, 7 studies were conducted in the years prior to the 1970s, 97 studies were conducted between 1992-2006 and 72 studies in the years 1386-1390, and the rest did not date. Also, the largest share of study and research in the area of pilgrimage and pilgrims related to the municipality (with 82 researches) and then Astan Quds Razavi (with 70 researches) ranked

second [28].

The higher abundance of fundamental and development research projects developed by research institutions illustrates the importance of information and knowledge for institutions and organizations implementing power in urban and regional management. The role of the municipality of Mashhad and Astan Quds Razavi in this regard also reflects the greater weight of these two institutions in the production of knowledge as a means of exercising power and creating a regime of truth (The Current Discourse Governing Mashhad, in Confirming and Strengthening the Role of Pilgrimage and Tourism).

In picture 5, the effects of modern discourse on the city of Mashhad and the details of the discourse areas of this historical period are shown.

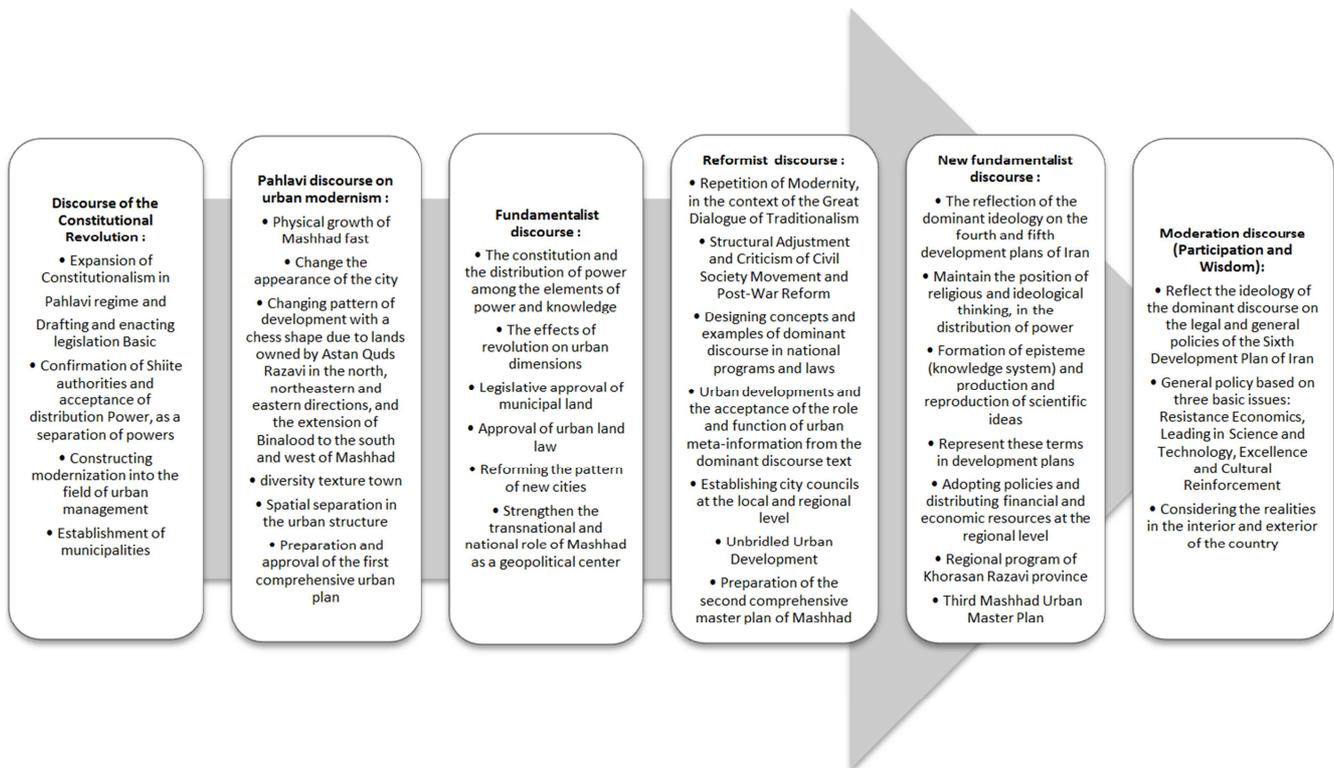


Figure 5. The Effects of Modern Discourse on Mashhad City; Discourse areas (from the beginning of the Constitutional Movement to now).

## 5. Conclusions

Cities are dynamic and urban development and the evolution of the role of city are affected by the political approach of urban planners and policymakers and power-knowledge relations in urban space and beyond it. By implementing these approaches, economic structure and subsequently, the social structure of the urban space is formed. The cities and their dominated atmosphere have been cultivated by the political philosophies of their own time and place.

In scientific literature, various roles are identified for cities and, consequently, several methods have been Provided by thinkers to determine the cities' role. Although in urban

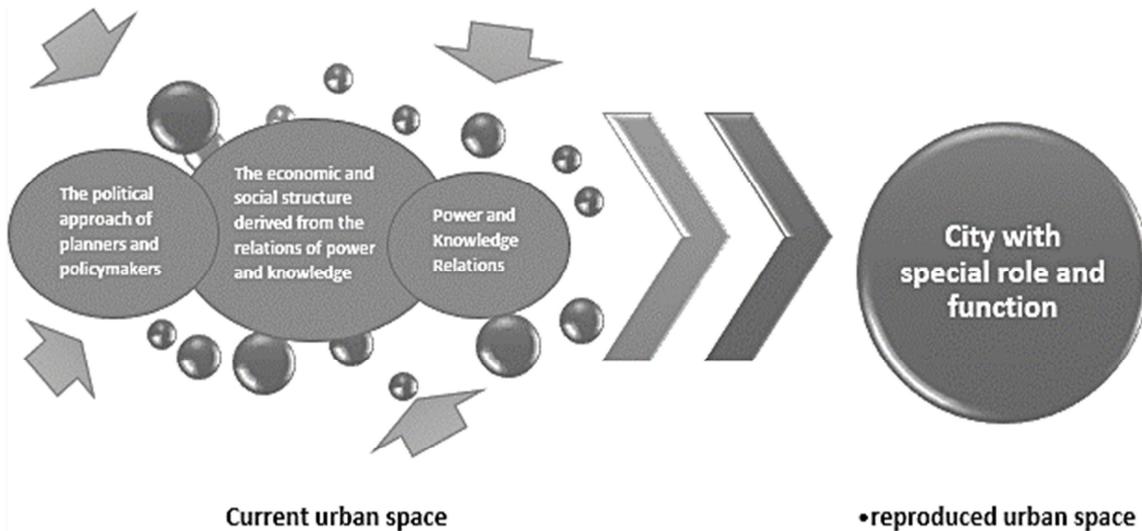
planning literature, the role of city is largely determined by economic indicators, it seems that one cannot count only on economic factors, and the factors behind this geographical phenomenon (city) should be considered to determine and analyze the formation of city and changes in the role of city.

Unlike traditional approaches to history, genealogy does not endeavor to find a permanent and ineradicable nature, but it seeks to find gaps and discontinuities in the historical processes. Therefore, from this perspective, there is no unchangeable fundamental principle and law, and the deep search for these rules and meanings in the context of various human phenomena more than ever leads to the conclusion that all interpretations are rooted in the complex of power and knowledge's relations [44]. In power genealogy's city, knowledge hierarchy and the status of science in power

creation are discussed. In this view, there is always a kind of structural relationship between knowledge and power. It seems that the genealogist researcher can provide a profound analysis of the hidden truth in the existing structures and phenomena by using a two-way analysis (top-down and bottom-up) of the constructive and controlling factors of

power, as well as the knowledge supporting this power structure. The analysis of the role of city in such an intellectual and philosophical environment is desired by a genealogist.

Figure 6 shows the process of the emergence of a city with a special role based on the opinions of genealogists.



*Figure 6. The process of the emergence of city with special role.*

The genealogy of the role of the city seeks to discover power relations and forms of knowledge in the city to understand how the city and its role have been formed throughout history. This method is a very good way to discover the spatial reflection of social relations and discover their historical (temporal) roots. According to the conditions of the studied area and compared to other methodologies, this method has a higher ability to search, discover and describe. Since the analysis of the historical origin of the city and its role requires choosing an appropriate approach that can identify the role of the city and its transformation over time by avoiding historicism and taking into account all the factors that create complex spatial relationships. Power and knowledge can be chosen as the turning point of research in the field of understanding the role and function of the past, present and future of cities.

Description and analysis of how to develop the current dominant roles of the city can be done using tools related to power and knowledge products. Examining macro development evidence at national, regional and local levels, historical documents, scientific research projects, plans, policies and development strategies of geographical areas (city) provides an opportunity to identify power/knowledge discourses in the city.

In the next step, the genealogist can identify the potentials and infrastructural features of the city and define additional roles for the city with the aim of improving the quality of life. Economic, social and cultural dynamics and the diversity of urban functions, in line with the sustainability of the city.

The purpose of diversifying the role of the city is to improve the cultural and economic status of the city at

different levels of planning and to improve the quality of life and well-being of the people. Currently, many cities are drowning in power structures based on certain ideologies, which ultimately lead to the creation of complex social and political spaces, single-product economies, and economic instability. The existence of these conditions in cities; It has affected the social, economic and even physical atmosphere of the cities and made them subjugated.

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