EKISTICS / OIKIΣTIKH: the problems and science of HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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A reader on ekistics, thirty years after C.A. Doxiadis

I. General

5 The editor's page

P. Psomopoulos

6 Miloš R. Perović, ekistics and Ekistics

P. Psomopoulos

- 10 Constantinos A. Doxiadis: Biographical note
- 13 C.A. Doxiadis' early career and the birth of ekistics

John G. Papaioannou

- 18 The first issue of the journal, October 1955
- 19 The first fifty years of the journal, 1955-2005

II. The C.A. Doxiadis Reader

27 Introduction

29 The guest-editor's foreword

Miloš R. Perović

31 Towards the science of human settlements

32 The science of ekistics

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Ekistics - An Introduction to the Science of Human Settlements (London, Hutchinson, 1968), Chapter 2, pp. 44-51).

39 Towards an ekistic theory

C.A. Doxiadis 283-316).

(Source: Ekistics - An Introduction to the Science of Human Settlements (London, Hutchinson, 1968), Chapter 7, pp. 283-316).

7 Ekistics units

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Ekistics, vol. 41, no. 247, June 1976, pp. 344-345).

70 Anthropocosmos Model

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Ekistics, vol. 38, no. 229, December 1974, pp. 405-412).

77 Problems of human settlements

78 The universal urban crisis

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Emergence and Growth of an Urban Region, vol.3:A Concept for Future Development (Detroit, Detroit Edison Co., 1970, pp. 3-8).

83 Problems of urban renewal

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Urban Renewal and the Future of the American City (Chicago, IL, Public Administration Service, 1966), pp. 1-51).

102 Confessions of a criminal

C.A. Doxiadis

(Sources: Ekistics, vol. 32, no. 191, October 1971, pp. 249-254; The Great Urban Crimes We Permit By Law (Athens, Lycabettus Press, 1973), pp. 18-22).

109 Methodology of action

110 Methodology of action

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Ekistics, vol. 41, no. 247, June 1976, pp. 361-364).

113 Islamabad, the creation of a new capital (Source: The Town Planning Review, vol. 36, no. 1, April 1965, pp. 1-36).

C.A. Doxiadis

131 Method for synthesis: The I.D.E.A. and C.I.D. methods

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Ekistics – An Introduction to the Science of Human Settlements (London, Hutchinson, 1968, chapter 9, pp. 386-400).

141 Towards the implementation of the Concept-Plan

C.A

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Emergence and Growth of an Urban Region, vol. 3: A Concept for Future Development (Detroit, Detroit Edison Co., 1970, pp. 359-388).

165 Emergence and growth of large urban systems

167 The emerging Great Lakes Megalopolis

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Proceedings of the IEEE – The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, vol. 56, no. 4, April 1968, pp. 402-424).

189 Ecumenopolis: The coming world-city

C.A. Doxiadis

(Source: Cities of Destiny (ed. by Arnold Toynbee) (London, Thames and Hudson, 1967), pp. 336-358; Ecumenopolis, The Settlement of

the Future, ACE Publication Series, Research Report no. 1 (Athens, Athens Center of Ekistics, 1967), pp. 157-164).

207 Glossary of selected terms

Miloš R. Perović

Ekistics, 436-441, January-December 2006

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336 Ekistics, 436-441, January-December 2006

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Note

ACE : Athens Center of Ekistics
COF : "City of the Future" Research Project
COG : "Capital of Greece" Research Project
HUCO : "Human Community" Research Project

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EKISTICS (modern Greek: OΙΚΙΣΤΙΚΗ) is derived from the ancient Greek adjective οικιστικός, more particularly from the neuter plural οικιστικά (as "physics" is derived from φυσικά, Aristotle). The ancient Greek adjective οικιστικός meant: "concerning the foundation of a house, a habitation, a city or a colony; contributing to the settling." It was derived from the noun οικιστής, meaning "the person who installs settlers in a place." This may be regarded as deriving indirectly from another ancient Greek noun, οικισις, meaning "building," "housing," "habitation," and especially "establishment of a colony, a settlement or a town" (already in Plato), or "filling it with new settlers": "settling," "being settled." All these words grew from the verb οικίζω, "to settle," and were ultimately derived from the noun οικος, "house," "home" or "habitat."

The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary contains a reference to an oecist, oekist or oikist, defining him as: "the founder of an ancient Greek ... colony." The English equivalent of οἰκιστική is ekistics (a noun). In addition, the adjectives ekistic and ekistical, the adverb ekistically, and the noun ekistician are now also in current use. The French equivalent is ékistique, the German ökistik, the Italian echistica (all feminine).