ABSTRACT

Development of Cities in the Pearl River Delta from 1978 to 2000

By

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1. To study the transformation in urban forms of cities in the Pearl River Delta, as the region undergoes political and economic restructuring due to the Chinese Economic Revolution since the early 1980s, and the Global Information Revolution since the late 1990s. To do that, one has to:

2. Critically document and analyse the impacts of the Economic Revolution that started in 1978, which shaped the cities in the PRD of today. Essentially, the political and economic restructuring is not just about the transition from the socialist to free-market system, but also from the agriculture base infrastructure to an industrial one. The transformation in urban forms will be highlighted.

3. Study major trends of the Global information revolution and its impact on the cities of the PRD since the late 1990s. Here, the political and economic restructuring is about the new infrastructure requirements brought about by the Global Information Revolution. The projected transformation in urban forms will be discussed.

4. Synthesise the impacts of the Industrial Revolution with challenges of the Information Revolution. The question here is how the infrastructures of the cities of the PRD, which to a large extent have yet to fully absorb the impacts of the Industrial Revolution, undergo yet another restructuring within 20 years to meet the new infrastructure requirements of the Global Information Revolution.
5. The next question then is whether there is an ideal urban form for the cities in PRD that is broad yet flexible enough to encompass both the requirements of the Industrial and Information Revolution.