

Urban Growth and Polycentricity: The Role of the Sidi Mabrouk District in Promoting Urban Growth and Polycentricity in Constantine

النمو الحضري والتعدد المركزي: دور حي سيدي مبروك في تعزيز النمو الحضري والتعدد المركزي في قسنطينة

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Abstract

The city is a dynamic entity; it evolves, structures itself, and operates at its own pace, distinguishing it from others. In the city of Constantine today, we are witnessing rapid urban growth, which is closely linked to the massive mobility of the population driven by the freedom to engage in various activities.

However, Constantine faces several challenges, such as the functional saturation of the city center, traffic issues, the fate of urban heritage, and peripheral areas.

In this context, it is essential to consider new solutions to address deteriorating neighborhoods suffering from spatial segregation. These solutions aim to develop these neighborhoods and integrate them into the city's ongoing transformations by creating "a new complementary centrality alongside the city center."

Keywords: Urban growth, polycentricity, urban center, urban centrality.

ملخص:

المدينة كيان ديناميكي، فهي تتطور، تتشكل، وتعمل وفق وتيرتها الخاصة، مما يميزها عن الكيانات الأخرى. تشهد مدينة قسنطينة اليوم نموا حضريا سريعا مرتبطا بالتوسع العمراني، وذلك نتيجة للتنقل الكبير للسكان بفعل حرية ممارسة مختلف الأنشطة.

ومع ذلك، تواجه مدينة قسنطينة عدة تحديات، من أهمها التشبع الوظيفي لمركز المدينة، مشكلات التنقل والمرور، مصير التراث الحضري، واشكاليات توسع الضواحي.

في هذا السياق، أصبح ضروريا اليوم وقبل اي وقت مضى، النظر في حلول جديدة لمعالجة الأحياء المتدهورة التي تعاني من العزل المكاني، والعمل على تطويرها ودمجها ضمن التحولات المستمرة للمدينة، ومن بين هذه الحلول تأتي فكرة إنشاء مركزية جديدة مكمل لمركز المدينة كوسيلة لتعزيز التوازن الحضري والاستجابة لمتطلبات النمو المستدام.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النمو الحضري؛ تعدد المراكز؛ المركز الحضري؛ المركزية الحضرية.

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1. Introduction

The city is a complex entity whose evolution results from human interventions—some planned others spontaneous. It undergoes daily transformations in its quest for the balance essential to its proper functioning. From ancient cities to modern metropolises, researchers and urban planners constantly seek solutions to address urban challenges.

While some urban centers have experienced slow, gradual development, others have undergone rapid urbanization, marked by the expansion of road networks, population growth, and infrastructure planning. Saturated historical centers have modernized over time, transferring many of their functions to other areas. These shifts create new urban hubs, whose roles often remain undefined. This scenario is particularly evident in Algerian cities post-independence. Despite significant urban growth driven by various territorial planning policies and the construction of housing-focused urban zones, these cities remain heavily reliant on their historical cores.

Urban growth is a complex phenomenon involving the demographic and economic expansion of cities. It is often studied through various theories, such as random growth theories and deterministic growth theories. While urban growth is generally viewed as inevitable and indicative of human progress, it presents significant challenges in terms of urban planning, resource management, and improving the quality of life for city inhabitants.

As a consequence, urban growth necessitates the creation of new urban centers within cities. With increasing population and the diverse needs of society, developing additional centers becomes essential to address these demands. These new centers are often strategically planned within specific urban areas to provide services, commercial facilities, public spaces, and more, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in the city.

Polycentricity, derived from centrality, refers to the presence of multiple centers within the same urban area, each serving a specific role. This phenomenon arises from urban growth, where a single center can no longer meet the needs of the expanding population and activities. Consequently, new urban areas integrate into the larger agglomeration, each developing its own center. It is essential to differentiate between the center of a municipality and that of the entire agglomeration, the latter typically being more attractive and influential. In some cases, a single center may serve both roles.

This evolution challenges the traditional dichotomy between the center and the periphery, highlighting the distinctions between contemporary centralities and traditional ones. This study will further examine the dynamics of these new centralities alongside the historical roles of traditional urban centers. (SERGE, 2007-2008)

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Urban growth and polycentricity share a close relationship. Urban growth, driven by population increase and urban expansion, naturally leads to the emergence of additional urban centers. As cities grow in size and complexity, a single central hub often becomes insufficient to meet the diverse needs of the population. This necessity gives rise to multiple centers within the urban area, each serving specific roles and functions, thus fostering polycentric development.

Urban Growth in Constantine: A Remarkable Expansion

The urban growth of Constantine has been significant over the years, with the city expanding rapidly. From a population of approximately 50,000 in 1900, Constantine now boasts over 200,000 inhabitants. This accelerated growth has led the city to extend beyond its original site, posing various urban planning challenges. (Faidutti-Rudolph, 1961)

The topography of Constantine, characterized by its challenging terrain, has not hindered its development, as evidenced by a remarkable increase in population and urbanization. Moreover, the city's growth has led it to exceed its initial boundaries, resulting in urban sprawl and raising multiple urban planning issues (Boudemagh, 2021,).

Constantine: A City in Constant Transformation

The city of Constantine is in a state of continuous evolution, undergoing both planned and spontaneous changes. Researchers and urban planners strive to address urban challenges, from preserving historical centers to managing the growth of modern metropolises. While some urban centers evolve gradually, others experience rapid urbanization. Urban growth has necessitated the creation of new centers to meet the demands of a steadily growing population.

Sidi Mabrouk: A Key Urban Hub in Constantine

Sidi Mabrouk is one of Constantine's prominent neighborhoods and is considered a vital hub within the city. With the significant urban growth Constantine has experienced, Sidi Mabrouk has undergone a qualitative and functional transformation across its various sub-districts. Once a simple residential area, it has evolved into a dynamic commercial center, marked by increased population density and the emergence of a diverse community. This transformation highlights the neighborhood's growing importance within the urban fabric of Constantine.

Our research seeks to address the following central questions:

1. **What are the main challenges facing the city of Constantine due to rapid urban growth?**
2. **How can Sidi Mabrouk truly function as a genuine urban center within the city?**

To tackle this problem, we pose the following sub-questions:

1. **Is it feasible to envision a polycentric model for Constantine?**
2. **What role will this secondary center play in the city's urban framework?**
3. **Given its current trajectory, can this part of the city evolve to become an attractive and functional hub?**

Research Objectives

1. **Examine the urban growth of the city of Constantine:** Analyze the patterns, causes, and implications of Constantine's rapid urbanization over time.
2. **Present the polarities of the city of Constantine:** Identify and assess the various urban centers and hubs that contribute to the city's polycentric structure.
3. **Strengthen the centrality of Sidi Mabrouk:** Propose strategies for creating dynamic nuclei (attraction zones) within Sidi Mabrouk as part of an urban renewal process to enhance its role as a vital center in the city's development.

City Profile: Constantine

Constantine is a city located in the northeast of Algeria and serves as the capital of the Constantine Wilaya. The population of the city is estimated at 448,374 inhabitants, spread across a territory covering 5,981 hectares (Statistics, 2008).

Constantine is the third-largest city in Algeria and the largest in the eastern region of the country. It has a rich and diverse history, marked by its dynamism and evolution, which have shaped its unique identity.

A crossroads city for several millennia, Constantine is deeply rooted in its territory, with strong complementary relationships and integration links with its surrounding areas.

Like many other Algerian cities, Constantine has undergone significant changes in the economic, social, and political spheres, which have negatively impacted its urban development. Due to favorable living and working conditions, its status as the capital of eastern Algeria, and its strategic

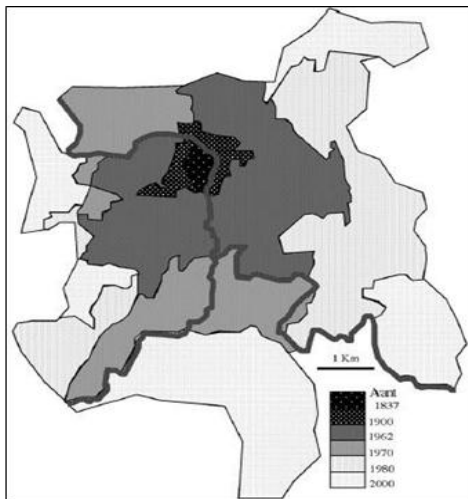
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geographical location, Constantine experienced a massive influx of rural populations from marginalized areas. This migration led to significant expansion beyond the original central area (the old rock), which, due to its topographical nature, offered limited opportunities for continued growth. Additionally, the presence of various natural and artificial constraints created spatial breaks that hindered continuous urban expansion (Rabah).

Urban Growth of Constantine

The city of Constantine has experienced rapid and complex urban growth over the centuries. This growth has been marked by periods of development and expansion, as well as times of stagnation and transformation. The map below highlights the most significant historical periods in the urban development of the city's main central area.

We observe that the urban sprawl experienced by this centrality follows a radial pattern, extending outward from the original core of the city. This radial expansion reflects the city's growth dynamics, influenced by its topography, historical development phases, and socio-economic factors. The pattern of growth shows how the city has spread across different areas while maintaining its central focus on the original site.



Map N°1: The Historical Urban Expansion of the City of Constantine
Source: Rabah BOUSSOUF, *Constantine: From an Attractive City to a Repulsive City*

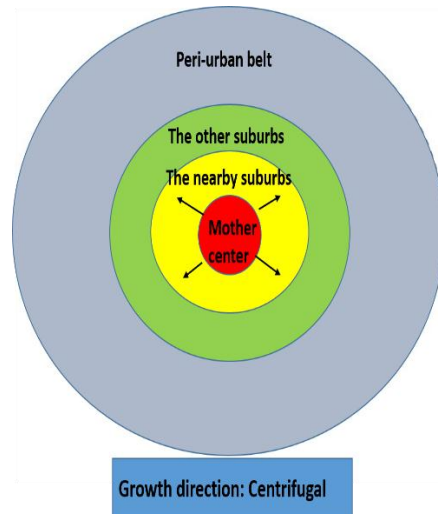


Diagram N°1: The Original Growth Relationship Known as Center/Periphery
Source: BOUAMEUR Oumnia, *Centrality Core vs. Polycentralities: Between Coherence and Urban Fragmentation – The Case of Constantine*

Urban Growth of Constantine: Historical Phases and Challenges

Before colonization, and after the establishment of Turkish rule in the 18th century, Constantine was confined to the rock (at 649 meters above sea level), with an area not exceeding 30 hectares. The city was isolated from the surrounding regions. The Medina of Constantine was a compact fabric, protected by natural barriers such as ravines, and reinforced by city walls for security. The road network in the Medina was irregular and hierarchical, with main roads, secondary streets, and dead-ends.

Urban Expansion Between 1937 and 1962

Constantine underwent significant urban changes between 1937 and 1962, marked by several key developments:

1. **Expansion in Three Directions:** North-East, South-East, and South-West, with the completion of peripheral neighborhoods that had begun between 1919 and 1937, such as Coudiat, Sidi Mabrouk (S.M.K), Mansourah, and Faubourg Lamy. This expansion followed the same urban and architectural concepts as previous periods, primarily serving the European population and a privileged minority of indigenous people.
2. **Emergence of Informal Settlements:** The city saw the rise of illegal housing in the form of slums and spontaneous concrete constructions, notably in El Kantara quarries, the steep slopes of Bellevue, the banks of the Rhumel River, and Mansourah.

During this period, Constantine's migration balance was estimated at 2.6% per year between 1943 and 1954, with a massive influx of rural migrants escaping difficult conditions in the countryside. The indigenous population became twice as large as the European population, leading to housing shortages and the chaotic development of informal settlements.

In response, local authorities implemented occasional housing operations and built relocation neighborhoods, culminating in the Constantine Plan of 1959. The plan focused on providing housing for the disadvantaged Algerian population, prioritizing social housing and urban development zones (Z.U.P). However, financing remained an issue, and although social housing was created through the Z.U.P procedure, access to housing was limited due to the financial instability of the population.

Post-Colonization Urban Growth

After colonization, the anarchic appropriation of vacant lands led to overcrowding in housing, despite regulations intended to prevent this. Meanwhile, the city's planned growth led to the creation of new neighborhoods

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and the ongoing emergence of spontaneous concrete housing in various directions.

The city's growth was modest at the start of independence, as the demographic growth, marked by a positive migration balance, outpaced the limited production of housing. This discrepancy led to a proliferation of precarious and informal housing. The housing projects initiated during the last years of colonization were completed.

Spatial Development Phases

Several spatial developments are noteworthy:

- **Up to 1969:** New urban housing policies were implemented.
- **1958 Constantine Plan:** Initiatives included the construction of Fadila Saadane, Filali, and Benboulaid neighborhoods in the southwest.
- **First Four-Year Plan (1970-1973):** Housing was not a priority, leading to the proliferation of slums and precarious housing. The city also benefited from the establishment of an industrial zone in the southwest along the Rhumel River.
- **1974-1977:** Planned urbanism led to the development of new urban housing zones (ZHUN), resulting in neighborhoods such as 20 August, 25 July, Boudjenana, and Bousouf in the southwest.
- **1980s:** Urbanization moved beyond the city limits, with the development of new housing areas like Zouaghi in the south, Bekira in the north, the launch of private subdivisions, and the increase in informal housing.
- **From the 1980s onwards:** Due to a lack of available land in Constantine, urban expansion initially moved toward smaller centers and then towards the Ain El-Bay plateau. A new growth pole emerged on this plateau with the establishment of the new city of Ali-Mendjeli in 1995, located 18 km from Constantine, as well as the new city of Massinissa. (Sabrina)

This rapid urban growth over the years highlights the challenges Constantine faces in managing its expansion, the shift in urban planning, and the demand for both residential and commercial development.

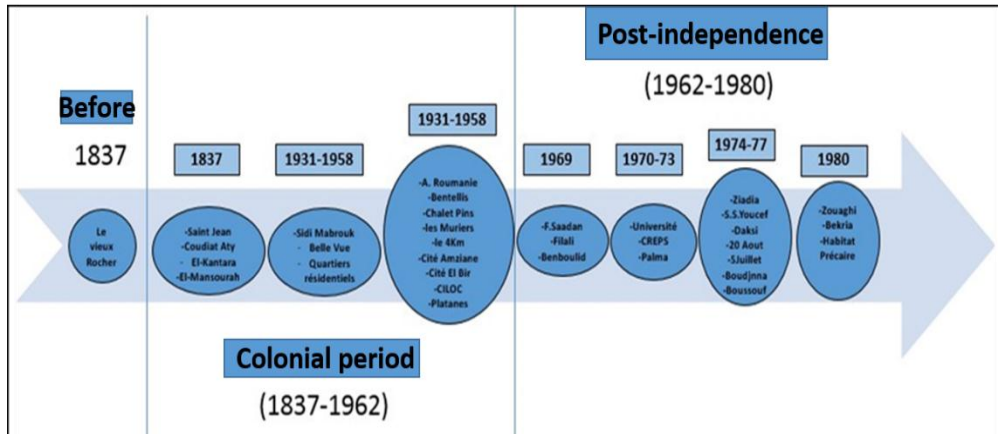


Diagram N°2: The Urban Growth of the Primary Centrality Following a Chronological Order.

This presentation of the different periods of urban growth in the city is of vital importance to our research. It is this growth that has generated the location of ordinary businesses, which can also explain their locations, concentration, and specialization.

The history of urban growth in Constantine is complex and marked by periods of development and transformation. The city experienced rapid growth, particularly under the Ottoman Empire and French colonization, but it was also affected by management issues and sustainable development challenges.

Today, the city can schematically be divided into five roughly homogeneous sectors:

1. **Downtown:** The oldest urbanized area of Constantine is made up of five neighborhoods: Le Coudiat, Le Rocher, La Casbah, La Vieille Ville, La Brèche, and Bardo.
2. **West Extension Zone:** To the south of the city center, the less severe relief allowed for the fairly old urbanization of neighborhoods mainly dedicated to individual housing or small collective buildings (such as the neighborhoods of Bardo and Belle Vue, Faubourg, Saint Jean), including some facilities (like Stade Ben Abdelmalek) and the collection of administrative buildings. The southern extension of the

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Belle Vue neighborhood includes large collective buildings in complexes (such as the Ciloc and Filali projects). The boundary between these neighborhoods and Coudiat can be fixed at Boulevard Belouzdad. Communication between these neighborhoods is achieved via Place de la Pyramide for long and medium-distance traffic from the south, Rue Boudjeriou for local traffic, and Rue Kitouni for traffic from the west.

3. **East Extension Zone:** The newly developed housing area includes the eastern and northeastern neighborhoods of the city. This sector includes neighborhoods such as Sidi Mabrouk (upper and lower), Sidi Mabrouk workshops, Mansourah, El Kantarah, Faubourg Lamy, and Faubourg Gallieni. This sector presents three types of urban activities: to the west, old housing neighborhoods (El Kantarah, Faubourg Gallieni), at the center, equipment with a large military area, and to the south, industrial activities with maintenance workshops, while to the east and north, newer residential neighborhoods, individual to the east, collective to the north.

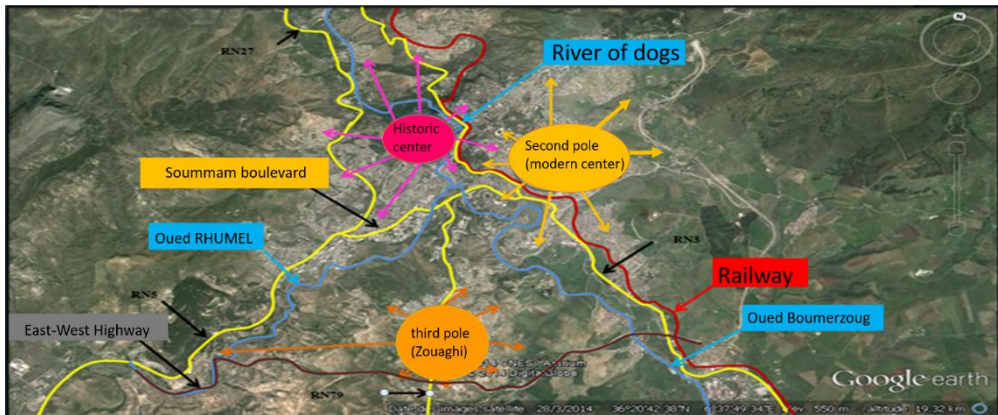
This sector is connected to the main network by only two important access points: the El Kantarah overpass and the Sidi Mabrouk upper passage, which connects it to RN3 at two points 3 km apart. The complementary access via the suspension bridge plays a marginal role. Inside the sector, a primary road network of good size but low density serves the most recently urbanized neighborhoods (Sidi Mabrouk, Faubourg Lamy), which are served by a dense network of small orthogonal streets.

4. **Large Equipment Zone:** To the south of the peripheral zone extends a large sector where numerous major facilities (stadiums, universities) and an important industrial zone have been grouped. This low-density urban area is served by the ring road to the north, RN03 and RN05 to the east and west, respectively, and RN79, which serves as its central axis. Aside from the primary road network, less dense local roads serve the facilities.
5. **Suburban Zone:** To the northwest of the city, the western Rhumel flows into a large agricultural plain that is beginning to urbanize. To the north, where it converges with Rue du 20 Août 1955, RN03 becomes a major rural road, losing its urban function. This vast sector, lying below the rest of the city, remains a reserve of space for further urban expansion of Constantine (Urbaco-edr, février 2007).

6.

The polarities of the city of Constantine:

Constantine, with its fragmented urbanization, has given birth to three major urban entities: the historic center to the west, Sidi Mabrouk to the east, and Zouaghi to the south.

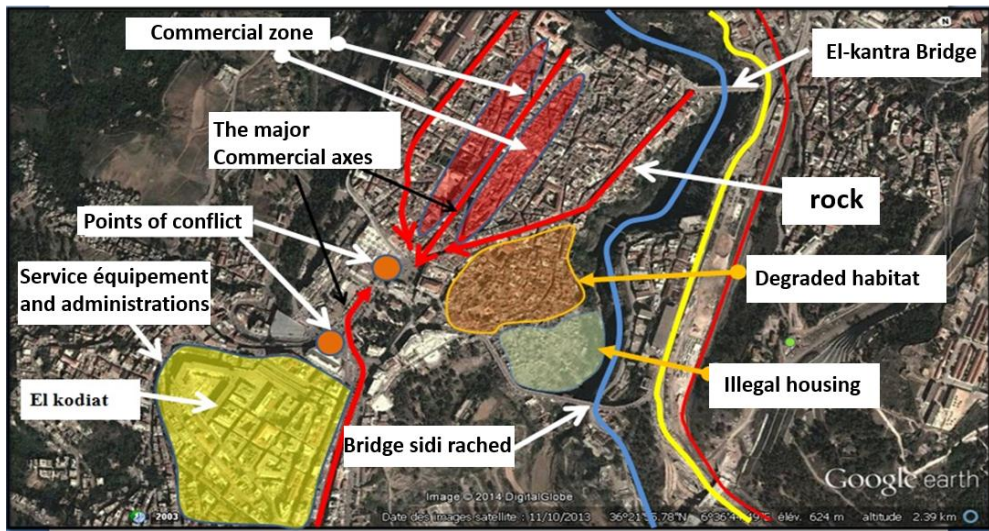


Source: Google Earth and analysis by the researcher.

The first pole: the city center around the old town is presented as a heritage that needs to be preserved. It represents the memory of the city, with old buildings and bridges that make it unique. However, the old town is also marked by significant degradation, which has led to a loss of vitality and a flight of inhabitants. Despite efforts to preserve and rehabilitate it, especially as the capital of Arab culture in 2015, conservation projects have not succeeded, leaving the city in a state of decline (FANTAZI, 15 juillet 2021) .

The urban growth of Constantine's old town has been significant over the years, with a population increasing from about 50,000 in 1900 to more than 200,000 today. This accelerated growth, especially in recent decades, has led to the city spreading beyond its original site, creating many challenges in terms of urban planning and development. Despite its rich heritage and age, the old town has faced issues related to this rapid demographic growth, particularly in terms of spatial organization and the preservation of its historical character. The situation of this center has led the city to extend its development to two parts of the territory: Sidi Mabrouk (East) and Zouaghi (South) (Faidutti-Rudolph, Les grandes lignes du développement urbain de Constantine Année, 1961)

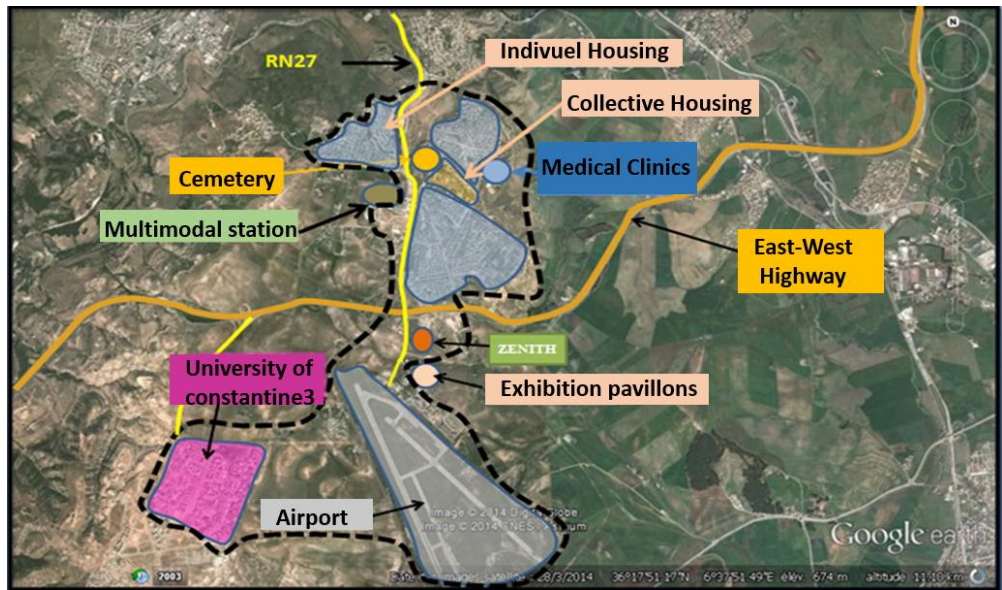
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source: Google Earth and analysis by the researcher.

The urban area of Zouaghi is located to the south of Constantine, occupying the northern part of the Ain el Bey plateau. It is a direct extension of the city of Constantine and is crossed by National Road No. 79. It belongs to two urban sectors: the 5th July 1962 urban sector and the Mûriers urban sector. The estimated area of this zone is 1,241.70 hectares. The majority of this area consists of state-owned land (66.48%), which has facilitated the implementation of various construction projects. Even the privately owned land has been allocated for the development of housing estates (Beb Djedid, the cherry trees, Abbaine Ramdane, El Islah, the almond trees), which represent 33.52% of the total area of the Zouaghi Slimane urban perimeter (Oualid, 2017)

The proximity to the airport and the East-West highway has made Zouaghi a prime location for the establishment of higher tertiary projects. Following the university city, a multimodal station, and the tramway that will soon link the new city to one side, the airport, as well as the Zenith and the exhibition hall on the other, various other projects are in the pipeline. This will make the area a hub of excellence.

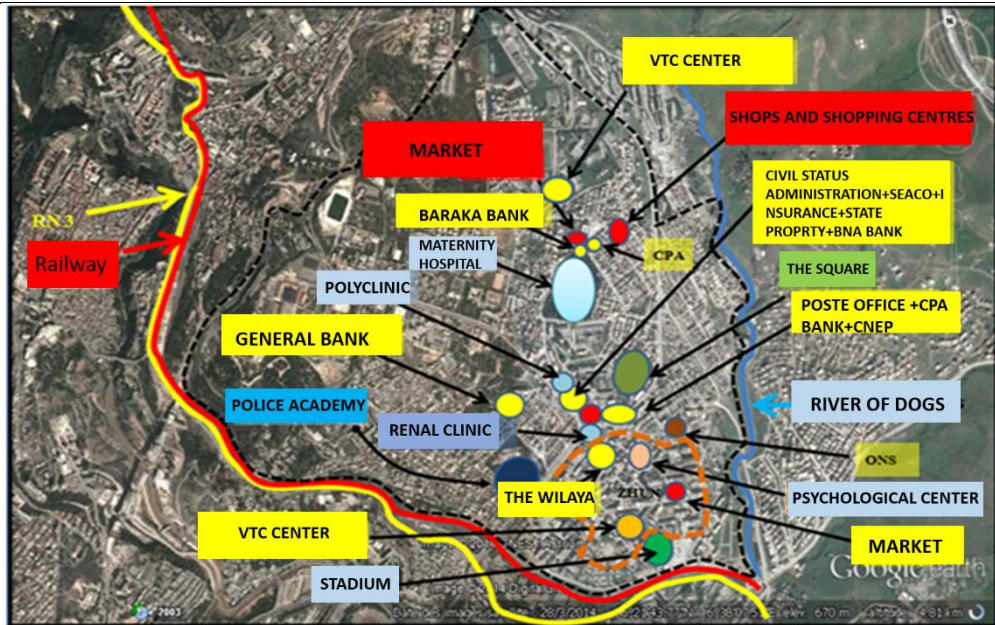


Source: Google Earth and analysis by the researcher.

The third pole, Sidi Mabrouk (modern center): Located closer to the old center (constrained by the railway), it is undergoing rapid and unplanned transformation. The Sidi Mabrouk sector is the most significant due to the emergence of spontaneous secondary centralities in Constantine. It consists of three neighborhoods: Lower Sidi Mabrouk, Upper Sidi Mabrouk, and Daksi.

This area has experienced rapid urbanization and development, becoming a key zone of economic and social activity, with the creation of numerous commercial and residential spaces. Its proximity to both the historical city center and other emerging areas has made it a focal point of expansion, resulting in a blend of modernity and tradition. However, this unplanned growth has led to some urban challenges, particularly in terms of infrastructure and service provision.

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source: Google Earth and analysis by the researcher.

In this article, the focus is placed on the Sidi Mabrouk neighborhood in Constantine, which has become a major commercial center and a focal point within the urban area. The activity in this neighborhood is expressed through both formal and informal commerce, setting it apart within the city. New urban forms have been developed in this area, which can also be found in other neighborhoods. Our goal is to understand the challenges faced by the Sidi Mabrouk neighborhood amidst the rapid urban growth in Constantine, and how to create a new center to relieve the pressure on the historic city center.

This transformation of Sidi Mabrouk is a reflection of the broader urban expansion in Constantine, which has led to the emergence of new commercial hubs and the reorganization of urban space. However, it also highlights the complexities of urban planning in such rapidly growing areas, particularly in terms of balancing development with the preservation of the historical and cultural identity of the city.

Sidi Mabrouk, which extends over a significant urbanized area (the Mansourah Plateau) to the east of Constantine, has historically been of strategic importance. It was utilized as a military site during the Ottoman period and later became a large military district during the French colonial era, with residential developments added to it. A large portion of this area is still occupied by the National Army.

The Sidi Mabrouk urban sector is located 3 kilometers from the city center and covers an area of 575 hectares. It is bounded to the northeast by the

Ziadia sector, to the east by the Gammas sector, to the southwest by the El Tote sector, and to the northwest by the El Kantra sector.

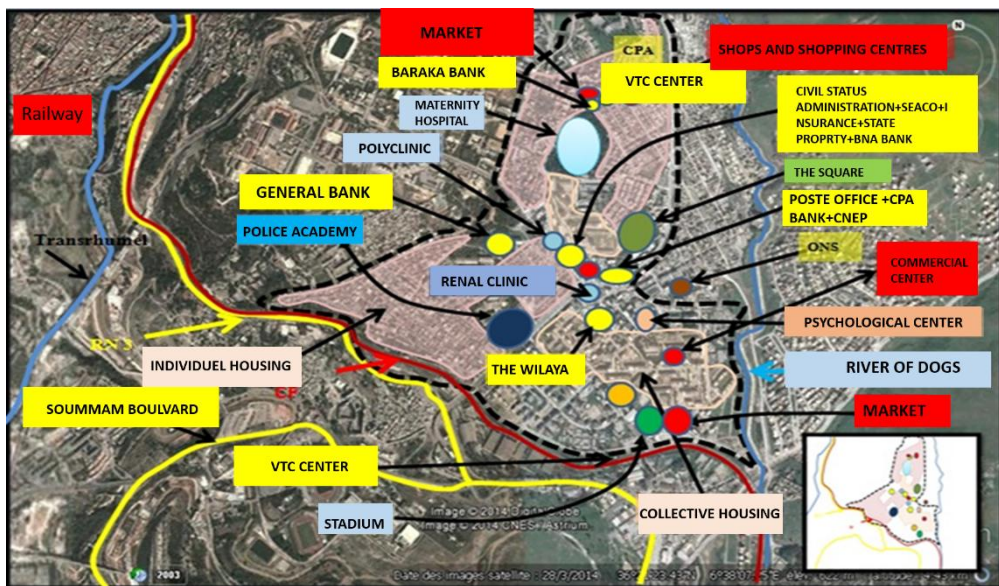
The Sidi Mabrouk territory is distinguished by the natural and urban elements of its site. The natural and urban boundaries include: the RN3 road, the railway, the El Tote neighborhood, the El-Riad neighborhood, the 4km neighborhood, military land, the Riviere des Chiens, and the topography of the Djebel El Ouhach hill. These elements form the defining lines that have determined the perimeter of the greater Sidi Mabrouk area.

The Grand Sidi Mabrouk: a case of original centrality. Constantine, with its four sub-neighborhoods on the eastern bank: Sidi Mabrouk supérieur and Sidi Mabrouk inférieur (residential neighborhoods from the colonial era), Oued El Had (a resettlement neighborhood from the colonial period), and the Daksi neighborhood (contemporary collective housing), form what we call: The Grand Sidi Mabrouk. These neighborhoods are representative of the phenomenon of the spontaneous emergence of new commercial polarizations and their role in creating a new centrality, as well as their influence on the organization of the city.

Located 4 km from the city center and somewhat separated from the rest of the agglomeration by the Rhumel River, the Grand Sidi Mabrouk has, perhaps because of this dual handicap, become both a commercial hub for its residents and an attractive focal point for the entire agglomeration. As a result, it has undergone a true transformation, marking the emergence of a new level of centrality within Constantine (ZERTAL, 2010)

The growing importance of Grand Sidi Mabrouk lies in its strategic location within urban pockets that host regional service facilities: banks and insurance offices, hospital services (kidney clinic, maternity, polyclinic), as well as administrative services (Wilaya, APC, etc.). These services are expanding and creating a new urban dynamic, helping to position the Sidi Mabrouk, Bosquets, and Daksi areas as a new urban hub. This process is transforming the area into a focal point for both administrative and commercial activities, further establishing it as a key component of Constantine's evolving urban landscape.

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Source: Google Earth and analysis by the researcher

The complementarity of these elements has provided the necessary cohesion for the Grand Sidi Mabrouk district to emerge and assert itself as a significant urban pole in the city. This dynamic has allowed the area to acquire a new urban identity. The question arises: Are we witnessing the emergence of a primary or secondary center, or is it a unified center that calls for new management methods for its space?

The urban growth model of the city is one of the key factors contributing to the centrality of the Sidi Mabrouk neighborhood, where the oueds (rivers) play a vital role. These waterways traverse the city and separate different districts. Over the course of various urbanization stages, both banks have followed similar growth patterns and hosted similar developments. This has helped reinforce the importance and attractiveness of Sidi Mabrouk as an urban center. Beyond their aesthetic value, the oueds also impact urban planning and infrastructure development, creating a pleasant living environment that contributes to the district's centrality (ZERTAL, 2010).

Sidi Mabrouk's urban sector recorded the highest population numbers in the two censuses: 84,040 people in 1998 and 72,495 people in 2008, representing an increase of 1,154 people. This clearly confirms the observations made earlier, suggesting a direct growth pattern as the population shifts toward the city's satellite zones (AMINA, 2017).

Here's the data table for the urban sectors of Sidi Mabrouk between 1998 and 2008, based on the RGPH (General Population and Housing Census) data:

Table 1: RGPH Data of Urban Sectors in Sidi Mabrouk between 1998 and 2008

Urban Sector	Population 1998	Population 2008	Annual Growth (%)	Households (2008)	Housing	Surface Area (ha)	Gross Density	Housing/ha	Population/ha
Sidi Mabrouk	84,040	72,495	-1.49	7,950	14,912	13,029	533.06	27.97	136.00

Source: Urban Centrality and Commercial Concentration in Constantine City Using Geographic Information Systems, April 2017.

The topography of the site and the boundaries of the study area reveal its strategic position:

- **Important set of facilities** that give a significant attraction to the entire urban center (Sidi Mabrouk), such as: polyclinics, covered market, shopping centers, stadium, maternity wards, etc. This extends to the city level with structures like the renal clinic, psychopedagogical center, National Office of Statistics (ONS), Wilaya, and General Bank, among others.
- **Urban image characterized by large housing complexes** (Bosquets), collective housing (ZHUN - Daksi), and individual housing in Sidi Mabrouk.
- **Appearance of informal settlements (slums)** near collective buildings lacking outdoor developments.
- **Presence of servitudes** such as the railway line and the "Rivière des Chiens."
- **Existence of individual housing** with various types of structures.

II-2: The Relationship of the Study Area with the City Center:

Despite the division of Constantine into nine districts, there remains a significant imbalance in the city, with the highest concentration of facilities and commerce located in the city center. This concentration has created a strong attraction for residents from other neighborhoods, including our study area.

This area is closely connected to the city center, as evidenced by the daily traffic flows into the center. The relationship between the study area and the city center is primarily one of service, administration, and employment.

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This relationship is further reinforced by the presence of large-scale facilities (local and regional). The study area acts as a key attraction hub for its residents and for those from nearby neighborhoods due to the availability of multiple important facilities. Our analysis has highlighted two key areas of equipment concentration and resident flow:

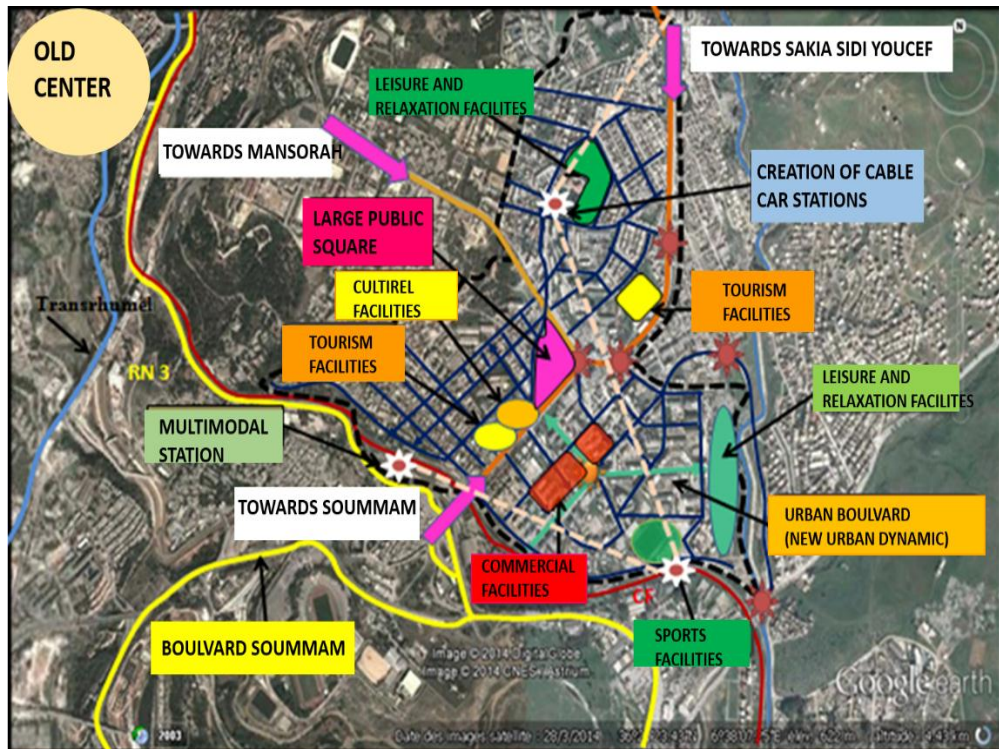
- **First Area:** A large space in the southern part of the study area, which includes facilities in the Daksi neighborhood and some facilities in the neighboring Sidi Mabrouk Inferieur area.
- **Second Area:** Equally important, located to the north of the study area, encompassing the Sidi Mabrouk Supérieur neighborhood.

This analysis has helped us identify the key structuring facilities in the area and their role both locally and within the city as a whole.

Conclusion:

The Sidi Mabrouk neighborhood has the potential to play a secondary central role in the city of Constantine. Strategically located and in close proximity to other important areas of the city, Sidi Mabrouk has the potential to develop by offering a diverse range of infrastructure, commercial, cultural, and recreational services that meet the needs of both residents and visitors. With the variety of activities and facilities in the neighborhood, it could become a dynamic hub, attracting people and offering them opportunities for residence, work, and entertainment close to their homes. Thus, Sidi Mabrouk contributes to strengthening urban life and diversifying centers within Constantine through:

- Assigning the site a new role by creating a new centrality with excellent facilities aimed at modernizing Constantine. For example, the creation of a media library in the Sidi Mabrouk Inferieur neighborhood.
- Seeking a new form of action and development for the city by ensuring a quality living environment for residents in a contemporary context and enhancing the quality of life through modernization of the built environment (especially housing).
- Creating spatial balance among different urban sectors by establishing public squares and urban gardens, which are key elements structuring the site.
- Creating new high-quality facilities that will have an impact on the entire city, turning the site into an attractive pole. This will establish a complementary and balanced relationship with the old center, fostering a multi-centrality that will elevate the city to the level of a metropolis.
- Giving the neighborhood new and more significant functions by redesigning its image through high-quality urban development operations.



Source: Google Earth and Researcher Proposal



Source: Researcher Proposal

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- **Creation of a multimodal station in Sidi Mabrouk Inferieur** to enable better connectivity between different parts of the city, especially its historic center.
- **Creation of infrastructure (cable car)** connecting the various neighborhoods of the area with three stations, enhancing mobility and providing an alternative transport system.



Creation of a large public square in Sidi Mabrouk Inferieur.



Creation of an urban garden in Sidi Mabrouk Superior.



Creation of a hotel + media library.



Strengthening of the commercial centrality through the construction of commercial towers in Daksi.



Development of the stadium.



Creation of a hotel.

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