A Forensic Investigation of the Objective Reassembly of the Public by Mahsa Majidian

The Other City

Tehran, Iran

Building

- University: An institution of higher education and scholarly research that may confer bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees.
- Higher education: A system of education characterized by the training of students in knowledge and skills for professional or academic careers.
- State institutions: Any public body of the state that provides education and scientific research.

State Institutions


People

- Student: A person enrolled in an educational institution. Students of post-secondary institutions (colleges and universities) have often been associated with civil disobedience, occupations, and unrest.

Moving Signs

- People: Moving signs in which the index and middle fingers are raised and parted, while the other fingers are clenched. It has various meanings, depending on the cultural context and locale. It is most commonly used to represent the letter "V." It can also be used to represent "victory" (e.g., in The Middle East and Northern Africa), as a symbol of peace, and as purely expressive gesture with no intended meaning.
The monument in Pearl Square that had become the defining monument to anti-government protestors was razed on Friday (Manama, Bahrain). Photo: Hamad I Mohammed/Reuters.

Bahrain’s Financial Harbour. Source Unknown.


Building
Monuments: “The primary element closely identified with an event or piece of architecture which characterizes the city.” (Aldo Rossi) Monuments are typical in that they summarize questions of consequence to the city, and are special in that they have a meta-economic value.

Mechanical Implements
Tear Gas Grenade: Formally known as a lachrymatory agent or lachrymator, TGG is a non-lethal chemical weapon which irritates mucous membranes in the nose, mouth and lungs, and stimulates the corneal nerves in the eyes, to cause tearing, sneezing, coughing, pain, difficulty of breathing, and even blindness.

People
Protestor: One who participates, either by words or actions, in an act of protest, or expression of objection to any particular set of events, policies or situations. Protesters may organize a protest in order to make their opinions heard publicly, and thus influence public opinion or government policy; or they may undertake direct action in an attempt to directly enact a desired change themselves.

Transport
Truck with Mounted Water Cannon: A truck carrying a device that shoots a high-pressure current of water, often over hundreds of feet, used in firefighting and riot control. Modern versions do not expose the operator to the riot, and are controlled remotely from within the vehicle by a joystick. Subtanks are also available to dispense dyes and/or chemicals.

Occupation Devices
Roadblock (Barricade): Barricade, from the French barrique (barrel), is any object or structure that creates a barrier or obstacle to control, block or force the flow of traffic in a desired direction. Adopted as a military term, barricade can also denote any improvised field fortification, most notably established on city streets during urban warfare. Barricades can be highlighted by setting on fire objects such as trash bins or vehicles.
City Fabric

Bridge: A built construction spanning over a body of water such as a river, channel, lake or spring, or a road or highway. Characterized by their height, and thus distinguished in urban centres from their surrounding built environment; bridges often serve as focal points in the control of contested urban spaces.

Roundabout: A circuitous road used to efficiently redirect high volumes of vehicular traffic; generally used in place of an intersection, and often, where multiple roads or streets intersect. In major urban centres, that space may become the site of a monument, as in Place du 14 Janvier 2011 (Tunis), Azadi Square (Tehran), Tahrir Square (Cairo), New Clock Square (Homs), Pearl Roundabout (Manama)

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Communication Devices

Social Media/News Blogs: Any of a number of internet-based communication applications that support the exchange of user-created content for social/political interaction. Their content can come in the form of text, images, and/or audio based feeds; and, in contrast with the content of traditional printed press, has become increasingly difficult to control, due to the fragmented nature of its distribution.

People

Islamist: A controversial term, which generally reflects a person or persons whose ideologies maintain that Islam is both a religion and a political system. The term may or may not refer to persons strictly adhering to Sharia Law, and/or the moral code and religious laws of Islam.

Foreign Media: Individuals representing the media outlets of foreign news agencies who ‘independently’ document, and report on events through written articles, photo-journalism, and/or video footage—such as al Jazeera, BBC Persian, VOA, and France24.

The Other City

Cairo, Egypt

The Nile

The Nile is a river that flows through eleven countries in northeastern Africa. It is the longest river in the world, and it is one of the most important rivers in the world for agriculture, industry, and transportation. In Cairo, the Nile River is an important source of water for the city, and it is also a popular destination for tourists who want to see the famous pyramids and other ancient ruins.

The Big City

The city of Cairo is the capital of Egypt, and it is one of the largest cities in the world. The city is home to over 10 million people, and it is one of the most culturally and historically significant cities in the world. The city is known for its bustling streets, colorful markets, and ancient landmarks.

The People

The people of Cairo are a diverse group, and they come from all walks of life. They are a friendly and welcoming people, and they are proud of their city and its history. The people of Cairo are very proud of their city, and they are very proud of their country. They are very proud of their culture, and they are very proud of their heritage.

The Economy

The economy of Cairo is one of the most important economies in the world. It is a major hub for trade and commerce, and it is home to many of the country’s largest companies. The city is also home to a large number of foreign investors, and it is a major destination for tourists.

The Future

The future of Cairo is very bright. The city is undergoing a major transformation, and it is becoming a modern, efficient, and sustainable city. The city is also becoming a major hub for innovation and technology, and it is attracting a large number of young people who are looking for opportunities to work in the tech industry.

The Environment

The environment of Cairo is one of the most important issues facing the city. The city is facing a number of challenges, including air pollution, water scarcity, and waste management. The city is working hard to address these issues, and it is making progress in reducing its carbon footprint and improving its water quality.
The Other City

Tripoli, Libya

Building
- Military Compound/Base: A facility directly owned and operated by, or for the military, or one of its branches, which shelters military equipment and/or personnel, and facilitates military training and operations. In most cases, a military base will rely on external provisions to operate; however, certain complex bases are better equipped with food, water and other staples to sustain themselves during more prolonged periods of siege.

State Institutions
- State-Sponsored Media: Mass communication outlets such as television and radio stations, and newspapers, which, in contrast to independent or private media, are sponsored, overviewed and funded by the state.

Static Signs
- Urban Name: An urban name refers to the name of a piece of urban fabric; and can be changed for various reasons. For example, a changed political regime can trigger widespread changes in urban names, following independence, revolution, etc. Name changes are often an attempt to “rewrite” history, by eliminating/acquiring a historical, political, or cultural reference.

People
- Head of State: The individual serving as the chief public representative of a monarchy, republic, federation, etc. He/She is responsible for legitimizing the state and exercising the political powers, functions, and duties granted to the head of state in the country’s constitution and laws.

Transport
- Military Aircraft: Any fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft that is operated by a legal or insurrectionary armed service of any type, which can be either combat or non-combat.

City Fabric
- Piazza: An open square (especially in an Italian town) used for public gathering, and where multiple streets converge. These spaces can be used for political rallies and public speeches.
**The Other City**

**Homs, Syria**

**Communication Devices**
- **Telephone**: An electronic device for the two-way transmission of speech. Most modern cellular telephones have added functionality of taking and transmitting photographic images and videos, as well as access to email, internet and social media access.

**Mechanical Implements**
- **Mortar**: An indirect fire weapon that fires explosive projectiles known as (mortar) bombs at low velocities, short ranges, and high-arching ballistic trajectories.

**City Fabric**
- **Street**: A length of well-travelled surfaces for automotive and pedestrian transportation. In popular uprisings, the street is often considered contested ground between the state and those committed to protest, in form of rallies, sit-ins, group prayers, and even battle-grounds.
- **Cemetery**: Cemetery: A place in which dead bodies and cremated remains are buried. Funerals in Islam follow fairly specific rituals. The journey from where the post-mortem prayers are performed usually a mosque to the burying grounds (cemetery), could potentially take a political gesture, such as a rally.

**Building**
- **Hospital**: An institution for the medical and surgical treatment of illnesses, injuries, and diseases, and serviced by professional physicians, surgeons, and nurses. Hospitals are usually funded by the public through the state, or by health organizations (for profit and non-profit), charities, or religious orders.

**People**
- **Political Opposition**: An organized political party or parties who do not currently hold the seat of power in the state, and who are generally opposed to the current. Political opposition may be oppressed as in an authoritarian regime, or recognized as in the official opposition in a parliamentary system.

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**Stills from video uploaded by user homs20111 (around 0:35).**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2vXoRY5YMU

2. **Stills from BBC’s Sue Lloyd Roberts’s secret coverage of Homs conflict.**
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-15344158

3. **Residents of Homs carrying a dead man’s body through the city for burial.**

4. **Syrian protester tagging the phrase “Free with Banner.”**
Photo: Flickr Commons. http://www.flickr.com/photos/54776796391@N02/2011789464513203/