**GEH1077**

**Metropolis: The City in World History**

**Tutorial 3**

Without moving a brick, the people have reclaimed the space.

-Madhav Rahman

**Introduction:**

In this tutorial we explore the idea of cities, transformation and identity. We consider what happens when cities move beyond their ‘colonial’ identity (Cities of Empire) and become part of an independent nation. When a city’s identity changes, which buildings are kept, which are removed? Why? What influences decisions regarding the patterns of growth? Or what influences the conservation of heritage in a city?

In particular, we’ll examine the cases of New Delhi and Singapore in our discussion.

**Pre-class Activity:**

Think of one example of a building or a place, which has changed dramatically in your lifetime. How do you feel about this change? Why?

Be ready to discuss your thoughts in class.

**Class Preparation:**

Watch (and read the assigned readings on) the case studies on ‘Cities of Empire’ (Week 7).

**Then read:**

On the debates surrounding the rate of development and redevelopment in New Delhi. Read at least ONE article and watch the embedded film clips, where available.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi-news/imperial-delhi-how-the-british-built-a-new-delhi-at-the-cost-of-the-old/story-0teV8d6fhcAb8IudCZtmMP.html>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/how-heritage-cp-losing-its-sheen-to-neglect/articleshow/68143113.cms>

See the video embedded here on a colonial-era building and its disrepair.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/why-delhi-isnt-yet-a-world-heritage-city/articleshow/64810418.cms>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/conservation-shield-for-19-monuments/articleshow/69656317.cms>

**Watch:**

An interesting discussion on the contemporary debates and attempts to change the Central Vista in New Delhi. Here’s the YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuR-IGvFp8I>

In the first 30 minutes of this video clip, architect Madhav Raman walks us through the history of New Delhi, its design, AND what the city now means to people and to him, as an individual. This clip is long; so please just focus on the first speaker, who provides us with an extremely good overview of the New Delhi case.

OR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSu71YXgGTY>

The Central Vista Redevelopment Plan (watch the first 8.52 minutes) is outlined here and so too, the key aspects of the impact of this plan. *Film clip available in our module’s channel.*

**Comparison Point:**

Lectures on ‘Cities of Empire’.

If you want to delve further, then visit the webpage of the Singapore Heritage Society. Consider how Singapore as a nation state has conserved some aspects of its history as a colonial city. The following link connects to a video on Bukit Brown. Browse the site.

<https://www.singaporeheritage.org/?p=3319>

**Activity 1:**

Make some notes on your observations of the challenges facing New Delhi and Singapore in relation to development and re-development. Can you summarize the key challenges?

**Activity 2:**

If you are asked to argue for or against redeveloping a city (use New Delhi or Singapore as your example) what would you argue and why?