

Urban Development and Planning in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone: Elements for an Informed Understanding

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Abstract

Urban development and planning in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, China, has intrigued many researchers. This research note is an attempt to review the English literature in preparation for the development of a more theoretical account. The review is organised around three themes in light of the history of the special economic zone: the politico-economic development, integration with the world economy and planning urbanisation of a rural region. The literature is found wanting in all these themes. It seems that should a better-informed account be constructed, urban development and planning in Shenzhen must be understood as one kind of governmental practices, in terms of the concept of network and within the context of a spatial region.