ABSTRACT

This chapter traces the evolution of town planning, which developed in response to specific challenges of industrialization. However, the chapter is written from a Sub-Saharan standpoint, with emphasis on the planning situation in the context of the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. Although the arrival of European colonialists along the African coastline dates from 16th century, the colonial roots of modernist planning in Sub-Saharan Africa is traceable only to the 19th century. Post-independence, it has been recognized that the colonial planning systems are inadequate for effectively confronting the emergent development challenges such as rapid urbanization, informal settlements proliferation, as well as post-conflict and post-disaster situations. This chapter therefore highlights the efforts that have been made to reform urban planning processes in Sub-Saharan Africa, emphasizing the post-colonial discourse on urban and regional planning theories and practices that are responsive to prevailing circumstances within this sub-continent.
INTRODUCTION

Nowadays there is a considerable focus and debate on the future directions of town planning in the global South (Pieterse, 2008; Watson, 2013; Molebatsi, 2016). However, there is also growing interest in the origins and history of town planning, as well as the effects of planning on our environment and livelihoods (Morobolo, 2018; Hammami, 2012). Planning history looks at events, developments and processes over time to deduce how and why our contemporary environment is shaped as it is. As such, in shedding light on the past, we hope to understand the present, which will enable planning policies of the future, to be constructed from knowledge of the origins of problems, as well as the consequences of decisions made. This chapter will focus on the developments during the last few centuries, and attempt to examine the forces which have shaped and guided our contemporary urban, rural and metropolitan environment. The discussion will encompass the general origins and history of planning worldwide, that is, city planning in world history (Macionis and Parrillo, 2010). This will then be followed by a discourse on global South planning, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa history of urban planning and development. Urban planning, town planning, spatial planning, physical planning, town and country planning, and city planning are used interchangeably in this chapter. The meaning of whatever term is used here has evolved and changed over time from physical or the art and science of ordering space to mediation of urban change. The common denominator in all these definitions is the use of space.

MODERNISM AND EARLY URBAN PLANNING

The 19th century is generally acknowledged to be the foundation period of modern planning (Campbell, 2018). The century of rapid industrialization, urbanization and colonization which culminated in the First World War. However, elements of planning had existed before industrialization. Since ancient times, towns had been laid out by authority; public facilities such as piped water had been provided; and regulations to control private building had been enforced (Morris, 2013). As pointed out by Hall (1992), many cities in both the ancient and the medieval world were planned, in the sense that their existence and their location were laid down consciously by some ruler or some group of merchants. As evidenced in Moenjo-Daro, the Indus River Valley civilization of 2500BCE, which had broad thoroughfares and streets laid out in a grid pattern, and individual houses which were designed for comfort and efficiency. Similarly, Mexican cities of around 1500BCE and 700BCE (Aztec civilization) were impressive and symbolic, with expansive plazas, massive temples