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The Politics of Urban Industrialization: Integrating the Urban Industrial Nexus in Ethiopia's Disintegrating Party State

The thesis examines the politics of integrating urban and industrial policy within Africa's current accelerated industrialization push in cities. Urban industrial development on the continent is being steered through highly fragmented state action, consequently generating infrastructural, social, and economic challenges. A recent critical case has been the rapid development of Hawassa industrial Park, the largest industrial park on the continent, which has drawn attention for the harsh living conditions that emerged for workers in the absence of housing and basic service provision Through an interpretive policy analysis of the ongoing state-driven industrialization program in Ethiopia, and the case of the Hawassa Industrial Park more specifically, the research examined key factors that have impeded holistic policymaking and coordinated action; the limits on the integrative potential of spatial development planning; and the various material consequences of disjointed planning. The study finds that in the Ethiopian case, the integration challenge is rooted in a crisis of authority and the breakdown of key integrative institutions of the party state following the death of the founder of the country's authoritarian political order. Drawing on an in-depth grounded study of the Ethiopian case, the research makes empirical and theoretical contributions to the study of the politics of urban industrialization in a broader range of developmental authoritarian African states.