

Narratives of Regeneration and Legacy in East London

Sue Brownill
Anna Minton

Some Context

The regeneration of East London did not start with Olympics
Here we look at the evolution of regeneration approaches, how

discussion

Some key questions

What kind of regeneration, what kind of legacy? Regeneration and legacy mean many different things to many different people

Who decides?

Regeneration in, regeneration of, or regeneration for (Raco)?

What next?

Phases of East London Regeneration

Phase One; 1974-79/81

public sector-led, address local needs, Keynesian

Phase Two; 81-87, addressing market failure

Phase Three; 87-98 The second wave, consensus,

Phase Four; 98-2019

Phase Five 2019

Bouncing Back Better ?
Inclusive Growth

Phase Six 2022



The Second Wave

Out of political change and conflict

Attempts to include some benefits through agreements eg social housing, training

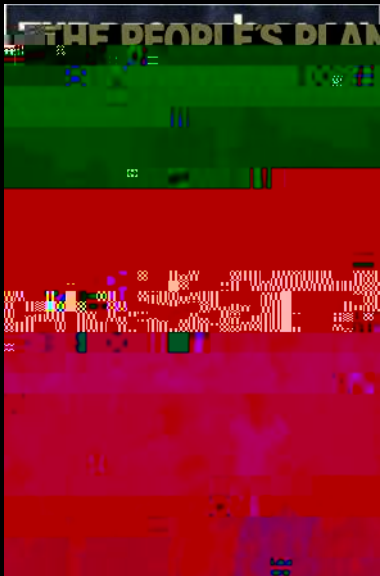
But no changes in decision making in major regeneration sites

However, schemes such as Stratford City Challenge emerged based on

A New Regeneration Narrative

Possible to combine economic growth with community inclusion through

Counternarratives and Alternatives



Legacy Narratives; Convergence

Paralympic Games will enjoy the same social and economic chances as their

Tower Hamlets, and Waltham Forest

Renamed growth boroughs & supported by the GLA through the London Plan, targets & timeframes

Mixed data

Mixed picture

2015, Tower Hamlets, Hackney & Waltham Forest ranked in most deprived 30% boroughs nationally

By 2019, only Hackney among growth boroughs

Also due to gentrification and dilution poverty

Indictment child poverty statistics: Tower Hamlets, Newham & Hackney have highest rates in UK (Derecki 2020)

Entered mainstream as a critical term used by Bill Clinton 1992 Presidential election campaign in response to Reaganomics 1980s

A rising tide lifts all boats

Trickle down associated with post industrial, often waterfront regeneration, from Bilbao to Docklands

Iconic waterfront projects/mega events eg Rio, World Cup

Levelling up

Trickle down repackaged as Convergence & now Levelling up - interchangeable narratives

Discourse of regeneration from Docklands to Olympics to Levelling up

Can it promote pockets of change eg TELCO or is it little more than PR, establishing a hegemonic common sense around regeneration?

Both can co-exist

Conclusions

Nothing inevitable about the evolution of regeneration and legacy in East London result of political choices and shifts in governance and strategy

There are alternatives

Regeneration takes a generation and longer yet and what happens next is vitally important to the future of the park and for the people of East London