

Regional Studies Association (RSA) Blog Series on Historical Regions

Call for Blogs

Historical Regions: Same Place and Changing Policies, Politics and People

Deadline: 20 December 2025

Introduction

Across the world, regions are shaped not only by their contemporary boundaries but also by the layered traces of history, ambition, and governance. This blog series invites reflections on how *the same place* acquires *different meanings* under *changing political, economic, and cultural conditions*.

Whether through the remapping of borders, the repurposing of infrastructures, or the persistence of older administrative or social geographies, “historical regions” offer rich ground to understand how space, memory, and policy intersect.

Theme Overview

This call focuses on how historical governance, changes in regime, policy misalignments, the political economy of planning and investment, and challenges of accountability and implementation shape regions over time.

Regions are not only lived in the present but carry layered histories of planning, ambition, and abandonment, raising questions about what happens when past projects and aspirations remain—whether fulfilled, stalled, or left behind.

How do these earlier spatial projects remain active in shaping the present, even as regimes, policies, and ambitions change? For instance, in Kinshasa, customary land rights and earlier territorial divisions continue to shape the growth of peripheral communes ([Kalenga, 2025](#)). Across contexts, planned settlements, cantonments, and infrastructural corridors reveal how earlier spatial visions persist within daily experience. In some cases, large-scale projects—such as new towns, airports, or industrial complexes (for example: Ordos Kangbashi or Tianducheng, China; Lavasa, India, etc.) stand as reminders of the uneven temporalities of regional planning, where ambitions outlast their political or economic moment, embedding questions of governance and accountability into the spaces themselves. Even the regions that are war-torn, regime change (for example: Afghanistan, Sudan, the Middle East, Bangladesh, etc) or casualty-prone (For example: Russia, Japan, etc). They are regions that have dynamically seen changes in politics and policies for people at both the micro and geopolitical levels. Therefore, we invite contributions exploring the multiple ways in which history, power, and regional transformation intersect. Submissions may focus on (but are not limited to):

- **Historical–Geographical Regions:** Changing borders, administrative reforms, colonial and postcolonial spatial legacies.
- **Institutional and Policy Regions:** Heritage governance, urban planning, accountability, and policy discontinuities.
- **Comparative and Global Perspectives:** Cross-regional analyses of spatial projects, long-term governance trajectories, or “ghost infrastructures.”

Who Can Contribute: The call welcomes contributions from academics, early-career researchers, students, practitioners, and writers across disciplines and geographies. Interdisciplinary, comparative, and reflective approaches are especially encouraged.

We also warmly invite authors who have previously published with the RSA and whose work intersects with themes of historical regions. We would be delighted to see earlier discussions evolve in dialogue with new perspectives on regions, governance, and spatial change.

Submission Guidelines

- **Length:** 600–800 words (hard cut-off at 1,000 words).
- **Format:** Submit in Word (.docx) format, including a short author bio (100 words).
- **Visuals:** Include 1–2 images, maps, photographs or videos where relevant, with permission or appropriate attribution.
- **References:** Use complementary links, narrative or in-text citations (author, year) where necessary. Attach a brief reference list at the end with additional readings, if any.

Writing Approach

Blogs should be clear and engaging, speaking to both scholarly and broader audiences. Authors are encouraged to coherently develop a smooth narrative that connects ideas and examples, drawing on specific cases, comparisons, or observations that bring regional change to life. Reflection and storytelling are welcome alongside analytical insight; references to policy, planning, or historical detail can help anchor broader arguments. These are indicative rather than prescriptive suggestions; contributors are invited to shape the piece in their own disciplinary voice and style.

Submission and Review

Please send your blog and author bio to: Rsablog@regionalstudies.org

by **20 December 2025**.

All submissions will be reviewed for clarity, relevance, and coherence. Selected blogs will be published on the RSA Blog in early 2026 as part of the *Historical Regions* series. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss early ideas or drafts before submitting. We're happy to support contributors at any stage of the writing process.

Contact and Social Media

Stay in touch and follow the latest updates:

 Bluesky: [@rsablog.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/rsablog.bsky.social)  LinkedIn: [Regional Studies Association Blog](https://www.linkedin.com/company/regional-studies-association-blog)

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We look forward to receiving your submissions and continuing conversations on how historical regions illuminate the politics, ambitions, and afterlives of place.