

# Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View

Aida Bagheri Beheshti\*

DOR: 20.1001.1.26767368.2021.3.9.11.5

Ph.D. in Urban Development, Department of Urban Development, Science and  
Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, IRAN.

(Received: 8 August 2021 – Accepted: 3 September 2021)

## Abstract

Townscape is an essential element in creating collective memories (i.e., memories people collectively share as a group in a city, affecting the identity of that city, the cultural continuity, and the relationship between generations). One of the collective memories -that have happened in different countries- in the war. A war that is fought to defend the homeland and preserve the identity, culture, and honor of a country is part of the valuable memories of a society. In various western cities, including Berlin, Warsaw, and Moscow, the scenes of the collective memories of the war have been reconstructed. Still, in Iran, although fought in an imposed war, these scenes have been less regarded. The primary purpose of this study is to examine the views of Khorramshahr dwellers about the impact of war townscape on the revival of memories of that period. It seeks to find priorities in townscape criteria on war-based memories. With the descriptive-analytical method, the present study aimed to express the applicable standards of the reminiscent townscape and analyze them in Berlin, Moscow, and Warsaw (in World War II). Finally, to study the townscape impact on younger inhabitants' war idea -who has not experienced that war, the townscapes have been prioritized using a questionnaire analysis. The results indicated that battle scars on walls and beheaded palms have the priority and the Grand Mosque as the symbol of the city function has the second. The title, *Bloody City*, has the third one according to the dwellers' point of view. Finally, some solutions have been suggested to improve the townscape of Khorramshahr, emphasizing collective memories of the war.

**Keywords:** Townscape, Collective Memories, War, Khorramshahr.

---

\*. Corresponding author: ida.beheshti@gmail.com

### Introduction

"The Townscape" is one of the essential aspects of perceiving the environment. The environment is the leading cause of remembering events in the human mind. The remembering of events in mind causes the memory. After an event, it will record in people's minds, and over time, its image is the space and the place in which the event or incident occurred. One memorizes the events and happenings by seeing their physical elements and the environmental data. Shared and mixed memories or experiences of human beings form a collective memory. "Collective Memories" are among the most influential factors in creating the identity of any society.

Remembering and cherishing memories in cities are of great importance. One of them in the nation's mind is the war's memory. Conflicts cause damage and destruction in the land and people who have linked their dreams and aspirations to their residence. Some battles are of cultural, historical, or social values. Wars have taken place in different countries, but the one who wants to defend the homeland, especially in the imposed war, is part of the valuable memories of that society.

Therefore, considering and reconstructing these cities is a reminder of historical memory and the memories of the people who created them. These cities are part of the identity and civilization of a nation. Remembering wartime memories can be a reminder to the new generations, who have not touched these bittersweet moments. It can be full of valuable lessons for the people in the future. It shows that preserving a nation is essential since past experiences are the beacon for the people in the future.

The city's physical environment is a rich source of mental image cues and memories. The memories shared and remembered by a group of people forms the collective memory. As a part of past life and events that happened to different people in the past, collective memory can be displayed in townscapes as a medium for conveying those memories to people. In the past, city townscapes breathed new life into the cities and reminded people of the collective memories, but these townscapes are now fading.

In recent years, well-done researches about the townscape and proposed different views, while the townscape of war-torn cities and its criteria have not yet been studied. Also, the inhabitant's idea of a war-torn city (i.e., those related to the war) has not been discussed. One of the collective memories that occurred in Iran is the 8-year Iran-Iraq war. Khorramshahr is one crucial city that has witnessed valuable memories of the people during the eight years of war. The memories of people include defending their homeland, and it's being captured and retaken. On Shahrivar 31, 1359, Iraq attacked Iran. Despite all the people's resistance in this city, under the heavy artillery fire of the Iraqi army and the successive bombardments of the Iraqi Air Force,

the people had to leave the city through the Karun River, and Iraq occupied the city. However, with the outstanding efforts of the Iranian people, Khorramshahr was retaken on Khordad 3, 1361 (Jazini, 2008 AD/1387 SH: 6).

This war is one of the most valuable collective memories of the Iranian people, and they can use this priceless memory to promote a unique townscape. The research method used in this study is descriptive. By implementing a statistical analysis, the effectiveness of war memory has been studied for the first time based on the criteria taken from Khorramshahr dwellers. Four cities have been looked after describing the concepts of townscape, collective memories, and memory-making townscapes.

The townscape criteria obtained from Berlin, Moscow, Warsaw, and then Khorramshahr were examined, and finally, a survey was designed to prioritize Khorramshahr townscape criteria over collective memories. So, distributed a questionnaire, and using the five Likert scale (very good, good, average, low, very low), scored the effectiveness of each perspective. Experts also checked the validity. The related scores were assessed and calculated their reliability with Cronbach's alpha, equal to 0.8. That confirms the reliability of the questionnaire.

Khorramshahr dwellers who have heard the war stories from others but did not live in the war era completed the questionnaire. This way examined the impact of memorable townscapes on new generations. Battle scars on walls, beheaded palm trees, the destroyed dome of the Grand Mosque, and the Karun River were of the priority. Next, the functions of Khorramshahr Mosque as a political headquarters and a shelter during the war were the second priority. The city title (Bloody City) was among the ones of the following importance. Finally, according to the criteria impact, described the entrance route of Khorramshahr to the Grand Mosque to be a critical memory-making area of this city and proposed Strategies to improve the townscape in this route.

## **1. Theoretical Foundations**

### **1.1. Research Background**

Hossein Parvin has studied the townscape of the war and designed a part of Khorramshahr to revive the memories and values of the imposed war. He considers the war memorials as symbols of the war event, which create memories and attachment to the war's fundamental objective and mental scenes. He also finds the war elements near the Khorramshahr Grand Mosque as public and historically essential points (Parvin, 2013 AD/1392 SH: 1-2). Celine Righi studies memory and identity in Lebanon and examines the relationship between collective memory, history, and identity in the social, cultural, and historical contexts after the war. He believes that exhibitions in war-

torn environments as symbolic areas are significant. He also emphasizes cultural and doctrinal issues, identity promotion, and historical representation in that atmosphere (Righi, 2014: 4). Petri Neuvonen studied the physical and cultural changes of the old town of Viipuri -which in 1860 was handed over to the local civilian authorities by the Russian military authorities- from 1856 to 1939, including fortifications, buildings, street views, and the scenes of the old city. He considers the protection of these areas to be essential and effective in attracting domestic and foreign tourists (Neuvonen, 2017: 8-9).

Elissavet Markozani studied the memorial architecture of the cities divided as a result of the civil war and believes that those monuments are effective in the cities after the war, since considering the complexity of a memorial, not as a place but as a system, it affects the social, historical, religious, economic, and morphological parameters. It is also a way to look and hope for the future (Markozani, 2019: 17).

Sama Farzan considers the economic, cultural, social, and physical factors in Khorramshahr to be essential for improving the environment and preserving the valuable features of the old texture. She believes them to be of significant importance to safeguard the city's war-torn buildings and prevent their demolishing and the return of the social activities to that city (Farzan, 2020 AD/1399 SH: 1-2).

It is essential to emphasize the effects of townscapes on the remembrance of the memories of the war era. Still, unfortunately, there has not been much research carried out into this area, and most of the research has done about the war elements and monuments. Hence, we studied the memorable townscapes of that city, especially from its dwellers' perspective, and expressed the strategies for the development and prosperity of the town by emphasizing the memorable war townscapes.

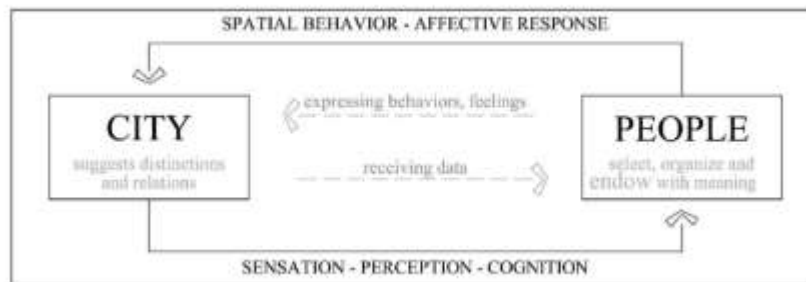
## **1.2. Concepts**

### **1.2.1. Townscape**

In the urban planning terminology, the word townscape means the physical elements of urban townscapes. It includes natural seats, street patterns, building arrangements, qualities like height, scale and color, wall types, and prominent views (Davidastson, 2004: 419). Gordon Cullen considers townscape as the art of visual and integral integrating the buildings, streets, and places that make up the city environment. It helps to communicate the various components of the city's physical environment (Cullen, 2008: 5).

The city view is important because it can be a source of people's satisfaction or ease the daily worries of life. With this approach, shaping and reshaping a city should be proposed with a controlled visual plan that includes criteria and recommendations related to the visual form (Nassar, quoted from Lynch 2014: 2).

To better understand the townscape should grasp the meanings expressed from it. Apprehending townscape involves seeing, smelling, tasting, hearing, and feeling, a symphony of complex harmonies. Each group and age interprets and narrates the townscape through its perceptual, valuable, instrumental, and functional perspective (Spearn, 2008: 30).



**Figure 1:** Cyclical interaction between people and city (Eraydin, 2014: 15)

Perception of a townscape is not random imagery of visual order. Seeing a scene for the first time, the observer may look at a particular object, think about its structure, or just enjoy its beauty. When a location has a weak physical system, it becomes confusing. The eye moves uselessly to find signs from one point to another (Bell, 2015: 74).

The townscape includes the entire external environment around the people. In the urban context, townscape acts as a treasure that shows the emotional, cultural and spiritual response and enriches the quality of urban life. Townscape is the product of the interaction between humans and the city's physical environment and is highly dependent on the visual perception of individuals.

### 1.2.2. Collective Memory

Simultaneously with reviewing memories, it repeats itself and comes to the present. Therefore, it no longer belongs to the past. Memory recall is associated with an event or happening. Memory is never imagined without an event, and when an event or incident ends and days and years pass, the only thing that remains in the mind is the space in which the event or incident took place, a distance of different forms, but full of meaning. Memories have familiar smells; the corner of an alley, a tree, a platform, a wall, a passage, a shop, etc., can all be part of a space. Still, in those collective memories, generations are connected (Habibi, 2008: 116).

Collective memory can form a city, its identity and deliver meaning to its citizens. Boyer sees collective memory as a way for citizens to present their images of the city as a work of art, townscape, and photography (Felasari, 2013: 19-20).

He considers memory as personal experiences connected to family traditions, religious beliefs and customs in certain places (Boyer, 1994: 6). Special places are historic buildings with different functions and styles that represent the historical scenes of each city. They create a rich cultural-historical atmosphere and are full of the flavor of life in cities (Zhou, 2016: 6). Haseman; et al. believe that memory continues by collective beliefs, behaviors, or physical artifacts (Haseman; et al., 2005: 59).

Those memories are also remembered through keeping their physical figure (such as monuments, architectural styles of buildings, mural notes, and place names). Memory is at first retrieved through objects, places, or terms (Mir Moghtadaei, 2009 AD/1388 SH: 14). Caroline Winter believes that one can recall memories at a point in time through seeing a remaining building or a specific function (Winter, 2009: 611).

### **1.2.3. Memorable Townscapes**

Townscape is a platform for the formation of collective memories of users. When an event is observed or some specific information or mindsets are displayed about it, they remain in people's minds. These memorable scenes can be divided into four categories: natural accidents, man-made accidents, ceremonies, and identity for future generations. Townscapes of extraordinary natural disasters include floods, earthquakes, fires, infestations, and the presence of insects and domestic and wild animals. These sights are reminiscent of many bitter memories in the minds of all Iranian citizens. Some events are held annually to commemorate and teach lessons for future generations, such as the one that displays the sacrifice and martyrdom of firefighters Plasco-building fire.

Other memorable sights include severe human calamities, such as wars. These human-made events are organized, armed, and often protracted conflicts between governments, nations, or groups. Another category of memorable townscapes is "Ceremonies" that are held in all countries in the form of festivals or street decorations and lighting. In Iran, this ceremony is very glorious. Some memorable ceremonies are the celebration of Nowruz, the national day, the national day parade, and the liberation of Khorramshahr. There are also religious holidays such as Ashura and Tasua, mid-Sha'ban and Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Ghadir.

The fourth category is the "Identity" reminiscent scenes. Identity is historical in the sense of different social characteristics. Scenes of memory-making identity are a symbol of the history and culture of the country. They divide into three categories with the features of historical, religious, and event-oriented bodies. In the historical part, we can mention Naghshe Jahan Square in Isfahan and Persepolis in Shiraz. From the spiritual perspective, Jamkaran Mosque in Qom and

the holy shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad, and the perspective of event-oriented identity, Azadi Square in Tehran. Types of manufactured townscapes are shown in the chart below, and then "War" as a manufactured townscape is discussed.



Figure 2- Types of Memorable Townscape

#### 1.2.4. Memorial Townscape (Manufactured: War)

Unnatural disasters have a significant impact on townscape. What happens in any city creates a mentality for the people of the town. Depending on its extent, the happening may sometimes make a mentality for a whole nation or even foreigners. Townscape perception is a cognitive process, and it means that behaviors, feelings, desires, and fears are recorded for people living in a particular place. This recording of the townscape and reviewing it as a historical event makes memories in people's minds.

Wars are examples of manufactured memory-making townscapes in any country. War is a disaster that usually occurs without prior notice and happens unpredictably to human beings and habitats. Warfare has a lot of financial and human losses. It is of different types: limited or overall, cold or hot, regional or world war, controlled or uncontrolled, unpredictable or predetermined, conventional or nuclear, declared and undeclared, offensive or defensive, direct or proxy, civil or international, tribal or civilized.

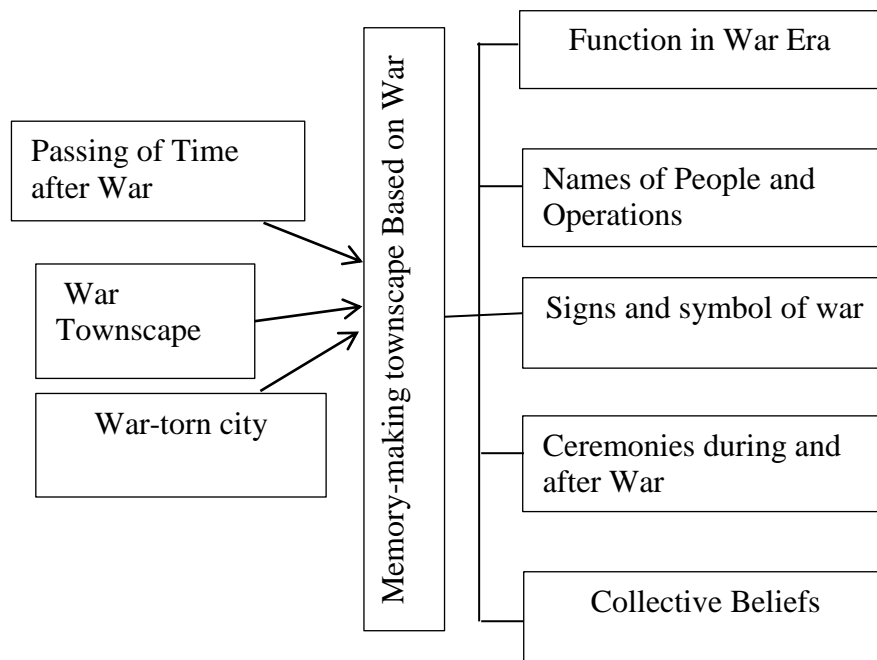
Moreover, preventive, long, absolute, revolutionary, political, economic, social, imperialist, guerrilla, psychological, strategic,

**Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in  
Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View**

counterinsurgency, dynamic, ritual, instrumental, monarchy war, war of liberation, war of conquest, trade war, war of plunder, agonist war, holy war, instrumental war, and genocidal war are its other types (Dennen, 2005: 3).

War has always was a disgrace throughout history, as it is a phenomenon of which destruction is an integral part. Memories in the mind of people of war-torn cities that exhibit devastation, homelessness, war-torn scenes, displacement of people, valuable places of the city, refugee settlements, and so on. These are critical for the citizens during the war, and they have many memories that have been published. Their writings are guides to the memorable sights of any war city.

Nevertheless, some of these people have reached a high degree of Shahadat (i.e., honorable martyrdom), so there is no access to their memories and mentality of the cities. There have been numerous wars in the world, including the two World Wars and the Iran-Iraq war. Based on the concepts of townscape, collective memory, and war memorable scenes, the theoretical framework can be depicted in the following diagram. It's about the continuation of wartime memories:



**Figure 3:** Theoretical Framework for the Relation of Townscape with Collective Memory

According to the proposed framework, the measurable and analyzed criteria for the revival and continuity of the memories in the war-torn cities are "Signs and Symbol of War," "Collective Beliefs," "Names of People and Operations," "Function in War Era" and "Ceremonies During and After War."



Signs and Symbols are visual information conveyed to people through signs. A Collecting Belief is a state of mind in which a person thinks that a mentality is correct, no matter there is any supporting empirical evidence on it or not. Names have special connotations and create particular memories and images in mind. Names of people and operations are among the most important tools that introduce culture and history to people.

Functions in War Era are important factors that remain in mind after getting acquainted with an area. Therefore, the more suitable a place for different activities and functions, the deeper the collective memory is formed from its prevailing community. "Ceremony" is a type of human behavior. Ceremonies are often performed with religious origins in chorus. They are served with describing the religious issues to strengthen the beliefs, build identity, and ultimately strengthen the cohesion and solidarity of society.

In any city and country, special ceremonies and rituals evoke different memories for each individual. They can also be held for eliciting the memories of war. In the next part, war scenes in Berlin, Moscow, and Warsaw – which all witnessed the Second World War – are analyzed. Then, by discussing the memory-making scenes in Khorramshahr, as the capital of war, a clear symbolic set of people's resistance, oppression and persistence is addressed.

### **1.3. Memorial Townscapes of the War (In Berlin, Moscow, and Warsaw)**

There have been many wars in the west, one of which is World War II. Many countries of the world fought in the war, including all the superpowers of that time. It began with the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany. Years after the war, a wall was erected inside Berlin as a result of the Cold War between two blocs. This wall divided the city into eastern and western regions for twenty-eight years. It was a symbol of the Cold War. However, the wall is now a memory-making war scene, and its history has been written on it. Moreover, destroyed parts are exhibited as a symbol (by flooring or rod-like elements). Also, a war museum has been built in this city, which reminds the war and its events.

Furthermore, the city's entrance point, which was then used as Checkpoint Charlie, has now become a place for tourists to take photos. Special ceremonies such as "War and Peace" are annually held in this city to continue the memories. Also, in places like the entrance gate of the town, color pictures are displayed (Adapted from Tolle, 2010: 352-355; Ayyash, 2013: 21-38, 72-79; Arandjelovic and Bogunovich, 2014: 2, 10, 11).

### Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View



**Picture(set) 1:** Berlin wall and the Monuments (Checkpoint, Alexander Square, Berlin Wall)

During World War II, a battle broke out in Moscow. Germans vigorously attacked Moscow, but Hitler's attempt to seize the city as the capital and largest city of the Soviet Union was in vain. There exist significant war scenes. Even the bullets that hit the city walls are dated. Names such as Lenin and Stalin can also be seen in the city. Also, the Kremlin Palace, the Wall of Grief, and the Red Square are among the townscapes that hold valuable memories of the war. The parades that annually take place in Moscow (at the time of the victory) are among the essential things to commemorate this memory (Adapted from Alexandrovskiy; et al., 2015: 583-539; Montgomery, 2011: 7-14; Jackson, 2017: 1-4; Kennedy, 2017: 131-132).



**Picture(set) 2:** Elements in Moscow Townscapes, as Monuments of the War (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places>)

Warsaw is one of the cities that were severely damaged in the events of World War II. It was heavily attacked on land and from the air and the city burnt to ashes. However, many monuments are exhibited to keep the memories alive. The examples are Auschwitz camp, the biggest and best-equipped Nazi Germany concentration camp, the museum of the Uprising, which displays the history of the Warsaw Uprising, and the Warsaw Royal Palace in the Old Town Square with red bricks that were utterly destroyed and rebuilt (Adapted from Wozniak; et al., 2007: 134-140; McGilvray, 2019: 20-40; Niemczyk, 2019: 301-311, Correia, 2013: 7-8, Warsaw Tourist

Office, 2010: 12, 25, 46).



Picture(set) 3 - War in Warsaw, Poland (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>)

The three cities mentioned above have similar memories of the war. There, collective memories in townscapes have been variously displayed as a remembrance of probably bitter -but instructive - memories for future generations. Moreover, the townscapes have attracted different people from all over the world. A summary of reminiscent war scenes in Berlin, Moscow, and Warsaw is arranged below.

Table 1- Memorial Townscapes of the war (Berlin, Moscow, Warsaw)<sup>1</sup>

	Sign	Ceremony	Names	Functions in War Era	Collective Beliefs
<b>Berlin</b>	Berlin Wall Alexander Square	War and Peace Festival Festival of Lights	Hitler	Checkpoint Charlie Brandenburg Gate	Holocaust
<b>Moscow</b>	Tsar Cannon Triumphal Gate Red Square	May 9 Celebration	Lenin Stalin	Kremlin Palace Victory Museum Cold War Museum Lenin's Mausoleum Novodevichy cemetery	Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Wall of Grief
<b>Warsaw</b>	Old Square Royal Palace Warsaw Barbican Museum of Uprising	Exhibition	-	Concentration Camp Old Town Market Palaces in Lazienki Park	Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Warsaw Ghetto

1. For More Information about the Mentioned Townscapes, Cf. "Townscape and Collective Memory," The Publication of the Islamic Revolution and the Sacred War Museum (in Persian).

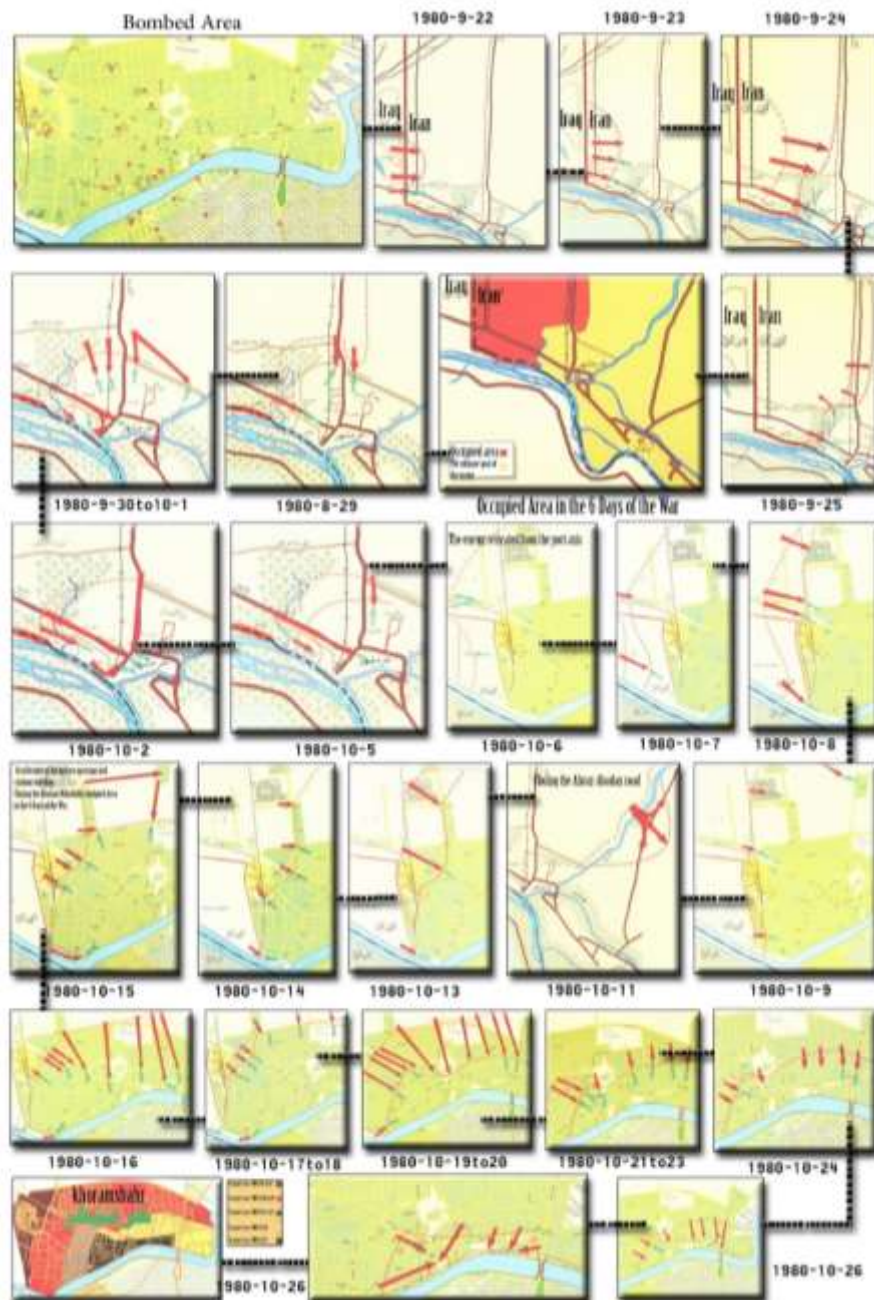
## 2. Case Study—memorial Townscape in Khorramshahr (War Era)

The city is 120 km southwest of Ahvaz (the capital of Khuzestan province) and is bounded on the south by Abadan and on the west by the Iraqi border (Jazini, 2008 AD/1387 SH: 3-5). It is located between the Karun and Arvand rivers. This region's most important natural elements are the Karun and Arvand rivers, Azodi canal, Bahmanshir river, Jian canal, and palm trees (Parvin, 2013 AD/1392 SH: 62-64).

The city was formerly a small village formed in the early 13th century by Haj Jaber Khan, the head of the tribes (during the Qajar period). In some history books, the Karun River is mentioned to become red sometimes, which is why Khorramshahr was previously called Mohamarah (i.e., the red) (Vajihi, 2013 AD/1392 SH: 45). In the afternoon of 1359/6/31, Khorramshahr was under heavy fire from the Iraqi army. The western part of the city, including Taleghani alley, Railway, and Mowlavi, the poor and populated neighborhoods, was the target of the enemy's shells and artillery.

The city was burning in the fire, and the explosion's sound did not stop even for a moment. The Grand Mosque became a refugee camp and a place for anyone who wanted to catch up with the news. Following an airstrike, the Iraqi army attacked the border checkpoint and the main roads with its armored and unarmored forces. After crossing the border, they tried to block the main exit of the city and, by endangering Khorramshahr, break the resistance of the troops stationed at the border checkpoint (Habibi, 2001 AD/1380 SH: 38).

Khorramshahr is one of the essential spots of the war. In other words, it is the war capital. Iran's victory in the liberation of this city following the 35 days of resistance and the 545 days of occupation is considered one of the most important events of the war. That's why significant attention has been paid to the city in most books on the war (Jazini, 2008 AD/1387 SH: 6). The figure below shows the process of occupation of Khorramshahr during this period.



**Figure 4** - Occupation of Khorramshahr (Drawing Diagrams, Analysis, and Presentation of Process by the Author, Adapted from Habibi, 2001 AD/1380 SH: 26-47)

Iraqi Ba'athists occupied the city on Aban 4 despite the people's extra efforts. The town became free after the unceasing efforts of the Iranian nation on Khordad 3, 1361, and the whole people of the country got happy (Jazini, 2008 AD/1387 SH: 5). The courage of the people and the military operations carried out to free this city are very important. Khorramshahr, which has been famous for its beauty, contains stories of precious memories. History books on the war and

## Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View

226

the people's memories of the era indicate that the city is full of elements that can preserve the valuable memories of defending the country.

One of the memory-making scenes during the war in Khorramshahr is the picture of martyrs wrapped in white sheets killed to protect the country. Another scene is the old checkpoint, used as the ammunition depot. It was the city's most crucial defending zone. Another vital element is Khorramshahr's Grand Mosque, as the headquarters of the forces and the shelter for the homeless sitting next to the mosque's wall in heaps. Military bridges, which were built for various operations, are also among the unique elements in the city.

Hospitals such as Mossadegh Hospital, full of injured people and schools used by the combatants as a shelter to rest, can form other reminiscent scenes of the war. The people's attention to Quran at that time is a sign of their hope and faith. Other memory-containing scenes include the protective fortifications built in the courtyards of houses, beheaded palms, and the city's cemetery, called Jannatabad. Based on books and newspapers, some important city areas are chosen. These important urban points are named in many books.

The Content analysis based on war diaries proposes that could categorize them into five groups: Collective beliefs, names of people and operations, wartime functions, Wartime and Post-war Ceremonies, and Symbols of war.<sup>2</sup> Khorramshahr Grand Mosque had a notable role in that city during the war, according to the book "Az Khooninshhar ta Khorramshahr" (i.e., From the bloody city to Khorramshahr).

Also, local boats (Balam) and the Karun River were critical in that regard. The author of the book states: "In the second of Aban (October 24, 1980), the enemy advanced in a heavy fire, and despite the evacuation of the Grand Mosque from the defenders, its grandeur prevented the enemy from approaching. Afterward, it completely blocked the Khorramshahr Bridge, and not only was it impossible to enter the city, but it also blocked the exit from the city. In that situation, the defenders used Balams (local boats) and were still there, moving under the Khorramshahr bridge.

Following the bridge's closure, the enemy commanders named Aban 2 the day of the occupation of Khorramshahr, while the defenders were still resisting and the enemy had not been able to capture the whole city. The fall of the city was imminent, and therefore, the retreat order was prompted to the local forces and transferred wounded to Karun shores on the way to a safe area" (IRGC War Studies Center, 1993 AD/1372 SH: 49).

---

2. For further study, cf. Bagheri Beheshti; et al. (2018 AD/1397 SH). "Approach to the Role of Townscape in the Promotion of Collective Memories." *Journal of War Historic Studies*. Vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 37-60.

The emphasis on the palm trees' role and the defenders' collective beliefs during the war can be referred to in "The Book of Nouredine, the Son of Iran." He quotes: "The defenders spread rugs next to the palm trees. They accommodated everyone in the battalion; an incredible scene could be seen in this congregational prayer" (Sepehri, 2012 AD/1391 SH: 376). Based on various books on the memoirs of the war, the memory-making scenes of the conflict can be categorized as follows (Table 2):

Collective Beliefs	Function in War Era	Names of People and Operations	Ceremonies during and after War	Signs and Symbols of war
Congregational prayer next to palm trees The sound Adhan Placing the Qur'an on the carpet when leaving	Rasaei School (Place for combatants' rest) Mosques (People's accommodation) Hospital Bazaar (Initiation of Bombing and war Attack) Kitchen for Refugees Jannatabad (Khorramshahr Cemetery)	Bloddy City Shahid Sayad Shirazi Shahid Aviny Shahid Shamshiri Bait-ol-Moghaddas Operation	Rahian-e-Noor Tours (Khorramshahr Liberation)	Karun river Boat Arvand river Hoor Beheaded palm trees Barbed wire Haghghat Magazine Dugged Passages Suspended bridges/ Fortifications Destroyed Dome of the Mosque Overturned cars War-torn walls Smell of Gunpowder/Rubber Sound of Shells / Sirens

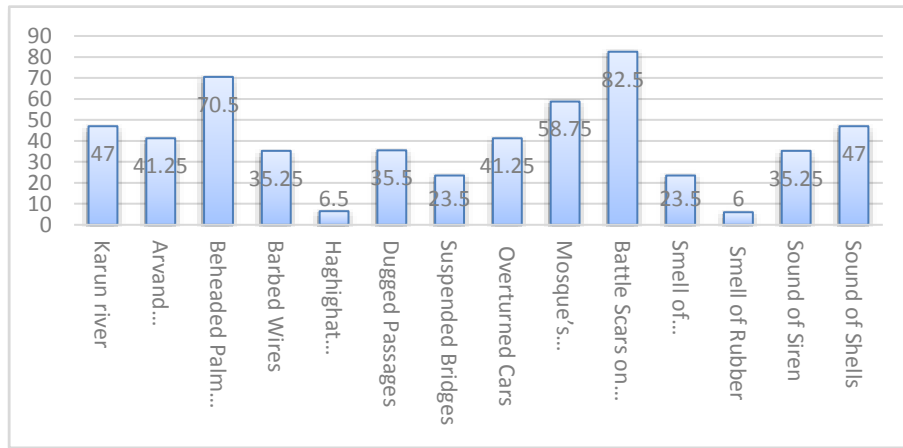
**Table 2 -** Memory-making Scenes of the War

Cochran's formula analyzed the effectiveness of memory-making townscapes, using the content of the ideas of 400 people (as the statistical population)<sup>3</sup>. In Khorramshahr, the sign has the most significant impact on the minds of the responders. 212 people out of 400 considered it the most crucial townscape criterion of promoting

3 -Khorramshahr's population was 133,097 in 1395. Based on Cochran's sample size formula for categorical data, the required sample size we estimated to be 384 people. However, due to the 5% error in this method and the lack of response from some people the survey was carried out using 400 questionnaires filled out by the dwellers.

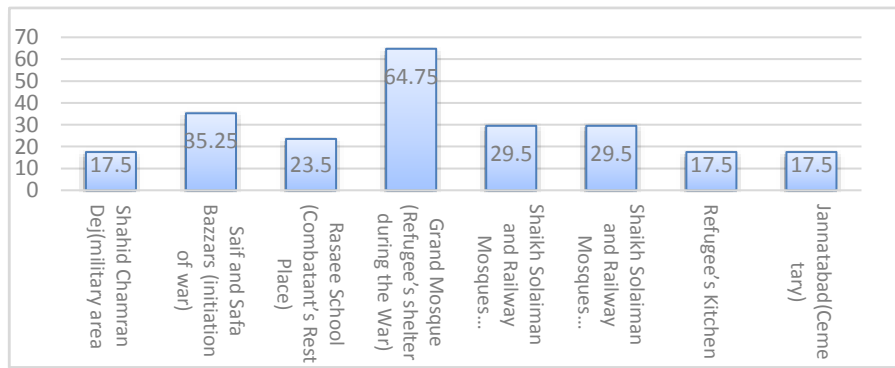
## Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View

collective memories of the war. The order of townscapes' priority is listed as following: Beheaded palms, the Destroyed dome of the Mosque, the Karun river, Mortar sound, the Arvand river, Hoor, Overturned cars, Barbed wire, Drugged passages, the Siren, the Suspended bridges, the Smell of gunpowder, and the Smell of rubber.



**Figure 5-** The Effect of War Reminiscent Signs Based on Inhabitants' Opinions

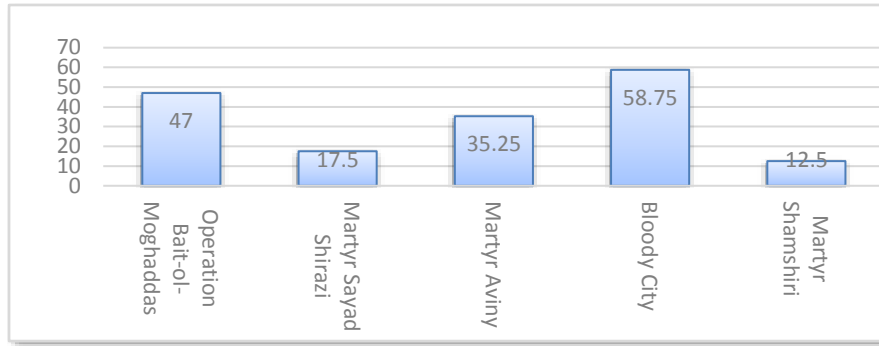
After the signs, the city functions were chosen second by the people (193 out of 400). The most critical townscapes that evoke war memories are prioritized: Khorramshahr Grand Mosque, Saif and Safa Bazaars, war hospital, Mosques (Railway and Sheikh Solaiman), schools (including Rasaei School), Jannatabad, and Shahid Chamran Dej.



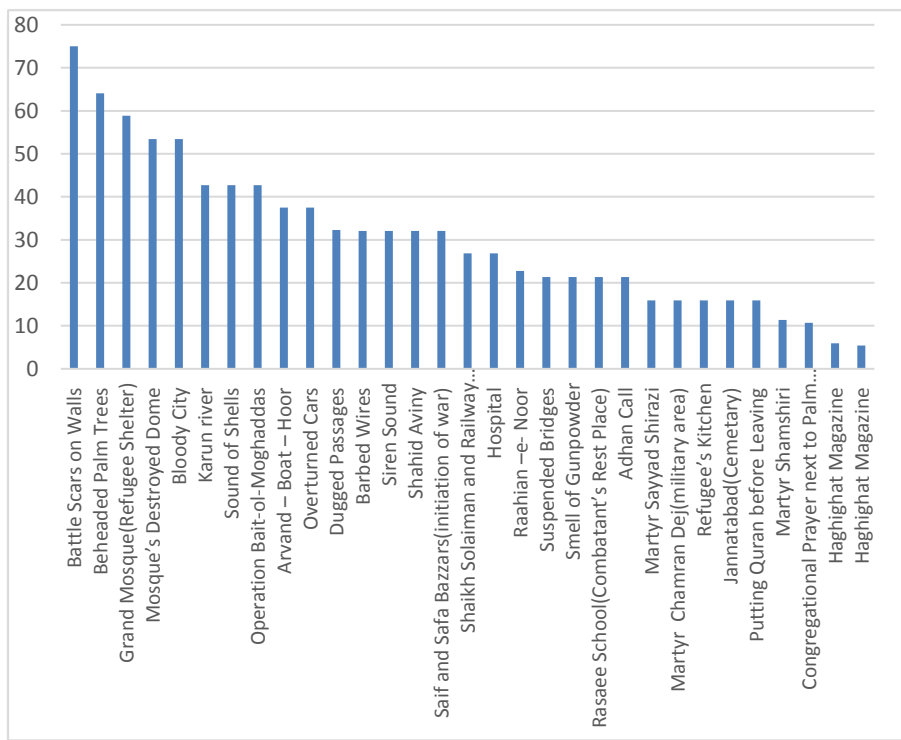
**Figure 6 -** The Effect of City Functions Based on Dwellers' Opinions

The name criterion was chosen (159 out of 400 inhabitants). Responders believed that the names include Bloody City, Operation Bait al-Moghaddas (resulting in the city's victory), Martyr Aviny, Martyr Sayad Shirazi, and Martyr Shamshiri.





**Figure 7** - The Effect of Memory-making Names Based on Dwellers' Opinions  
Based on a questionnaire survey, collective ceremonies and beliefs are in the fourth and fifth priority.



**Figure 8** shows all the townscapes surveyed in this city to importance of impact.

**Conclusion**

The city's physical environment is a source of signs, mental images, and memories. According to their mentality, each individual receives their perception of the environment and feels a sense of belonging to it. Wherever events occur, memories are formed. But a city cannot recount its past and circumstances, and thus external factors are needed to promote and create those memories. External factors are required to embrace and deliver memory to others constantly. Based on the criteria obtained and the data taken from newspapers and personal memoirs on the war, memory-making townscapes of

## Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View

Khorramshahr were expressed as the potential of this city. Those townscapes will cause changes and create mental images for future generations (Table 2).

A questionnaire was designed and responded to by 400 dwellers - who were not born at war based on the data. The questionnaire analysis shows that "Signs" and "Functions" are the most influential criteria in the dwellers' ideas. Two more effective vital samples for the signs and Symbols of War criteria are the walls with battle scars and the beheaded palm trees. "Functions in War Era" have the second priority, such as the function of Khorramshahr Grand mosque as a symbol for the city's resistance.



**Picture(set) 4** – Some of Khorramshahr Townscapes Before the War



**Figure 9** - Zoning of Khorramshahr Using War Events

According to the studied opinions of Khorramshahr dwellers, the following suggestions are put forward:

- The physical environment of the streets and passages – especially those with battle scars- can express a part of war history in pictures and text;
- More attention should be made to the evolution of urban construction to keep war townscapes. For example, preserving and displaying the beheaded palm trees is recommended as symbols of the brave martyrs' slaughtering. It is also suggested to plant trees in the name of martyrs;

- Reconstruction of Khorramshahr grand mosque as the symbol of resistance is also essential. It needs exhibitions about the Mosque, the war era, and showing its changes from the beginning of the war to the Khorramshahr liberation;
- Improving the environment of Safa Bazaar, the economic point of Khorramshahr, in which exploded many bombs. Those areas can be revived and used as cultural and tourism attractions in the city;
- The beautiful shore of the Karun River and the Arvand River can be improved physically to suit recreational tourism activities related to the war, such as using the boats previously used in the war;
- Holding ceremonies and conferences on essential days and reminding operation codes and the operations' areas. Also, it can display the principles of the procedures in an exhibition environment. Rahian-e Noor ceremony used to take place in Khorramshahr as well as the cities around. The number of its participants and the duration of this ceremony should be increased.

A survey was undertaken of the opinions of the dwellers of this city. According to the results, the effective axis in this city is the route connecting the entrance bridge to the town to the grand Mosque. Currently, Yadavaran Park and the museum of war are located there. In the figure below, this connection axis and essential areas are planned from the people's point of view.

Moreover, the city view needs a platform and a region to depict the power and sacrifice of this city in its entrance. The connection route should also employ tourism and recreational functions attractions along with visual war elements to revive the unique townscapes. Connecting this route to the main bazaar can bring back the past vitality to this city. Here, a selected way has been proposed to be a memorial route for war events (Figure10).



**Figure 10** - The selected Route from the Entrance Bridge to Khorramshahr Grand Mosque to Revive and Strengthen Townscapes.

**Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in  
Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View**

232

Journal of Contemporary Research on Islamic Revolution | Volume 3 | No.9 | Summer 2021 | PP. 213-235

**References**

- Alexandrovskiy, A; et al. (2015). "The Early History of Moscow: Dates from Red Square." *Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference*. (W.G. Mook and J. V. Plicht). Vol. 40, no. 2, pp. 583-589.
- Arandjelovica, B; Bogunovich, D. (2014). "City Profile: Berlin." *Cities*. Vol. 37, issue (April, 2014), pp.1-26.
- Ayyash, D. (2013). "The Brandenburg Gates: Unity, Division, and Reinvented Tradition in Post-wall Berlin." *Master Thesis*. City Planning. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Bell, S. (2015 AD/1394 SH). *Model Perspective, Perception and Process*. (B, Aminzadeh. Trans). First Edition. Tehran: University of Tehran Press.
- Boyer, C. (1994). *The City of Collective Memory: Its Historical Imagery and Architectural Entertainments*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.
- Correia, S. (2013). "Death and Politics: The Unknown Warrior at the Center of the Political Memory of the First World War in Portugal." *E-journal of Portuguese History*. Vol. 11, no. 2, pp.6-29.
- Cullen, G. (2008 AD/1387 SH). *Selected Urban Landscape*. (M, Tabibian. Trans). Third Edition. Tehran: University of Tehran Press.
- Davidaston, M. (2004). *A Planners Dictionary*. Washington: American Planning Association published.
- Dennen, J. (1981). "On War: Concepts, Definitions, Research Data - A Literature Review and Bibliography." *UNESCO Yearbook on Peace and Conflict Studies 1980*. Westport: Greenwood Press. pp. 128-89.
- Eraydin, Z. (2014). "The Global Image of the City: Impacts of Place Branding on the Image of Ankara." *Ph.D. Thesis*. City and Regional Planning. Middle East Technical University.
- Farzan, S. (2020 AD/1399 SH). "Design and Change of the Use of Ahmadzadeh Square Buildings in Khorramshahr in the form of Cultural-commercial Complex, with the Aim of Facilitating the Reconstruction of Urban Life." *Master Thesis*. Architecture. Iran University of Science and Technology.

- Felasari, S. (2013). "Enhancing Virtual City with Collective Memory to Support Urban Design Learning." Ph.D. Thesis. Architecture the University of Sheffield.
- Habibi, A. (2001 AD/1380 SH). *Khorramshahr in War*. First Edition. Tehran: Center for War Studies and Research.
- Habibi, M. (2008 AD/1387 SH). "Let's Clear the Imaginary Forms of the City." *Journal of Architecture and Construction*. Vol. 1, no. 3, pp. 115-117.
- Haseman, D; et al. (2005). "Implementation of a Group Decision Support System Utilizing Collective Memory." *Information & Management*. Vol. 4, no. 42, pp. 591-605.
- IRGC War Studies and Research Center. (1993 AD/1372 SH). *From Khooninshahr to Khorramshahr (Report on the Passage of the Occupation Phase)*. IRGC Publications-operations' Office, Tehran.
- Jaber, K. (2008 AD/1387 SH). *The Last Night in Khorramshahr, Memoirs of Iraqi Colonel Kamel Jaber*. (F, Sabzpoosh. Trans). Second Edition. Tehran: Sure, Mehr Publications.
- Jackson, H. (2017). "The USSR in World War II." Classroom Country Profiles. University of Washington, [https://jsis.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/02/2018//USSR\\_WWII.pdf](https://jsis.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/02/2018//USSR_WWII.pdf)
- Jazini, M. (2008 AD/1387 SH). *Bibliography of Khorramshahr*. First Edition. Tehran: Shahed Publications.
- Kennedy, G. (2017). *Pan-european Displaced Archives in the Russian Federation*. First Edition. London: Routledge.
- Markozani, E. (2019). "Reclaiming the Memory: A Memorial Scape Along Neretva River, Mostar." *Master Thesis*. Architecture and the Built Environment. Delft University of Technology.
- McGilvray, E. (2019). *Poland and the Second World War, 1938-1948*. (n.p.). Pen & Sword Books Ltd.
- Mir Moghtadaei, M. (2009 AD/1388 SH). "Criteria for Measuring the Possibility of Formation, Recording, and Transfer of Collective Memories in the City (Case Study: Tehran)." *Journal of Fine*

**Townscapes of War Capital; Prioritizing Memorable Townscapes in  
Khorramshahr from the Dwellers' Point of View**

*Arts*. Vol. 10, no. 37, pp. 5-16.

- Montgomery, J. (2011). *Moscow, Russia, ULI*. First Edition. London: Urban Land Institute.
- Nassar, J. (2014 AD/1393 SH). *Evaluative Mental Image of the City*. (M, Asadi Mahalchali. Trans). First Edition. Tehran: Armanshahr Publications.
- Niemczyk, M. (1998). "City Profile Warsaw (Warszawa)." *Cities*. Vol. 15, no. 4, pp. 301–311.
- Parvin, H. (2013 AD/1392 SH). "Landscape of War, designing a part of Khorramshahr with the Approach of Reviving the Memories and Values of the Imposed War." *Master Thesis*. Landscape, University of Tehran.
- Righi, C. (2014). "Lebanese Youth: Memory and Identity." *Ph.D. Thesis*. Department of Social Psychology, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).
- Sepehri, M. (2012 AD/1391 SH). *The Book of Nouredin the Son of Iran (Memoirs of Sayyed Nouredin Arefi)*. Forty-second Edition. Tehran: Surah Mehr Publications.
- Spearn, A. (2008 AD/1387 SH). *Townscape Language*. (H, Bahreini; B, Aminzadeh. Trans). Second Edition. Tehran: University of Tehran Press.
- Tolle, A. (2010). "Urban Identity Policies in Berlin: From Critical Reconstruction to Reconstructing the Wall." *Cities*. Vol. 27, no. 5, pp. 348-357.
- Vajihi, A. (2013 AD/1392 SH). "Historical and Legal Background of Khorramshahr Wars Throughout History." *The First Conference of Academics and the Holy Defense, Shahr-e Rey*.
- Warsaw Tourist Office. (2019). *WARSAW, Warsaw Meetings Guide. Tourism in Warsaw Report*. Warsaw Tourist Office.
- Winter, C. (2009). "Tourism, Social Memory, and the Great War." *Annals of Tourism Research*. Vol. 36, no. 4, pp. 607–626.
- Wozniak, M; et al. (2007). "Continuity of Y chromosome haplotypes in the population of Southern Poland before and after the Second World War." *Forensic Science International: Genetics*. Vol. 1,

no.2, pp. 134–140.

Zhou, W. (2016). "Construction of Traditional Cultural Tour Landscape Field Based on City Memory-taking Nanjing Fuzimiao (Confucius Temple) Qinhuai Scenic Area as an Example." Vol. 24. *International Seminar on Social Science and Humanistic Education (SSHE 2015)*. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20162401005>.