

## Typological Classification of Capital Cities in History

*Khusnudin Baykabilov*

*Independent researcher of the Department of "History and Anthropology of Eastern Countries" of Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Associate Professor, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Geographical Sciences.*

**Abstract:** This article examines the legal and regulatory framework of urban planning through a historiographical lens, focusing on the evolution of normative approaches to the organization and governance of cities. It analyzes how legal instruments, administrative regulations, and planning doctrines have historically shaped urban development, with particular attention to the classification and functional differentiation of cities. The study explores the urban characteristics of capital cities as distinct political, administrative, and socio-economic centers, highlighting their role in setting planning standards and regulatory models for other urban categories. By comparing capitals with other types of cities, the article identifies key criteria—such as governance status, demographic concentration, spatial structure, and infrastructural functions—that underpin urban categorization in historical and legal discourse. The research contributes to a deeper understanding of the interaction between law, urban planning, and historiography, offering insights relevant to contemporary debates on urban regulation and sustainable city development.

**Keywords:** Urban planning law; historiography; legal regulation; capital cities; urban classification; city typology.

### INTRODUCTION

Historicity is a dialectical principle consisting of examining and evaluating everything or phenomenon in close connection with the specific historical conditions that gave rise to it. Based on the principle of historicity, we can cite the history of naming the following capital cities. The word Abu Dhabi is Arabic and means "father of the gazelle." The city of Abu Dhabi was founded in 1760. A folk legend about the founding of the city has been passed down from mouth to mouth. Bedouin Arabs pursued a gazelle, intending to hunt it. The gazelle runs for a long time in the desert, bringing the pursuing hunters to the Persian Gulf. The gazelle jumps into the water and emerges from the opposite shore. Seeing this, the hunters also jumped into the water and emerged from the shore. The gazelle takes them to a source of clean water. The grateful hunters did not interfere with the gazelles' life and named the place located near the source Abu Dhabi ("Father of the Gazelle") [Abu, K. T. 2020]. In Arabic, according to the rules of origin, he is called Abu Zabi.

The ancient capital of Japan, Kyoto (founded in 974), was home to Japanese emperors until 1868. Shinobu, the 15th Tokugawa shōgun, who received the title of shōgun - military ruler from the Japanese emperor in 1601 and went to Tokyo to unite the scattered feudal lords in the country, returned this title to the emperor in 1867. After this, Emperor Meiji moved the capital from Kyoto to Tokyo. Tokyo also originally means "Tokyota" in Japanese, meaning "Eastern Kyoto." [Amirqul, K. 2019]

### DISCUSSION

The transfer of settlements to the urban category depends mainly on the size and employment of the population, the presence of industrial enterprises and the state housing fund, the development of trade and public catering, schools, healthcare, utilities and consumer services, as well as cultural and educational institutions. The transfer of settlements to the city category is carried out in a certain legal procedure, and the boundaries of the city are established. In some countries, the main role is played by the population (a population of more than 3 thousand people), while in others, the qualities necessary for the city are taken into account. Today, the level of urbanization in our country is 35.5%, and if the necessary measures are not taken from now on, this indicator may decrease in the near future. A State Program has been developed and is underway to bring the level of urbanization of the country's population to 60% by 2030. "It is well known that Tashkent is our great capital, the largest capital of our country. This great city, which has more than two thousand years of history, began with the settlements of Kangju, Mingo, and later became known as Chach and Shash.

Today, the dynamics of the development of modern science is characterized by the integration of sciences, the growth of interdisciplinary research. In our research work, we also managed to compile a modern typological classification of world capital cities (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Modern typological classification of world capital cities

No.	Classification unit	Characteristic features of typological classification
1.	<b>Physico-geographical classification</b> (by location)	In this classification, the location of the capital cities is taken into account first. Information is provided about the city's elevation above sea level, its location on an island, whether it is located by sea or within land, and the natural-geographical features of the city.
2.	<b>Historical-genetic classification</b> (by formation)	The historical-genetic classification deals with the historical development and origin of the capital city. This classification, in turn, can be divided into such types as archaic (ancient) capitals, pre-colonial (pre-colonial) capitals, colonial (colonial) capitals, post-colonial (post-colonial) capitals, imperial capitals, neutral capitals.
3.	<b>Morphological classification</b> (by structure)	According to their structure, capital cities are divided into port cities, state-city-type capital cities, federal capitals, and special capitals.
4.	<b>Functional classification</b> (by function)	Capital cities that served as military fortifications, special capital cities (performing only capital functions)
5.	<b>Etymosemantic classification</b> (by name)	Ethnic (named capitals, socionym (closely related to social life) capital cities, anthroponym (named after famous people, statesmen, military officers) capitals, capitals named after the state (country),
6.	<b>Migration classification</b> (by migration)	Of course, not all capitals in the world can be included in this classification. Because the relocation policy of the capital city is determined from a probabilistic point of view. This is achieved through natural disasters, political, military, and economic reasons.

**Note:** The data in the table are compiled by the author.

As a result of the conducted scientific research, we were convinced that when compiling the modern typological classification, the first of the most important indicators ' ' is directly related to the category of the territory. The natural-geographical classification of the capital city is based on the city's location. In this classification, the location of the capital cities is taken into account first. Information is provided about the city's elevation above sea level, its location on an island, whether it is located by sea or within land, and the natural-geographical features of the city.

According to the formation of the city ' , the second classification group the historical-genetic classification deals with the historical development and origin of the capital city. This classification, in turn, can be divided into such types as archaic (ancient) capitals, pre-colonial (pre-colonial) capitals, colonial (colonial) capitals, post-colonial (post-colonial) capitals, imperial capitals, neutral capitals. In the morphological classification, according to their structure, capital cities are divided into port cities, state-city-type capital

cities, and federal capitals. The list of countries with changed capitals is shown in Table 2.

According to their functional classification (by purpose), capital cities that served as military fortifications and special capital cities (performing only capital functions) form a separate typological classification group. The following capital cities belong to this type: In 1816, the British colonists established a military post ' in the village of Banjul'i o' to control Gambia and named it Baterist in honor of the British colonial minister. In 1973, the capital of independent Gambia, the city of Baterist, was restored to its original national name, Banjul.

According to the etymological-semantic classification (by name), capitals consist of capitals with ethnic (named after peoples) names, capitals with socionyms (which are closely related to social life), capitals with anthroponyms (named after famous people, statesmen, military officers), capitals with the same name as the state (country).

**Table 2:** List of countries with changed capitals (between 1299 and 2024)

No	Former capital	Ko'decay date	Current name	Country name
1.	Bergen	1299	Oslo	Norway

2.	Trakai	1323	Vilnius	Lithuania
3.	Krakow	1596	Warsaw	Poland
4.	Philadelphia	1800	Washington	USA
5.	Mendoza	1880	Buenos Aires	Argentina
6.	Melbourne	1908	Canberra	Australia
7.	Kyoto	1911	Tokyo	Japan
8.	Calcutta	1911	Delhi	India
9.	Saint Petersburg	1919	Moscow	Russia
10.	Smolensk	1919	Minsk	Belarusian
11.	Istanbul	1923	Ankara	Turkey
12.	Christiania	1924	Oslo	Norway
13.	Zinder	1926	Niamean	Niger
14.	Samarkand	1930	Tashkent	Uzbekistan
15.	Kharkov	1934	Kiev	Ukraine
16.	Caucasus	1940	Vilnius	Lithuania
17.	Saint Louis	1958	Nuakshot	Mauritania
18.	Rio de Janeiro	1960	Brazil	Brazil
19.	In short	1969	Islamabad	Pakistan
20.	Belize	1970	Belmopan	Belize
21.	Dar us-Salam	1973	Dodoma	Tanzania
22.	Abidjan	1983	Yamusukro	
23.	Bonn	1990	Berlin	Germany
24.	Alma-Ata	1997	Astana	Kazakhstan
25.	Rangoon (Yangon)	2005	Neypido	Myanmar
26.	Jakarta	2024	Nusantarai	Indonesia

The table was compiled by the author.

Capitals named after historical figures' include 9 cities worldwide: Brazzaville, La Valetta, Malabo, Mbabané, Monroviya, Victoria, Washington, Wellington, and Sri Jayavardene. (see Table 3).

Capitals bearing the same name as the country include Algeria, Kuwait, Andorra la Vela, Tunisia, Bissau, Brazil, Gibraltar, Guatemala, Djibouti,

Luxembourg, Monaco, Panama, San Marino, San Salvador, Sao Tome, Saint Petersburg, Singapore, and the Vatican. Their number is 18 worldwide.'

Classification groups based on the historical and geographical characteristics of world capital cities are divided into 7 separate groups (Table 4).

**Table 3:** Classification groups of world capitals based on historical and geographical features

No	Classification groups	Names and number of capital cities
I.	According to natural geographical features'ra emerging capitals'	Abu Dhabi, Addis Ababa, Amsterdam, Andorra, Riyadh, Asmera, Baku, Bangi, Bangkok, Beirut, Baster, Bas-Ter, Belmopan, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Brazil, Brussels, Doha, Dublin, Havana, Algeria, Djibouti, Juba, Kampala, Canberra, Kigali, Chisinau, Kabul, Konakri, Kuala Lumpur, Lima, Lilongwe, London, Male, Manila, Maputo, Muscat, Maseru, Minsk, Montevideo, Moroni, Moscow, Nairobi, Nuakshot, Njamena, Reykjavik, Riga, Rozo, Oslo, Paramaribo, Prague, Praya, Pyongyang, Stockholm, Tbilisi, Tehran, Tegusigalpa, Waduz, Vilnius, Windhoek, Hanoi, Khartoum, Helsinki, Honiara <b>(64)</b>
II.	Capitals based on oikonyms	Al-Kuwait, Ankara, Antananarivo, Astana, Asunción, Ashgabat, Astana, Belgrade, Bamako, Bandar Seri Begawan, Banjul, Brazzaville, Bridge Town, Budapest, Bucharest, Dakar, Dushanbe, Freetown, Islamabad, Georgetown, Kathmandu, Kingstown, Kingston, Kinshasa, Cairo, Colombo, Copenhagen, La Paz, Libreville, Lusaka, Luxembourg, Madrid, Managua, Mogadishu, Panama, Beijing, Port-Louis, Porto Novo, Port-au-Prince, Port of Spain, Port-Vila, Rabat, Sana'o, Sarajevo, Seoul, Singapore, Skopje, Tallinn, Tokyo, Tashkent, Tripoli, Ouagadougou, Warsaw, Vienna, Warsaw, Vientiane, Zagreb,

		Yamusukro, Yerevan (59)
III.	<b>Capitals named after historical figures</b>	Gaborone, Castro, La Valetta, Malabo, Mbabané, Monroviya, Nassau, Pretoria, Rome, San Marino, Ulaanbaatar, Washington, Wellington (12)
IV.	<b>Capitals based on religious names'</b>	Athens, Amman, Baghdad, Bogotá, Dhaka, Damascus, Mexico City, Monaco, Nicosia, São Tomé, Santo Domingo, San Salvador, São José, Santiago, St. John's, St. George's, Sofia (17)
V	<b>Substrate capitals</b>	Apia, Bairiki, Bishkek, Bujumbura, Dili, Funa-Fyty, Kyiv, Lome, Majuro, Manama, Neypido, Ngrulmud, Nukualofa, Palikir, Podgoritsa, Suva, Tunisia, Thimphu, Yaren (19)
VI.	<b>Capitals derived from ethnic names</b>	Abuja, Akkra, Bisau, Caracas, Kito, Luanda, Ottawa, Paris, Tirana, Harare, Yaunde (11)
VII.	<b>Capitals named after the country</b>	Algeria, Kuwait, Andorra la Vela, <b>Tunisia, Bissau, Brazil, Gibraltar, Guatemala, Djibouti, Luxembourg, Monaco, Panama, San Marino, El Salvador, São Tomé, Saint Pierre, Singapore, Vatican City (18)</b>

The table is compiled by the author based on literature and fund sources.

According to information recorded in world history', the list of capital cities whose names changed between 935 and 2005 AD" is reflected in Table 4.

**Table 4:** List of renamed capital cities (between 935 and 2005)

No	Previous name	Name date	Current name	Geographic position
1.	Icosidium	935	Al-Jazeir	Africa
2.	Caparra	1521	San Juan	Asia
3.	Charleston	1696	Nassau	Asia
4.	Baytown	1854	Ottawa	America
5.	Edo	1869	Tokyo	Asia
6.	Finfinna	1889	Addis Ababa	Africa
7.	Possonu	1918	Bratislava	Europe
8.	Neislel-Huree	1921	Ulaanbaatar	Asia
9.	Tiflis	1936	Tbilisi	Asia
10.	Ciudad Trujillo	1961	Santo Domingo	America
11.	Leopoldville	1966	Kinshasa	Africa
12.	Fort Lamy	1973	Njamena	Africa
13.	Lorenzou-Marquis	1975	Maputu	Africa
15.	Salisbury	1982	Harare	Africa
16.	Baterst	1976	Banjul	Africa
17.	Frunze	1991	Bishkek	Asia
18.	Titograd	1992	Podgoritsa	Europe
19.	Pretoria	2005	Tsvane	Africa

The table was compiled by the author.

Migration Classification (according to migration) Of course, not all capitals in the world can be included in this classification. Because the relocation policy of the capital city is determined from a probabilistic point of view. This is achieved through natural disasters, political, military, and

economic reasons. *In recent years, international organizations have prioritized standardizing the names of capital cities worldwide, tightening their spelling and pronunciation, and ensuring the uniformity of names in documents, maps, and other works.*

**Table 5:** Anthroponymic classification group of world capitals named after famous people

No	Classification groups	Capital cities
I	<b>Naming of capital cities after prominent</b>	<b>Brazzaville, Gaborone, Castro, La Valetta, Malabo, Monrovia, Mbabané, Nassau, Pretoria, Rome, San Marino, Ulaanbaatar, Washington,</b>

	figures	Wellington, Victoria
1.	<b>Brazzaville</b>	The city was founded in 1880 by the French traveler and colonizer <b>Pierre Savornan de Brazza</b> (1852-1905). Capital of the Republic of the Congo since 1960.
2.	<b>La Valetta</b>	The city is named after the priest who built it in 1566 <b>Jean de La Valetta</b> (1495-1568).
3.	<b>Malabo</b>	The city was founded by the British in the 1920s. It was called Port Clarence until 1843, Santa Isabel until 1973. Since 1973, the city has been named after the leader of the rebellion against the Spanish colonizers, the leader of the Bubi tribe <b>Malabo Lopetu Melaka (Malabo I)</b> (1837-1937). Capital of the independent Republic of Equatorial Guinea since October 12, 1968.
4.	<b>Monrovia</b>	The city was founded in 1822 by immigrants from slavery in the USA and was named after the US President from 1817 to 1825 <b>James Monroe</b> (1758-1831).The city has been the capital of the Republic of Liberia since 1847.
5.	<b>Pretoria</b>	The city was originally built in 1855 as a Boer fortress. The city is named after the political figure of the Boers, the first president of the Transvaal Republic, <b>Martinus Vessel Pretorius</b> (1819 - 1901).
6.	<b>Washington</b>	Founded as the capital city in 1791. The city is named in honor of the first US president of 1789-1797 George Washington (1732 - 1799).
7.	<b>Wellington</b>	The city was founded by English colonists in 1840. The city of Wellington is named after the English statesman, Duke Arthur Wellesley Wellington (1769-1852). The city has been the capital of New Zealand since 1865.
8.	<b>Victoria</b>	Lake Victoria was discovered in 1858 by the English traveler J. Speak and named in honor of the then Queen of Great Britain <b>Victoria</b> (1819-1901)
9.	<b>Sri Jayavardenapura</b>	The city of Sri-Jayavardenapura, which has been the official capital of the island of Sri Lanka since 1982, is named in honor of the country's president from 1978-1988.

The table is compiled by the author based on literature and fund sources.

The diversity of world capitals is based on a certain system (toponymic patterns, forms, affixes) in their naming:

- The name of the capital consists of 2-3 words: Port-Louis, San-Tome, Addis Ababa, Riyadh, Bandar Seri Begavan, Abu Dhabi, Tel Aviv, Kuwait, Kuala Lumpur, Ulaanbaatar, Andorra-la-Villa, San Marino, Port-Villa, Port Morsby, Port of Spain, Port-o-Prince, Saint George, Santa Fe de Bogotá, San Jose, San Salvador, Saint John's, Buenos Aires, Santo Domingo (27);
- Adding the word "port" to the name of the capital: Port Louis, Port Villa, Port Morsby, Port of Spain, Port-au-Prince (5);

- Naming the capital with the suffixes -santa, -san, -cent: San-Tome, San-Marino, Saint-George, Santa-fe-de-Bogota, San-José, San-Salvador, Saint-Jones, Santo Domingo (8);
- The use of double consonants in the name of the capital: Addis Ababa, Andorra la Villa, Brussels, Tallinn, Valetta, Lisbon, Dhaka, Accra, Brazzaville, Ottawa, Canberra, Wellington (13);
- In the world, 18 countries and capital cities have the same names (Table 6).

**Table 6:** Identical names of countries and capitals of the world

No	Countries	Capital cities	Name base
1.	Andorra	Andorra-la-Vella City	Name of the plane
2.	Brazil	Brazilia City	Country name
3.	Vatican City	Vatican City	City-state
4.	Guatemala	Guatemala City	City name
5.	Guinea-Bissau	Bisau City	City name
6.	Gibraltar	City of Gibraltar	Name of the mountain
7.	Algeria	Al-Jazeir City	City name

8.	Jibuti	Djibouti City	Rock name
9.	Luxembourg	Luxembourg City	Name of the castle
10.	Monaco	Monaco City	City-state
11.	Panama	Panama City	City name
12.	Salvador	San Salvador City	City name
13.	San Marino	San Marino City	City-state
14.	São Tomé and Príncipe	San Tome City	City name
15.	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	St. Pierre City	City name
16.	Singapore	Singapore City	City-state
17.	Tunisia	At-Tunis City	City name
18.	Kuwait	Al-Kuwait City	City name

Table compiled by the author based on sources.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, *it is advisable to understand the concept of capital cities as a multifaceted and fundamental document of capital studies, paying special attention to the following principles reflected in this conceptual document in the relevant administrative federal legislation. Our work in this direction will be carried out in conjunction with the draft concept "Urbanization - 2040" developed with the participation of the World Bank and other international organizations.*

It is natural that in the naming of world capitals, along with existing historical and geographical features, spiritual and national values and traditions have been imprinted to one degree or another in the form of words (lexemes). The topic of the dissertation opens the way to the study of the issues of the interaction of the historical and geographical features of capitals with nomenclature in world history. In this regard, special attention is paid to conducting research related to the world community. There is a need to collect the names of world capital cities, analyze the basis of their naming and motivational features, historical-geographical and linguistic structure. One of the important theoretical and practical problems facing toponymy (more precisely, onomastics) is the development of its research methodology and methods for carrying out such an analysis, the historical-toponymic study of the names of world capitals and their lexical foundations with an analytical

interpretation of the processes of toponymization and historical-geographical aspects, from the word that served as the basis for the formation of the names of world capitals to the status of a proper name, and the establishment of the laws governing the transfer of words as names to objects in this process.

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