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METABOLISM AS A STRATEGY FOR POLICY MAKERS ?

The marginalization of the red brick in Khartoum (Sudan) and Cairo (Egypt)

**METABOLISM STUDIES: MATERIALITY AND
RELATIONALITY IN THE ANTHROPOCENE**

Scientific research symposium – June 28 to 30, 2022 – Lyon

Studio Métabolisme of the Lyon Urban School

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Al-Sisi instructs painting all red brick buildings with unified colours

Prime Minister ordered governors to begin implementation of decision over several phases

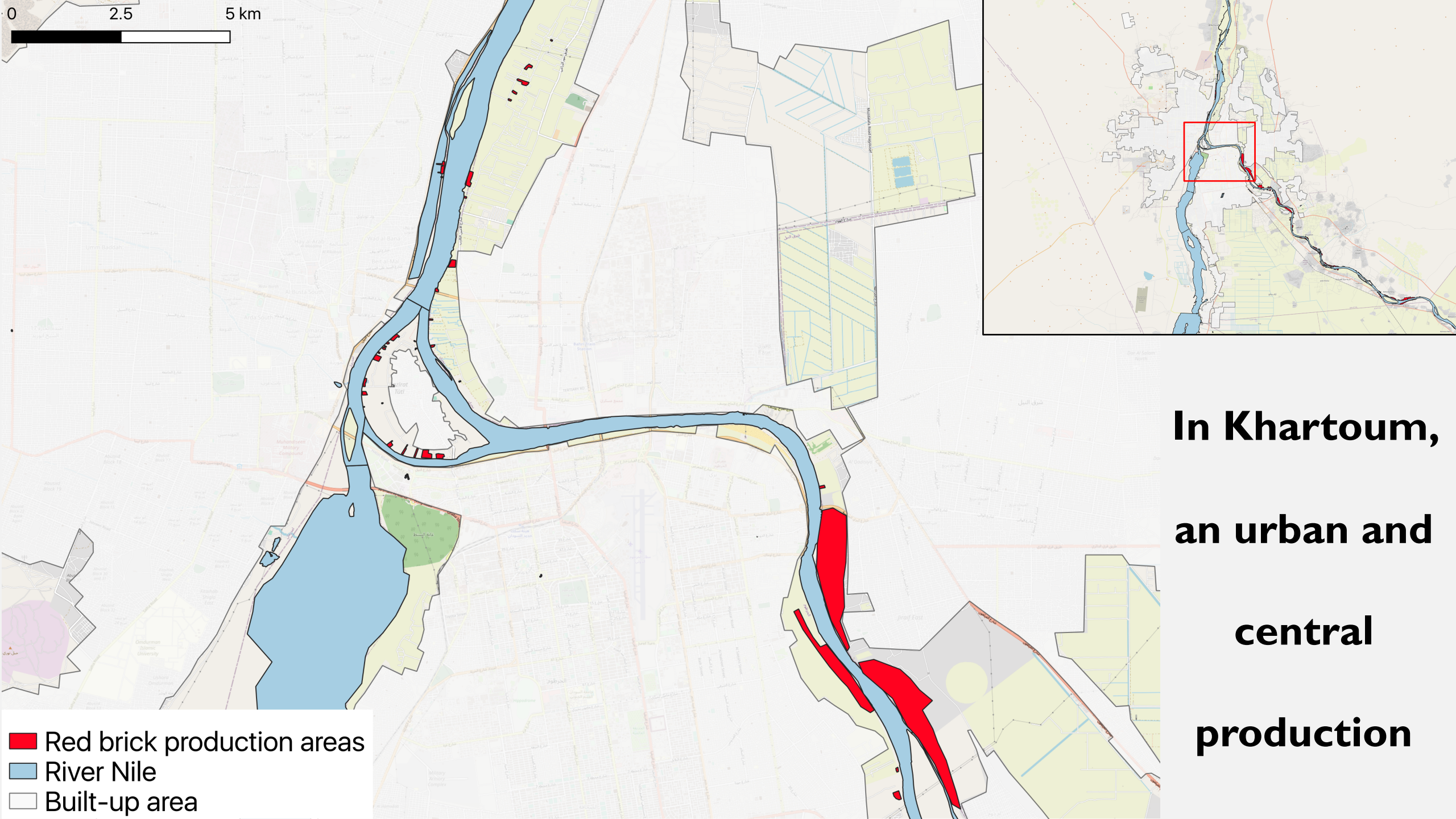
Daily News Egypt, 21/01/2019

« Madbouly described the red brick facades spread across the country as “uncivilised.” »





0 2.5 5 km

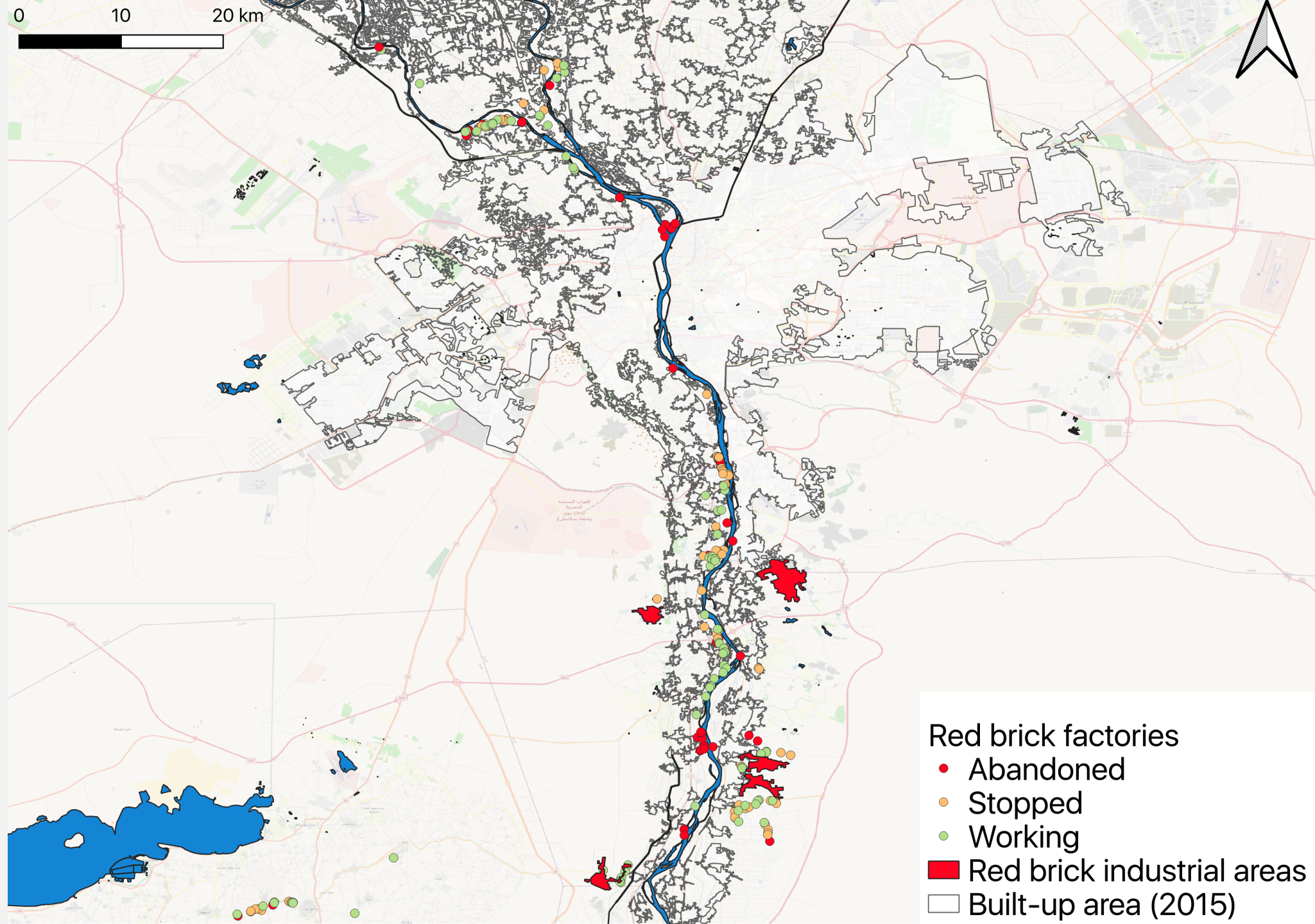


- Red brick production areas
- River Nile
- Built-up area

**In Khartoum,
an urban and
central
production**







**In Cairo, a
peripheral
industrial
activity**



How public actors
are trying to
control an entire
supply chain by
regulating the
matter flows
related to it ?

- 1. A consensual criticism of the red brick production : environment and energy consumption
- 2. The active promotion of alternative building materials
- 3. A political and economic regulation at every step

I. A CONSENSUAL
CRITICISM OF THE RED
BRICK PRODUCTION :
ENVIRONMENT AND
ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Red brick production criticized as a very polluting activity in both Khartoum (left) and Cairo (right)





For academic and public actors, the wood in Khartoum...

...and the mazout in Cairo have to be replaced by natural gas.



2. THE ACTIVE
PROMOTION OF
ALTERNATIVE BUILDING
MATERIALS : TOWARDS
THE CEMENT BLOCK

« First, we used local materials like earth. Then, in 2004, we moved to red burnt bricks. And in 2007, we introduced the cement block in our housing projects. »

(engineer at Housing Fund of Khartoum, April 2022)

Wadi Al Akhdar, social housing



Medina Abd El Wahab, « investment » housing



« In the New Administrative Capital, the government and the consultants are imposing 75% of cement blocks. »

(sales manager in a cement block factory, May 2022)



3. A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REGULATION AT EVERY STEP

- Upstream, the access to natural resources
- Downstream, the interdiction of informal and individual construction

REGULATE THE ACCESS TO NATURAL RESSOURCES

August 2019 : all the
quarries of the country
become under the
control of the Armed
Forces (taxes,
mandatoriy exploitation
license...)



REGULATE THE INDIVIDUAL CONSTRUCTION

January 2022 : « We said that for 10 years, the state is building and it won't allow any individual to build again, until we have disciplined mechanisms. »

Abdel Fatah Al Sissi,
president of Egypt

شبكة رصد
@RassdNewsN

"وقف البناء في مصر 10 سنوات باستثناءات يقررها السيسي
ما نتائج هذا القرار؟"

À l'origine en arabe et traduit par Google

Arrêt de la construction en Égypte pendant 10 ans,
avec des exceptions décidées par Sisi
Quelles sont les conséquences de cette décision ?



CONCLUSION

- From technical arguments about air pollution and environment to a political regulation of the circulation and production of building materials
- Both material (change of fuel, of localization...) and immaterial control (standardization, control of building permits...)
- Can we speak of « strategy » or of a « political intention » ?

**Thank you for
your attention !**

