

Missiles in the White City: How governments creatively destroyed Chicago's Jackson Park three times in 80 years

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to examine the processes and evolution of “creative destruction” of landscapes and determine if the same type of creative destruction done by entrepreneurs could be done by government. This research relies mostly on archival documents centered on the evolution of Chicago's Jackson Park from a barren patch of land to the site of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition to an anti-aircraft missile bases between 1890 and 1971. Through the creation of and application of a three-step test, this research demonstrates that governments can creatively destroy landscapes on large scales without profit as a motive.