Paranoia, connecting through disconnected places

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Abstract

After World War II, while most of the European countries focused on their economic recovery, Albania led by the communist regime, concentrated all its energy on the fortification and self - isolation waiting for the assault that never came. The policies that the Albanian government undertook were incomprehensible and paranoid. After the Albanian-Soviet Union split, a relation between the two countries which started in 1945 and lasted until 1961, Albanian communist government carried out a policy of 'tunneling". This policy brought about the construction of hundred kilometers of tunnels throughout the country. They were mainly created to protect the politicians, armed forces, industrial assets and the treasure of the country. These tunnels were built in a total secrecy. In the '90s when democracy prevailed, it came out the existence of these structures. Nevertheless they were ignored and abandoned because of their significance and the negative memories from the regime. Despite that these are a heritage from the past and have a great potential to be reused. Finally came out the existence of these structures but nevertheless because of their significance most of them were left abandoned and have never been used since. Despite this they are testimony of the past and part of its heritage. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the historical conditions that led to the construction of these structures and to create a clear picture of the existing situation. In addition, this study will encompass a thorough analysis regarding the history behind these objects, the techniques used for their construction as well as a complete map of their localization throughout the country. Also, it will include an examination of their deprecation rate, to create a clear view of their potentials and the chances for their adaptive re - use. Finally, in the end of this study our aim is to make a categorization of these tunnels based on their structure, size, depreciation rate and their location throughout Albania. By analyzing some case studies of reused tunnels in Albania, the study will conclude by showing the ways these objects can be reused.

Keywords: tunnels, communism, regime, isolation, abandoned, reuse