

Urbanization



- What causes urbanization?
- Is urbanization a permanent situation?
- What can be done to combat urbanization?

- Urbanization is the movement of people up the urban hierarchy.
hamlet → village → town → suburb → city → metropolis

- Definitions of “urban centres” vary around the world
 - *Canada*: places of 1000 or more inhabitants having a population density of 400 or more per square km
 - *Portugal*: Agglomerations of 10,000 or more inhabitants
 - *Norway*: localities of 200 or more inhabitants
 - *Botswana*: agglomerations of 5000 or more inhabitants where 75% of the economic activity is of the non-agricultural type
 - *Israel*: All settlements of more than 2000 inhabitants, except those where at least one-third of the heads of household, participating in the civilian labour force, earn their living from agriculture

- Timeline
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 - <1800s: 2% of the population lived in cities
 - 4000 BC in Mesopotamia and along the Nile and Yellow
 - Settlements were centres for merchants along trade routes
 - 1800s: Industrial Revolution
 - In Europe and North America, technological advancement (steam engine) led to large-scale manufacturing, requiring large labour force
 - 1950s: 30% lived in cities worldwide
 - Cities doubling in size in just 20 years
 - Today: 50% live in cities worldwide
 - Highest growth rates are now in the developing world
 - By 2025: 86% of the population will live in cities

1950

1. New York 12.3 mn
2. London 9 mn
3. Tokyo 7 mn
4. Paris 5 mn

2015

1. Tokyo 29 mn
2. Mumbai 27 mn
3. Shanghai 23 mn
4. Beijing 19 mn

By 2015, Tokyo will be the only developed world country in the top ten largest cities of the world

- 180,000 people move into cities each day.
- 60 million people move into cities each year in developing countries.
- Over the next 15 to 20 years, many cities in Africa and Asia will double in size.

- Why urbanization?
 - reduced need for farm labour due to farm modernization
 - due to increased education levels, increased capital investment, and a switch from small-scale subsistence to large-scale commercial farming
 - improvements in mobility
 - due to increased vehicle ownership
 - expansion of highway network
 - increase in distance people willing to travel
 - reduced willingness to purchase local goods & services
 - more people going to higher order centres to make purchases
 - consolidation of goods & services
 - relocation of establishments to higher order central places
 - necessity of travelling to higher order places
 - more people permanently moving to higher order places

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Economic Activity
- Proximity to goods and services
- Health care
- Entertainment

NEGATIVE ASPECTS

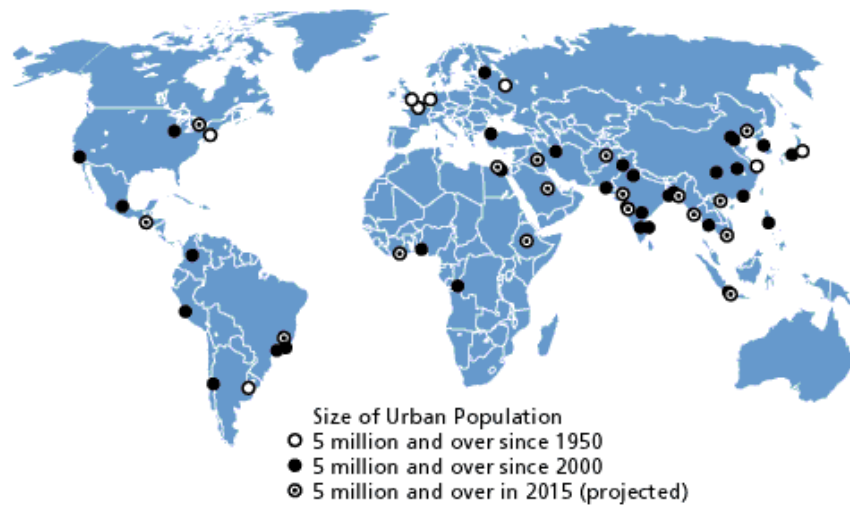
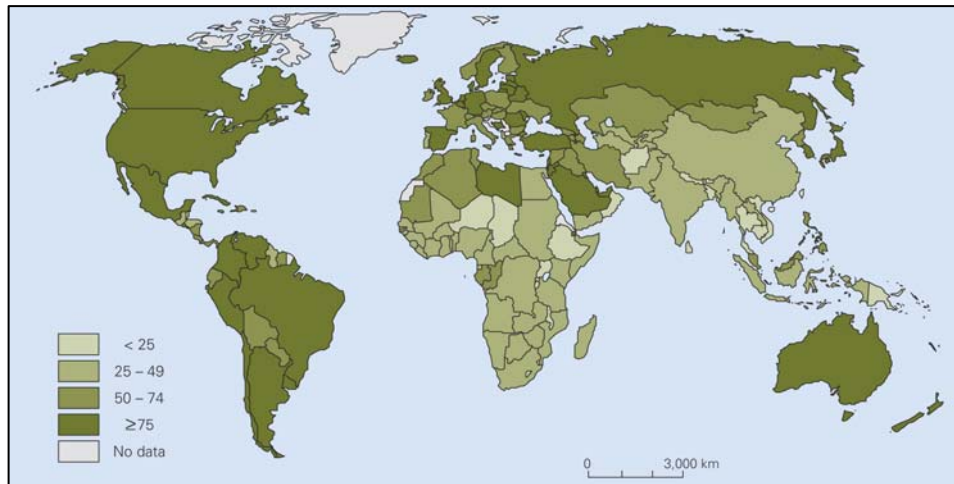
- Crime
- Land use problems
- Congestion
- Pollution: air, water, noise

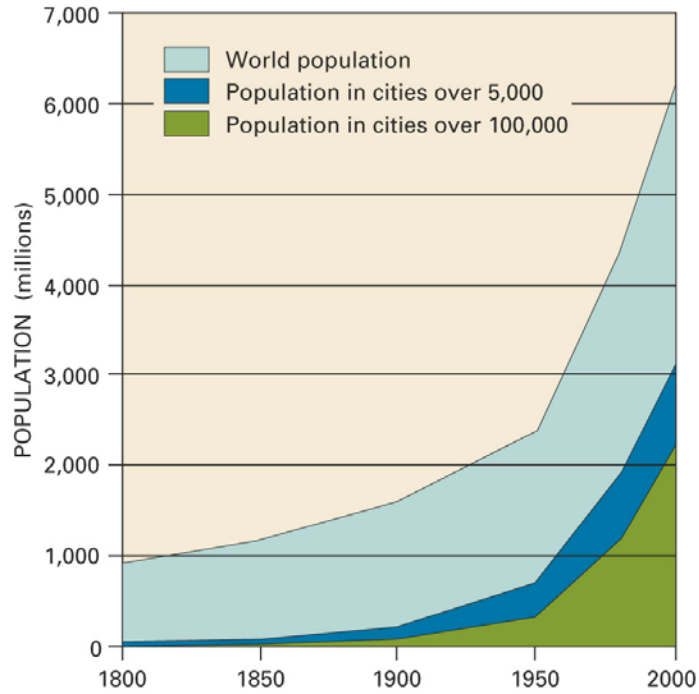
- Positive Consequences
 - Economic
 - More specialized goods and services readily available
 - Educated labour force
 - Financial services
 - Accumulation of capital
 - Emergency Services
 - Available more quickly
 - Infrastructure
 - Easier (and cheaper!) to provide water, sewer, waste services
 - Education

- Negative Consequences
 - Housing
 - 100 million people worldwide are homeless and up to a billion may be living in inadequate housing
 - Health
 - the urban poor are at greater risk than anyone else in the world – infections and diseases spread rapidly in cities

- Pollution
 - air pollution from cars, cooking, heating, and industry can be deadly; solid waste piling up; noise pollution;
 - e.g., lead poisoning caused by vehicle emissions though to be the cause of 140 000 children requiring remedial education and hypertension in 46 000 adults
- Safety and Crime
 - urban violence is not the monopoly of any single region: it has increased all over the world over the past two decades
 - as neighbourhoods change and don't revitalize, they begin to be abandoned by the higher income groups... the area becomes a run-down pocket of poverty.
- UNDP Urban Strategy
 - Increasing SHELTER from the urban poor.
 - Provision of basic urban services such as EDUCATION, primary HEALTH CARE, CLEAN WATER and SANITATION.
 - Improving women's access to BASIC SERVICES and government facilities.
 - Upgrading ENERGY use and alternative TRANSPORT systems.
 - Reducing air POLLUTION.
- Counter-Urbanization
 - Government decentralization
 - Desire to live in the country
 - Security, health, "community"
 - "Back to Nature" (and away from technology)
 - Telecommuting
 - Mobility of goods (higher order goods are more readily accessible)
 - Cheaper land, houses
- Types of people living in rural areas
 - **Newcomers** - retain ties to urban core, younger, well educated, well off, managers/professionals
 - **Homecomers** - young families returning to provide rural upbringing to children
 - **Ruralites** - never lived in urban core

Dates	Innovation	Result	Spatial Implication
1770 - 1830	Wind & Water Power	Industrialization	Concentration
1830 - 1880	Steam Power	Transportation Corridors	Concentration
1880 - 1940	Mechanization	Fordist Assembly Line	Concentration
1940 - 1990	Electronics	Just-in-Time Manufacturing	Decentralized Concentration
1990 - Present	Information Technology	Growth in Service Sector	Deconcentration





EXAMPLES OF MOST AND LEAST URBANIZED COUNTRIES (1999)

Most urbanized		Least urbanized	
Kuwait	100%	Burundi	5%
Singapore	100%	Nepal	9%
Belgium	97%	Ethiopia	14%
Japan	95%	Uganda	15%
Iceland	92%	Nigeria	16%
Uruguay	91%	Niger	17%
Israel	90%	Sudan	27%
		India	28%

Source: Fellmann et al., Appendix B, pp. 537-542.