

Cities and Urban Life

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- the growth of cities
- theories of urban growth
- benefits and problems of urbanization

Kitty Genovese was returning home from work. On the walk from her car to her apartment in a nice, middle-class neighborhood of Queens, a part of New York City, Kitty was attacked by a man with a knife. As she screamed for help, lights went on all over the neighborhood. People stuck their heads out their windows, and one man yelled at the attacker to get away. He did. Unfortunately, he returned before Kitty had time to crawl to safety—not once, but twice. Thirty-eight of Kitty's neighbors saw at least one of the attacks. Not one came to help or called the police until after she was dead.

Why did no one come to help? Were these people afraid for their own lives? Had they seen so much violence that it no longer mattered? Is it a result of living in a city?

Urbanization—the movement of large populations of people to cities—began during the Industrial Revolution. City living has its own unique collection of advantages and problems. People in cities interact with each other differently from people in small towns and rural communities. This chapter will look at the causes and effects of urbanization and at the urban personality.

The Growth of Cities

For more than 40,000 years after the appearance of *Homo sapiens* on Earth, most humans were hunter-gatherers, moving wherever food was easiest to find. Gradually, they began to domesticate animals, grow crops, and live together in larger and larger communities.

The First Cities

Cities are permanent concentrations of a relatively large number of people. The first began thousands of years ago:

- * **8000 B.C.**—One of the first human settlements, Jericho, had about 2,500 residents.
- * **5000–3500 B.C.**—Agricultural settlements in Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers developed into cities in what is now Iraq.
- * **2925 B.C.**—The Egyptian city of Memphis was founded in Egypt's First Dynasty.
- * **2200–1000 B.C.**—Babylon (present-day Baghdad) was founded. The Olmecs built cities in Mexico. Jerusalem was called Urusalim. Anyang and other cities developed along the Huang He River in China.
- * **800s B.C.**—Athens, Greece, developed into a city-state with a population of 200,000. The great port city of Carthage on the north African coast (present-day Tunis in Tunisia) developed.
- * **753 B.C.**—Rome was founded by twin brothers Romulus and Remus.

- * **332 B.C.**—Alexandria, Egypt, was founded by Alexander the Great.
- * **100 B.C.**—The great pre-Columbian city of Teotihuacán in Mexico was built.
- * **A.D. 900**—The largest cities in the world were Baghdad (in Iraq) with 900,000 people, Changan (Xian, China) with 750,000, and Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) with 300,000 people.

Early European Cities

Cities in Europe developed in waves, moving westward from Greece, from 700 B.C. through A.D. 400, when the first cities developed in Ireland. In A.D. 43 London, England, developed under Roman rule. By the 11th century, London had a population of 10,000 to 12,000.

The Industrial City

Industrialization began in England during the 1700s. When it began, Europe had only a dozen cities with populations of more than 100,000. Over the next century, the size of the population of Europe remained roughly the same, but cities grew as businessmen built factories near them to take advantage of the labor pool. The employment opportunities the factories offered attracted more people to the cities.

As the Industrial Revolution continued, cities rapidly increased in size. Their economic and political importance grew. Social life became more complex. City life became more impersonal. Crime and environmental pollution increased. Some cities grew faster than their resources.

At the beginning of the 19th century, fewer than 50 cities in the world had a population of more than 100,000. Today there are nearly 400 cities with more than 1 million people.

Demographers predict that by 2025, about two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. One-half of the world's people live in cities today.

U.S. Cities

The first cities in America were:

- * St. Augustine, Florida, established by the Spanish in 1565.
- * Jamestown, Virginia, established by the English in 1607.
- * New York (New Amsterdam), established by the Dutch in 1624.
- * Boston, Massachusetts, established by English Puritans in 1630.

Originally, these cities resembled European villages with rambling, narrow streets.

Urban expansion in the United States paralleled that of Europe, increasing rapidly during the 19th century. The exploration of the West and the building of railroads opened urban development west of the Appalachians.

During this time the North grew increasingly urban while the South stayed largely rural. This difference contributed to contrasting values, fueling hostilities during the Civil War.

Types of Urban Areas

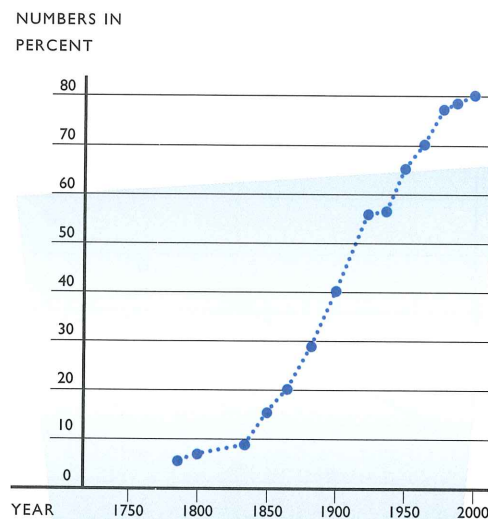
While cities are fairly self-contained concentrations of people, urbanization has led to even larger urban areas.

Urbanization in the United States

Urbanization is the movement of people from rural to urban areas. This movement influences all parts of culture and society.

During the census taken in 1790, only 5 percent of the population could be classified as urban. The largest city was New York, with fewer than 50,000 residents. Today, nearly 82 percent of the nation's 281 million people live in urban areas.

Percent of U.S. Population Living in Cities 1790-2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The Metropolis

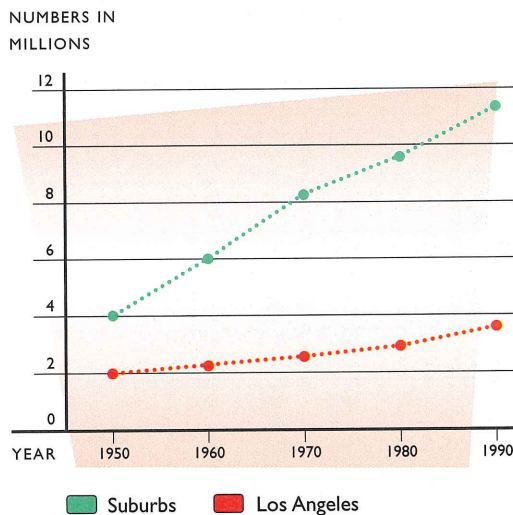
A **metropolis** is a large urban area that includes the city and its **suburbs**—residential areas on the outskirts of a city. The entire region is tied together culturally and economically.

Three factors influence the movement to suburbs. These include:

1. Movement of middle and upper classes outward as more people migrate to the inner city.
2. Ease of movement produced by cars and mass transportation.
3. Location of more businesses in outlying areas because of space or lower taxes.

The graph below compares the growth of population in Los Angeles to the population growth in its suburbs over a 40-year period. You can see that the bulk of the growth came in suburban areas.

Los Angeles Urban Growth



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

CMSAs

In some areas where large cities continue to grow, they absorb smaller surrounding cities. The term *urban sprawl* is sometimes used to describe this spread. In the United States, for example, one can drive from Boston, Massachusetts, to Washington, D.C., without leaving the city/suburban complex. Similar areas exist between Detroit and Pittsburgh and from San Francisco to San Diego in California.

Did You Know?



Ten Largest CMSAs

1. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA.
2. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA.
3. Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI.
4. Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV.
5. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA.
6. Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD.
7. Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT.
8. Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI.
9. Dallas-Fort Worth, TX.
10. Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX.

Source: *The World Almanac and Book of Facts, 2001.*

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget, with help from the Census Bureau, identifies a metropolitan area with a population over 1 million as a **Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)**. By 1998, there were 40 of these. The largest was New York City-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, New York. This CMSA crosses state boundaries, as do ten others.

The Megacity

A **megacity** is presently defined as one in which the population is greater than 5 million people. Demographers use a variety of terms to describe very large urban complexes. Sometimes you may see the words *urban agglomeration*. The term indicates a

huge population of diverse peoples and communities. Most of them are outside the United States. In fact, more than half of the present and future megacities are in developing countries. It is difficult to count the population in such areas. Population counting methods differ and change is constant. What was true the day of the count is no longer true the day the findings are published. By the time you read this book, the numbers will have changed.

Theories of Urban Growth

In the 1920s and 1930s, sociologists at the University of Chicago began a series of studies on how urban centers develop. They were interested in how increasing concentrations of people interacted with their environments. The model they developed is just one that has been suggested over the years. Their observations suggested that cities develop in a certain spatial configuration—zones of concentric circles.

Later scholars proposed other configurations—sectors or multiple nuclei. These models demonstrate *how* cities have grown. They do not explain *why* cities grow in those ways. The way a particular city develops depends on complex factors, including technology, the geography and environment, and the distribution of wealth.

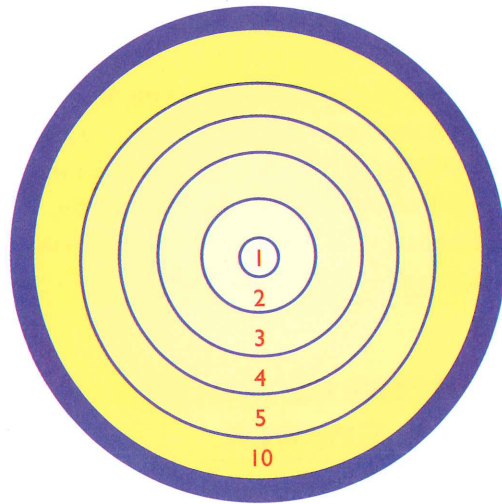
Did You Know?



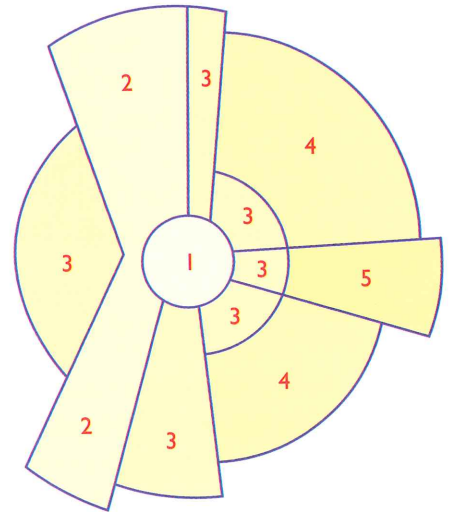
World's Largest Megacities

1. Tokyo, Japan: over 34 million.
2. New York, U.S.A.: over 20 million.
3. Seoul, South Korea: over 20 million.
4. Mexico City, Mexico: over 19 million.
5. Mumbai (Bombay), India: over 18 million.
6. Sao Paulo, Brazil: over 18 million.
7. Osaka, Japan, nearly 18 million.
8. Los Angeles, U.S.A.: over 16 million.
9. Cairo, Egypt: over 14 million.
10. Manila, Philippines: over 13 million.

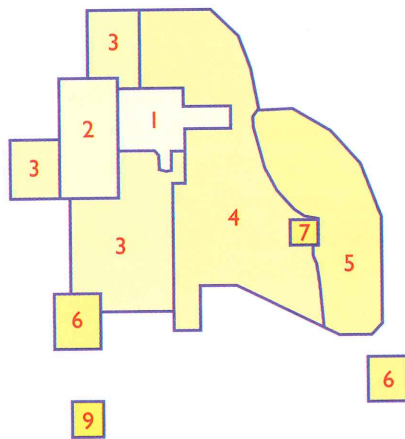
Theories of City Growth



Concentric Zone Theory



Sector Theory



Multiple-Nuclei Theory

Key

- 1 Central Business District
- 2 Warehouses/Light Manufacturing
- 3 Lower-class Residential
- 4 Middle-class Residential
- 5 Upper-class Residential
- 6 Heavy Manufacturing
- 7 Outlying Business District
- 8 Residential Suburb
- 9 Industrial Suburb
- 10 Commuter Zone

Source: Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Concentric Zone Theory

Who: Ernest Burgess, Robert Park, and colleagues at the University of Chicago.

When: 1925.

What: Proposed that a city spreads out from the center in *concentric circular zones*. Each zone has a different use.

- * The innermost zone or central city contains the central business district with shops, banks, offices, hotels, and government buildings.
- * The next zone is a transition zone, often rundown and containing factories and deteriorating housing. The crime rate may be high here.
- * As one moves away from the city, each zone represents a higher economic class, ending in suburbs—a zone from which people commute to the inner city.

EXAMPLES: This model describes cities heavily influenced by industrial development and use of the automobile such as Chicago and St. Louis. However, many cities do not have concentric zones (for example, Memphis).

The Sector Theory

Who: Homer Hoyt, an urban ecologist.

When: 1939.

What: Agreed that a city grows outward from a central business district. Rather than concentric zones, Hoyt said that wedge-shaped *sectors* extend outward from the center. He proposed a number of ways for these sectors to form, including the following.

- * When warehouses are built along a railroad line leading to the central city, low-cost housing will accompany them. The railroad track becomes a border of one sector.
- * Businesses or strip malls are built along well-traveled highways leading from the city to the suburbs. These neighborhoods attract people with more money and available cars. The highways form borders.
- * Areas that are higher and command better views attract upper-income families. The natural geographic feature provides the border of this sector.

EXAMPLES: San Francisco and Minneapolis exhibit the sector pattern. The pattern depends on geography as well as the growth of industrialization and transportation in the city. The sector model, like the concentric-zone model, is not found in all cities.

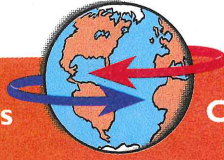
The Multiple-Nuclei Pattern

Who: Chauncey Harris and Edward Ullman.

When: 1945.

What: Rather than a particular pattern, cities have a number of specialized areas. Each area acts as a nucleus for similar activities. Many activities have specialized needs.

- * Entertainment and restaurants need easy accessibility. Therefore, they will be located near good transportation.
- * Businesses locate near other related kinds of business, or near businesses that offer services they need. The Wall



The High Ground

In the United States, high ground is often prized. Such real estate commands the highest prices and generally requires that the residents commute to work. For these reasons, wealthier people occupy the higher areas around a city.

This is not the case in all countries. The city of Cuzco, Peru, is ancient. It was once the capitol of the Inca Empire. It is located at 11,000 feet above sea level and is surrounded by even higher mountains. The mountains have fairly gentle slopes and are grassy rather than treed. This should make them prime locations for wealthier residents of the city. Instead, the hills are home to the poorer people of Cusco. The main reasons for this include the absence of roads or public transportation leading from the hills into the city and the absence of utilities (power and water).

The local government doesn't have the resources to extend roads or city utilities into the hills. There are no developers with the money to create "subdivisions" in those remote areas, particularly because they would have to provide the roads and utilities themselves.

Street area in New York City contains not only the stock markets but many other financial institutions and offices housing workers in related businesses.

- * Some areas will not be found next to one another because they are not compatible. For example, high-cost housing will not be found near factories and warehouses.

EXAMPLES: Boston and New York.

Urban Culture

One approach to the study of urban culture is to compare urban and rural life. The perspectives of some early sociologists are given in the table opposite.

In cities, encounters tend to be rational rather than emotional. People calculate the "cost" to themselves before allowing their emotions to rule their actions.

Many large cities, such as New York, are famous for the way residents ignore what is going on around them. The case of Kitty Genovese given in the chapter introduction is but one example of the tendency of city dwellers to remain uninvolved in the problems of others.

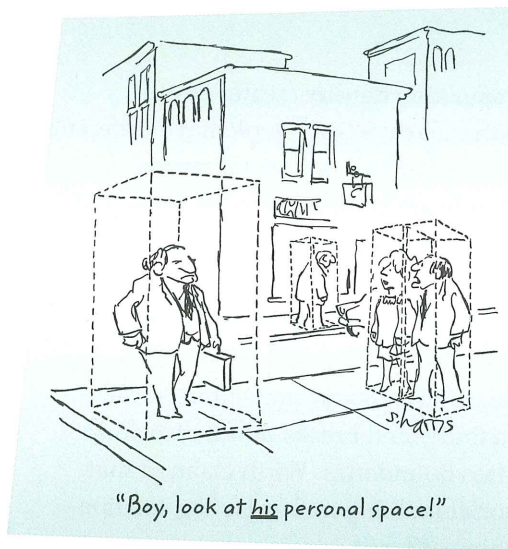
Sociologist George Simmel defends the "urban personality" as a necessity brought about by the fast pace and stimulation of city life. He sees it as a form of self-protection.

Sociologists are divided in their theories of how city life affects individuals.

Urban Anomie Theory

According to Louis Wirth, city life leads to impersonal relationships, anonymity, and individual problems stemming from loneliness. In addition to creating a sense of alienation (anomie), Wirth argued that **three** factors support his theory:

1. **Population size** prevents intimacy and close relationships common to rural life.



Town versus Country	
Principal Sociologist(s)	Major Ideas
Ferdinand Tönnies (1887)	<p>A Rural Society (Gemeinschaft) is characterized by a community with a relatively small population, a simple division of labor, face-to-face interaction, and informal social control.</p> <p>An Urban Society (Gesellschaft) has a large population that forms loose associations, a complex division of labor, and formal social control.</p>
Emile Durkheim (1893)	<p>Agreed with Tönnies but focused on how members of society are bound together.</p> <p>A Rural Society is held together by "mechanical solidarity": tradition, unity, similar norms and values, strong informal pressure to conform.</p> <p>An Urban Society is held together by "organic solidarity." The complex division of labor makes individuals dependent on one another.</p>
Robert Redfield (1941)	<p>A Rural Society is a folk society. It emphasizes tradition, consensus, and primary relationships.</p> <p>An Urban Society emphasizes change, diversity, and secondary relationships.</p>
The Chicago School; Robert Ezra Park (1916)	<p>Established branch of sociology known as urban ecology, which seeks to identify, study, and explain how city people interact with the environment.</p>
Louis Wirth (1938)	<p>Described urbanism as a way of life in which the city affects how people feel, think, and interact.</p>

2. **Population density** creates stress, particularly when people have different cultural values and social norms. People are bombarded with noise and visual stimulation as well as with the unrelenting presence of people they don't know. In the midst of a crowd, they feel isolated and alone.
3. **Social diversity** permits more social mobility and breaks down race and class boundaries. Wirth claimed that social mobility makes lasting relationships difficult.

Compositional Theory

Compositional theorists disagree with Wirth and say that, no matter how large a population may be, people will tend to associate with a small, close group of friends and relatives who have similar lifestyles. This social group insulates them to some extent from the impersonal world of strangers.

Sociologist Herbert Gans observed that people in large cities frequently gather in ethnic neighborhoods where there is a strong sense of community loyalty. He calls these *ethnic* or *urban villages*.



Where Would You Live?

In a 1989 Gallup poll, only 38 percent of the people polled would choose to live in urban areas with a population greater than 50,000 people. That includes the 13 percent who preferred the central city and 25 percent who preferred the suburbs.

In 1997, the largest home mortgage lender in the United States, Fannie Mae, ordered another survey on people's attitudes toward cities. This poll looked at whether people perceived cities as centers of business, culture, and progress or of poverty, crime and other social problems.

The survey showed that people's impressions of cities had improved over the past decade. However, the percentage who would choose to live in a large city had not increased.

The survey also found:

- * Young adults (ages 18 to 24), married people under 40, and people who grew up in suburbs generally had the most positive view of cities.
- * Married renters, with and without children, and African Americans tended to hold negative attitudes toward cities.

Compositional theorists blame the high crime rate in cities on the concentration of people with a tendency toward mental and psychological instability in urban populations.

Recent Trends in Urbanization

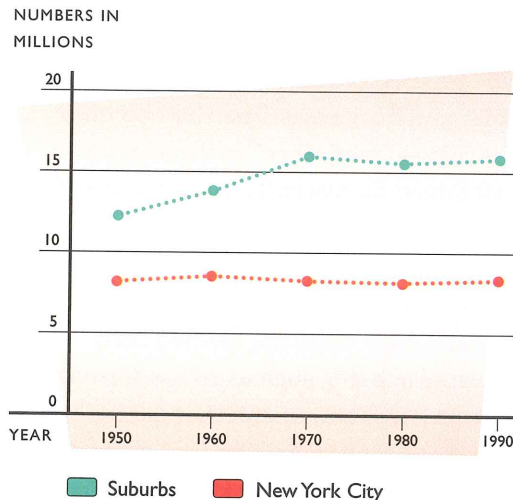
In the United States, recent trends in city demographics and culture include shifting populations, the emergence of "edge cities," and urban renewal. Some of these trends have contributed to urban problems.

Shifting Populations

Sociologists have long predicted the movement of the population from Northeastern and Midwestern cities to the "sunbelt" of the South and Southwest. This has occurred, but sometimes not in expected ways.

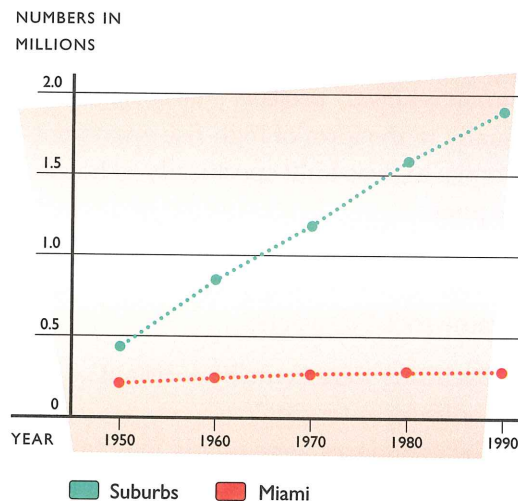
- * Older industrial cities in the South, such as Atlanta and Birmingham, have experienced the same decline and problems as Northern cities.
- * The increase in California's population has been unexpectedly high. Seven of the ten fastest-growing large U.S. cities are in Southern California.
- * Populations of "sunbelt" cities such as those in Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico have increased as predicted.
- * Immigration from developing countries has increased, keeping the population of New York from declining as expected. For the same reasons, Miami has experienced tremendous growth. The following graphs show growth in these two cities.

New York City Urban Growth



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Miami Urban Growth



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Edge Cities

By the end of the 20th century, suburbs from which people once commuted to work had sprouted offices, factories, shopping malls, and businesses. They had become *edge cities*—“mini cities” at the edges of their larger counterparts. Unfortunately the traffic congestion, environmental problems, and rising crime rates of the adjacent city accompanied these changes.

Many edge cities are focused on a principal activity, such as computer-related companies, sports or entertainment complexes, or regional medical centers. Commuting patterns that once were directed to the central city have changed. Now you see bumper to bumper traffic in both directions during rush hour.

Urban Renewal

In the 1950s and '60s, in an attempt to provide affordable housing and improve the lifestyles of the poor, cities engaged in “urban renewal” projects. Public housing, usually in the form of high-rise apartment complexes, was built specifically to house the poor.

Many of these projects, such as the Cabrini-Green housing project in Chicago, became social disasters:

- * Decisions were made by a distant “housing authority.”
- * The complexes were poorly maintained and took on the appearance of a giant slum.
- * Criminal gangs took over, and drug traffic and gun violence became prevalent.

- * The construction of some projects forced the breakup of tightly structured neighborhoods.

A newer form of urban renewal is **gentrification**. This occurs when former working-class neighborhoods or industrial districts are taken over by white-collar professionals who buy and renovate older buildings. Refurbished older homes and converted trendy “loft” apartments attract upscale singles or childless couples.

Gentrification has both positive and negative aspects. It renews rundown areas of the city, improves property values, and creates attractive places where once there was blight. However, it displaces people who cannot afford the new, high-priced residences and does nothing to find them affordable housing. When people are displaced, they lose more than a home. They lose the social network that supports them in their daily life.

Urban Problems

City living has many attractions. It provides business opportunities and an abundance of types of entertainment. City living is “where the action is.” Nonetheless, social problems also characterize urban life. Here are **four**:

- I. **Housing Segregation Occurs.** Although the government supports individual home ownership, affordable housing is often outside the budget of many low-income families. As wealthier people move to new developments or the suburbs, poorer families are left with aging, inner-city buildings or inferior housing.



Postsuburbia

Sociologists Rob Kling, Spencer Olin, and Mark Poster have explored different theories about edge cities. They suggest that these regions are a new kind of settlement space that can't be described as urban, suburban, or rural. What they term "postsuburban" settlements differ from cities in that they do not have a "center." Shopping, entertainment, and business and industrial "parks" are centers of activity. One sociologist calls them "multi-nucleated metropolitan regions."

People in postsuburban areas rely heavily on private automobiles for

transportation. People are as likely to work and interact between postsuburban cities as within them.

In city neighborhoods, people meet and interact while walking to the neighborhood store or church. In postsuburban areas, there are few places where this sort of activity can take place.

In edge cities where people from many different cultures congregate, residents tend to be knowledgeable about, interested in, and appreciative of cultures around the world. Postsuburban areas such as Long Island, New York, and Long Beach, California, have strong arts cultures.

Despite attempts by government to legislate equality in housing opportunity, racial segregation occurs. Realtors often regularly steer minorities away from white neighborhoods. Banks are cautious about granting loans to minority families that want to purchase or rehabilitate homes in primarily white neighborhoods.

2. Small Businesses Disappear. In an attempt to revitalize business areas, local governments frequently offer tax incentives to attract businesses to locate within their boundaries. These new businesses may compete with established businesses. "Mom and Pop" businesses

are increasingly forced to close because they are unable to compete with larger chain-store prices or variety of items.

3. Crime and Drug Traffic Spread. The population density in large cities makes them a breeding ground for crime. Crime rates are also affected by the proximity of wealth and poverty in cities. Although crime *rates* in such major cities as New York have been declining steadily, high *numbers* of crimes are still committed. Cities experience crime related to drug use more often than suburban or rural areas.

There is an interesting trend in large and small cities, such as Chicago,

Illinois, and the smaller state capital Springfield. Chicago had twice as many *violent* crimes per 100,000 people as Springfield. However, Springfield had significantly more *property* crimes, such as burglary, larceny, and auto theft. This same trend is true when comparing New York City with New York State's capital, Albany, and Los Angeles and the California capital, Sacramento.

4. Poverty Increases. The numbers of urban poor are growing. Urban poverty is often a result of declining school quality and a widening gap in education and training in an increasingly technological society. Poverty is accompanied by increases in crime, drug abuse, and the number of people needing welfare services. Homelessness, too, is an aspect of

Did You Know?



Homelessness in the United States

Making an accurate count of homeless people is nearly impossible. Although many homeless people visit shelters where records are kept, many others stay in automobiles, campgrounds, or other places where researchers cannot effectively search. However, various studies have produced some disturbing numbers.

- * Several studies indicate that 12 million adult residents of the United States have been homeless at some point in their lives.
- * The number of homeless is projected to increase by 5 percent a year.
- * Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness during the past 20 years: a shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.
- * Forty-five percent of urban homeless people are single men; 14 percent are single women.
- * Families constitute 38 percent of the homeless population.
- * Among urban homeless, children under the age of 18 account for 25 percent of the homeless population. Fifty-one percent of homeless people are between the ages of 31 and 50.
- * Forty percent of the homeless have served in the military.
- * Approximately 20 to 25 percent of single adult homeless people suffer from some form of severe and persistent mental illness.
- * African Americans make up almost half of all homeless people.
- * The most common places that homeless people stay are vehicles (59.2 percent) and such makeshift housing as tents, boxes, caves, and boxcars (24.6 percent).

urban poverty. In several large cities, more than three percent of the population used homeless shelters at least once a year. The real proportion of homeless people is higher because not all take advantage of shelters.

Decline of Smaller Cities

Most U.S. cities with populations over 200,000 suffered declining populations in the last decade of the 20th century. While the decline means a smaller demand on city services, it also means:

- * A decline in the tax base used to repair aging infrastructures, such as roads and utilities.
- * Abandoned buildings that become centers for drug traffic and other crimes.
- * Fewer jobs and declining tax revenues because the people who leave are typically middle-class people who also move their businesses.

Sociological Perspectives on Urbanization

Functionalist Perspective

Functionalists focus on the interdependence of people in a city. They have a generally positive view of the social changes that occur in cities. They study the ways that urban organizations meet economic and social needs.

Conflict Perspective

Conflict theorists stress the role of the power elite in making suburbs stronger than cities. They emphasize **three** historic developments:

1. Seeking profit, big construction corporations bought up large tracts of land in rural areas for development as housing, shopping, or industrial complexes. In the process, they drove farmers out of business. The developers were supported by government subsidies, grants, and low-interest loans.
2. As cities expanded into the suburbs, big business “made a killing” in real estate, construction, and banking. The government subsidized the building of many single-family homes in the suburbs, guaranteed mortgages, and offered tax deductions on interest payments, thus encouraging people to purchase the homes.
3. From the 1970s to the present, large corporations have turned suburbs into edge cities, thus avoiding paying high city taxes. Many businesses received large tax breaks from suburban governments to relocate. This drained city revenues, leaving the city to provide for an increasingly larger proportion of needy people.

Interactionist Perspective

Interactionists have studied certain dimensions of urban human interaction and have drawn **three** conclusions.

1. City people tend to interact in superficial and impersonal ways to protect themselves from psychic overload, even to the extent of ignoring a neighbor's calls for help.
2. City people may be respecting each other's desire for privacy by avoiding eye contact in public places.

3. City people tend to be tolerant of diverse lifestyles in such areas as dress, religious practices, or sexual orientations. They are familiar with aspects of cultures other than their own. They tend to refrain from imposing their values on others.

Summarizing Urban Living

Despite the problems of cities, they offer many advantages to residents that rural areas do not, including:

- * Wide choice of lifestyles and careers.
- * Numerous cultural institutions.

Did You Know?

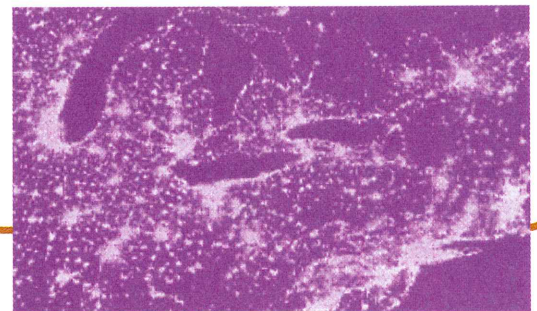


City Lights

One of the beauties of a city at night is the shimmer and glow of its many lights. City attractions are lit to show them off. Property owners and those concerned with security use high levels of light to protect customers and citizens from crime. However, some warn of a "dark side." Astronomers note that current lighting practices steal the public's view of the night sky. Critics point out that 30 percent of the electricity generated for outdoor lighting is wasted as it is misdirected—upward and outward, rather than down.

One group calls this "trespassing," comparing the spillover of light onto private property with dumping trash on your neighbor's lawn. They cite a study suggesting that high levels of light in a child's bedroom can lead to improper development of the eyes.

Night satellite imagery of the northeastern United States from Chicago to New York City.



- * Excellent educational opportunities.
- * Specialized medical care.
- * Variety in recreational activities.
- * Privacy.

The downside of life in cities, however, may include:

- * Impersonal social relationships.
- * Overstimulation.
- * Anonymity.
- * High level of competition and conflict.
- * Physical danger from crime, smog, easy access to drugs, and the stresses of urban living.

In the foreseeable future, many cities will continue to lose people to the suburbs, the country, and the sunbelt. Because most migrants from the centers of cities are white and middle class, inner cities may become increasingly populated with minorities and the poor.

Will our increasingly information-based society change where businesses locate? We can assume cities will continue to try to attract businesses through incentives and to focus on creating more jobs for the unemployed and underemployed.

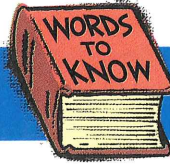
Chapter 14 Wrap-up

CITIES AND URBAN LIFE

Urbanization—the movement of people into cities—began about 9,000 years ago. Cities remained rather small until the Industrial Revolution, when improved transportation and the demand for skilled workers drew people to centralized locations. Urban growth in the United States paralleled that in Europe. Today, some enormous population centers around the world include tens of millions of people. Most of these huge population centers are in developing countries.

Sociologists developed three spatial theories that describe how cities have developed—in concentric circular zones, in sectors, and from multiple nuclei. Other sociologists describe urban culture in comparison to rural life. Many are interested in what city life does to personal relationships.

Recent trends in urbanization include shifting populations, edge cities, and urban renewal. Cities have their own particular kinds of social problems. In spite of these, cities offer people advantages that are not found in smaller towns or rural areas.



city—permanent concentration of a relatively large number of people. *p.* 266

Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)—metropolitan area with a population over 1 million. *p.* 269

gentrification—renovation of former working-class neighborhoods or industrial districts by white-collar professionals. *p.* 276

megacity—city with a population greater than 5 million people. *p.* 269

metropolis—large urban area that includes a city and its suburbs. *p.* 268

suburb—residential area on the outskirts of a city. *p.* 268

urbanization—movement of people from rural to urban areas. *p.* 267