

Contents:

1. Urbanisation Trends in ELDCs & EMDCs
2. Decentralisation in the Developed World
3. Urban Primacy – Trends, Reasons & Consequences

Key Terms & Definitions**Lectures 2, 3 & 4**

1. **Urbanisation:** increase in proportion of total pop living in urban areas
2. **Urban growth:** increase in pop of urban areas
3. **Urbanism:** extension of social & behavioural characteristics of urban living across society
4. **Centripetal force:** (radiating inwards) concentration of econ activity in downtown
5. **Centrifugal force:** (radiating outwards) suburbanisation
6. **Suburb:** outer district within commuting zone of urban area
7. **Suburbanisation:** population movement from within city to rural-urban fringe / suburbs
8. **Decentralisation:** people, employment & services from inner city relocate towards urban margins
9. **Counterurbanisation:** population de-concentration away from large urban settlements
10. **Gentrification:** reinvestment of capital in urban centre (through residential rehabilitation & redevelopment) to produce space for more affluent people than that currently occupies space
11. **Rehabilitation:** Refurbishing and installing of modern amenities into old but structurally sound housing
12. **Million city:** city with pop 1m<
13. **Megacity:** urban agglomeration with pop 10m<
14. **Primate city:** financial, political & pop centre of country unrivalled by other cities, minimum 2X larger than 2nd largest city

Trends in World Urbanisation**Lecture 2**

- ✓ Increasing levels of urbanisation & urban growth result of natural increase of urban pop & net immigration into urban areas
 - Reinforces each other though relative importance vary
- ✓ Urban growth amount differs across continents & countries
 - But for all countries, proportion of urban dwellers rising
 - UN predicts virtually all pop growth in 2000-2020 to be in urban areas
- ✓ Differential incidence of urbanisation worldwide
 - EMDCs: rising urbanisation level, falling urbanisation rate
 - ELDCs: rapid urbanisation
 - Linked to DTM
- ✓ Asia major region of urban growth (1950: 17% → 2003: 40% → 2025: 50%<)
- ✓ Latin America rapid growth, urban pop expected to exceed Europe's by 2025
- ✓ Africa fastest urban growth rate (1950: 15% → 2025: 30%)

Urbanisation in ELDCs**Lecture 2**

- ✓ Started since colonial times but slow, picked up after WW2
 - Urbanisation rippled across from EMDCs
 - Modernisation of economies & societies
- ✓ Twin processes of rural-urban migration & natural increase
 - Rapid urban pop growth as excess survivors syndrome
- ✓ Most ELDCs urbanisation rates > econ growth rates
- ✓ **Level** of urbanisation still low as pop still mostly rural
- ✓ Change more rapid compared to EMDCs
 - World's urban pop grew 41% (1980 – 1990)
 - World's 10 largest cities mostly in ELDCs (1992, e.g. Mumbai, Kolkata, Cairo, Mexico City & Sao Paulo)

Factors contributing to Urbanisation in ELDCs**Lecture 2****1. Rapid population growth**

- ✓ (DTM) Rapidly falling DR, slowly declining BR
- ✓ Pop in cities grow + constant rural-urban migration stream

2. Modernisation of agriculture

- ✓ Shift towards more capital input & higher technology
 - Increased mechanisation → high rural unemployment
- ✓ 'Bright lights' syndrome (attracted by all good things in city)
- ✓ Agricultural change push people into cities but limited industrial development to support them

3. Industrial competition

- ✓ EMDCs seek new markets in ELDCs in imported manufactured goods (e.g. tractors, chemicals)
 - Local industries cannot compete / destroyed
 - Resultant retrenched seek better opportunities in city

4. Improved communications

- ✓ Rising awareness about urban living standards & migration possibilities → reinforce migration chain
 - Through media, friends' recommendations

Urbanisation in EMDCs**Lecture 2**

- ✓ Since Industrial Revolution (1750 – 1850), mining & manufacturing centres evolve into urban towns (industrialisation)
- ✓ DTM historical basis of explanation
- ✓ Urbanisation in tandem with industrialisation
 - Urbanisation largely complete by mid-20th century
 - Urbanisation levels stabilise at 75-80% by end-20th century
- ✓ Reversing trend today: **decentralisation**

Decentralisation / Suburbanisation in EMDCs**Lecture 2**

- ✓ Suburbanisation & counterurbanisation
- ✓ Rising centrifugal / falling centripetal forces
 - **Automobile-based dispersal** with rise of cars
 - **Decentralisation of jobs** as land rents increase → offices relocate
 - **Multi-centred metropolises** to decrease congestion

- ✓ Dispersion & redistribution
- ✓ Suburbanisation began in late 19th & early 20th centuries
 - Suburbanisation of rich to escape inner city squalor
 - Rapidly accelerated by advent of automobile
 - Rising affluence of working-class motivate suburbanisation
- ✓ Post-war suburban boom
 - Suburbs exploded after WW2 with pent-up demand for housing
 - Baby boomers + rising real incomes = Relocate to urban periphery by choice to avoid negative externalities of ageing areas
 - Government's role: construction of freeway network since 1956 eroded regional advantage of CBD
- ✓ **Residential suburbanisation** = improvements in transport + willingness of development of suburbia
 - E.g. Los Angeles: public forced to adopt automobile since 1930s → industrial & demographic shifts to periphery → rise of suburban city (1970s – 1980s)
- ✓ **Retail suburbanisation** in response to residential flight to suburbs & obsolescence of older retailing areas
 - Retail shifted to suburbs post-war
 - Post-1955: development of hypermarket (especially along major highway exits) attracted activities to area
- ✓ **Manufacturing decentralisation** since 1960s
 - With urban expressway system completed, transportation cost differentials negated
 - Locational pull of central city terminals decline
- ✓ **Office suburbanisation** from late 1970s – 1980s
 - Not as rapid or as extensive compared to industries
 - Major factor in site selection: accessibility to expressway
 - Lower rents & less congestion attract large firms to periphery
- ✓ Era of **Edge City** (mini-downtown)
 - Super shopping malls → catalyst for other commercial, industrial & recreational facilities → edge city emerges
 - Large nodes of office & retail at urban margin
 - Unplanned, loosely-organised & multifunctional nodes
- ✓ Suburbs as world's future? **Preference of working class for privacy & space increasingly universal**
 - E.g. Frankfurt, suburbs as far as 80km!
 - E.g. Japan, exodus caused by high prices & congestion → 10m settled in suburbs around main cities of Kanto Plain
- ✓ Age of megapolises as a result of extensive suburbanisation
 - Polynucleated new metropolis with expansion of suburbs till many metropolitan areas coalesce
 - Emergence of continuously built-up area with many new centres competing with older CBDs
 - E.g. Boston-Washington corridor (USA, encompassing Boston, New York, Philadelphia & Washington DC)

Counterurbanisation in EMDCs**Lecture 2**

- ✓ **People abandon cities in favour of rural areas to escape negative externalities of cities**

- Population turnaround: non-metropolitan pop grow faster than metropolitan pop
- ✓ Decentralisation as pop increase absorbed in non-metropolitan urban areas
 - Net migration down urban hierarchy
- ✓ Trend first identified in USA in 1970s, especially in sunbelt states (e.g. California, Texas & Arizona), as a result of deindustrialisation
- ✓ **Lifestyle factors** in counterurbanisation
 - Rising affluence → more disposable income for retirement / holiday homes in rural areas
 - Rising car ownership + more freeways → higher mobility
 - Ageing pop increase demand for rural retirement homes
- ✓ **Lifestyle changes** in counterurbanisation
 - Occurs in places with warmer weather / coastal areas
 - E.g. Australia, coasts of New South Wales, Western Australia & Queensland
- ✓ A conscious decision to live & work in rural environment!
- ✓ Decentralisation of econ activity away from city & deindustrialisation
 - Service, information & high-tech industries in place
- ✓ Disastrous effect of shift on central cities & suburbs, with lower tax base & purchasing power of metropolitan core

Costs of Suburbanisation**Lecture 3**

- ✓ At edges of metropolitan, erosion of farmland into residential & commercial property
 - Urban sprawl eats up best farmland with best soils as many cities established on river floodplains
- ✓ Increasing transportation costs & traffic congestion
 - Road & water infrastructure costly in low-density areas
 - More time required to get to work as city expands & congestion intensifies
- ✓ Social costs of suburbanisation with class segregation
 - Less well-off suffer with less and more expensive transport
 - New pop invades local communities, lack community spirit
- ✓ **Downward spiral in inner city** (inner city decline)
 - Affluent leave → property deteriorates / tax base falls → tax increases + services & schools decline → more leave → businesses close from lack of customers → jobs lost → property deteriorates further → tax base & services fall
 - Migration of jobs (especially manufacturing) leads to unemployment and lower incomes in inner city
 - Public service inadequate with lower property, income & sales tax revenues
 - Minorities especially affected, as whites better position to flee inner cities (racial segregation)
- ✓ Hard costs of inner city decay
 - Loss of local jobs & businesses
 - Diversion of municipal resources from core to fringe areas
- ✓ Soft costs of inner city decay
 - Ugly landscape (graffiti)
 - Disintegration of community life & identity

Urban Rejuvenation / Renewal**Lecture 3**

- ✓ **Inner city renewal & gentrification**
 - Urban renewal authorities give old, inner city new look
 - Attracts middle-class income groups (e.g. yuppies) into area
 - E.g. Manchester in UK, shed industrial roots to become financial & services centre to rival London
- ✓ Aim of urban renewal to provide cities with new econ infrastructure geared to needs of deindustrialised econ
- ✓ Local city councils ally with private investors to develop inner city to attract external investment to benefit local businesses & councils
 - E.g. Birmingham UK / London Docklands UK

Gentrification**Lecture 3**

- ✓ **Residential rehabilitation & redevelopment** through commercial reinvestment & social change
 - Inevitable as previously devalued neighbourhoods gentrified and poorer people displaced
- ✓ Triggered by renewed interest in once-elegant but run-down housing and its locational advantages (e.g. access to central city)
 - Rehabilitation increases property values
 - New wave of migrants into inner-city, usually well-educated young couples (DINK – double income, no kids), with ability to pay high city rents, hence edging out older indigenous residents
- ✓ Helped by improvement grants & redevelopment authorities
- ✓ **Government plays active / direct role** as can benefit from:
 - Dislocation of lower-class that burden government
 - Influx of middle & upper-class with high incomes & purchasing power → higher tax base
- ✓ Early gentrification occurred in large old cities in EMDCs
 - E.g. New York - Greenwich Village (USA), Toronto – Riverdale (Canada)
- ✓ Slowed in many cities in early 1990s & expanding into previously unaffected areas
 - E.g. Tokyo (Japan), Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Impact of Gentrification**Lecture 3**

- ✓ Sharper contrasts in inner city
 - High-quality improved housing VS slum-quality dwellings
- ✓ Gentrification-induced displacement → protests
- ✓ **Social polarisation**
 - Middle-range jobs rare → fight for such jobs
 - Accommodation for less-well off limited
 - Invasion and replacement of original inhabitants
 - Tension between traditional working-class inhabitants & newcomers with different way of life

Million Cities & Megacities**Lecture 4**

- ✓ Growth of million cities with pop 1m<
- ✓ Before 1940 – most million cities in EMDCs; since 1950s – trend shift towards ELDCs
- ✓ 11 megacities in 1985 → 20< megacities in 2000
- ✓ Megacities in EMDCs:
 - Globalisation primary driving force behind size
 - Polynucleated structure through sub-regional planning & private investment
 - E.g. New York & Tokyo
- ✓ Megacities in ELDCs:
 - Monocentric structure with core city enveloped by ever-spreading residential & industrial sprawl
 - Uncontrolled urbanisation (rural-urban migration & pop growth > econ growth)
 - E.g. Mexico City & Mumbai
- ✓ By 2025, Asia will have 20< megacities
 - Asia's urban pop X2 to 2.5b< (50%< of world's urban pop)

Urban Primacy in ELDCs**Lecture 4**

- ✓ Urban hierarchy dominated by single city
 - Most populated city 2X larger than 2nd largest city
 - Often capital city of country dominating country / region
- ✓ Common feature of rapid urbanisation, tends to develop in ELDCs
 - Can contain up to 25% of total pop and 4X< pop of next largest city
 - E.g. Jakarta, Manila, Bangkok & Cairo
- ✓ Attract bulk of investment hence increasing regional inequalities
- ✓ Reasons behind primacy:
 - **Areal extent of dense pop** – less likelihood for primacy if country pop spread over large area
 - **Per capita income** – higher per capita income, lower likelihood of urban primacy as better distribution of resources
 - **Export-oriented economies** – encourages high primacy, with gateway cities dominating
 - **Colonial history** – centralization of administration (seat of colonial government), also of colonial economic importance (e.g. port city)
 - **Agricultural economies** – rural pop seek improvement of SoL, flocking to 1 dominant city
 - **Rate of pop growth** – very rapid pop growth favors primacy
 - **Lack of government capital** – limited capital hence focus on 1 city with initial advantage
 - **Development of growth pole** – city receiving inward investment more attractive than surrounding cities → reinforce inequalities (vicious cycle)
 - **Immigration** – rural push & urban pull factors
- ✓ **Urban primacy is relative!**
 - EMDCs higher GNP, better urban infrastructure & distribution of resources
 - EMDCs low rates of urbanisation because of existing high levels of urbanisation

- Urban primacy exceed institutional capacity to respond in ELDCs
- Natural increase in EMDCs is low / -ve compared to ELDCs

Problems of Megacities in ELDCs**Lecture 4**

- ✓ Attract disproportionate investment to core
- ✓ Over-urbanisation: shortage of housing, overcrowding, traffic congestion, poor sanitation, unemployment, poverty etc.
- ✓ Shortage of land, especially those affordable for housing, due to rapid price increase of land
- ✓ Environmental issues in megacities (especially in ELDCs)
 - Waste disposal
 - Increasing traffic & resultant air pollution
 - Shortage of clean water
 - Social amenities (hospitals, housing)

Challenges to Sustainable Urbanization**Lecture 4**

- ✓ Rural-urban migration
 - Urbanisation not accompanied by adequate econ growth!
 - Political factors (instability, civil war) & econ / environmental / social push-pull factors affect contemporary urbanisation
- ✓ Reducing urban poverty
 - Prime objective of development policy
 - Rapid pop growth exacerbate existing urban poverty (more than half of urban pop live below poverty line in many Asian, African & Latin American cities)
 - Lack of individual & collective resources to invest in urban infrastructure & services
- ✓ Urban challenges in ELDCs
 - Meeting basic needs, such as access to safe drinking water & sanitation
 - Economic development to reduce current poverty
 - Need to address deeper roots of poverty & injustice, and end political instability & national mismanagement