



Hong Kong

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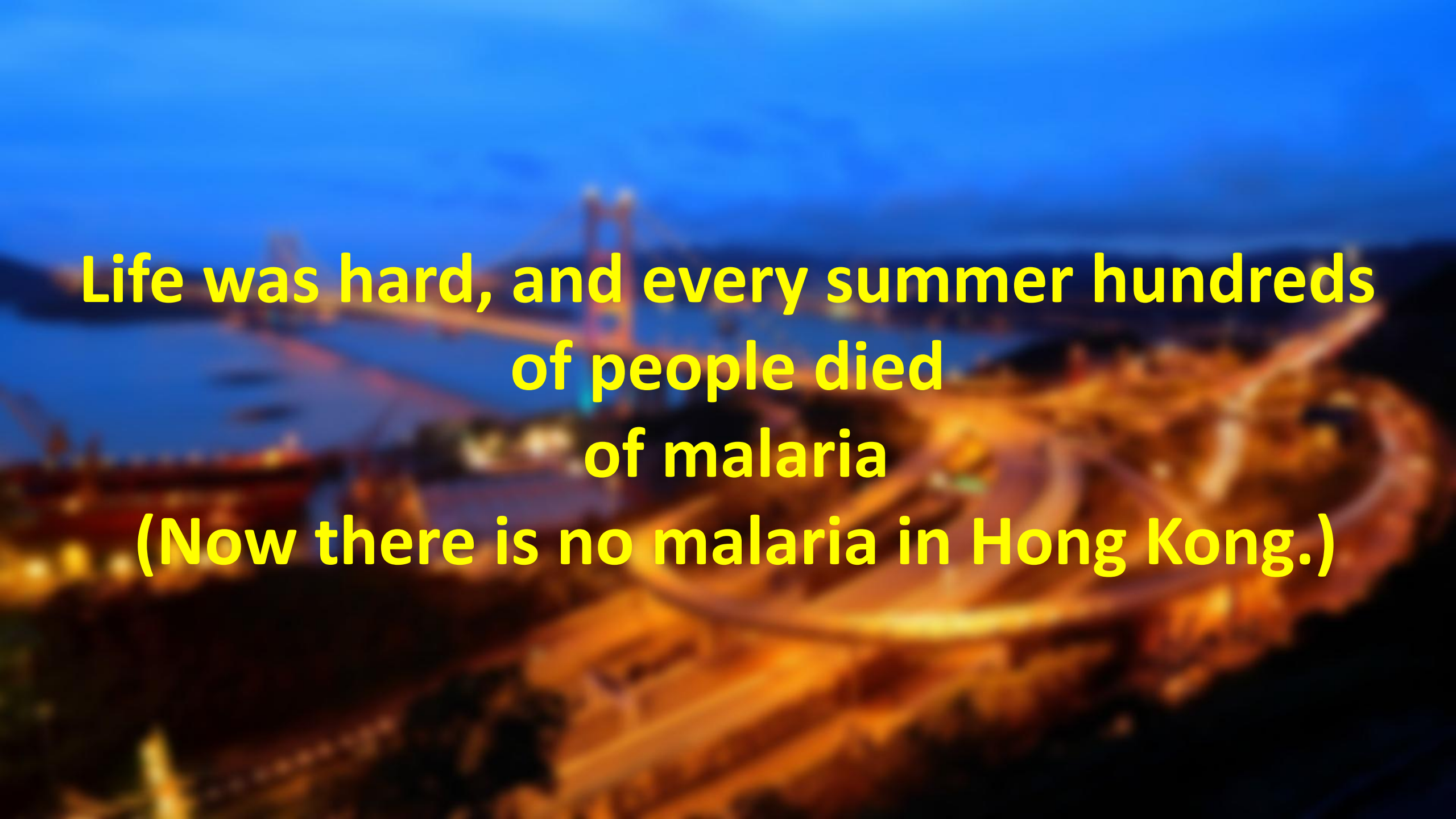
is now the most crowded place on earth

But 160 years ago it was very different

In 1845 only 24,000 people

lived in Hong Kong

and there were only 700 houses.



**Life was hard, and every summer hundreds
of people died
of malaria
(Now there is no malaria in Hong Kong.)**




**Hong Kong looked very different then
farmers rode cows
in the center of the town
and ducks ran about in the streets.**

A blurred night cityscape of Hong Kong, featuring the dark silhouette of the skyscraper 101 on the left and other illuminated buildings in the background. The text is overlaid in a bright yellow color.

**Now there are nearly
seven million people
in Hong Kong
and the government builds
40,000 houses every year.**



These days people drive cars,
taxis and buses in the town center
but they never ride cows



**In 1844 a traveler complained
that his small
wet bedroom in Hong Kong
was more expensive
than a first-class hotel in London**



**Hong Kong is still one of
the most expensive places
in the world
Sadly
some things never change**