



# Urban Issues

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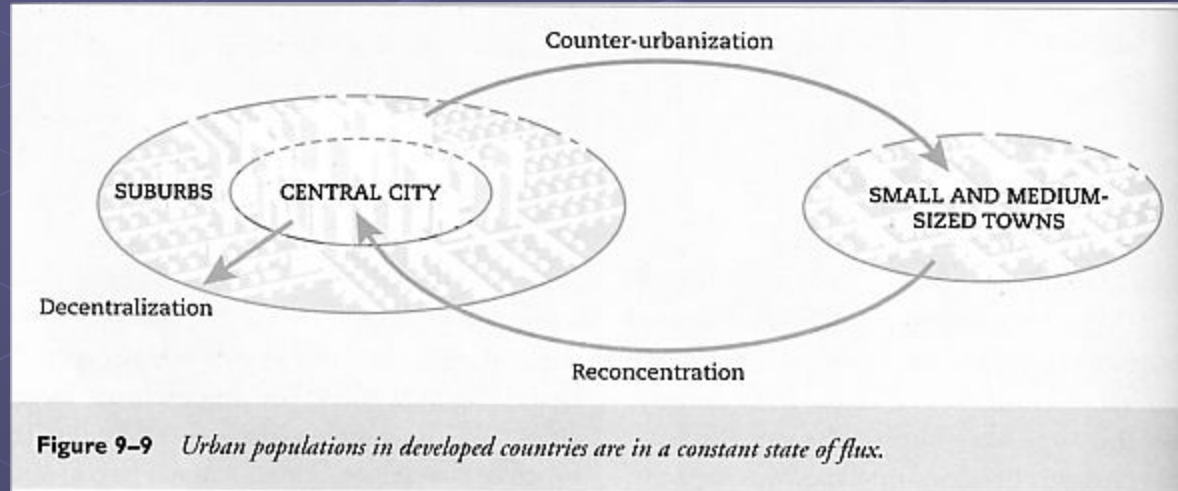
CS111

# Definitions

- Cultural Diffusion
- Economic Base
- Megacity
- Urban Growth
- Urbanization
- Decentralization
- Suburbanization
- Counter-urbanization
- Infrastructure
- Over-urbanization
- Fiscal squeeze
- Squatter settlements
- Threshold population
- Primate city

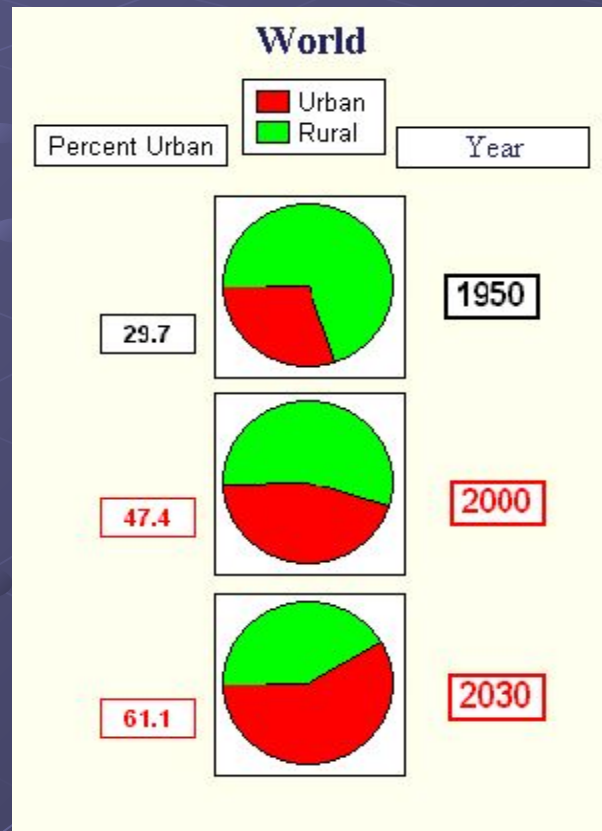
# People Shifting

- Why do people urbanize?
- What would be reasons for people to move from the centre of cities to the suburbs?



# POPULATION SHIFT

- Two hundred years ago 5% of the world's pop. (980 million) was urbanized.
- Now 47% is urbanized.



# Urbanization figures

- Can anyone find a the problem with this figure of 47% urbanization?
  - Different countries have different criteria for recognizing an area as being urbanized.
  - Canada and Australia
    - population greater than 1000
  - Italy
    - Greater than 10,000
  - Japan
    - Greater than 50,000
- Stats can't be taken too seriously.

# What is a Megacity?

- A city that has a population over 8 million people.



# Issues in Megacities

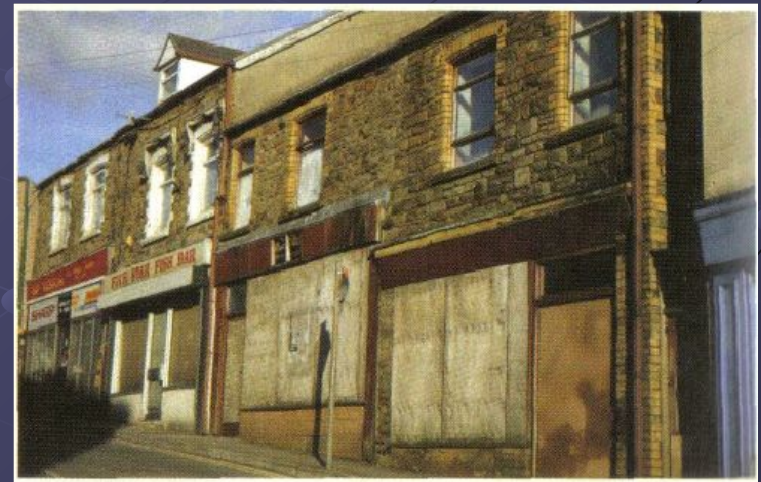
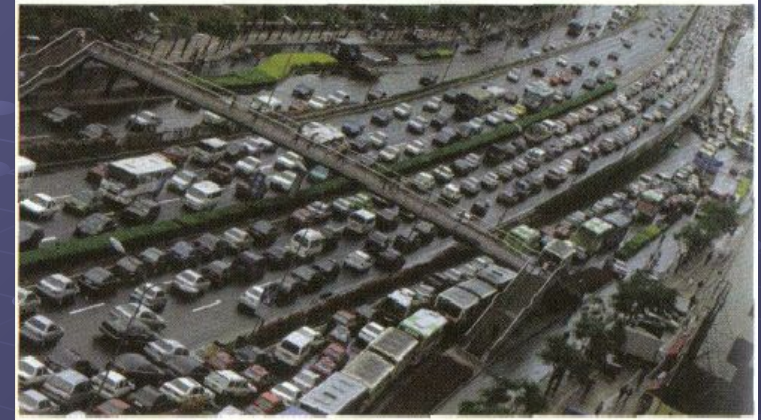
- Come up with some of the major issues that megacities would face.
  - Crime
  - Sanitation
  - Housing
  - Over crowding
  - All forms of pollution
  - ???
  - Squatter settlements

# Urban Problems Activity



## COMMON GLOBAL URBAN PROBLEMS

1. Identify the most serious urban problems that you think cities face in all parts of the world.
2. Imagine that you are the mayor of the community in which you live. The UN has asked you to rank the top 14 urban problems in your community in order of their severity, from the most to the least severe. Compare your list with those of your classmates.
3. The United Nations Development Program asked mayors around the world to rank the top 14 urban problems in their communities.
  - a) How does your list compare to that of the world mayors?
  - b) Which problems did you not identify?
  - c) Did you identify problems not on this list?
4.
  - a) Now imagine that you are the mayor of a large city in a Near Core or Far Periphery country. Re-rank these 14 problems in order of their severity.
  - b) How does your list differ from the list you made in question 2? Explain any differences.



**Figure 9-11** The cities of the world face a wide range of seemingly insoluble challenges ranging from gridlocked traffic to urban decay.



# Problems with Urbanization

- In developing countries people flock to urban areas before any economic growth or infrastructure has been put in place, this leads to unpleasant conditions.
- What are the problems of growing Urban areas?
- Read page 32 and 33. Answer question 9 on 33

- Economic Problems

- Low wage jobs – shoe shine, begging, selling souvenirs.
- Leads to high prostitution.
- Child labour
- Huge gaps between rich and poor.
- Hard to offer services to public
  - Schools, transportation systems, social services

- Social Problems

- Squatter settlements - Illegally set up settlements on land and do not pay rent.
  - Very poor living conditions – no sewers, water or electricity .
- Slum Dwellers – pay rent
  - Poor living conditions
- High sick rates
- High Infant mortality
- Poverty
- Crime
- World Bank gives aid to assist in educating and providing healthcare.

# Environmental

- Natural Disasters hit them the hardest because of the poorly constructed buildings.
- Sites next to industrial areas are very susceptible to toxins and air pollutants.
- Developing countries usually have very poorly maintained vehicles and unregulated gas leading to pollution. (CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, lead, NO<sub>2</sub>)
- Infrastructure supplying clean drinking water is usually connected to infrastructure dealing with disposal of waste.
  - (Much of the sewage in poor urban areas still runs into ditches beside roads and flows into rivers used for drinking.)