

44. Settlements – (counter)urbanization

The process of urbanization is one of the most complicated processes realizing in recent period and represents one of the main global problems of the mankind.

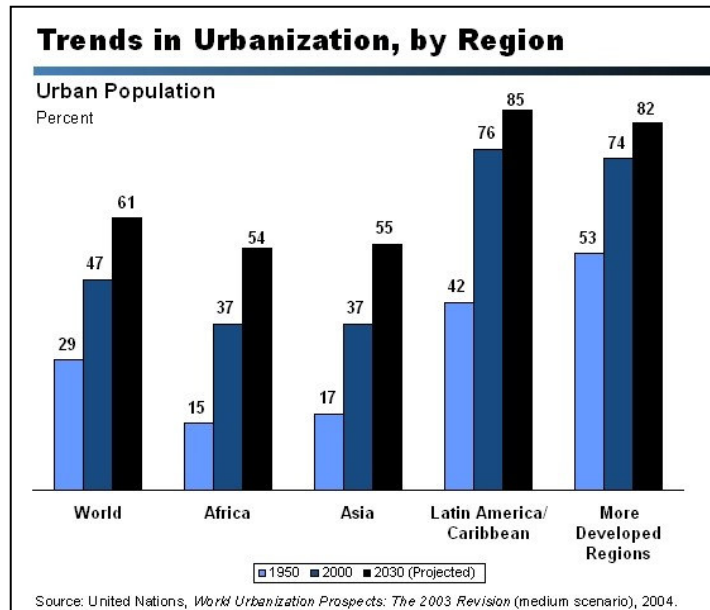
Urbanization = concentration of people into towns and cities. Beginning in ancient times, this spatial and social process has accelerated especially during the period of industrialization.

Urbanization rate – the percentage of people living in urban areas.

Which regions have experienced the fastest increase of urban population during 1950-2000 according to the graph?

In 2000, world urbanization rate was nearly 50% and it is assumed that in the near future this number will be exceeded.

Why do people migrate to urban areas?



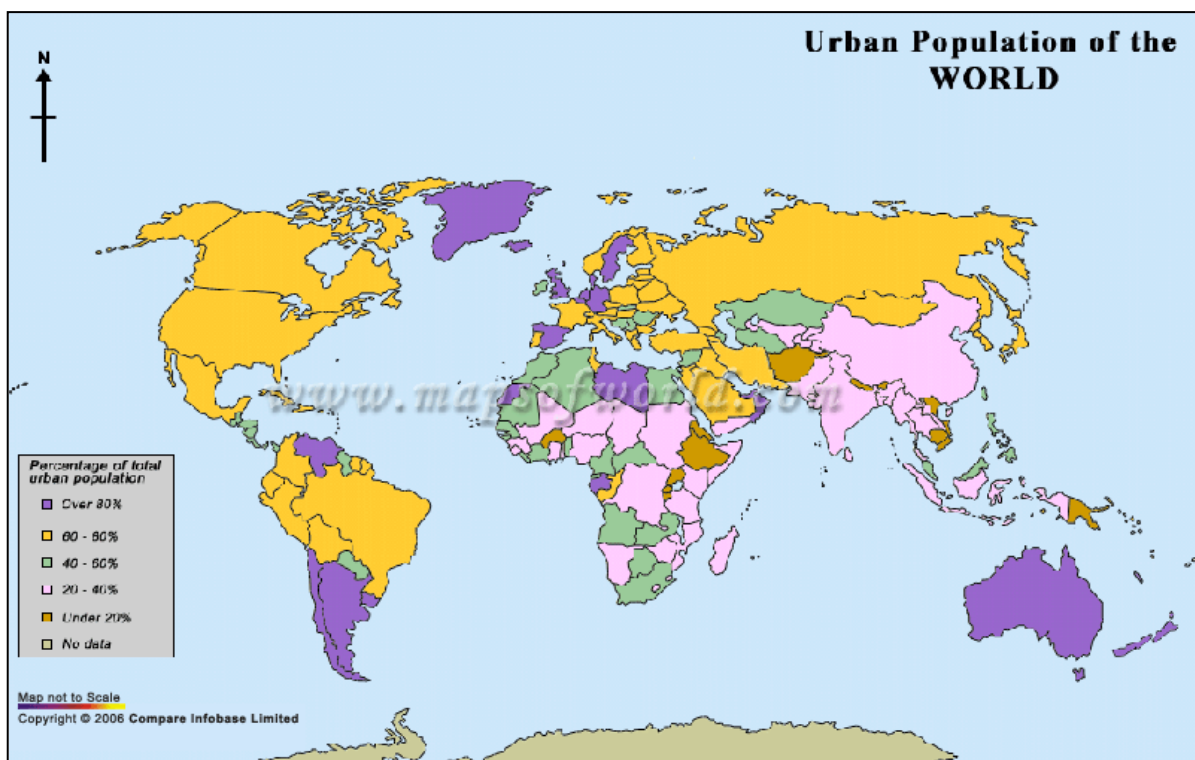
Less developed countries

More than 2/3 of the population lives in cities especially in countries of *Latin America*. *African countries* experience the migration from rural to urban areas as well, however, urbanization movement is the most apparent in *SE Asian countries*.

More developed countries

These countries including North America and Australia have very high rate of urbanization (>80%).

- e.g. UK, Japan, Sweden, Norway, etc.



Largest cities of the world in 2006

1. **Tokyo-Yokohama**, Japan - 33,200,000
2. **New York City**, United States - 17,800,000
3. **Sao Paulo**, Brazil - 17,700,000
4. **Seoul-Incheon**, South Korea - 17,500,000
5. **Mexico City**, Mexico - 17,400,000
6. **Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto**, Japan - 16,425,000
7. **Manila**, Philippines - 14,750,000
8. **Mumbai**, India (formerly Bombay) - 14,350,000
9. **Jakarta**, Indonesia - 14,250,000
10. **Lagos**, Nigeria - 13,400,000
11. Calcutta, India (formerly Calcutta) - 12,700,000
12. Delhi, India - 12,300,000
13. Cairo, Egypt - 12,200,000
14. Los Angeles, United States - 11,789,000
15. Buenos Aires, Argentina - 11,200,000
16. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - 10,800,000
17. Moscow, Russia - 10,500,000
18. Shanghai, China - 10,000,000
19. Karachi, Pakistan - 9,800,000
20. Paris, France - 9,645,000
21. Nagoya, Japan - 9,000,000 (tie)
21. Istanbul, Turkey - 9,000,000 (tie)
23. Beijing, China - 8,614,000
24. Chicago, United States - 8,308,000
25. London, United Kingdom - 8,278,000
26. Shenzhen, China - 8,000,000

Counter-urbanization

In the most developed countries, urban population tries to move from cities to nearby suburbs or, in better case, to back rural settlements because of many reasons:

- better environment
- cleaner air
- no stress or noise
- cheaper land costs
- relatively close to main centres

Keywords

urbanization, urbanization rate, counter-urbanization