



Urban Issues and Challenges



read

Urbanisation

quiz



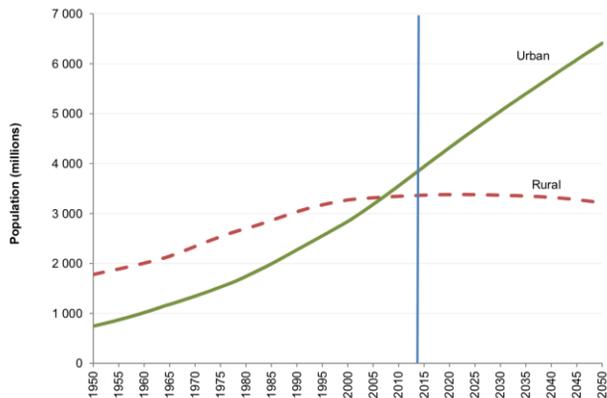
The Big Picture



Global Urban Change

By 1804, the world's population had grown from half a billion to one billion over 300 years. By 1999, it had surged from 3 billion to 6 billion in merely 39 years. It is anticipated that the global population will stabilise in the twenty-second century.

Urbanisation is the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. The graph below shows a significant increase in urbanisation between 1950 and 2014, from 0.8 billion to 3.85 billion people.



Urban Trends in LICs & HICs

- Urbanisation first occurred in high-income countries (HICs) during the Industrial Revolution. People were attracted to urban areas (pulled) from rural areas to work in factories. They were also pushed as developments in technology led to mechanisation on farms.
- Nowadays, the rate of urbanisation in low-income countries (LICs) is greater than in HICs. As LICs develop, more people migrate to urban areas. The choropleth maps below clearly show how many LICs are becoming more urbanised.



Key Terms



Urbanisation – an increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities.



Natural Increase – The birth rate minus the death rate of a population.



Rural to urban migration – the movement from rural to urban areas, due to push and pull factors.



Urbanisation Factors

Although urbanisation is greater in wealthier areas of the world compared to poor areas, rates of urban growth (changes between 1950 and 2024) are higher in less developed areas of the world. Rates of urbanisation in poorer parts of the world are very high. This is due to **rural-urban migration** and **natural increase**. Current rates are projected to increase due to industrialisation and economic development in some poorer countries. Urban growth rates are lower in more developed countries because they have already taken place, hence the high levels (over 80%).

Push Factors



- Agricultural changes
- Economic pressures
- Resource scarcity
- Disasters and conflicts

Pull Factors



- Employment
- Improved living standards
- Education
- Social factors



Megacities

- A megacity is an urban area with a population of over ten million people.
- In 1975, there were only four megacities – New York, Tokyo, Mexico City and São Paulo. Today, there are estimated to be 35.
- Asia is home to 62.9% of the world's megacities, most of which are located in India and China.
- In 2024, most megacities are located in NEEs.
- By 2050, 14 more urban areas are set to become megacities.
- Many of the world's fastest growing cities are currently in Africa.