

Urbanization

The Growth of Cities



Urbanization

- The large scale migration of people from rural to urban areas
 - Urban Areas: Heavily populated areas found in, and around, cities
 - Rural Areas: Less densely populated areas. Sometimes referred to as the hinterland or countryside

Causes of Urbanization: Push Factors

- Rural Areas have less opportunities
 - Education
 - Jobs
 - Entertainment
 - Services
- Natural Disasters
- Decline of Family Farming
- Poor Infrastructure
- Security



Causes of Urbanization: Pull Factors

- More Opportunities
- Higher density of services
- Entertainment destinations
- Perceived potential economic benefit
- Infrastructure
- Social Services



Defining The City

- Urban Area – Densely populated area with more than 50,000 people
- Municipality – Incorporated urban areas with established city governments that provide services
- City Limits – The legal limits of a city
- Metropolitan Statistical Area – An Urban area and the surrounding city that is services by the city

Parts of the City

- Central Business District (CBD) – The main center of business and commerce in the city
- Suburbs – The areas surrounding the city. Typically reserved for the middle class
- Edge Cities – Suburbs that become large cities themselves
- High-Tech Corridors – Industrial and technological centers that grow in regions of the city

Parts of the City

- Squatter Settlements/Slums – Very low wealth communities that grow unplanned
- Ethnic Neighborhoods/Ghettos – Parts of the city inhabited by people of a certain ethnic group



Problems of Urbanization

- Overpopulation
- Unemployment
 - Leading to higher rates of crime
- Squatter Settlements
- Traffic
- Pollution
 - Noise, Light, Air, Water
- Stress

