



Urbanization

Causes and Effects



Urbanization

Urbanization refers to a process in which an increasing proportion of a society live in cities and the suburbs of cities. Historically, it has been closely

connected with industrialization. Industrialization is a process that extensively uses inanimate sources of energy to enhance human productivity.

Following industrialization, surpluses increased in both agriculture and industry. Larger and larger proportions of a population could live in cities. Economic forces were such that cities became the ideal places to locate factories and their workers.



City or Urban Settlement

- A "**city**" refers to a place of relatively dense settlement -- dense enough so that city residents can not grow their own food resources. A city population, therefore, is always dependent upon its "**hinterlands**" to provide it with food resources.



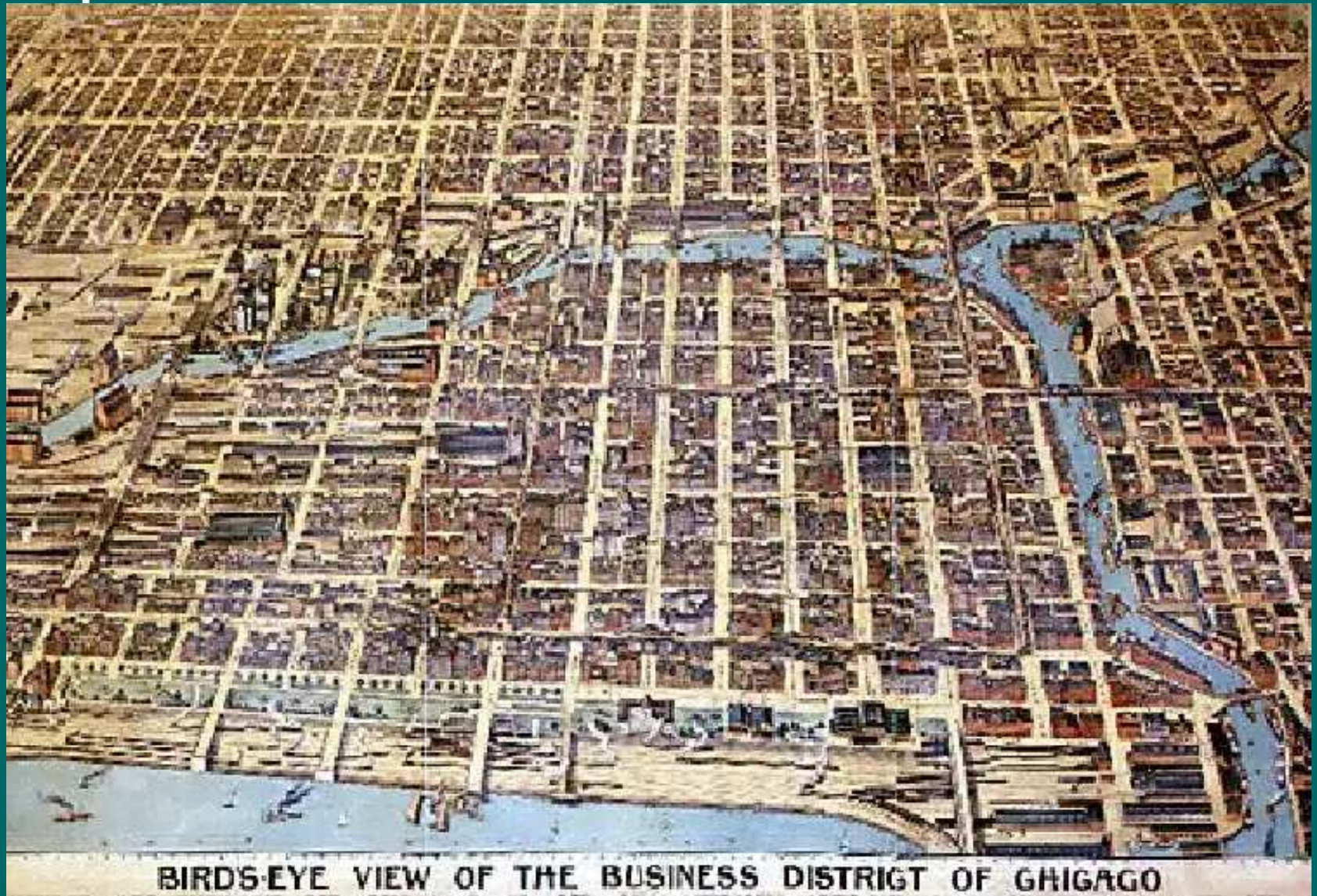
Causes of Urbanization

- Industrial Revolution
- Industrialization following the Industrial Revolution
- Emergence of large manufacturing centers
- Job Opportunities
- Availability of easy transportation
- Migration

Chicago in 1820



Chicago in 1898



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF CHICAGO



Effects of Urbanization

- Positive
- Negative



Pluses

- Benefits include reduced transport costs, exchange of ideas, and sharing of natural resources.
- Cities act as beacons for the rural population because they represent a higher standard of living
- Cities offer opportunities to people not available in the countryside



Pluses

- Social & Religious taboos/ sanctions disappearing
- Education is a tool to eradicate social evils
- Industrialization, Urbanization, Education, Legislation, Secularization- sequence of development
- Diffusion of urban culture to rural areas



Minuses

- Industrial cities were difficult places to live in due to:
- Public health issues resulting from contaminated water and air and the spread communicable diseases due to overcrowding.
- Unemployment and under employment
- Severe shortage of housing
- Transportation-commuting issues, lack of public transport, no adequate investment
- Social effects - poverty, lack of opportunities, psychological problems, alcoholism, drugs, crime, violence and other deviant behaviors



Public health

- Sanitation - the settlements were ill equipped to handle large populations and their sanitation needs
- Pollution – Caused by effluents, smoke and smog
- Fire hazards – due to use of flammable materials and proximity/ congestion
- Epidemics - due to spread of communicable diseases caused by contaminated water & air



Unemployment

- **Unemployment** is the condition of willing workers lacking jobs or "gainful employment". Before industrialization unemployment has been said not to have been recognized as an issue in rural areas, despite the "disguised unemployment" of rural laborers having little to do, especially in conditions of overpopulation



Impact of unemployment on society

- Individual – failure to meet financial obligations such as purchasing food to feed oneself and one's family, and paying one's bills, failure to make mortgage payments or to pay rent may lead to homelessness.
- Societal - rising unemployment increases the crime rate



Housing

- Overcrowding
- Loss of privacy
- Lack of housing contributes directly to crime, stress, and family breakdown
- Shortage of livable housing leading to growth of slums
- Human beings have a right to lead a life of dignity



Transportation

- **Transport or transportation** is the movement of people and goods from one place to another.
- Because of the much higher densities of people and activities in cities,
- **transportation is a key issue.**
Inadequate/ lack of public transport creates commuting problems leading to loss of efficiency.



Social Effects - Poverty

- Poverty is generally defined at the individual or family level as not having enough money to buy basic necessities.
- Poverty is caused by lack of opportunities
- Poverty causes malnutrition and illness; it is a major source of mental stress and loss of self-esteem which may lead to depression, and have a further negative impact on health.




Social Effects - Crime

- Financial insecurity
- No welfare systems in place
- Lack of meaningful work (Low importance to meaningful work and high importance to higher profits and greater efficiency)
- Anonymity -direct correlation between higher crime rate and higher rootlessness



Urbanization in India


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- In India, about 38% of the population lives in cities.
 - The process of urbanization is still nascent in the Indian context.

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- Ancient India was a civilized society with many urban centers and centers of learning.
 - Early Urbanization - Mohenjodaro
Harappa
 - Capitals - Kanauj
- Ujjain
 - Religious Centers - Bodh Gaya
- Varanashi
 - University towns - Takshasila
Nalanda



○ Mughal Cities

- Agra
- Lahore
- Fatehpur Sikri
- The seven cities of Delhi

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- Colonial Cities – Delhi, Pondicherry, Goa
 - Cantonment Towns – Bangalore, Secunderabad, Nagpur, Lucknow
 - Hill Resorts – Shimla, Nainital, Darjeeling, Ooty, Kodaikanal
 - Ports – Surat, Mumbai, Calicut, Kolkatta, Vizag, Chennai




Effects of Colonization


- Introduction of Western systems of education
- Macaulization (after Lord Macaulay) of Indian Education
- Development of labor force- skilled/ unskilled



○ Independent India

- Administrative capitals – Center & State
- Industrial Towns – Bhilai, Rourkela, Jamshedpur, Ahmedabad, Surat, Kolar

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- Today
 - Megacities – Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkatta, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad
 - Rapid Urbanization- rate of urbanization increasing

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- The process of urbanization is still nascent in the Indian context.
 - This explains the focus of global attention on the developing nations.
 - There are huge profits to be made in the process of development.