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## Two Experiences of Urbanization

1. For Phillips, what is urbanization, and how does it differ from rich countries (the global North) to poor countries (the global South)?

For Phillips, urbanization is tied to population concentration and have two important factors: out-migration from rural areas to cities and a natural increase in population. In Western Europe and North America ("rich countries", the global North), urbanization followed an S-shaped curve pattern with industrialization causing the steep rise in urbanization. However, this is not the pattern that urbanization has followed in the global South ("poor countries"). These countries all share the attribute of mass poverty and urbanization is happening much more rapidly than it did in the global North. It is predicted that the majority of future urbanization will take place in the cities of the global South and Phillips presents three variations of the effects of urbanization on poor countries: modernization (positive), urban bias (political promotion of in-migration to cities with negative effects), and economic dependence of periphery and semiperiphery (poor) countries on core (rich) countries.

increase  
in the  
proportion  
of urbanites  
in society.

2. For Wirth, urbanism is "the characteristic mode of life in cities." What is that mode of life like? Why is it that way?

Urbanism as a mode of life is highly segmented and social relations can be described as superficial, anonymous, and transitory. Additionally, the increased density of urban areas produces differentiation and specialization, which reinforces the segmented and diverse nature of urbanism. Wirth asserts that urbanism also complicates class relations and loosens caste rigidity. There are three perspectives on urbanism as a mode of life that Wirth offers: a physical structure with a population base, technology, and ecological order, a system of social organization, and a set of attitudes and ideas engaging in collective behavior (194). The physical structure of urbanism results from specific patterns of land use, transportation, public utilities, communication that respond to the biological characteristics of cities – a larger proportion of persons in their prime than persons who are very old or very young. Social organization of urbanism result from the weakening of kinship bonds, the decline of the family and neighborhoods, and the substitution of secondary for primary contacts. The collective behavior present in urban centers is a response to the reality of city life, that there are too many individuals for any one person to be of huge significance. Therefore, individuals form groups based on shared interests so that they may express themselves and acquire social status.

good.