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### Origins of Cities: Why Do Humans Cluster?

1. Clearly Kaplan is convinced by the argument that cities arise from surplus. According to him, what is that argument?

dev. of labor  
According to Kaplan, a fundamental precondition for the emergence of cities is civilization, which in turn required surplus (agricultural, skill, population). An agricultural surplus allowed people to use time that would have been spent working the land on other things instead. The greater the surplus, the greater the number of people that could specialize their skills in other areas. The creation of agricultural and material surplus necessitated social organization and a source of regulatory power to collect and distribute the surplus amongst city residents. Kaplan refers to the aforementioned relationship as "extraction and redistribution", and asserts that there were/are three mechanisms of extraction: tithing, taxation, and corvée labor. Eventually, as populations boom (a human surplus), new lands are sought for civilization and the creation of new cities.

2. For his part, Childe also agrees with the surplus argument (many think of him as the originator of it). But he also offers an analysis of the role of trade and the connections between cities. What is his argument here? Why does he think these connections are important?

Childe suggests that the most ancient of cities originated in areas that lacked an abundant supply of all the raw materials required to create the first cities. Therefore, some form of trade and/or bartering system must have been created between areas that possessed a surplus of materials other areas needed. Childe also discusses the evolution of trade cities – strategic and important points along trade routes where tradesmen and craftsmen settled and where intangible items (ideas) diffused on an international scale. This continuous interaction between the three primary centers – Egypt, Sumer, and India – serves as Childe's explanation for the simultaneous and parallel evolution of each center's establishment and evolution. These connections are integral to the diffusion and ✓ creation of tertiary civilizations. Logically, as progress sped up over the centuries, techniques and skills were learned clumsily or improperly as demand grew and the further from the primary center the tertiary civilization was located the lower the grade of craftsmen. To Childe, the strength of the trade connections between primary centers and tertiary civilizations is extremely important to the proficiency of the new craftsmen and advancement of new skill sets.

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