

Ch. 11: Urban Geography

Introduction to Geography

GEH 101/GEH 501

Lehman College

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- In-class final on *May 23*
 - Take-home final handed out next week and posted on website
 - Review guide will be posted on website
 - Course evaluations
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Urban Geography

- Study of urban areas and their functions
- Study of spatial distributions of and linkages *between* cities, and the circulation and flows of people, things, and ideas within networks of cities that bind them together in space-time
- Study of spatial patterns, internal structure, and interactions *within* cities

Definitions

- Urbanization: increasing share of urban population (urbanized societies/rural societies) vs. large cities
 - City: concentrated non-agricultural settlement
 - Hinterland: Provide services/draws resources
 - Incorporation: Defining territory/establishing government
 - Primate cities: Largest city in a country twice as large as the second largest
 - Bangkok (7.5m); Nanthaburi (481k)
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Defining Cities

- U.S. Census Bureau definition of urban
 - 2,500 or more inhabitants
- City and town
 - Multifunctional nucleated settlements
 - Central business district, both residential and nonresidential land uses
 - Towns are smaller, less functional complexity

Defining Cities

- Central city: Within the boundaries of the main city
- Suburb: Functionally specialized segment of a large urban area outside the central city
- Urbanized area: Continuously built-up landscape defined by building and population densities
- Metropolitan area: Cluster of distinct cities linked to one or more urban city centers by economic activity, which functions as an economic whole

Origins and Evolution of Cities

- Agricultural surplus or resources for trade
 - Food from surrounding hinterlands
 - Denser population
 - Fixed location, abandonment of nomadism
 - Fixed marketplace for trade
- Social organization and power
- Defensible situation to protect resources
- More complex economy
- Reduced transport costs (goods, people, ideas)

Origins and Evolution of Cities

- 1800: 3% of world's population lived in urban areas
- 1970: $\approx 33\%$ of world's population lived in urban areas
- Now: $\approx 49\%$ of world's population lives in urban areas
- Industrialization and commercialization of agriculture foster urbanization
- Urbanization in developing countries only partly due to industrialization—people from rural areas seeking a better life
 - Urban areas: access to services, service jobs
 - Economic system and urban infrastructure often unable to support rapid urban growth

Location of Urban Settlements

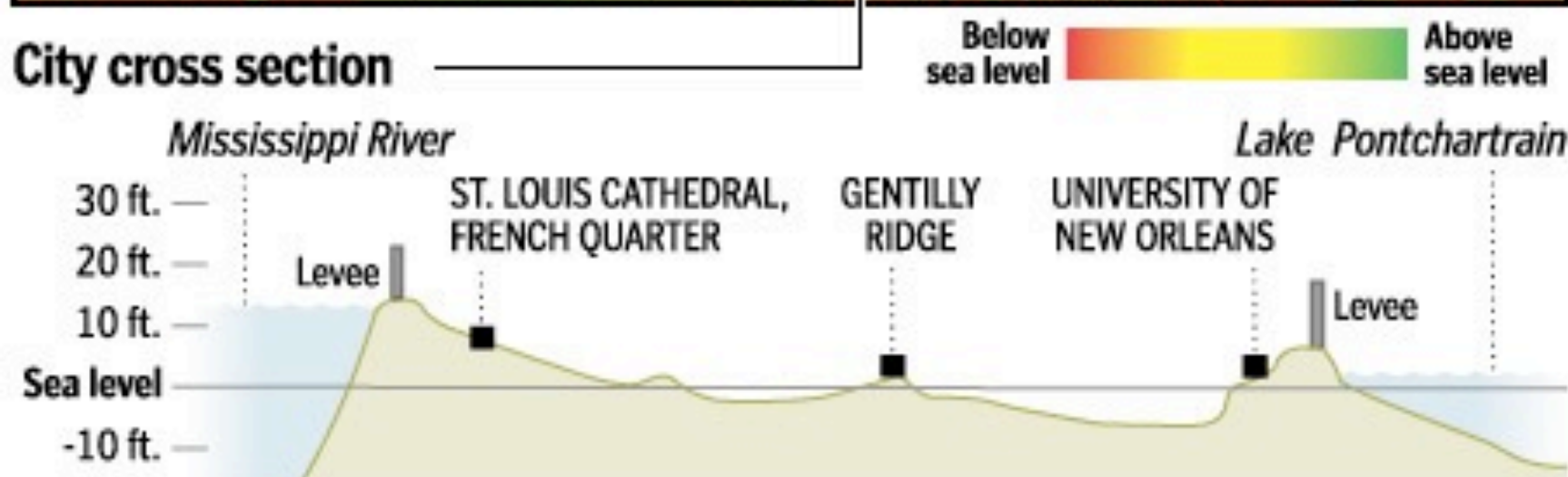
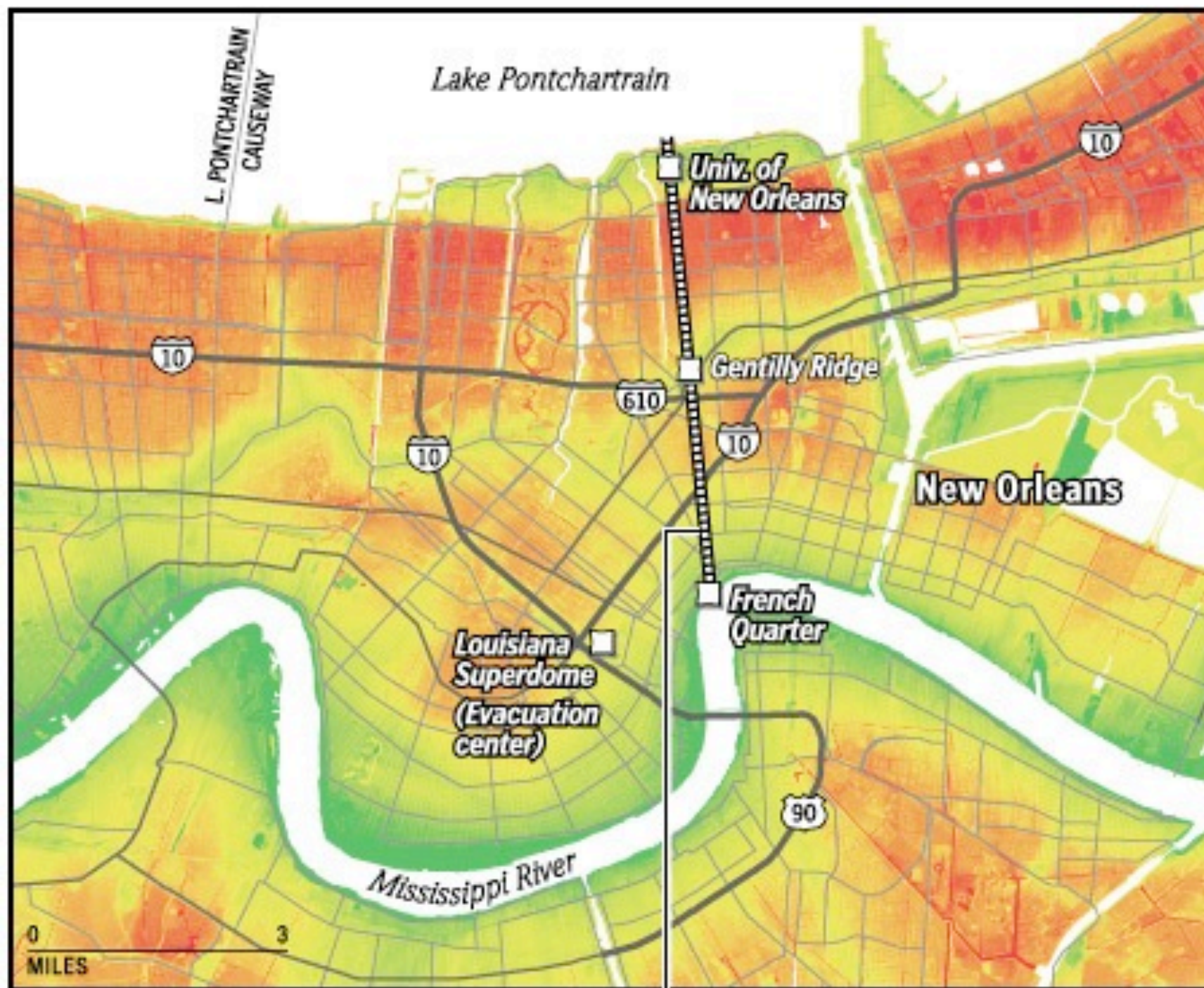
- Site (Absolute Location)
 - Latitude and longitude or physical characteristics
 - Head-of-navigation (river origin)
 - Bay head (where land/river meets bay)

Location of Urban Settlements

- Situation (Relative location)
 - In relation to the physical and cultural characteristics of surrounding areas
 - Raw materials, market areas, agricultural regions, mountains, oceans, etc.
 - Break-of-bulk locations (ports)
 - Railheads
 - Relationship to other cities

Poor Site Good Situation

- New Orleans, LA
- Flooding
- Mouth of river



Early Urban Functions

- Defense: forts, bases
- Religious: temples, churches
- Political: capitals, administration
- Agglomeration (related industries), divisions of labor
- Economic activities: primary, secondary, tertiary

Contemporary Urban Functions

- Primarily economic
- Warehousing, trade, crafts, industry
- Economic activity shift toward secondary/tertiary through quinary
- Academia (e.g., Madison, WI)

Economic Base

- Basic Sectors (exports)
 - New York: finance
 - Seattle: software
 - Los Angeles: aerospace, entertainment
- Nonbasic Sectors (local consumption)
- Multiplier Effect: basic/nonbasic ratio
 - nonbasic population grows faster than basic population (~2:1)

Systems of Cities

- Central Place Theory: helps understand location, development, and interdependence of different sized cities
 - Central places serve as markets for their hinterlands, people travel longer distance for things only available in larger cities...
- Urban Influence Zones: areas outside of a city that are still affected by it
- Urban hierarchy: Size/structure of a city is based on size and functional complexity of the urban region

Systems of Cities

- Primate City not always capital, but administrative functions encourage growth (Brasília vs. Rio de Janeiro)
 - World Cities: Interconnected, internationally dominant centers of global finance and commerce
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Systems of Cities

- Urban hierarchy: Based on size and functional complexity
- Rank-size rule: n th largest city will be $1/n$ the size of the largest city
- Primate City not always capital, but administrative functions encourage growth (Brasília vs. Rio de Janeiro)
- World Cities: Interconnected, internationally dominant centers of global finance and commerce

World Cities

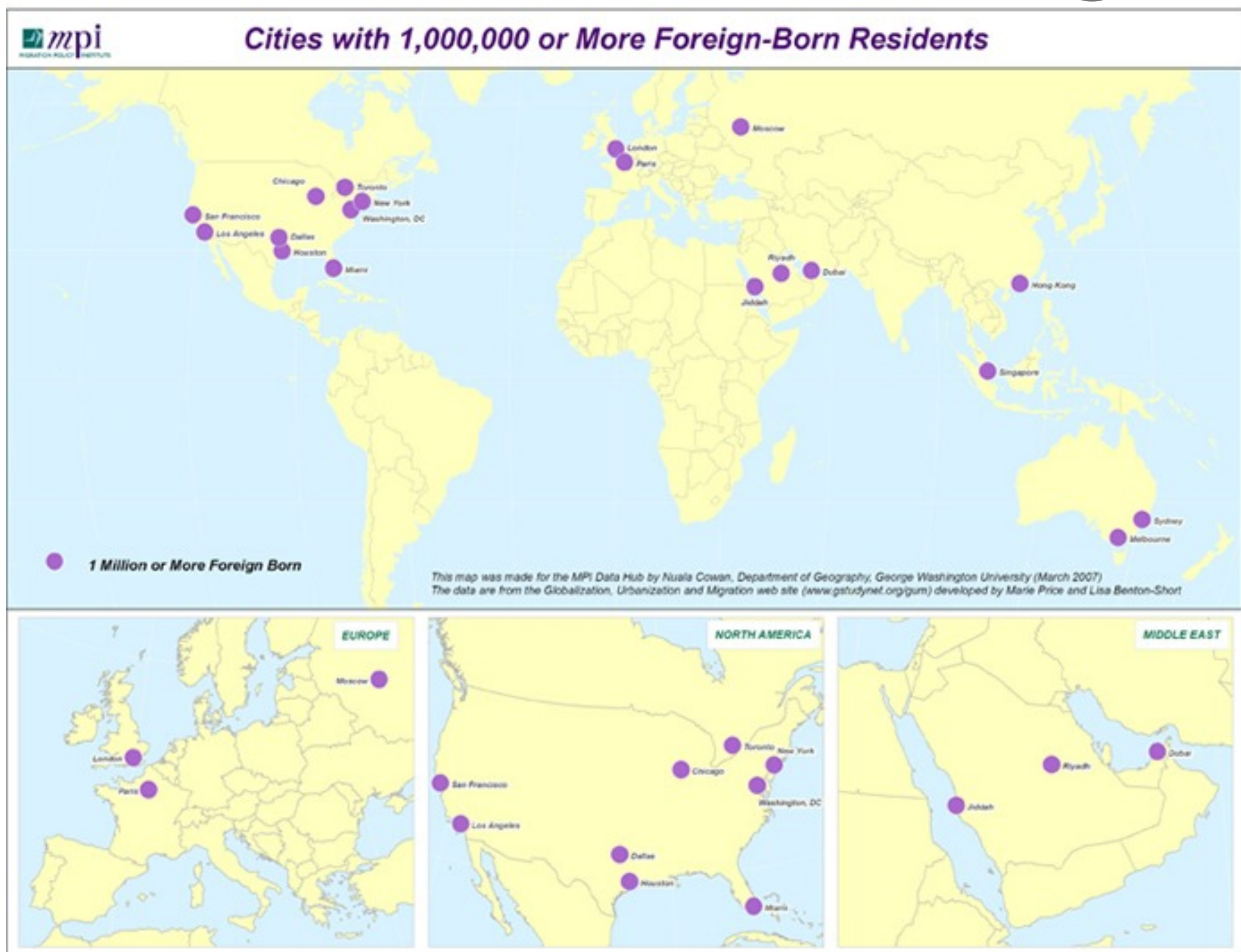
- Command and control centers of the globalized world economy
- Advanced producer services
- Linked into global city network across national boundaries (globalization)
- International political, cultural organizations, transnational crime
- Attract international migrants
- Dual economy: advanced services and informal economy
- Extreme social polarization

The World According to GaWC 2008

Alpha++	NEW YORK LONDON
Alpha+	HONG KONG PARIS SINGAPORE TOKYO SYDNEY BEIJING SHANGHAI
Alpha	MILAN MADRID SEOUL MOSCOW TORONTO BRUSSELS MUMBAI BUENOS AIRES KUALA LUMPUR
Alpha-	WARSAW SAO PAULO JAKARTA ZURICH MEXICO CITY AMSTERDAM BANGKOK DUBLIN TAIPEI ROME ISTANBUL CHICAGO LISBON FRANKFURT STOCKHOLM VIENNA BUDAPEST PRAGUE ATHENS CARACAS AUCKLAND SANTIAGO



Global Cities Attract Migrants

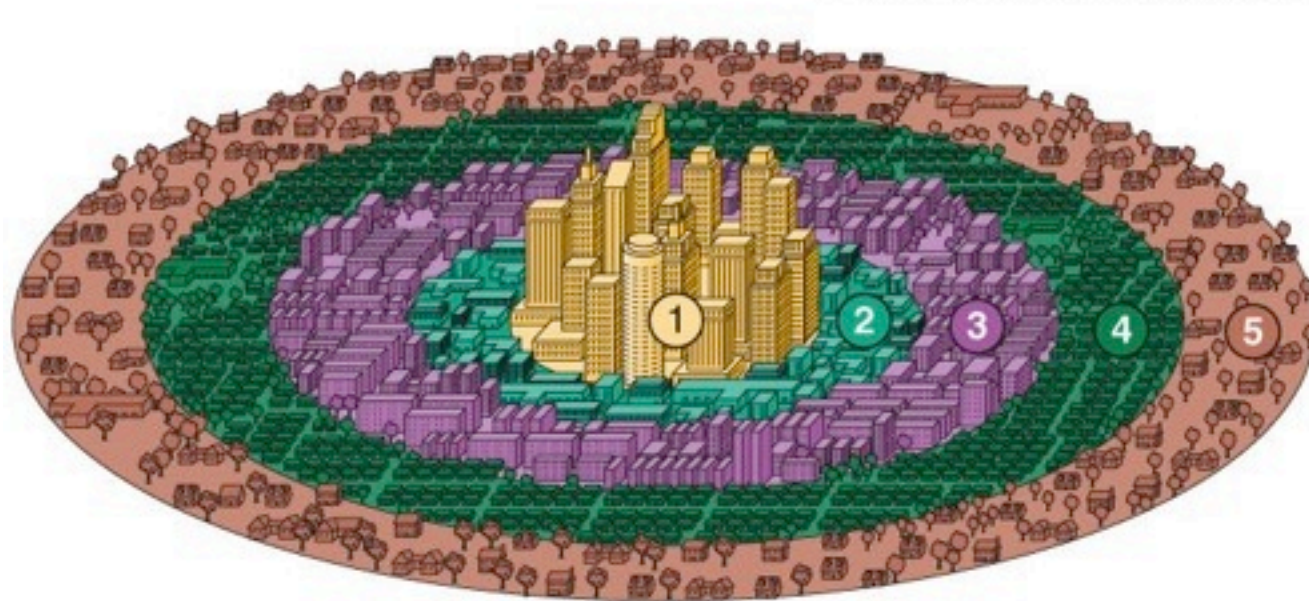


Internal Geography of Cities

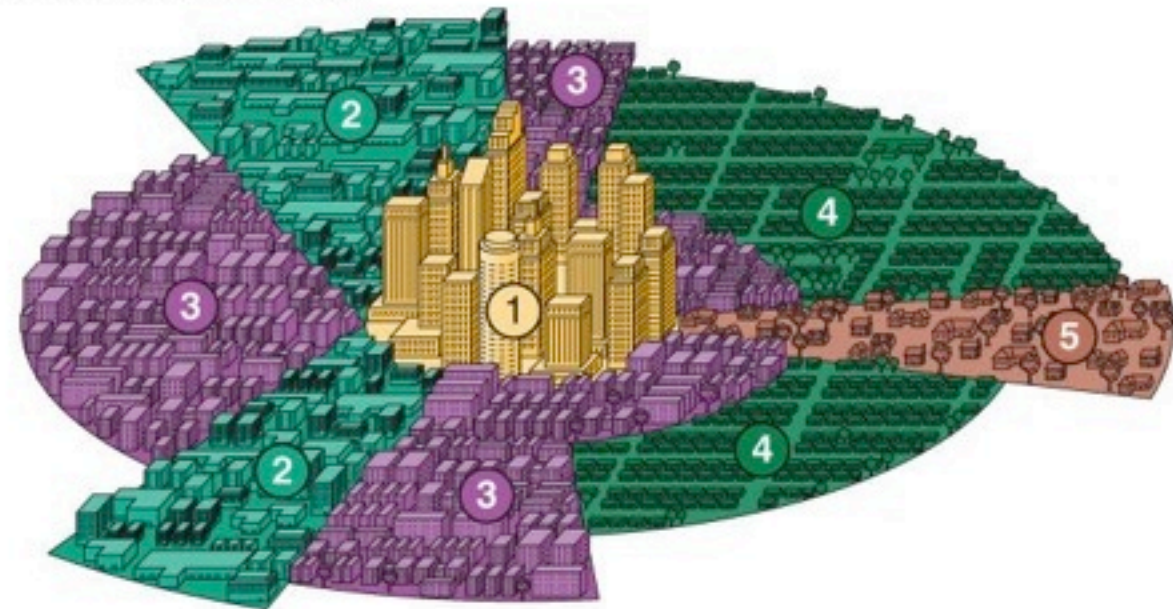
- Central Business District (CBD): Center of an urban unit, where retail stores, offices, and cultural activities are concentrated
 - High accessibility
 - High land values
 - Outside the CBD
 - Land value and population density generally decrease as distance from the CBD increases
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Urban Models

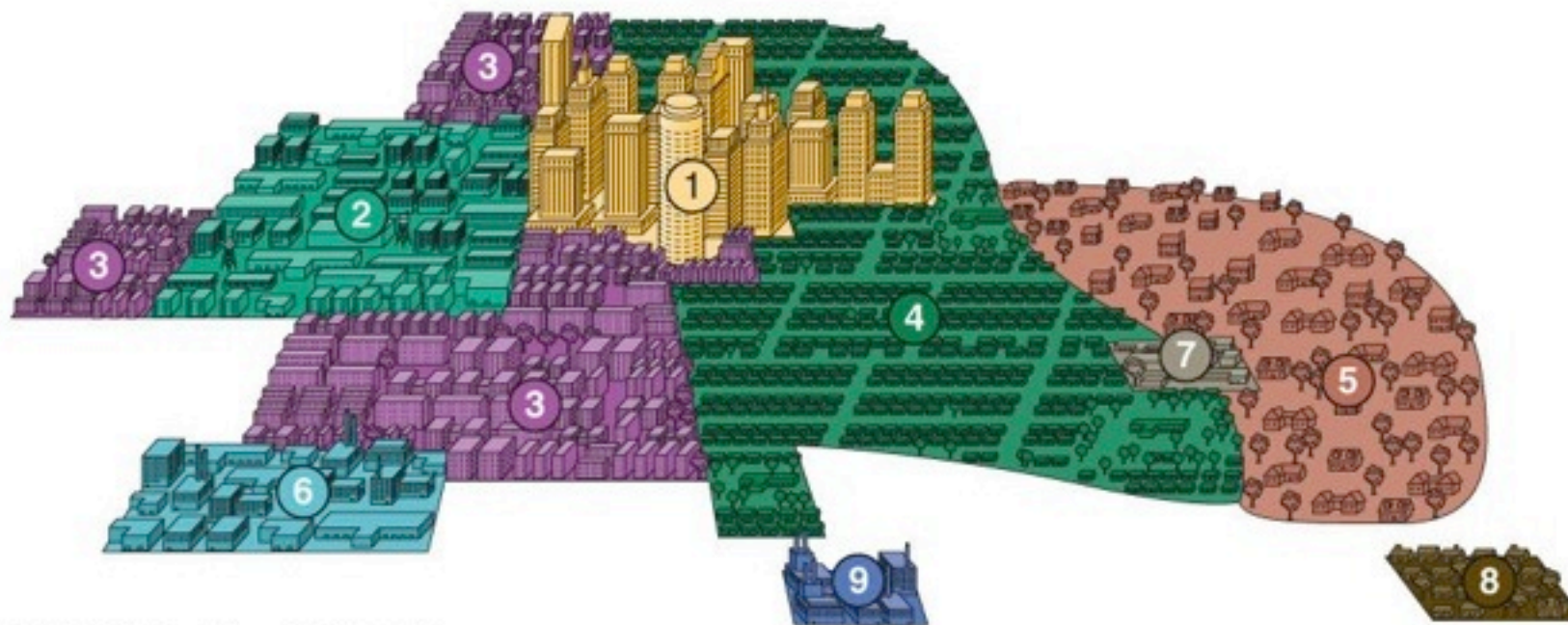
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(a) Concentric Zone Model



(b) Sector Model

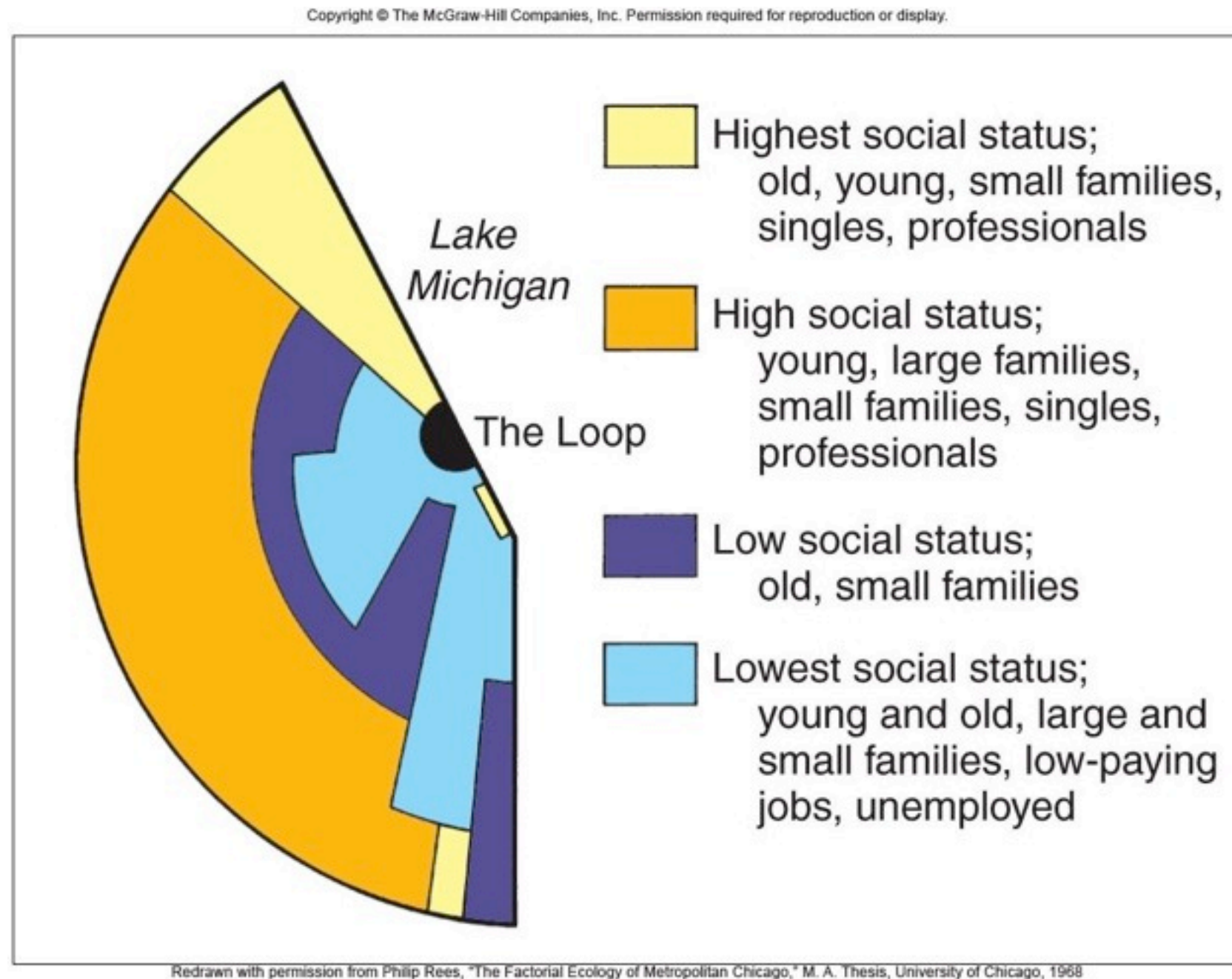


(c) Multiple-Nuclei Model

- 1 Central business district
- 2 Wholesale, light manufacturing
- 3 Low-class residential
- 4 Medium-class residential
- 5 High-class residential
- 6 Heavy manufacturing
- 7 Outlying business district
- 8 Residential suburb
- 9 Industrial

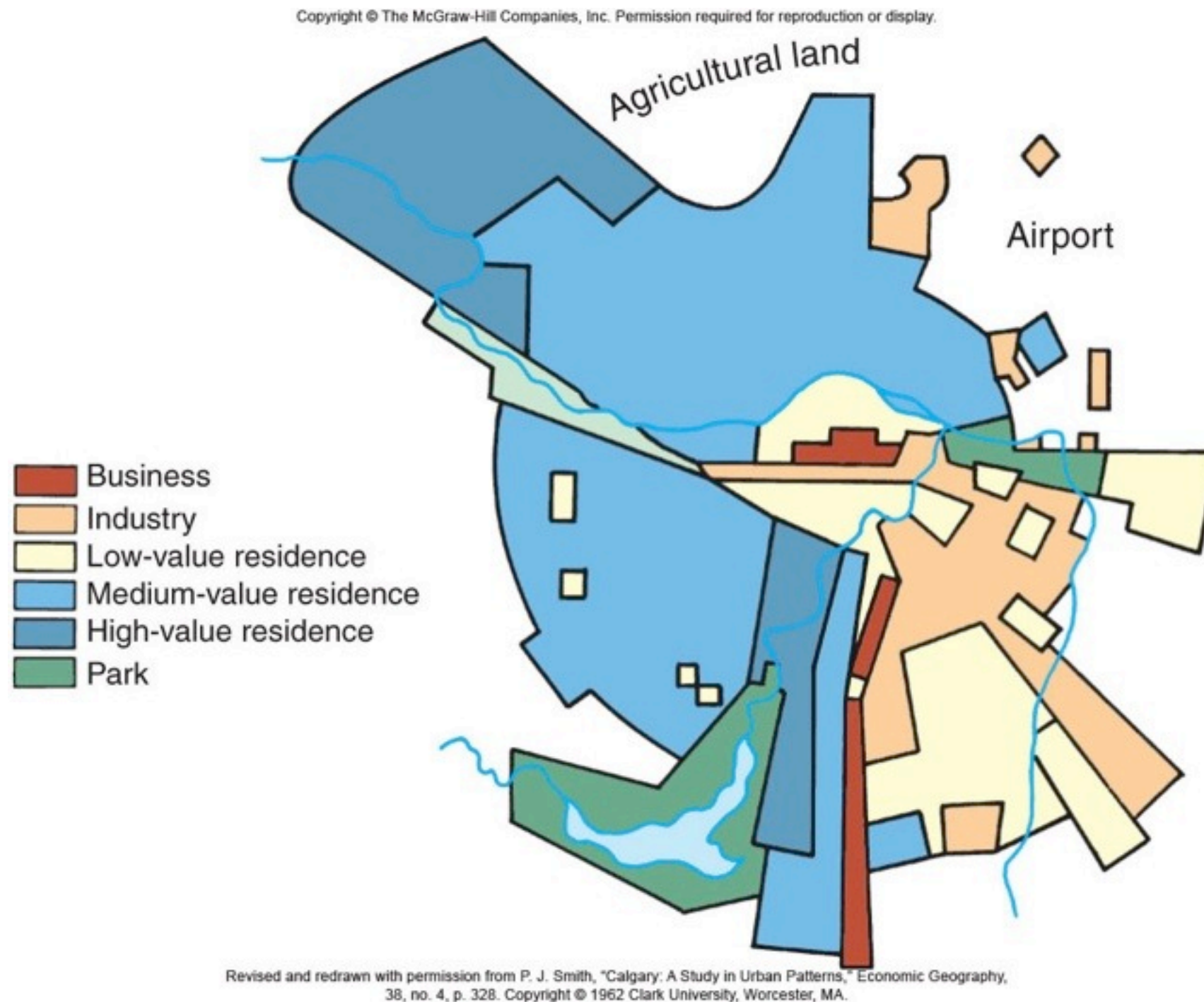
Redrawn from "The Nature of Cities" by C. D. Harris and E. L. Ullman in volume no. 242 of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.
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Concentric Model: Chicago



Increasing value concentrically radiating outward

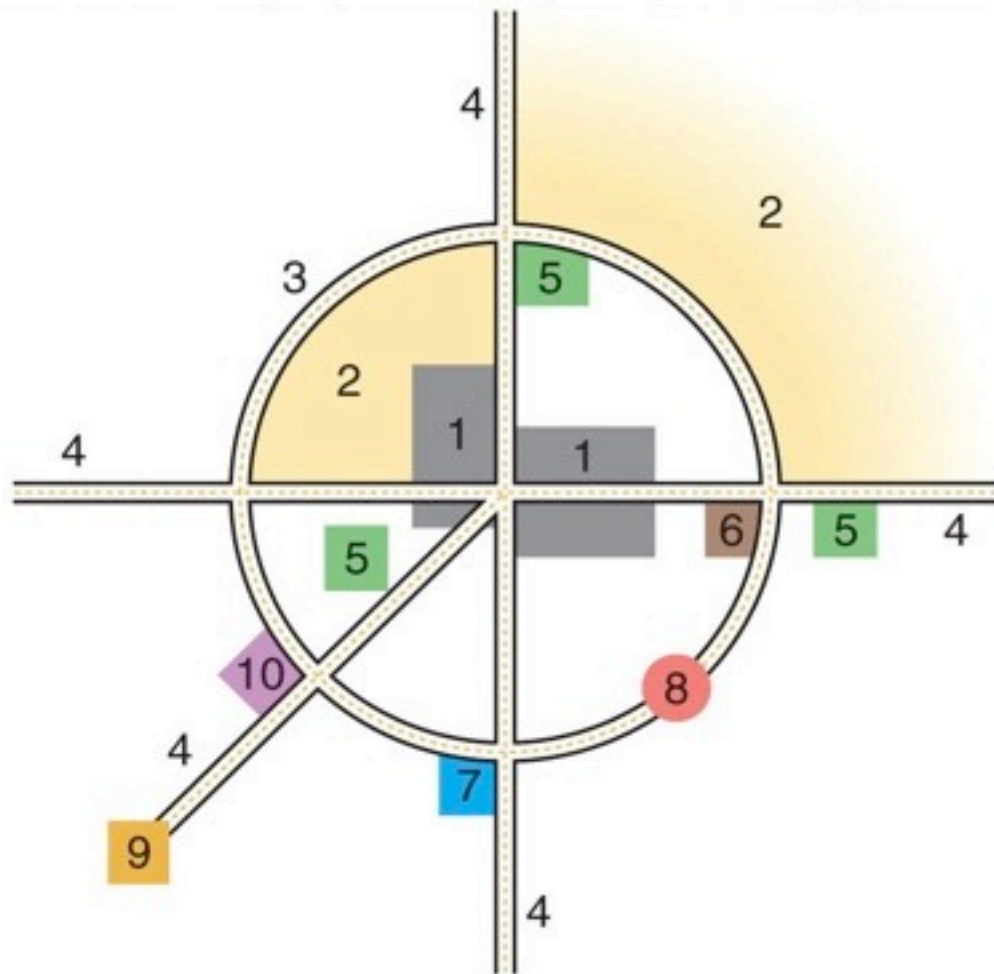
Sector Model: Calgary



Growth based on transportation and existing industry

Peripheral Model

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1. Central city
2. Suburban residential area
3. Circumferential highway
4. Radial highway
5. Shopping mall
6. Industrial district
7. Office park
8. Service center
9. Airport complex
10. Combined employment and shopping center

- Periphery: large residential tracts
- Transportation designed to serve periphery and feed into city center
- Nodes on the periphery
 - serve the periphery
 - provide employment and services
- Periphery still interdependent on city center

Changes in Urban Form

- Commuting long distances became more feasible
 - Automobile: Freed owner from fixed-route public transit
 - Interstate Highways
 - Labor laws (40-hour work week)
- Increased home ownership
 - Changes in home loan terms
 - Vast areas of nonurban land developed

Suburbanization

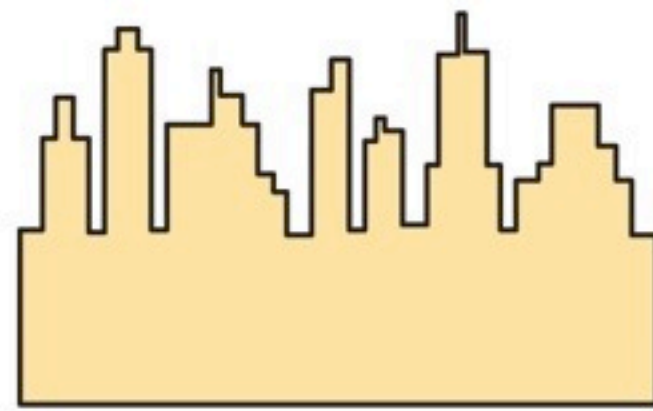
- Residential development came first, followed by shopping, then industries and service activities
- Populations drawn away from the central core
 - white flight
 - space++
 - homeownership++
- Suburbs became collectively self-sufficient

Suburbanization

- Edge cities
 - Large nodes of office and retail activity at the margin of an urban area
- Megalopolis
 - Continuous functionally urban corridor (e.g., Boston to D.C.)
- Suburban Sprawl and Suburban Fortresses
 - Gated communities
 - Policing patterns

Decline of the Central City

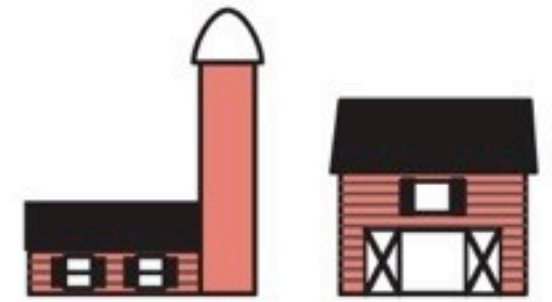
- Congested and inaccessible
- Upwardly-mobile middle-class moved to urban periphery
- Jobs (tertiary, quaternary) followed
- Ghettoization



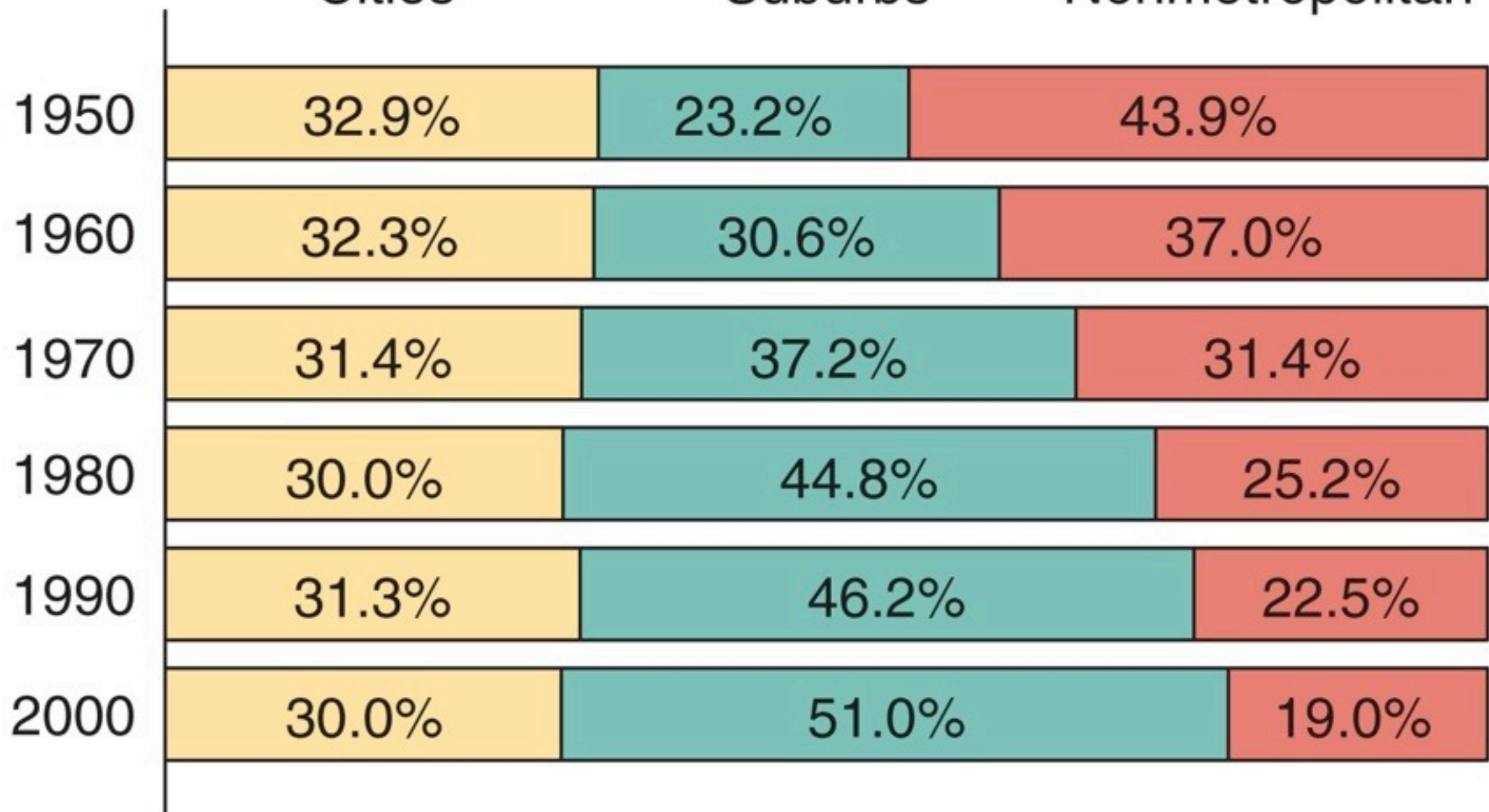
Cities



Suburbs



Nonmetropolitan



Problems of Suburbanization

- Loss of tax bases = inadequate social services
- Environmental (no mass transit, urban sprawl, utilities, pollution)
- White flight (racial segregation++)
 - Environmental racism
- Working class isolation, isolation of women (housewives), youth problems, consumption-oriented

Social Areas of Cities

- City residents tend to segregate themselves
- Groupings according to:
 - Family status
 - Social status
 - Ethnicity
- Gated communities and co-ops
- Many groupings fostered by size and value of available housing
- Zoning, redlining, mortgage discrimination, restrictive covenants
- Non-Whites restricted (legally or financially) to “undesirable” neighborhoods

Urban Renewal and Gentrification

- Significant economic and population growth in large urban areas since 1990s
 - Gentrification
 - Rehabilitation of housing in deteriorated inner-city areas by middle- and high-income groups
 - Displacement of low-income populations
 - Young professionals and “empty nesters” returning to urban centers
 - Fiscal problems due to unrestricted expansion
 - Growth boundaries and “smart growth”
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Global Urbanization

- Rapid urbanization without economic or infrastructure development
- Disrupted agriculture, mechanization and commercialization: force people from their lands
- Perceived: economic opportunity, lower mortality, better services, greater investment
- Reality: no jobs, technology replaces many jobs, transnational corporatism: informal economy
- Lack water, power, sewage
- Traffic, congestion, pollution
- Shantytowns, slums, makeshift housing