

Lecture 1

1.2 A Fast Urbanizing World: Opportunities and Challenges

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Why Study Cities? Why Now?

1987



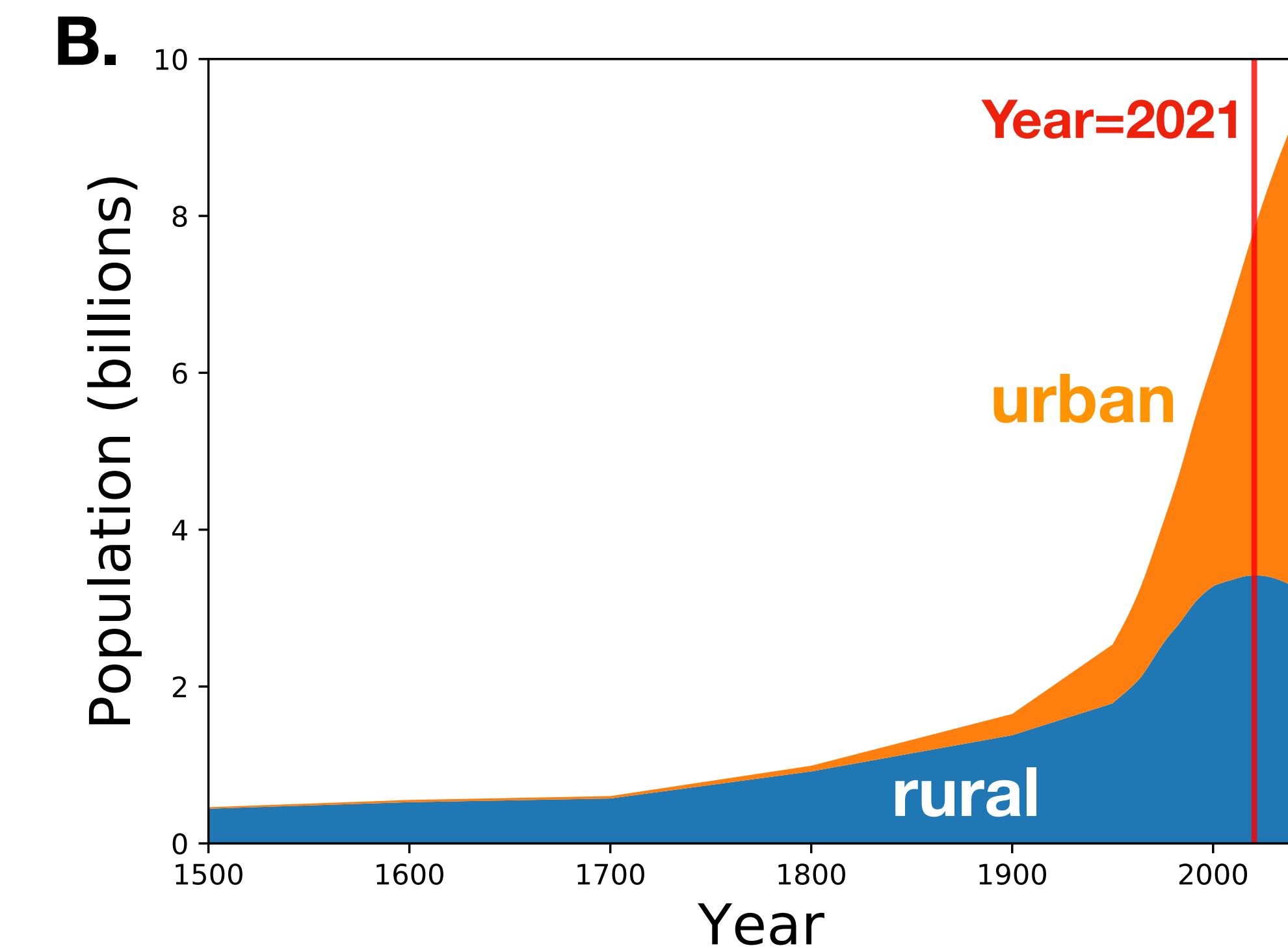
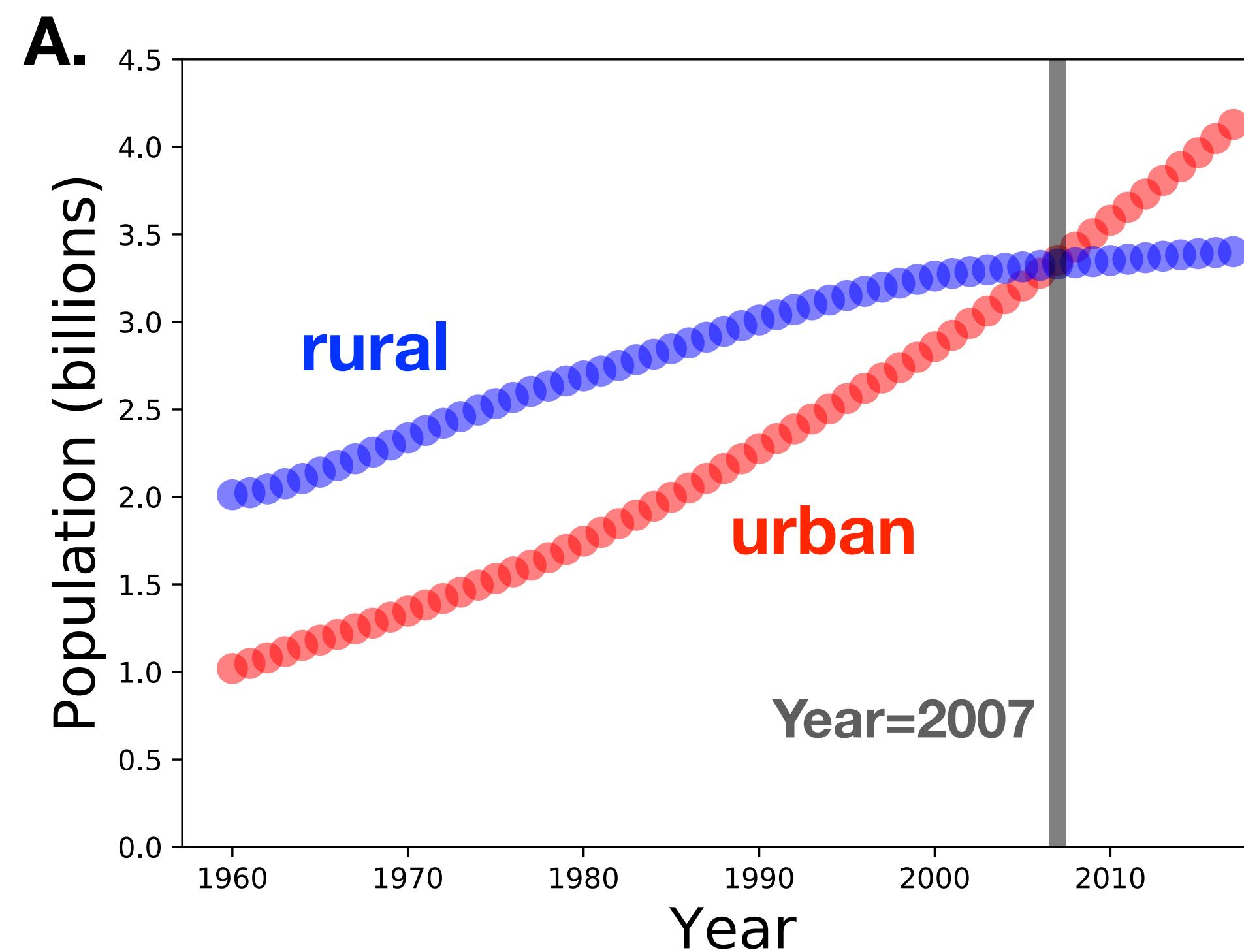
Shanghai

2012



credit: telegraph/reuters/jesus diaz

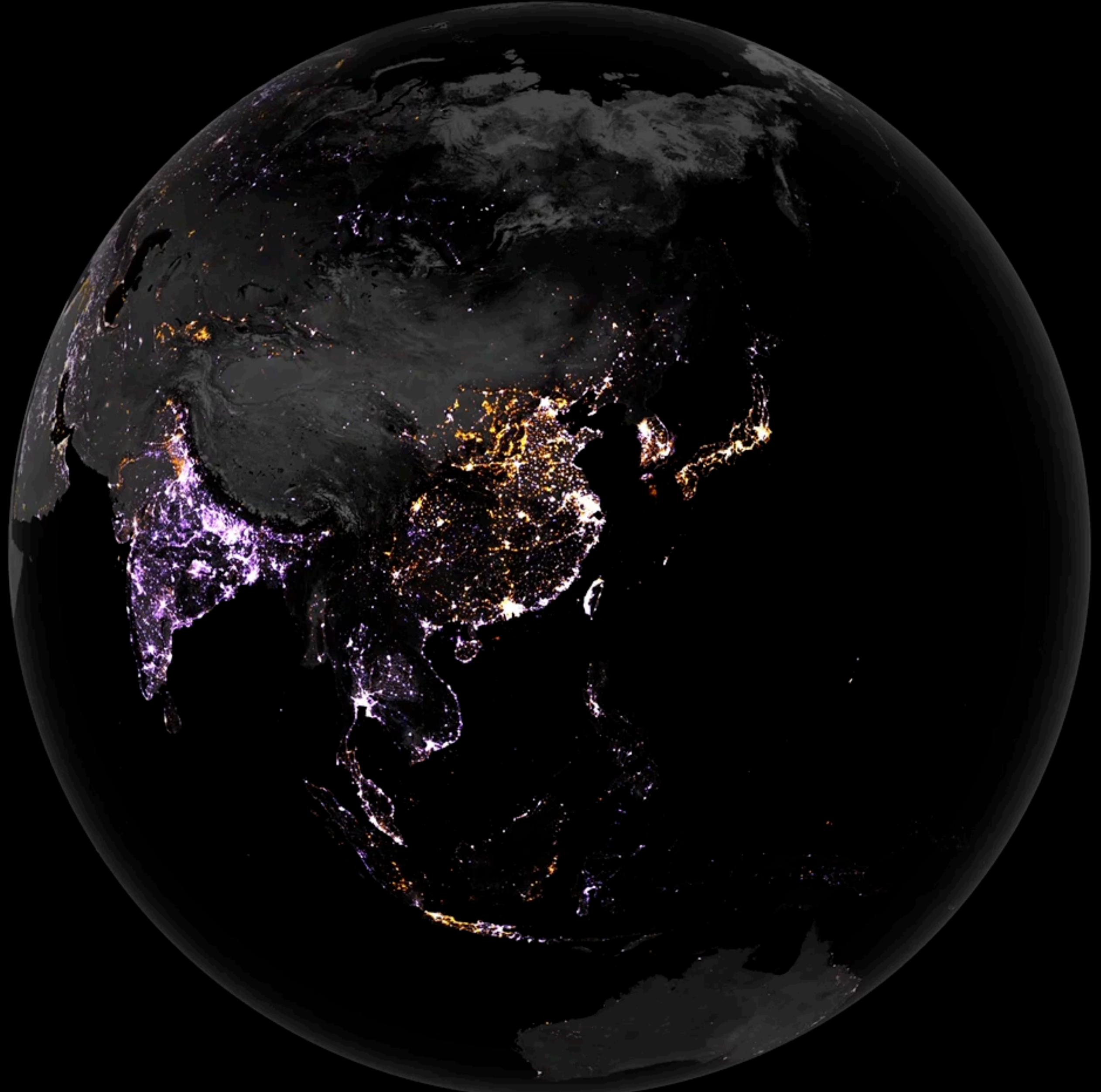
1. “Universality”: The World is Urbanizing Everywhere Fast



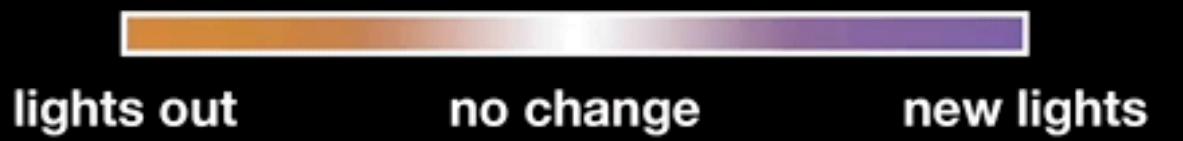
Two world changing events.



credit: NASA 2012



Change, 2012 to 2016



2. Speed of Change

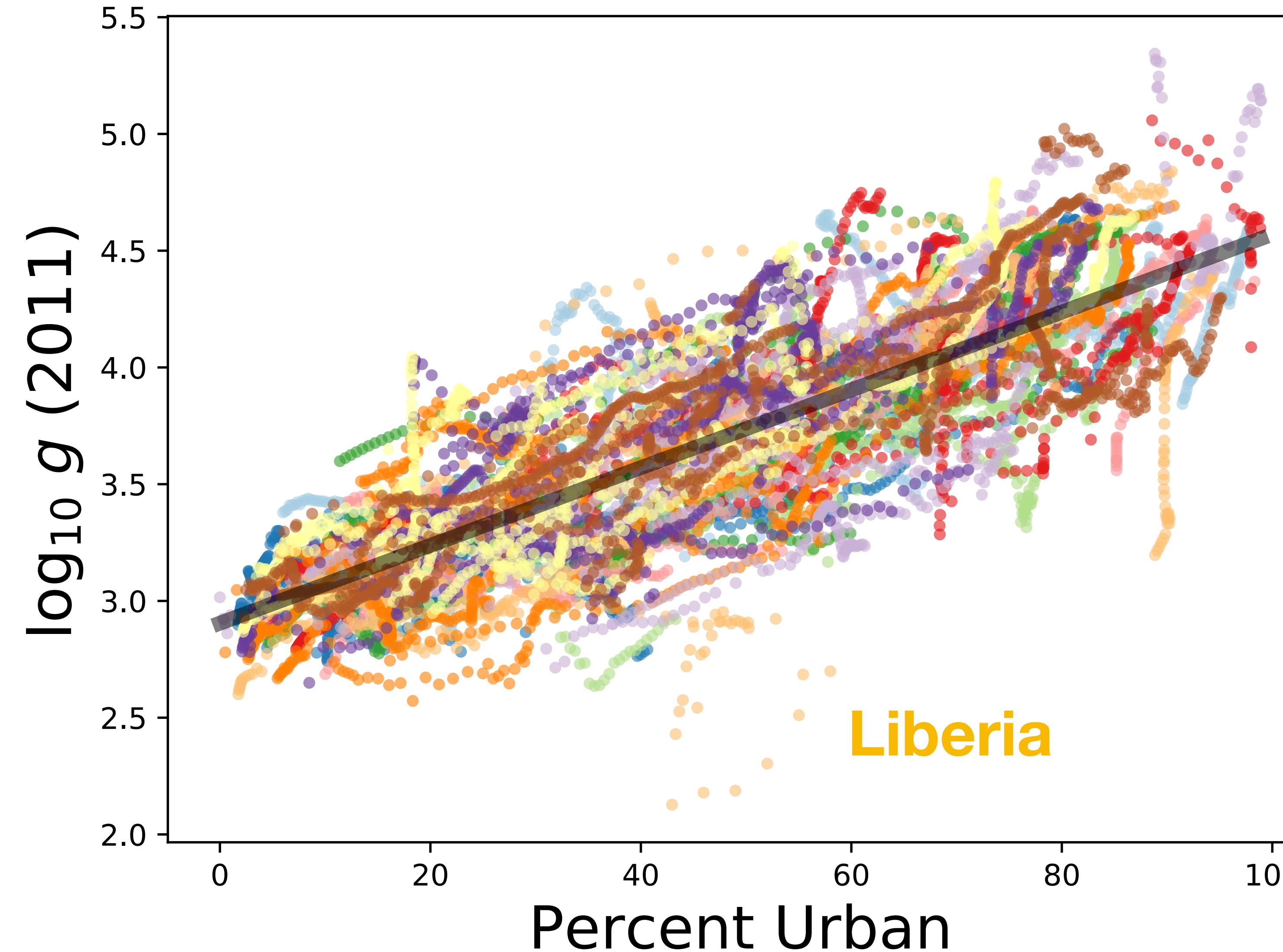


Tokyo 2015
40 million



Tokyo 1945
3.5 million

3. Economic Growth and Urbanization



National GDP per capita increases 4-5% with each percent increase in the percent of people living in cities

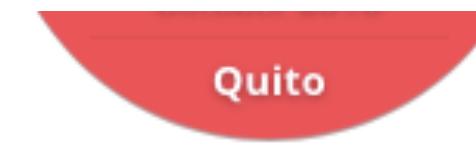
4. Human Development (knowledge, health, prosperity)



credit: UN-HABITAT: State of the World's Cities 2012-13: The Prosperity of Cities

Larger Cities typically show higher Human Development levels than their nation

5. Sustainable Development



URBAN DIALOGUES ▾ ABOUT ▾ THE CONFERENCE ▾ THE PROCESS ▾ REGIONS ▾ MEDIA & RESOURCES ▾



Together towards **A NEW URBAN AGENDA**

Cities and the challenge of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development

The Global Context

Cities today occupy approximately only 2% of the total land, however:

70%
Economy (GDP)

over 60%
Global Energy Consumption

70%
Greenhouse Gas Emissions

70%
Global Waste

Questions we would like to answer:

Why is urbanization now proceeding globally?

How can its consequences be good for most people?

When do cities produce human development?

Will urbanizing societies become environmentally sustainable fast enough?

Answers will require new interdisciplinary knowledge:

- Understanding processes of innovation and development across scales,
- Human reasoning and strategic decision making in many diverse circumstances,
- Patterns of settlement and mobility and their influence on socioeconomic life,
- Issues of inequality and inequity, justice and opportunity,
- Resource uses and environmental costs,
- Biodiversity change in disturbed environments.

Cities are the nexus for all these issues

Cities also generate copious empirical evidence and drive the necessity for action that can lead to new insights and discoveries.