

Lecture 1

1.2 A Fast Urbanizing World: Opportunities and Challenges

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Why Study Cities? Why Now?

1987



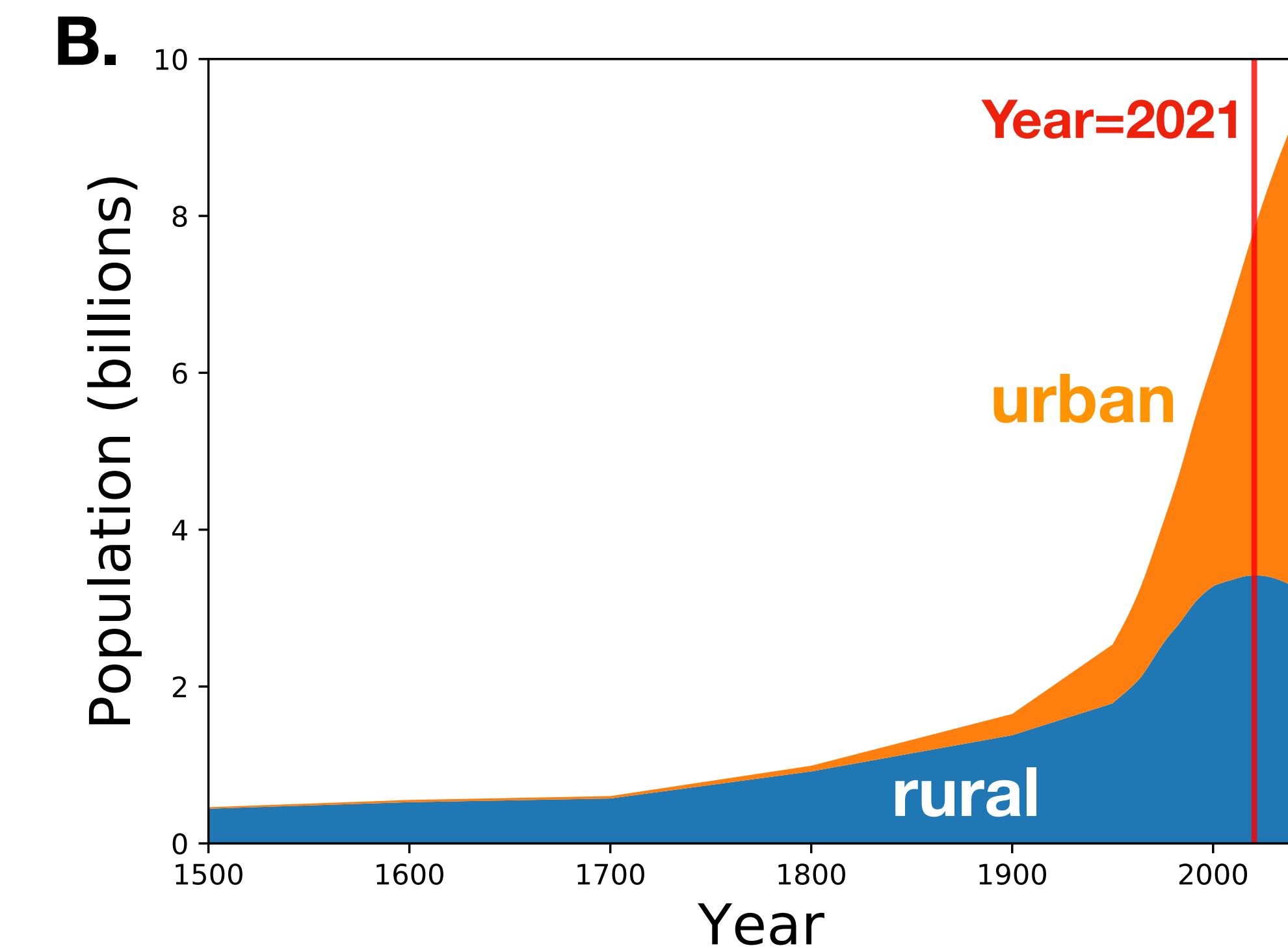
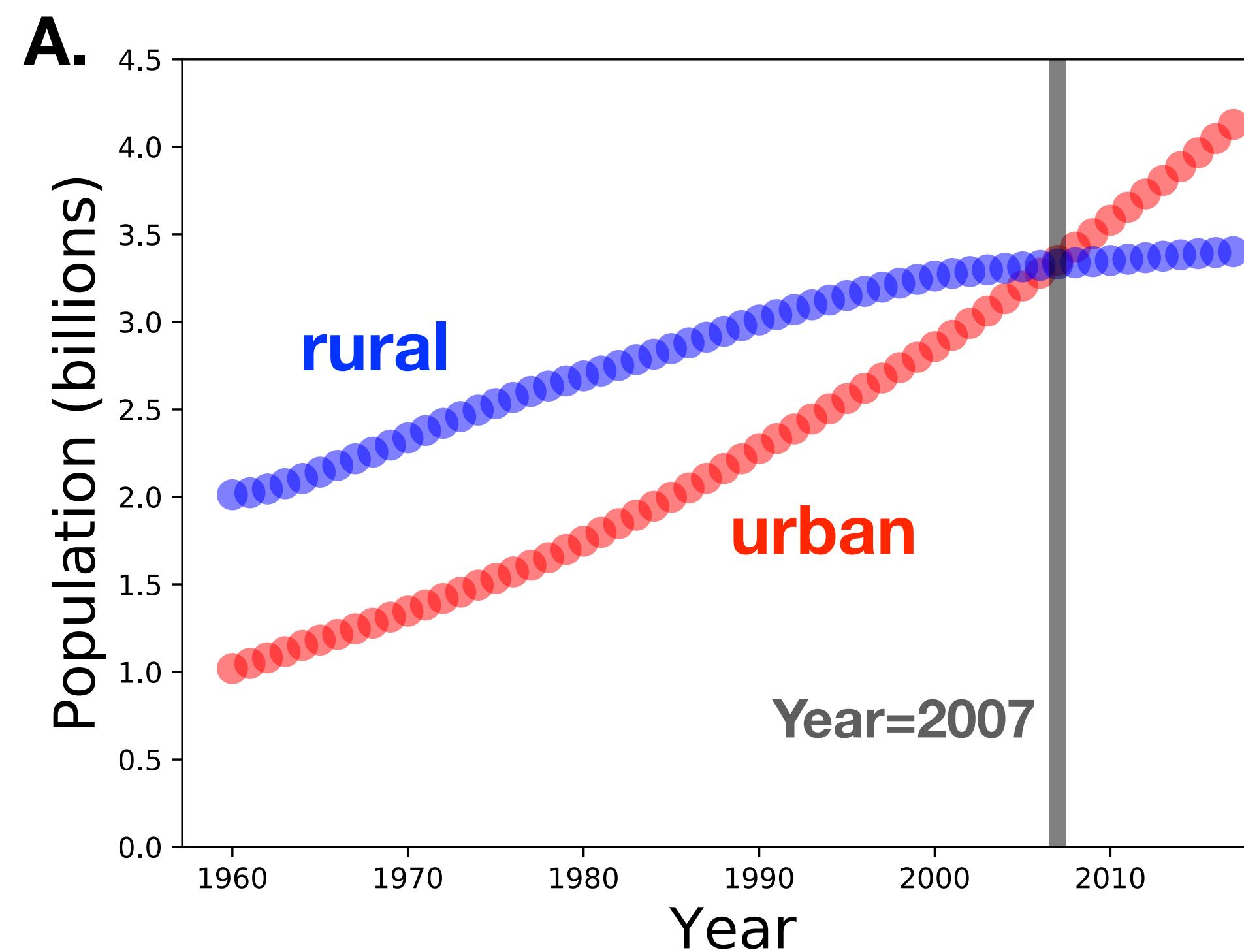
Shanghai

2012

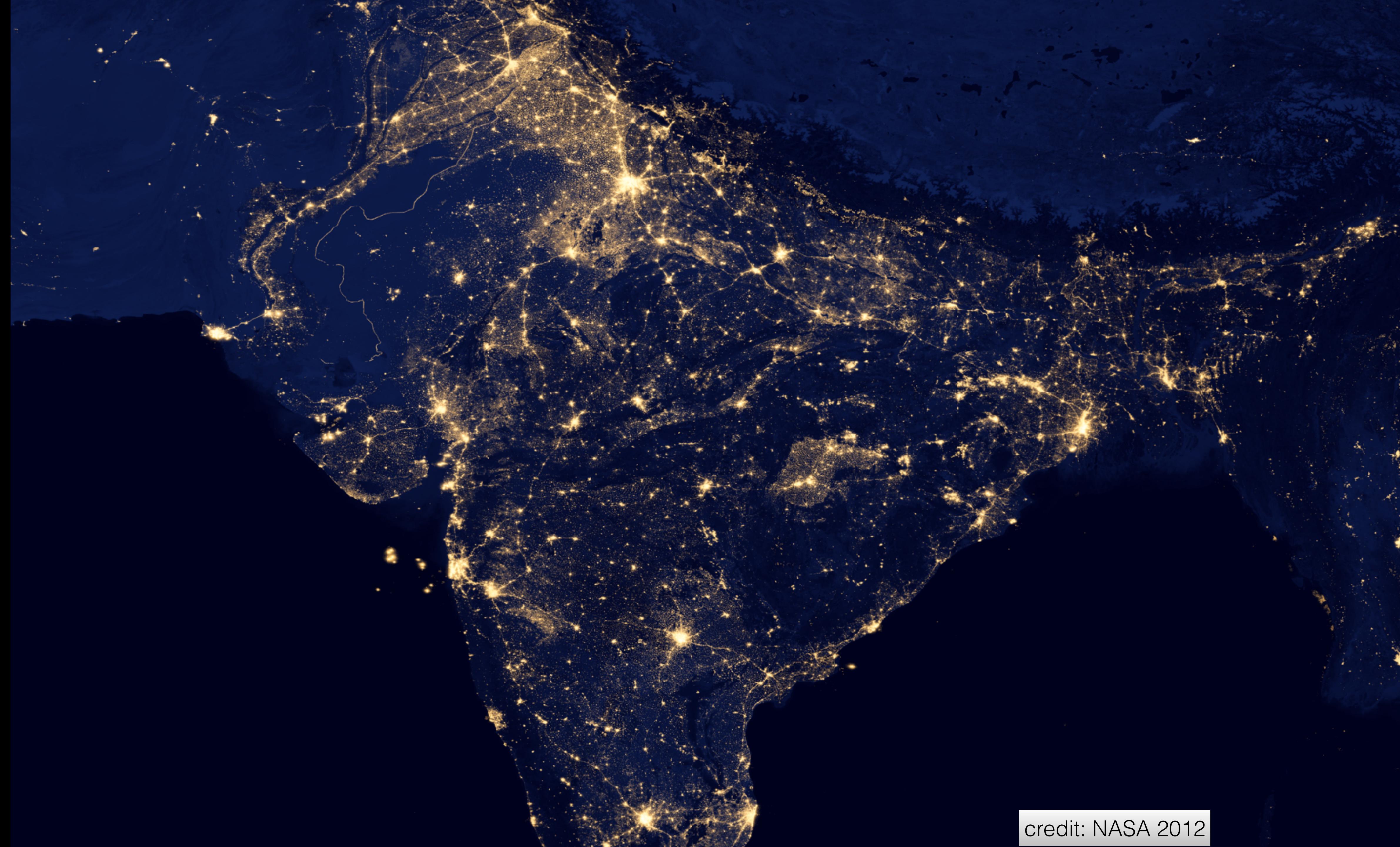


credit: telegraph/reuters/jesus diaz

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



Two world changing events.



credit: NASA 2012

2. Speed of Change

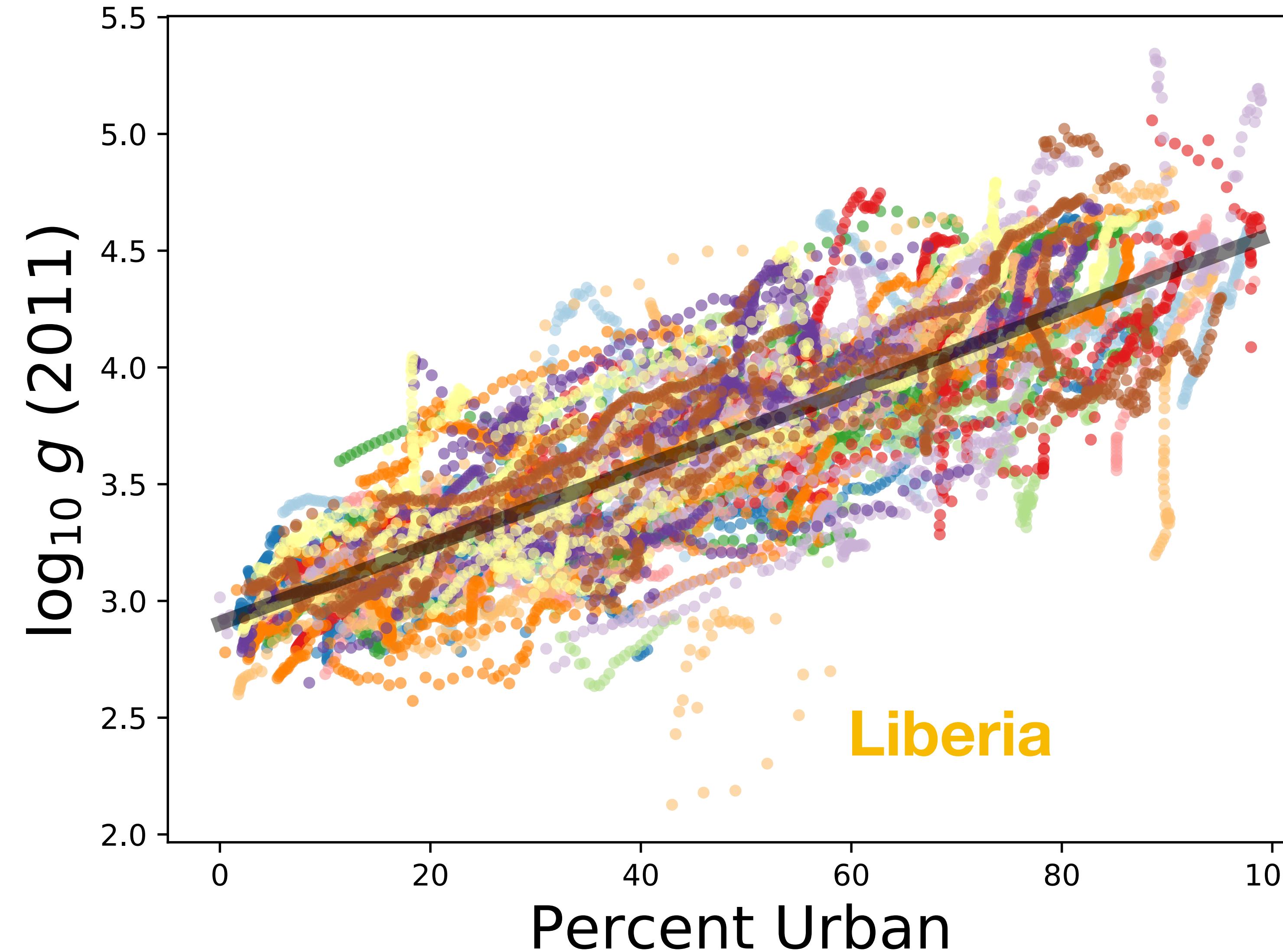


Tokyo 2015
40 million



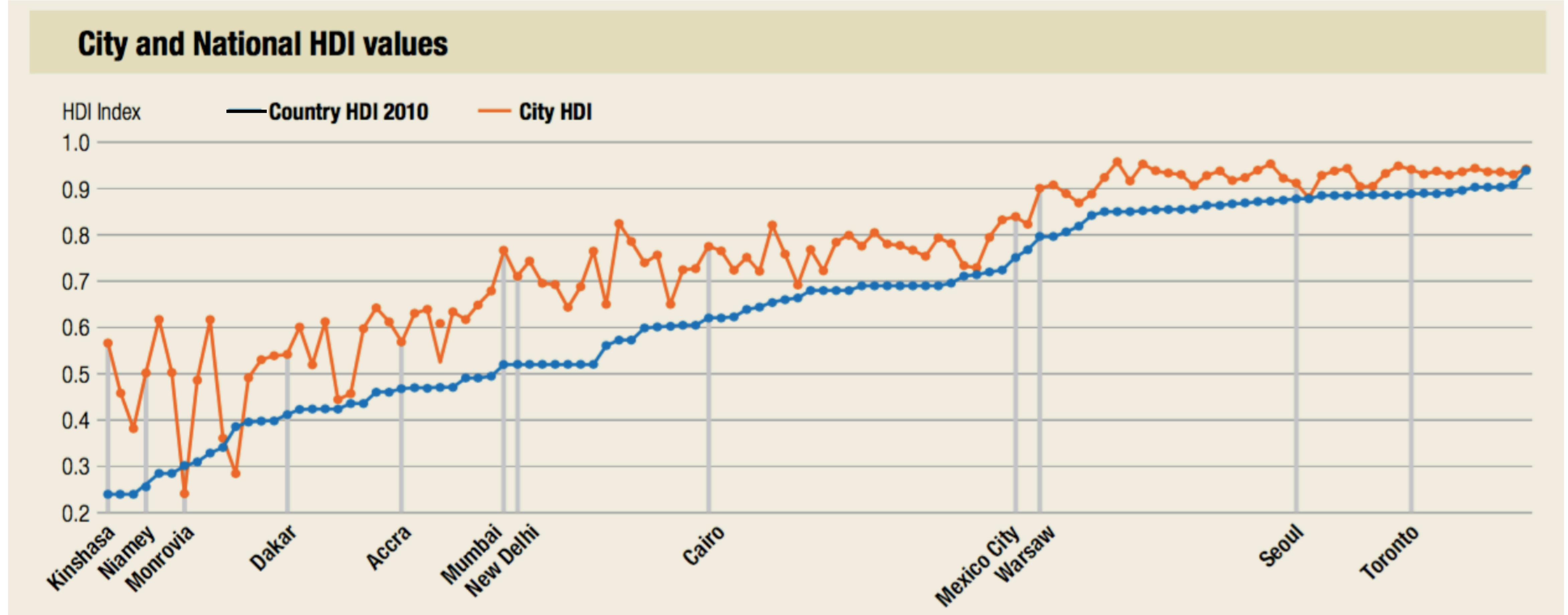
Tokyo 1945
3.5 million

3. Economic Growth and Urbanization



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

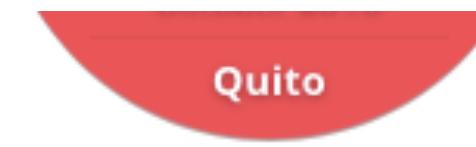
4. Human Development (knowledge, health, prosperity)



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

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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 happening everywhere?
- Is it a blip or an irreversible transition?
- Are cities leftwing or rightwing? Free markets? Social support nets?
- Are there ideal cities (just, green, smart)? How do we get there?
- When do cities produce (human) development?
- Will urbanizing societies become “sustainable” fast enough?

Answers will require new interdisciplinary knowledge:

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

Cities are the nexus for all these issues

There's also lots of data, political will, agencies, money, long-term objectives...

If only we knew better what to do ...