GGR124
Cities and Urban Life

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Contents

1 Lecture 01: 07 January 2020

- Introduction to the course

- Assignments and deliverables were reviewed

- No content was really covered.

2 Lecture 02: 14 January 2020

2.1 Time Space Compression

- The apparent compression of geographic space by faster means of transport and communication

- Suggests that time is accelerated in such a way that space is shrunk

- Highlights a relational rather than absolute conception of space

- Relies on access to transportation and communications technologies, which is contingent on the existence of infrastructure and its maintenance, and economic, political and cultural restrictions on access

- Does not occur naturally or automatically - it is the result of decisions and plans

- Is political and affects people differently

- Connects with the concepts of **power geometry**, which emphasizes the uneven experience of time-space compression globally

2.2 Global Urbanization

- Urban populations are growing twice as fast as the population in general

- 55 % of the world's population resides in urban areas

- Continuing urbanization and population growth is projected to add 2.5 billion people to the urban population by 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa.

2.3 Globalization

- **Economic Globalization**

  - Growth of transnational corporations and 'offshoring'
  - Organization of production and markets at a global scale
  - Industrialization of the global south

- Growing power of supranational financial institutions

- Changing international division of labour

- Rise of high-tech, biotech, new media, and other industries

- Increased mobility of capital

- Hanging communications and transportation technologies

- Dramatic economic polarization (rise of the '1%')

- **Political Globalization**

  - The 'hollowing out' of nation-states

  - Rise of supranational governing bodies

  - Growing political power of cities

  - 'Postnational citizenship' and the formation of transnational elites

  - Supranational trade agreements and 'de-democratization'

- **Cultural Globalization**

  - Rise of social media and communications technologies

  - Movement of ideas, styles, music, film across borders

  - Decline of national identity and rise of regional, religious, linguistic, and other kinds of affinities

2.4 Global Cities

- The emerging global system relies on a network of urban place

- This is changing the relationships between cities, as well as the role of cities in a globalizing economy

- Cities have become the 'command and control centres'of the global economy, and often compete with each other for investment

- Globalization is also changing the internal social and organization of cities

2.4.1 Economic Restructuring

- Growth of primary cluster of high-level business service: finance, management, accounting, legal services, education, telecommunications, research

- Growth of secondary cluster of employment which serves the first: real estate, construction, hotels, restaurants, luxury retail, private security, entertainment

- Growth of third cluster in international tourism and hospitality

- Decline of a fourth cluster of manufacturing employment. [Note: this is NOT necessarily the case in global south cities.]

- Government services constitute a fifth cluster and serve to build, regulate, and reproduce the world city (planning, transportation, education, policing)

- Growth of informal economies, precarious work, and chronic unemployment

2.4.2 Social Restructuring

- Growing social polarization following occupation restructuring

- Political, economic, and cultural dominance of professionals and technocrats (1st and 2nd employment sectors)

- Growth of a chronically underemployed 'surplus population' of growth of prisons that hold them (especially in US)

- Growing social conflicts, often along the lines of race, in response to this polarization

- Increasing reliance on police to manage social life

- Decline in public investment in social welfare in the name of competitiveness

2.4.3 Physical Restructuring

- Rapid growth of world city populations fueled by migration

- Physical growth of cities to unprecedented size (L.A. as a functional unit with a radius of over 100km)

- Gentrification of formerly industrial areas, downtowns, and waterfronts, and displacement of poorer populations

- Growth of warehousing, big box, and other logistical spaces to support global supply chains

- Spatial polarization deepens alongside social polarization with dramatic gaps in access to and quality of housing, parks, transit (ghettos and citadels)

3   Lecture 03: 21 January 2020

3.1   Western Treaties

- Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and agreements, signed between 1764 -1930. Some groups never entered into treaties and negotiations are ongoing.

- The terms of these treaties were understood differently by Indigenous people and settlers, rooted in differing worldviews, with distinct concepts of land ownership.

- First Nations peoples had (and still have) relations with the land that informed their politics, spirituality and economy. Europeans saw the land as something to be owned and exploited (private property).

- Coupled with a language barrier and contrasting methods of knowledge transmission (oral versus written), misunderstanding and outright deception characterized these relations.

- Europeans began to impose artificial borders that do not line up with the traditional lands or jurisdictions of Indigenous peoples, which span territory that spreads across provincial lines and is located in both present-day Canada and the United States.