“Urbanocene” or the Urban Anthropocene?

- **Myint (2018): a transformation from the Anthropocene to the Urbanocene**
- **Lussault (2020): Anthropocene as the Urbanocene; a spectacular evolution of the earth system, with urbanization as a primary driver**
- **“Part of story of the anthropogenesis of humans is the story of the species’ urbanization: anthropogenesis is urbanogenesis” (Mendieta, 2019: 93).**

The ‘new’ urban / The urban moment

- **2007 – the urban population of the world surpassed the rural population (World Urbanization Prospects, 2008)**
- **1950 – 30%; 2018 – 55%; BY 2050 – 68% (World Urbanization Prospects, 2018).**
- **Evident in the:**
  - **Rate**
  - **Scale**
  - **Shifting geographies of urbanization**

Rate

"clock speed" of cities

(Myint, 2018)

- 1959 – one billion
- 1985 – two billion
- 2002 – three billion
- 2015 – four billion
- 2028 – five billion
- 2041 – six billion

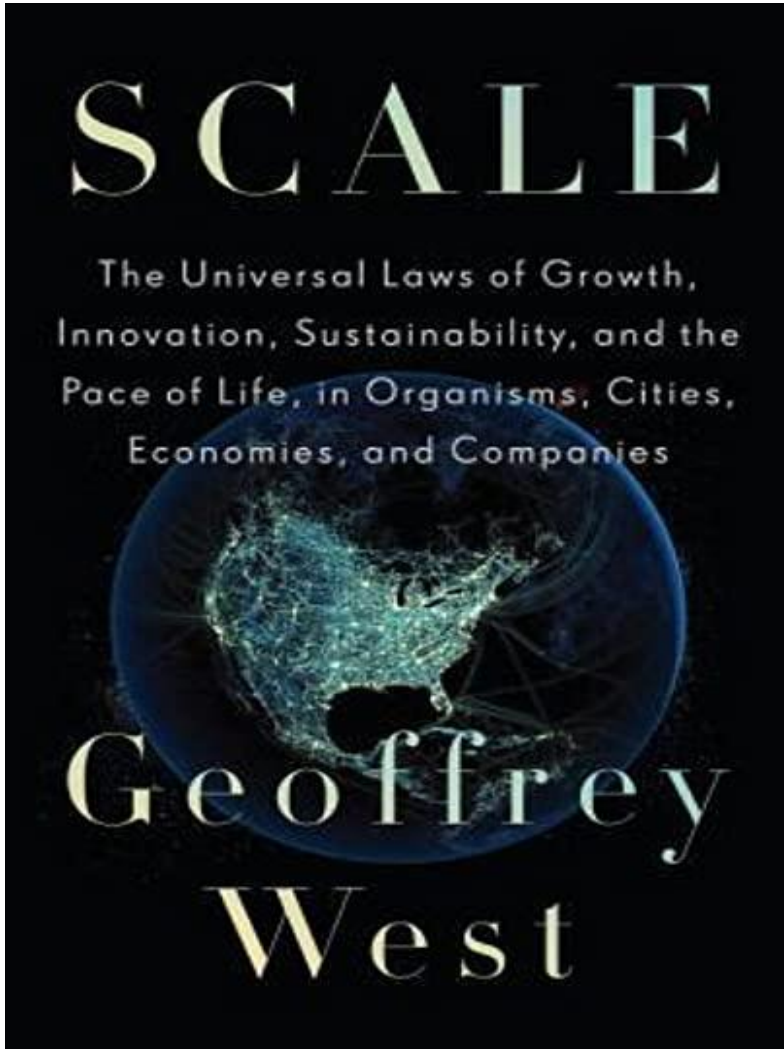
TOTAL, URBAN AND RURAL POPULATIONS AND THEIR AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF CHANGE, FOR THE WORLD AND DEVELOPMENT GROUPS, SELECTED YEARS AND PERIODS, 1950-2050

	Population (billions)						*Average annual rate of change (per cent)*				
Development group	*1950*	*1970*	*1990*	*2018*	*2030*	*2050*	*1950-1970*	*1970-1990*	*1990-2018*	*2018-2030*	*2030-2050*
Total population											
World	2.54	3.70	5.33	7.63	8.55	9.77	1.89	1.83	1.28	0.95	0.67
More developed regions	0.81	1.01	1.15	1.26	1.29	1.30	1.07	0.64	0.34	0.17	0.03
Less developed regions	1.72	2.69	4.18	6.37	7.26	8.47	2.23	2.21	1.50	1.09	0.77
Urban population											
World	0.75	1.35	2.29	4.22	5.17	6.68	2.95	2.63	2.18	1.69	1.28
More developed regions	0.45	0.67	0.83	0.99	1.05	1.12	2.06	1.04	0.64	0.46	0.34
Less developed regions	0.30	0.68	1.46	3.23	4.12	5.56	4.02	3.82	2.83	2.03	1.50
Rural population											
World	1.79	2.35	3.04	3.41	3.38	3.09	1.37	1.30	0.41	-0.07	-0.45
More developed regions	0.37	0.33	0.32	0.27	0.24	0.17	-0.48	-0.27	-0.58	-0.95	-1.61
Less developed regions	1.42	2.01	2.72	3.14	3.14	2.92	1.75	1.52	0.51	0.00	-0.37

Scale

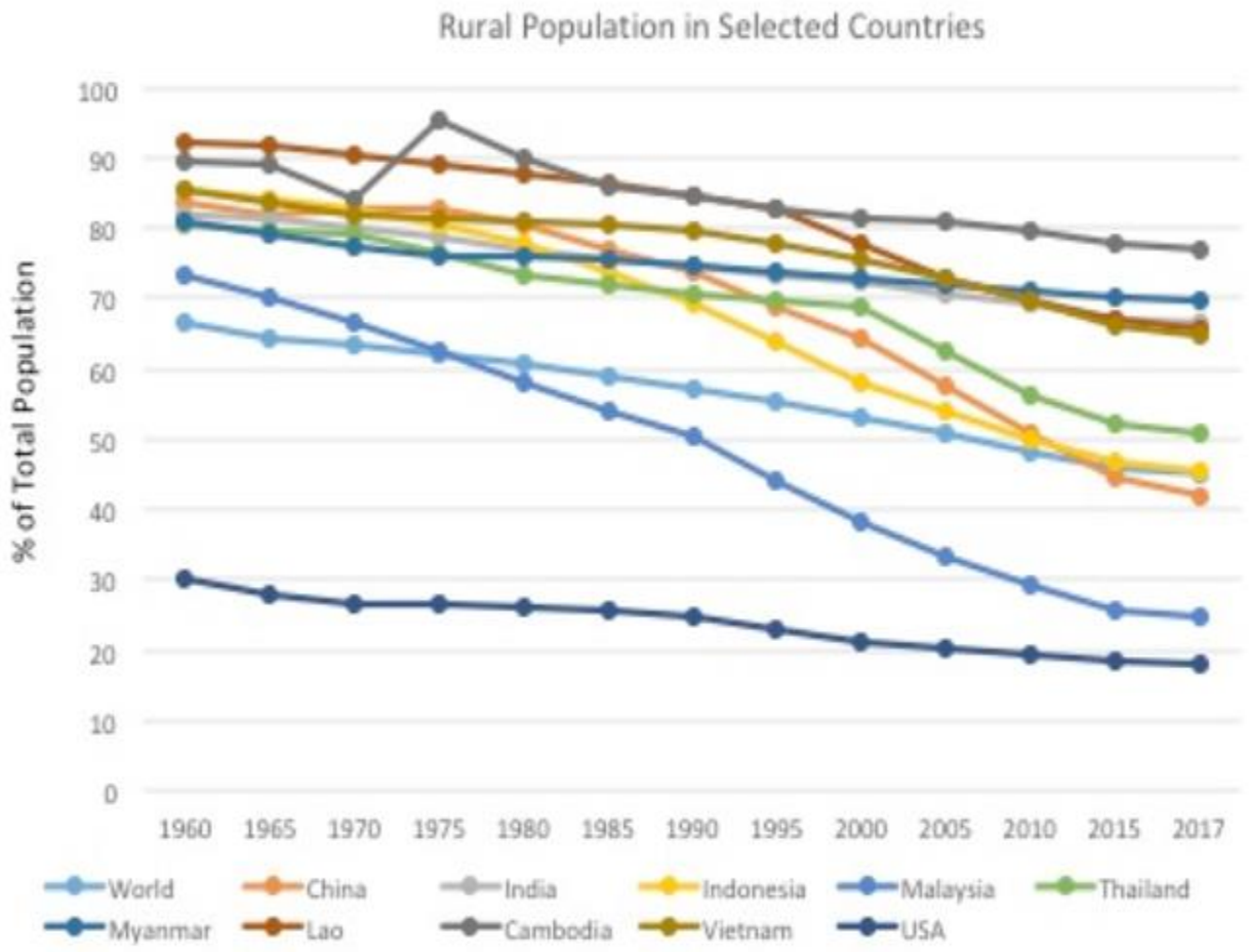
- **size (and also numbers) really matters…**
- **cities are bigger than at any other time in terms of their physical extents, population sizes, economic importance, and environmental impacts (Seto et al., 2010)**

Number of cities with one million (or >) population	
Year	**Number of cities**
1800s	Beijing
1900s	16
2000s	378 (India – 40; China – > 100
2025	600



Shifting geographies

- The world's largest internal migration of rural people to urban areas has been happening on a remarkable scale in Asian countries since 1990s.
- Between 1990 and 2017 China was the leading rural out-migrating society in the world (falling from 73.56 to 42.04 per cent of the total population), followed by SE Asia
- Sharp decline in Thailand's rural population, from 80% in 1960 to 48.46% cent in 2016
- 1900 – 2017: Indonesia (from 69.42 to 45.34 per cent) and Malaysia (halving from 50.21 to 24.55 per cent)



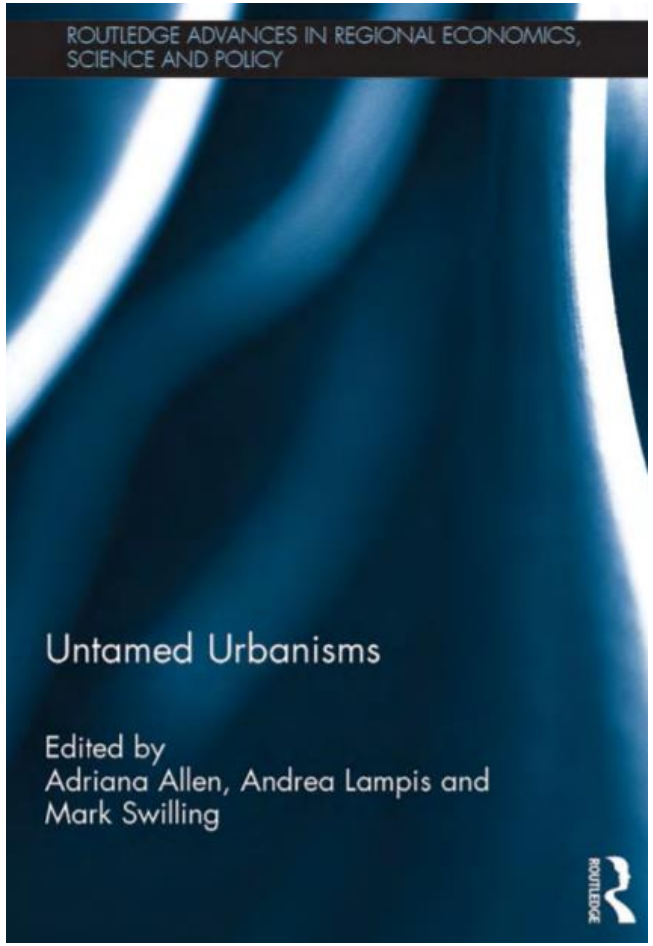
By 2030

- **the urban population in China is expected to exceed one billion, an increase of 400 million, and result in the creation of at least 30 cities of one million**

- **India is projected to surpass that of China, with its urban population nearly doubling from today's 350 million to 611 million and with an addition of 26 cities of one million**

Implications – metabolism to ‘metabolic rift’

- consumption and consumerist cities
- a largescale, dispersed, fragmented, and (non-)networked landscape – planetary urbanization
- …metabolisms, economics and politics are increasingly out of sync with nature and with less-urbanized regions (Myint 2018)
- from centric formations to the new polymorphic urban tissue deeply extended in the once rural and natural environment (Novaković & Milaković 2018)



The developing world has already entered into the high-growth, rapidtransition phase of the urbanization process, marked by numerous problems and challenges including the swelling of slums and squatter settlements; lack of citywide infrastructures for services such as housing, health and sanitation; privatization and commercialization of infrastructures; city development plans based on the logic of foreign capital; the widening gap between the rich and the poor; and the changing nature of the rural–urban divide (Mukherjee, 2015: 33).

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