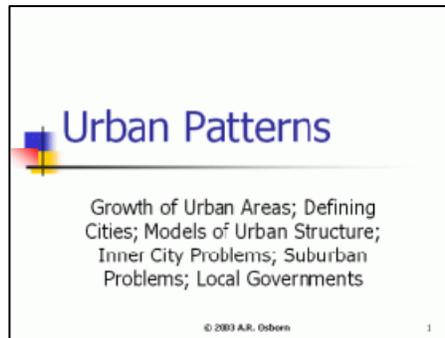


Urban Patterns



An Urban World

- ❖ Increasing urbanization:
 - 1800 – 3% urban;
 - 2000 – 47% urban.
 - 2030 – 60% urban?
- ❖ Greater urban **population** in More Developed Countries.
- ❖ Greater urban **growth** in Less Developed Countries.
- ❖ Although under half of the people in most less developed regions are urban, Latin America and the Middle East have urban percentages comparable to MDCs.



Source: http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfc/earth/pictures/citylights/flat_earth_nightm.jpg

An Urban Country



Source: <http://pwg.gsfc.nasa.gov/istp/outreach/images/Earth/apodusni.gif>

Defining Cities

- ❖ We can define cities in two different ways:
 - Based on the **social character of cities** – the ways in which life in cities differs from life in rural places.
 - Based on **physical** or **legal** criteria.

Defining Urban Settlements

- ❖ Social Definitions:
 - In the 1930s the sociologist Louis Wirth discussed the ways in which city life differs from life in non-urban places:
 - **SIZE & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS**: Cities are bigger than non-urban places – which means that in cities, you spend much of your time with strangers. Your relations with people you work with are often legal or contractual, not personal.
 - **DENSITY & SPECIALIZATION**: Cities don't just have more people than non-urban places – they have a greater density of population. Interactions with other people are constant and inescapable. And people in cities tend to specialize in their work – otherwise competition for jobs and money becomes overwhelming.
 - **HETEROGENEITY & FREEDOM**: People in cities are far more diverse than in non-urban places – behaviors or customs, as well as members of ethnic and religious groups, that would be socially undesirable in a rural area are tolerated in cities.
- ❖ Legal Definitions:
 - “an urban settlement that has been legally incorporated into an independent, self-governing unit.”
 - Legal definitions vary from country to country – for example:
 - US – 2,500 persons (this goes back to the first census in 1790)
 - South Africa – 500 persons
 - India – 5,000 persons with an adult male population predominantly in non-agricultural work.
- ❖ Physical Definitions
 - **URBANIZED AREA**:
 - “The central city and the surrounding built-up suburbs ... where population density exceeds 1,000 persons per square mile.”
 - The physical city – the visible city.
 - **METROPOLITAN AREA**:
 - The “zone of influence” of a city; the functional city.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

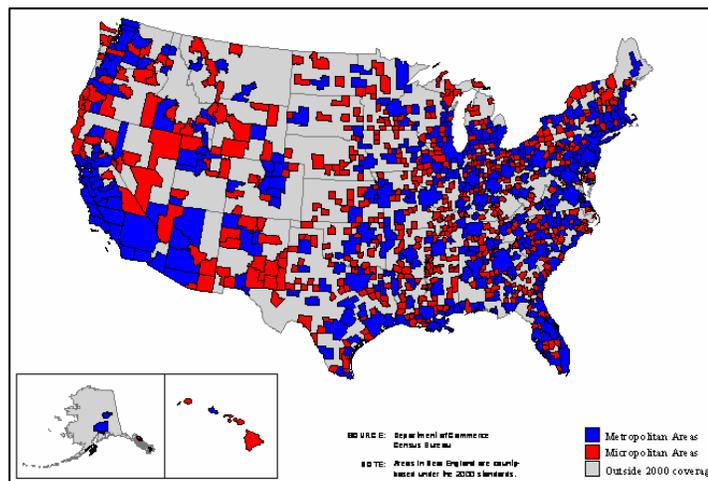
- ❖ Since 1949 the Census Bureau has used a method for measuring and comparing the functional areas of cities — the **Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)**.
- ❖ The exact definition of an MSA has varied over time. Today an MSA is defined as:
 - A central city with a population of at least 50,000.
 - The county within which the city is located.
 - Adjacent counties with a high population density and a large percentage of residents working in the central city's county.

“CMSA” — Beyond the MSA

- ❖ Overlapping MSAs are combined into **Consolidated MSAs**.
- ❖ An MSA within a CMSA that has more than one million people is a **Primary MSA**.

CBSA: MSA vs. MSA?

- ❖ Since 2000 the Census Bureau has used the “Core Based Statistical Area” or CBSA classification scheme (for more information see: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html>)
- ❖ Under the CBSA standard there are two kinds of MSA:
 - **METROPOLITAN** statistical areas
 - **MICROPOLITAN** statistical areas.
- ❖ A CBSA consists of one or more counties with a central city with a population of at least 10,000:
 - If the population is more than 50,000, it's **metropolitan**.
 - If it's between 10,000 and 50,000 it's **micropolitan**.
- ❖ There are at least 362 metropolitan, and 560 micropolitan areas in the US today.



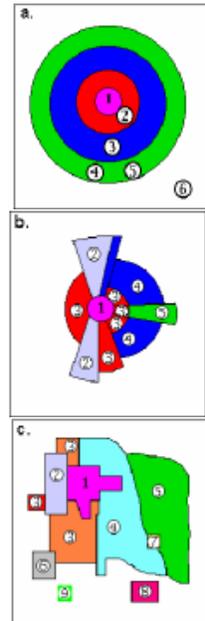
Source: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/maps/uscmpr.htm>

Models of City Structure

- ❖ Starting in the 20th Century, social scientists began to try to create **models** — simplified representations of reality — to understand how cities function.
- ❖ There are **three popular models** of North American city structure that are widely used and discussed.
- ❖ Each has problems; **none** accurately describes how any particular city actually works — but the models are still useful because they give us insights into how cities grow and function.

Three Models of North American City Structure

- ❖ Concentric Zone Model
 - Oldest (1923)
 - Postulates a series of concentric rings of decreasing land value surrounding the Central Business District (CBD)
- ❖ Sector Model
 - Pre World War II (1939)
 - Incorporates linear and transport corridors
 - Growth on periphery (“pie slices”)
 - Continued emphasis on CBD
- ❖ Multiple Nuclei Model
 - Post World War II (1945)
 - Multiple “centers of attraction”
 - Less emphasis on a single CBD



Social Area Analysis

- ❖ None of the three models is perfect – they are simplified, not “real.”
- ❖ However, the test of a model is whether or not it’s useful – can we use the three models – individually or in combination – to make predictions about cities?
- ❖ The answer is a firm “**maybe**” – some patterns (family size, income, ethnicity, etc.) can **sometimes** be predicted using the models.

Models Outside North America

- ❖ **None** of the three models developed for North America are very useful in other parts of the world.
 - Europe
 - In Europe the wealthy tend to live in or near the center of town.
 - The poor tend to be concentrated in suburbs (“slum suburbs”).

- Less Developed Countries
 - As in Europe, there tend to be slum suburbs and a wealthy center.
 - Most cities in LDCs have also been affected by **colonialism**, which created new areas of cities and often modified their shapes.
 - **Precolonial, colonial, and post-colonial** cities are often distinctive
 - Latin American cities often have a distinctive “elite spine.”
 - Most cities in LDCs have extensive **squatter settlements** in and around them where recently arrived people improvise housing. Given enough time (and the right to live on and own their own land), squatter settlements can evolve into decent neighborhoods

Problems of Inner Cities

- ❖ Instead of squatter settlements and slum suburbs, in North America areas of poverty are often concentrated in the **inner city** – the area surrounding the CBD (this corresponds roughly to the “zone in transition” in the concentric zone model, and is the origin of the phrase “inner city” – a term which can be used even in cities that really don’t fit the concentric zone model).
- ❖ North American inner cities suffer from a number of **physical, social and economic** problems.

Inner Cities: Physical Problems

- ❖ The major physical problem of the inner cities is the poor condition of the housing.
 - DETERIORATION
 - **Filtering** – large, old single-family homes become multi-family apartments – without upgrading the facilities. Eventually, as the facilities become worse and worse, they are abandoned (“filtering” is a peculiar term – think of it as a metaphor, and imagine a sieve or a sifter, breaking up large chunks of dirt or flour into smaller and smaller particles).
 - **Redlining & Blockbusting** – illegal processes designed to concentrate ethnicities in **ghettos** – where services are few and it is impossible to get loans to improve property.
 - In “**redlining**” banks, mortgage brokers, real estate agents, insurance companies, etc. would get together and draw lines on the map that restricted where people could (and couldn’t) buy or rent.
 - In “**blockbusting**” unscrupulous real estate agents would buy up property in a white neighborhood and move in blacks (or some other undesirable ethnicity). They would then start a panic among the white householders, induce them to sell as

cheaply as possible, and finally the real estate agents would sell the property to blacks anxious to get out of the ghetto (or other “redlined” areas).

- URBAN RENEWAL
 - In theory, urban renewal is a process of replacing deteriorated housing with new **public housing**.
 - Although public housing has been successful in some places, in others it has been a brutal nightmare.
 - **Gentrification** – rather than tear down deteriorated housing, in some places it has been renovated – but the poor who once lived in the neighborhood can’t afford new renovated housing, and must move.

Inner Cities: Social Problems

- ❖ Most people who live in inner cities are there because they can’t afford to go anywhere else – they are **poor!**
- ❖ **“The Underclass”** – the idea that people are trapped in a cycle of problems – often because they **lack job skills** or have become a part of the one to two million **homeless** in America.
- ❖ **The Culture of Poverty** in the inner city includes high rates of
 - Single parent families
 - Crime
 - Ethnic and racial segregation

Inner Cities: Economic Problems

- ❖ Poor people and poor housing mean that inner cities have enormous needs – and no money to pay for them.
- ❖ Cities have two choices when it comes to paying for services they can’t afford:
 - **Reduce services** (disastrous in areas that are already hurting).
 - **Raise taxes** (disastrous in areas that already find it hard to bring people and businesses to the area).
- ❖ Other solutions have been tried:
 - **Annexation** (taking over land outside the city, thereby expanding the tax base – this once was feasible, but in most areas it isn’t any longer).
 - State and Federal contributions (loans and grants).

Annexation Today

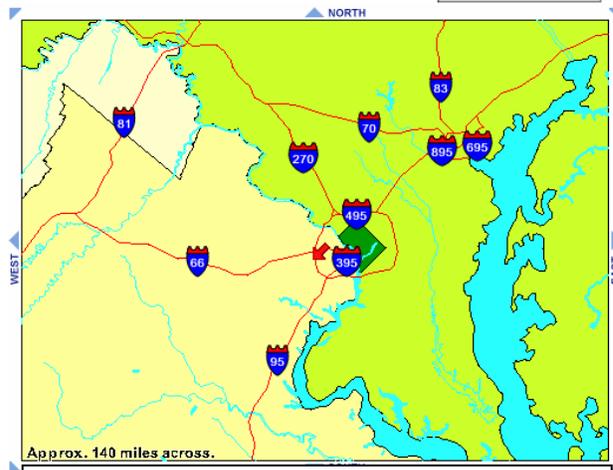
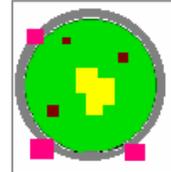
- ❖ To see examples of cities dealing with annexation issues today, see:
 - Lincoln, Nebraska: <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/annex/faq.htm>
 - Austin, Texas: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/annexation/>
 - Riverside, California: <http://www.riversideca.gov/planning/annex.htm>

The Growth of Suburbs

- ❖ The suburban population of the US has grown enormously in the past 50 years – much faster than the overall population growth rate. About 50% of all Americans now live in suburbs – and their popularity is extremely high (90% of people polled say they prefer suburbs to inner cities).
- ❖ At the same time, the percentage of people living in central cities has declined. Only about 30% of all Americans now live in central cities.

The Peripheral Model

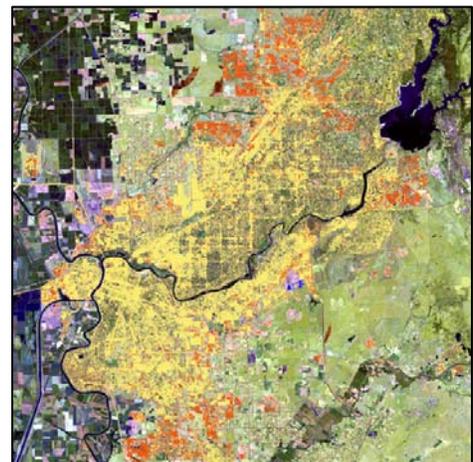
- ❖ Around the central city is the suburban residential and business area, circled by a **beltway**.
- ❖ Around the beltway are business nodes – **edge cities**.
- ❖ “Edge cities” typically have lots of jobs and very few residents – the classic example is Tysons Corner, Virginia. Located 15 miles from Washington, D.C., Tysons Corner has a population of 18,540 – and two shopping malls, 35 million square feet of office and retail space, and something like 170,000 jobs.



Tysons Corner information: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>
<http://www.beyonddc.com/profiles/tysonscorner.html>

Problems of Suburbs

- ❖ Sprawl: “... the progressive spread of development over the landscape.”
- ❖ Problems caused by sprawl include:
 - Costs of extending services
 - Loss of agricultural land
 - Dependence on the automobile (and a lack of **public transportation**).
- ❖ Segregation:
 - Physical segregation from work.
 - Social segregation:
 - By age
 - By family structure
 - By race
 - By income
 - By social class



Expanding suburban areas, Sacramento, CA. Areas in orange are new suburbs (1990-2000).
Source: <http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/feature/2003/1212globalcities.html>

“Smart Growth?”

- ❖ In some parts of the US, steps have been taken to restrict sprawl.
Examples:
 - Maryland: <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/smartintro.htm>
 - Portland, Oregon: <http://www.metro-region.org/>
 - Smart Growth in the San Diego Region:
<http://www.sandag.org/index.asp?classid=12&fuseaction=home.class>
[home](#)
- ❖ Smart growth has many critics. Since smart growth limits construction, they claim it causes congestion, higher density, higher housing prices, restricts property rights, etc. The critics seldom advocate any solutions to the problems of sprawl, however.

Too Many Governments?

- ❖ In many parts of the US, there has been an explosion in local governmental bodies – neighborhood councils, elementary school districts, high school districts, community college districts, fire districts, irrigation districts, flood-control districts, sewage districts, parks and recreation districts, sheriff districts, library district, mosquito abatement district, etc.
- ❖ Many communities overlap dozens – sometimes hundreds of these different districts and bodies.
- ❖ This overlapping makes it hard for cities in the US to deal with problems.

Local Government Fragmentation: Solutions?

- ❖ “Metropolitan Governments”:
 - An association of local governments – **council of governments** – designed to coordinate activities in an urban area.
 - Usually not designed to replace other bodies – generally assists with planning – often involved in **smart growth** initiatives.
 - Usually **not elected** (Example: SANDAG).
- ❖ “Federations”:
 - A separate regional government – above local cities – that can make planning decisions and even impose decisions about land use.
 - Usually elected (Examples: Toronto, Portland OR).
- ❖ “Consolidations”:
 - In some areas cities (or cities and counties) have legally consolidated – combined governmental bodies together.
 - Usually **elected** (Example: Dade County FL).