

dispersed populations, as well as cities and metropolitan areas considered urban with concentrated, dense populations.

History of Urban Geography

The earliest studies of urban geography in the United States focused on site and situation. This developed out of the man-land tradition of geography which focused on the impact of nature on humans and vice versa. In the 1920s, Carl Sauer became influential in urban geography as he motivated geographers to study a city's population and economic aspects with regard to its physical location. In addition, central place theory and regional studies focused on the hinterland (the rural outlying are supporting a city with agricultural products and raw materials) and trade areas were also important to early urban geography.

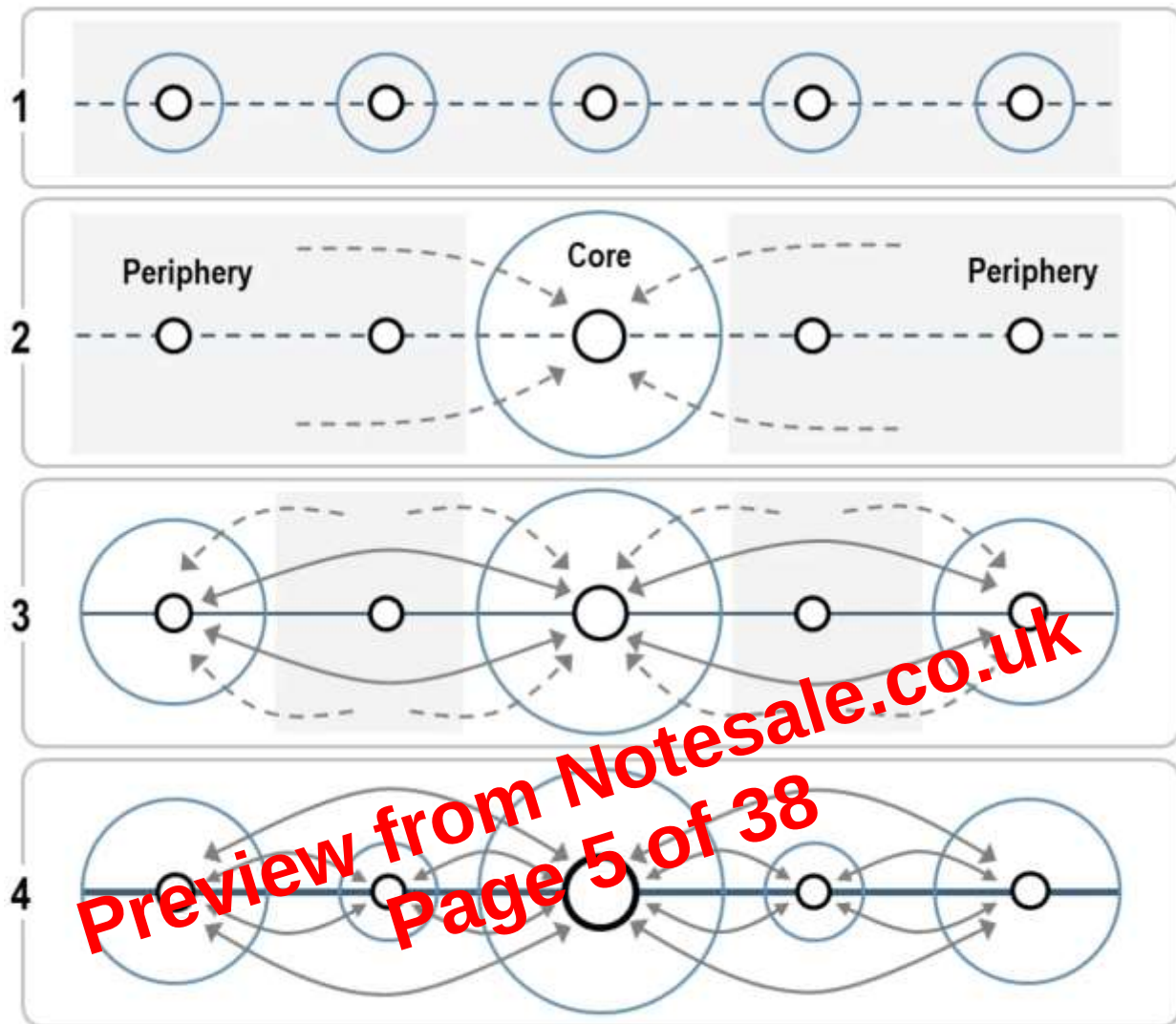
Throughout the 1950s and 1970s, geography itself became focused on spatial analysis, quantitative measurements and the use of the scientific method. At the same time, urban geographers began quantitative information like census data to compare different urban areas. Using this data allowed them to do comparative studies on different cities and develop computer based analysis out of those studies. By the 1970s, urban studies were the leading form geographic research.

Shortly thereafter, behavioral studies began to grow within geography and in urban geography. Proponents of behavioral studies believed that location and spatial characteristics could not be held solely responsible for changes in a city. Instead, changes in a city arise from decisions made by individuals and organizations within the city.

By the 1980s, urban geographers became largely concerned with structural aspects of the city related to underlying social, political and economic structures. For example, urban geographers at this time studied how capital investment could foster urban change in various cities.

Throughout the late 1980s until today, urban geographers have begun to differentiate themselves from one another, therefore allowing the field to be filled with a number of different viewpoints and focuses. For example, a city's site and situation is still regarded as important to its growth, as is its history and relationship with its physical environment and natural resources. People's interactions with each other and political and economic factors are still studied as agents of urban change as well.

Themes of Urban Geography



Core-Periphery Stages of Development in a Urban System

The conventional core-periphery model of development tries to represent the emergence of an regional urban system in four major stages which goes on par with the development of regional transport systems. From an initial process that favors the setting of spatial inequalities, these are eventually reduced and a functionally integrated urban system emerges.

- **Stage 1 (Pre-industrial).** The pre-industrial (agricultural) society, with localized economies and a small scale settlement structure. Each settlement is fairly isolated, activities are dispersed and mobility is low. There are limited differences between spatial entities in terms of levels of economic development.

According to Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences: "urbanisation is characterised by movement of people from small communities concerned chiefly or solely with agriculture to other communities generally larger, whose activities are primarily centred in Government, trade, manufacture or allied interests. Thus **urbanisation can be said to be characterised by such self-evident factor as;**

- a) Mobility of population from agricultural to non-agricultural areas;
- b) Concentration of populace in a new place of habitation or a place characterised by a new way of life;
- c) Variety of professions other than agriculture and continued mobility in these occupations, mobility both - vertical and horizontal,
- d) A particular mode of habitation and non-agricultural (i.e., industrial, commercial etc.) pattern of economy.

It may be observed that the degree of urbanisation is not merely judged by the percentage of total population living in an urban community, or number of urban places in any political or administrative territory, but also by the influence which an urban place or community exerts on cultural, political and economic life of its own hinterland and abroad. The above analysis shows that urbanisation includes the development of urban locales and urban traits.

Characteristics:

Some of the essential characteristics of urbanism and ruralism are psychological. It is often true that the urban man must think faster and may speak faster keeping his thoughts to himself. The urbanity of the urbanised man is evident in his ability to enter and exit from the impersonal role, as when walking with the crowd, his ability to use anonymity as privacy. He is likely to be mode-conscious in matters of dress, conversation and manners. The urban way of life may also be evidenced in one's possessions, television, radio, telephone, electric devices in home, the type of kitchen, many articles with which the home is decorated, specially types of books and pictures. Let us now give some of the most obvious characteristics.

1. Ways of Work

Urban work is usually described as industrial which does not mean work in factories only. It is also a work in commerce and trade, in communication and services. Some work may not be different from work in a village, but the ways of work may be different. Emphasis is given on the use of machine and on refined ways of organising the work place in order to increase the productivity of workers. More than in a rural setting, work is sold and bought by time units. Non-work time, time gained from work separation, is leisure, and more efficient man becomes in his work, the more leisure he gains. This is an urban trait,

2. Mobility:

6. The Man-made Environment:

We have already described the urban environment as mechanical. Trees, grass and flowers are selected and may be found only where man wishes them to do. The streets are underlaid by water supply lines, sewers or gas supply. Lines of transportation may be on the surface, under the surface or overhead. Transit through the streets is regulated by a system of lights. There are intricate and far reaching systems for communications. Being urbanised means to be informed about all of these systems so necessary to collective living

SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF MODERN URBANISM AND URBANISATION

Urban area, Urbanism

What is an 'urban area'? The term is used in **two senses** – **demographic** and **sociological**. **Demographically**, the focus is on the size and density of population and nature of work of the majority of the adults. **Sociologically**, the focus is on heterogeneity, impersonality, interdependence and the quality of life. Tonnies (1957) differentiated between ***gemeinschaft* (rural)** and ***gesellschaft* (urban)** communities in terms of social relationships and values.

The former is one in which social bonds are based on close personal ties of kinship and friendship, and the emphasis is on tradition, consensus and informality, while in the latter, impersonal and secondary relationships predominate and the interaction of people is formal, contractual and dependent on the specific function or service they perform. Other sociologists like Max Weber (1961) and George Simmel (1950) have stressed on dense living conditions, rapidity of change and impersonal interaction in urban settings.

Urbanism has been defined by various scholars as patterns of culture and social interaction resulting from the concentration of large populations into relatively small areas. It reflects an organization of society in terms of a complex division of labour, high levels of technology, high mobility, interdependence of its members in fulfilling economic functions and impersonality in social relations.

Urbanism as way of life, Louis Wirth believes, may be empirically approached from three interrelated perspectives:

- as a **physical structure** with a population base, technology and ecological order;
- as a **system of social organization** with a structure and series of institutions (secondary contacts, weakening of kinship ties etc.);
- as a **set of attitudes, ideas and constellation of personalities** (increased personal disorganization, suicide, crime, delinquency and corruption).

The Process of Urbanization

Urbanization as a structural process of change is generally related to industrialization but it is not always the result of industrialization. Urbanization results due to the concentration of large-scale

and small scale industrial and commercial, financial and administrative set up in the cities; technological development in transport and communication, cultural and recreational activities. The excess of urbanization over industrialization that makes it possible to provide employment for all persons coming to urban areas is, in fact, what sometimes leads to over urbanization.

Urbanization implies a cultural and social psychological process whereby people acquire the material and non-material culture, including behavioral patterns, forms of organization, and ideas that originated in, or are distinctive of the city. Although the flow of cultural influences is in both directions – both toward and away from the city – there is substantial agreement that the cultural influences exerted by the city on non-urban people are probably more pervasive than the reverse. Urbanization seen in this light has also resulted in what Toynbee has called the “Westernization” of the world.

The idea of urbanization may be made more precise and meaningful when interpreted as aspects of diffusion and acculturation. Urbanization may be manifest either as intra-society or inter-society diffusion, that is, urban culture may spread to various parts of the same society or it may cross cultural or national boundaries and spread to other societies. It involves both borrowing and lending. On the other side of the diffusion coin is acculturation, the process whereby, individuals acquire the material possessions, behavioural patterns, social organization, bodies of knowledge, and meanings of groups whose culture differs in certain respects from their own. Urbanization as seen in this light is a complex process (Gill and Mevra: 1933).

Sub-Urbanization, is closely related to over-urbanization of a city. When cities get overcrowded by population, it may result in sub-urbanization. Delhi is a typical example. Sub-urbanization means urbanization of rural areas around the cities characterized by the following features:

- a sharp increase in the ‘urban (non-agricultural) uses’ of land
- inclusion of surrounding areas of towns within its municipal limits, and
- intensive communication of all types between town and its surrounding areas

Over Urbanization refers to the increased exemplification of the characters of urbanisation in a city or its surrounding rural area. It results due to the excessive development of urbanistic traits. Due to the expansion of the range of urban activities and occupations, greater influx of secondary functions like industry, increasing and widespread development of an intricate bureaucratic administrative network, the increased sophistication and mechanization of life and the influx of urban characters into the surrounding rural area, over urbanization gradually replaces the ruralistic and traditionalistic traits of a community.

Urbanization as a Socio-Cultural Process

Cities are social artifacts and stands apart from the countryside, in terms of the higher degree of its acceptance of foreign and cross-cultural influences. It is a melting pot of people with diverse

gained access to improved drinking water and 813 million to improved sanitation, the urban population in that period grew by 1089 million people.

An estimated 96 per cent of the urban population globally used an improved water supply source in 2010, compared to 81 per cent of the rural population. This means that 653 million rural dwellers lacked improved sources of drinking water.

Globally, 79 per cent of the urban population used an improved sanitation facility in 2010, compared to 47 per cent of the rural population.

Those who suffer the most of these water-related challenges are the urban poor, often living in slum areas or informal settlements following rapid urban growth, in situations lacking many of life's basic necessities: safe drinking water, adequate sanitation services and access to health services, durable housing and secure tenure.

Cities cannot be sustainable without ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Coping with the growing needs of water and sanitation services within cities is one of the most pressing issues of this century. Sustainable, efficient and equitable management of water in cities has never been as important as in today's world.

LIMITATIONS TO THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES IN URBAN AREAS

- Poor planning
- Corruption
- Underdevelopment
- Water pollution

SOLUTIONS TO WATER USE CONFLICTS

Discuss....amongst yourselves