

Urbanization

AN INTRODUCTION TO URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Third Edition

Paul L. Knox

Linda McCarthy



Urbanization is one of the most important phenomena in today's world. The proportion of the world's population living in urban settlements is growing at a rapid rate; and the world's economic, social, cultural, and political processes are increasingly played out within and between the world's networks of towns and cities. From small market towns and fishing ports to megacities of millions of people, the urban areas of the world are the linchpins of economies and societies. Although they often pose social and environmental problems, towns and cities are essential elements in human economic

and social organization. They are centers of cultural innovation, social transformation, and political change. They can also be engines of economic development.

The front cover photograph shows the Shinjuku district of Tokyo, one of the world's most vibrant cities and the hub of Japan's economy. Shinjuku is an important commercial and administrative district, and has the busiest train station in the world. The back cover shows the neighboring Harajuku district, a lively place where young people often converge to socialize and share fashion trends and cultural ideas.

In this book we take a dynamic approach to the study of urban geography, unraveling the interlocking processes of urbanization to present a vivid and meaningful explanation of constantly changing urban geographies and urban life. The Third Edition of *Urbanization* has been reorganized to improve the structure and flow of the material. Many new topics have been added, including important urban issues such as the global financial meltdown and its impact on urban residents, as well as the aftermath for the people in cities hit by the massive earthquakes in Haiti and Japan. There are many new essays that capture not only the vitality, experiences, and achievements of ordinary people in cities, but also the problems they struggle to overcome every day.

Each copy of the Third Edition includes access to a Premium Website at www.mygeoscienceplace.com, which offers a variety of online resources for students and instructors, such as self-study quizzes, MapMaster™ layered thematic and place name interactive maps, *Urban View* Google Earth™ tours, related websites, "In the News" RSS feeds, key sources and suggested readings, and additional references and resources.

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