

Class 11b: Urban geography

- Why cities? Where?
- Suburbanization
- Internal spatial dynamics
- Inner cities

What is a city?

- A central place (exports good and services to a larger region)
- A place of a certain size and density
 - 200 in Denmark
 - 2,000 in the U.S.
 - 20,000 in Japan
- A recent phenomenon (3% in 1800)

Why cities?

- Specialization of labor
- Agglomeration and efficiency
 - Economies of scale
 - Sharing suppliers, customers, services
- Administration and organization
- Defense

Where are cities?

- Site: characteristics of the place itself
- Situation: relative characteristics

Gateway to gold country

At a silver deposit

Head of navigation

On a railroad

Waterfall

River delta

Ancient cities

- Crossroads, water sources
 - Jericho (9000 BC)
 - Catal Huyuk (6000 BC)
 - Memphis (3000 BC)
- Cooperation on irrigation, defense
 - Ur (5000 BC)
- Interdependence of city and country

Medieval cities

- Small by today's standards
 - 1 square mile; 300,000 inhabitants
- Surrounded by wall, farm fields
- Military strategy, religion, crossroads
- Organic city plan

Industrial cities

- Rapid urban growth
- New cities: close to power sources, markets
 - Coalfields (Manchester, UK)
 - Water power (Lowell, MA)
- Health and social issues
 - London (Dickens)
 - Chicago (*The Jungle*)

World cities

- Based on services, not goods
- Face-to-face contact, communications
- Global orientation, internal inequalities
- NYC, London, Tokyo

Economics of cities

- Your responsibility!
- Basic vs. nonbasic industries
- Examples (Figure 12.11)
- Multiplier effect

Von Thünen's land use model

- German landowner in 1800s
- Noticed pattern of agricultural land use
- Three assumptions:
 - Isolated city (no trade)
 - Surrounded by homogenous landscape
 - All that matters is transport costs

Urban land use models

- CBD: “highest and best use”
- What happens beyond?
- Three models of Chicago
 - “Featureless plain”
 - University of Chicago
- Not mutually exclusive

Concentric circles

- Sociologist in 1920s
- CBD, then “zone of transition”
- Working-class homes
- Middle-class homes
- Commuter suburbs
- Urban ecology: invasion and succession

Sector model

- Economist in 1930s
- Central activities expand out by sector
- High-end housing in attractive sector
- Industrial near transportation
- Middle-class housing next to high-end
- Lower-class housing gets the rest

Sector model

- Status displayed via housing
- Middle class always moves outward
- Vacancy chains start
- Fastest growing suburbs = poorest inner city

Multiple nuclei

- Geographers in 1940s
- CBD isn't the only center
- Commercial, industrial, port, etc. “nodes”
- Expanding nodes intersect

Suburbs and inner cities

- Suburban residents and jobs came from somewhere
- Growth now limited to suburbs
- Segregation by class, race
- Falling tax income, rising service needs
- Spatial mismatch: jobs moved, poor didn't

Suburbs and inner cities

- But agglomeration still matters
- And immigrants still arrive in cities
- Increasing redevelopment of downtowns
 - LoDo in Denver
 - Battery Park in NYC
 - Jack London Square in Oakland
 - Train station in Sacramento