

# URBAN GEOGRAPHY

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Presentation By

Dr. P. Siva Kumar, M.Sc., B.Ed., Ph.D.,

Guest Faculty



**Department of Geography  
Bharathidasan University  
Tiruchirappalli - 620 024**

# UNIT - 1

Introduction: Nature – Scope and development of Urban Geography - Historic Development of Cities – Definition of urban centres/cities- Urbanization - urban growth – world urbanization – urbanization in India.

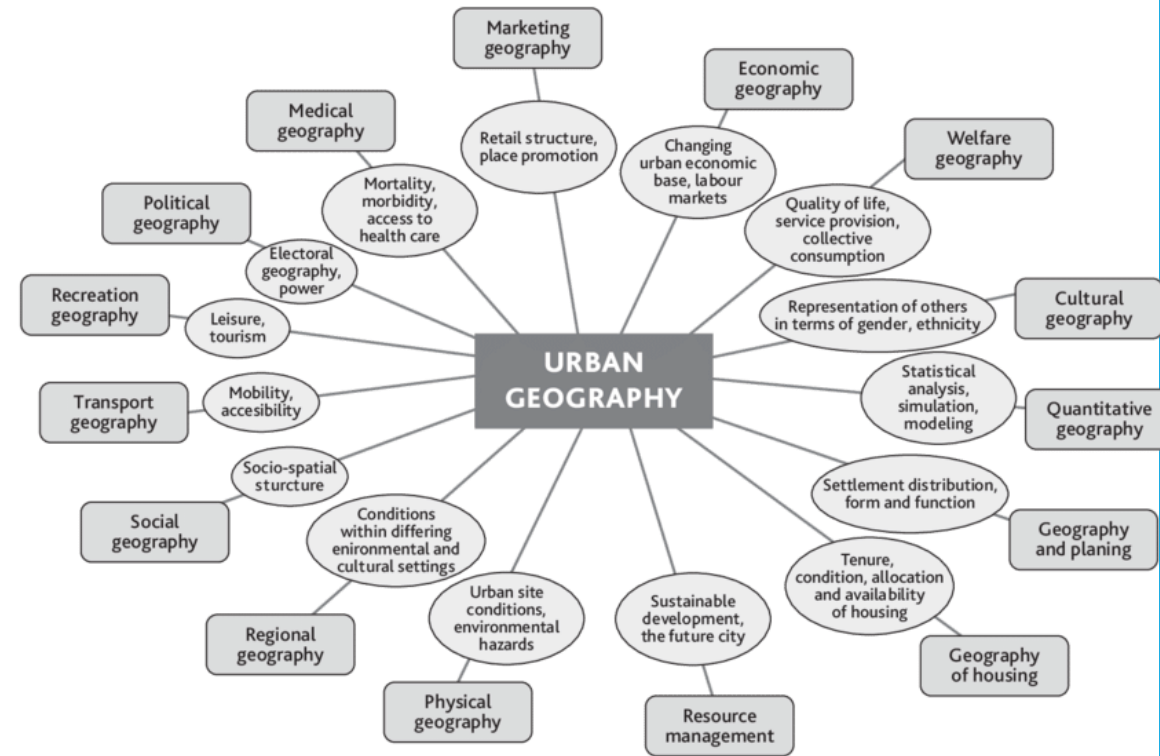


- The main concerns of urban geography are explained calling attention to the two basic approaches in urban geography: the first refers to the spatial distribution of towns and cities and the linkages between them, the study of systems of cities; and the second refers to the internal structure of urban places, this can be named the study of the city as a system.
- The main approaches that have characterized urban geography' studies in the post-1950 period are explained, with particular emphasis on five of them: site and situation and urban morphology, where physical characteristics were the determining factors in the location and development of settlements; positivism, based upon the belief that human behavior is determined by universal laws and displays fundamental regularities; behavioral and humanistic, that tried to articulate more richly the values, goals and motivations under-pinning human behavior; the structural analysis, that incorporated the political economy approach in the urban analysis; and the postmodern theory, with its focus on differences, uniqueness and individuality.



# The Scope of Urban Geography

- Urban Geography is concerned to identify and explain the distribution of towns and cities and the socio-spatial similarities and contrasts that exist within and between them. Following this there are two basic approaches to urban geography:
- the first refers to the spatial distribution of towns and cities and the linkages between them, this can be considered the study of systems of cities;
- the second refers to the internal structure of urban places, this can be named the study of the city as a system. While every town and city has an individual character, urban places also exhibit common features that vary only in degree of incidence or importance within the particular urban fabric.



# History and development of Urban Geography

- The earliest studies of urban geography 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 of different cities and develop computer-based analysis out of those studies.
- By the 1970s, urban studies were the leading form of 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.
- 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.



# CHANGING APPROACHES IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY

- Initially, urban geographers have centered their attention on the study of cities and metropolitan areas in two ways and two scales.
- Firstly, by stressing relationships among a system or group of cities at the regional, national, and global level called as intermetropolitan urban system, approach.
- The second approach that urban geographers use highlights the internal locational arrangements of humans, activities and institutions within metropolitan areas is known as an intrametropolitan approach (Kaplan et. al. 2014). With the growing field of urban geography, the four major epistemological approaches developed to produce knowledge are:
  - i) Positivism Approach
  - ii) Structuralism Approach
  - iii) Humanism Approach and
  - iv) Post structuralism Approach.



- **Positivism Approach:** In order to make geographical investigation more scientific, positivism was adopted which is characterized by focusing on scientific methods based on hypothesis testing, statistical inference and theory construction.
- **Structuralism Approach:** The structuralists agree with positivists that the broad realities can be understood by human inquiry but disagree on the fact that detached observation of repeatedly co-occurring events can produce knowledge. They believe that structured realities that resist easy measurement cannot be directly observed.
- **Humanism Approach:** This approach focuses on meaning and experience rather than scientifically verifiable knowledge based on reproducible methods. It is primarily focused on attitude, perception and values towards place and the landscape instead of theoretical perspective and hypothesis testing.





- **Post structuralism Approach:** This approach rejects the idea of ultimate truth can be discovered that can be generalised. Post-structuralism offers a variety of objectives for human quest. Post structuralism holds that there are realities which are based on the geographic and historic setting. In the due course of time, many latest approaches have been adopted by urban geographers.
- **Spatial Analysis Approach:** This was the first approach to dominate the domain of urban geography. It is primarily based on the tools and theories of neo-classical economics with presumed rationality of human behaviour. ***'A defining characteristic of spatial analysis research in urban geography is the use of statistical and mathematical models, a methodology also adopted in most other social, biological and physical sciences.'***
- **Behavioral Urban Geography:** The behavioral urban geography studies how a person makes spatial decision by following the positivist approach used by spatial analysis. The behavioral geographers challenge the basic assumption of rationality and emphasizes individual attitude and expectations of places. Behavioral geography shares the ideas associated with sociology.



- **Marxist Urban Geography:** Marxist geographers aims at understanding the capitalist production structure and analyse the underlying cause of poverty in urban areas, inequality among classes, discrimination against different sections of society and unequal access to basic amenities and urban social services. It believed that understanding structural roots to complex social problem is an important tool for revolutionary social transformation.
- **Feminist Urban Geography:** The gender studies and feminist theory made its successful association in geographical research in the 1970s. Feminist Urban Geography associated with structuralist character which explores the link between patriarchy and capitalism in the context with the roles assigned to women for the responsibilities of social reproduction. It linked urban spatial structure with gender based division of labour and domestic responsibilities.



- **Post-Modern Urban Geography:** The post-modernism is believed to be introduced in the discipline of geography by the work of Micheal Dear and Ed Soja in the 1980s. This approach rejects science as the only valid way to generate knowledge. 'Post-modernism was a cultural-centric rejection of the perceived sterility and anonymity of spatial analysis and the overbearing nature of Marxist structuralism.
- **Use of Geographical Information Systems and Urban Geography:** Urban geographers use GIS (Geographical Information System) as a tool in planning, research and education of urban geography. GIS has remarkably enhanced the possibilities of urban geographers to identify and tackle urban challenges.



# URBANISATIONURBANISATION AND URBANISM

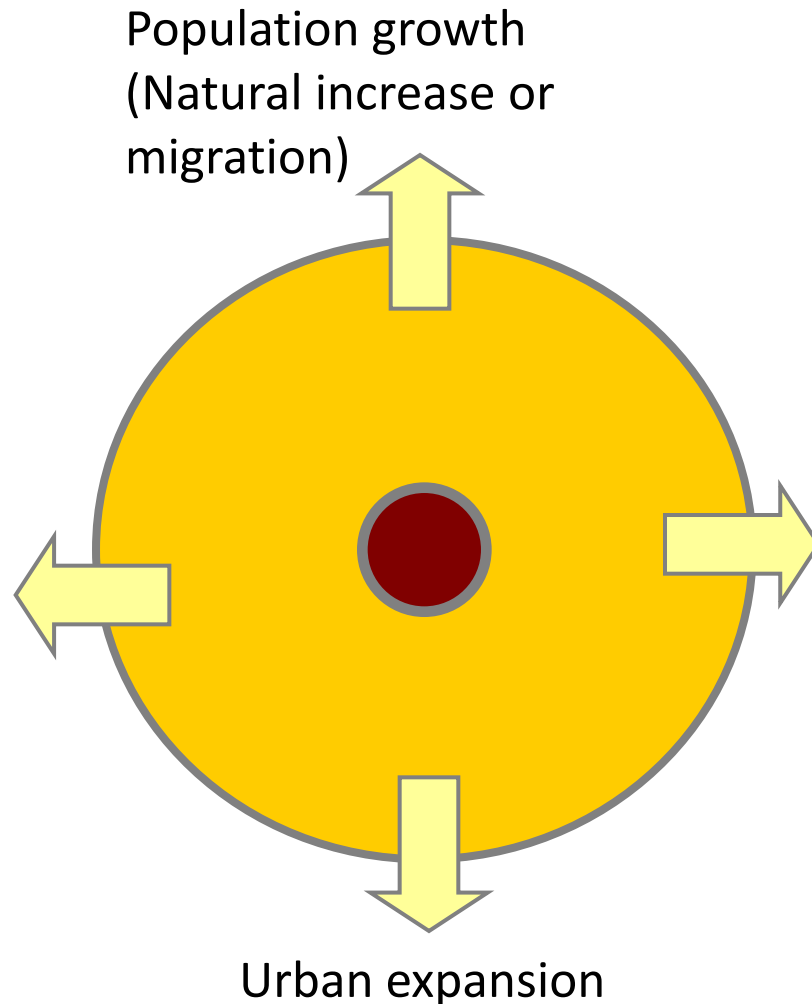
- According to E.E. Bergel, “Urbanisation is a process, whereas urbanism is a way or condition of life in urban areas”. While defining urbanisation, G.T. Trewartha laid down three major characteristics of urbanisation:
- (i) The level of urbanisation is defined as the proportion of total population, residing in urban places;
- (ii) The urbanisation process denotes an increase in the fraction of population, which is urban; and
- (iii) The rate of urbanisation is the percent increase over a given period of time in proportion to the total population living in urban communities. According to B. N. Ghosh, “Urbanisation is a process by which villages turns into towns and towns develop into cities”.



- In general, contemporary urbanisation has following major characteristics:
- (i) increasing ratio of urban population in total population;
- (ii) an increase in size and number of towns;
- (iii) a socio-economic transformation of villages into towns and towns into cities;
- (iv) migration of people from rural areas to urban areas and to larger urban areas; and
- (v) increase in share of working population engaged in non-agricultural activities against the increase in working population engaged in agricultural activities.



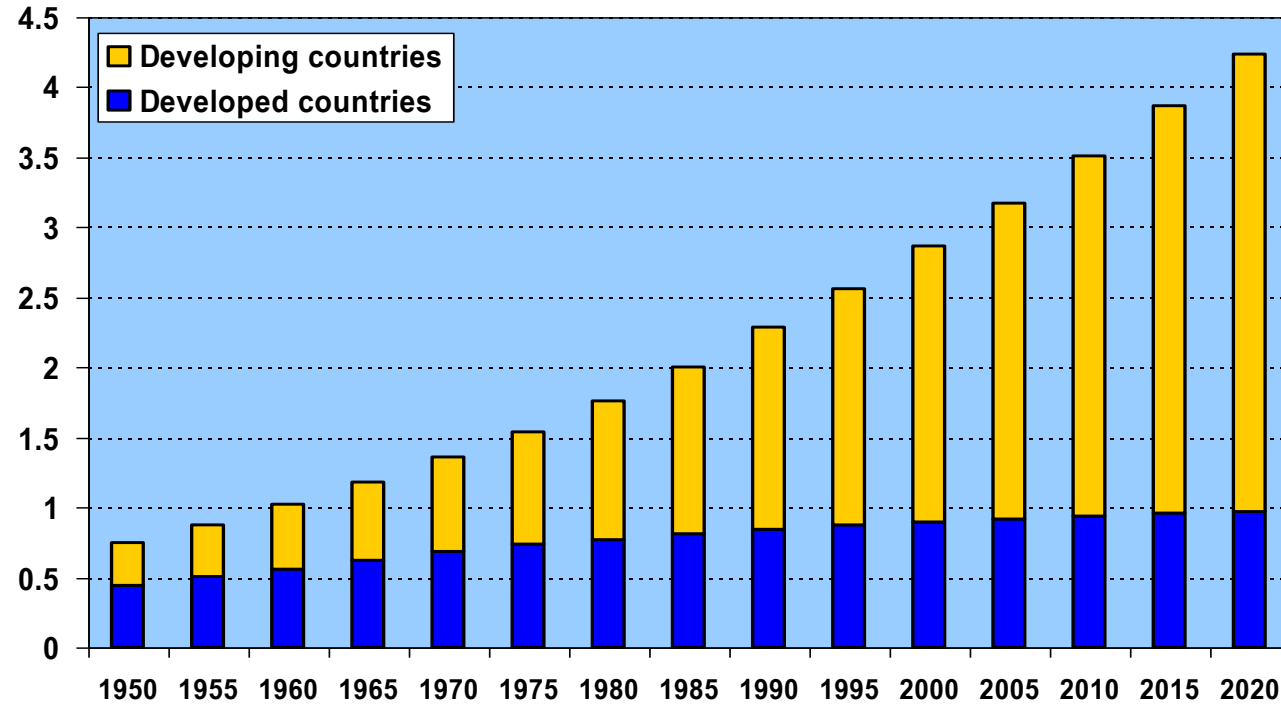
# Context and Issues



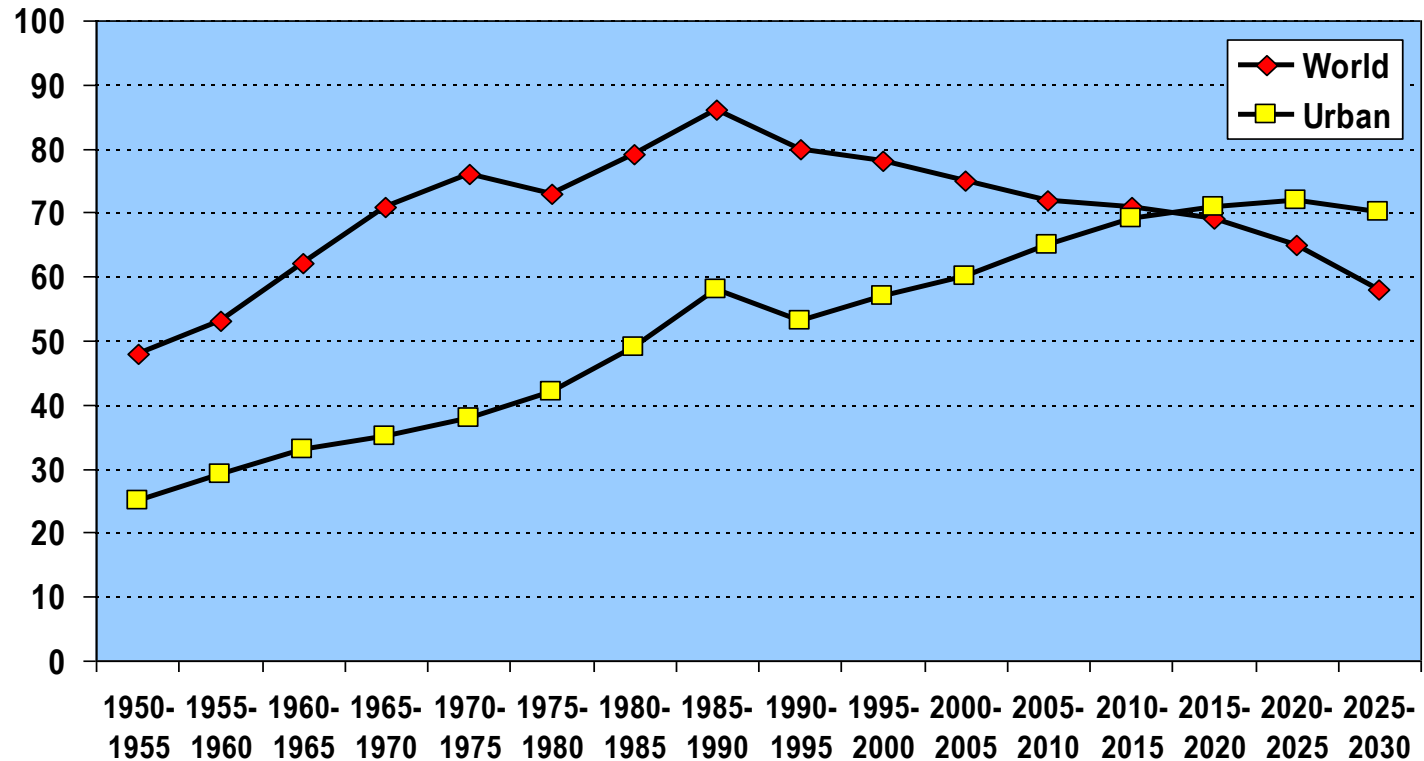
- What is urbanization?
  - Urbanization is the agglomeration of population in cities:
    - Growth of the proportion of the population living in cities.
  - Demographic process:
    - Urban population growth (natural increase or migration).
  - Infrastructure process:
    - Expansion of urban infrastructures and land use.
  - Economic process:
    - Creation of secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors.
  - Creates a society where values and lifestyles are urban.



# World Urban Population, 1950-2000 with Projections to 2020 (in billions)

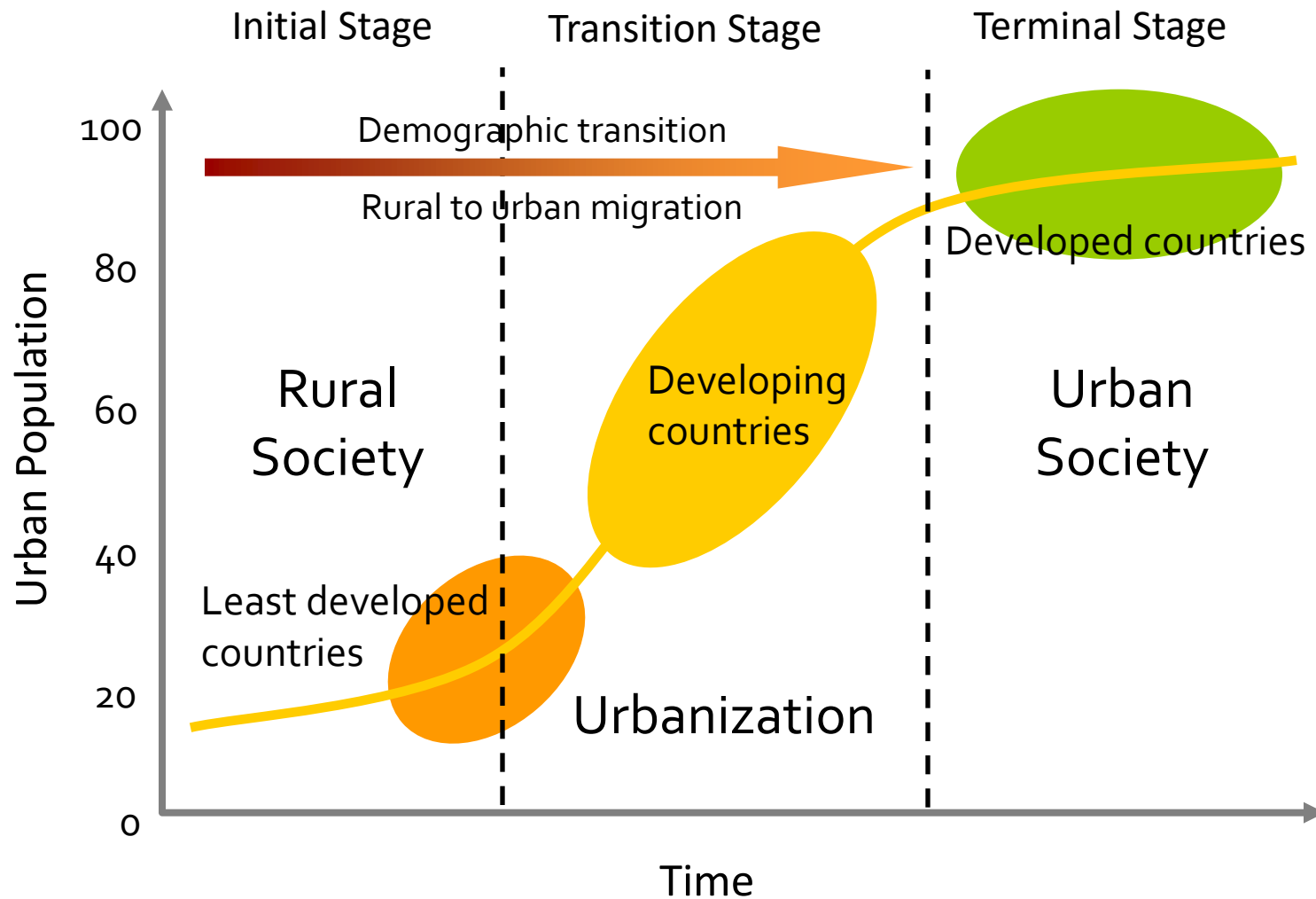


# Annual Growth of World and Urban Populations, 1950-2030 (in millions)

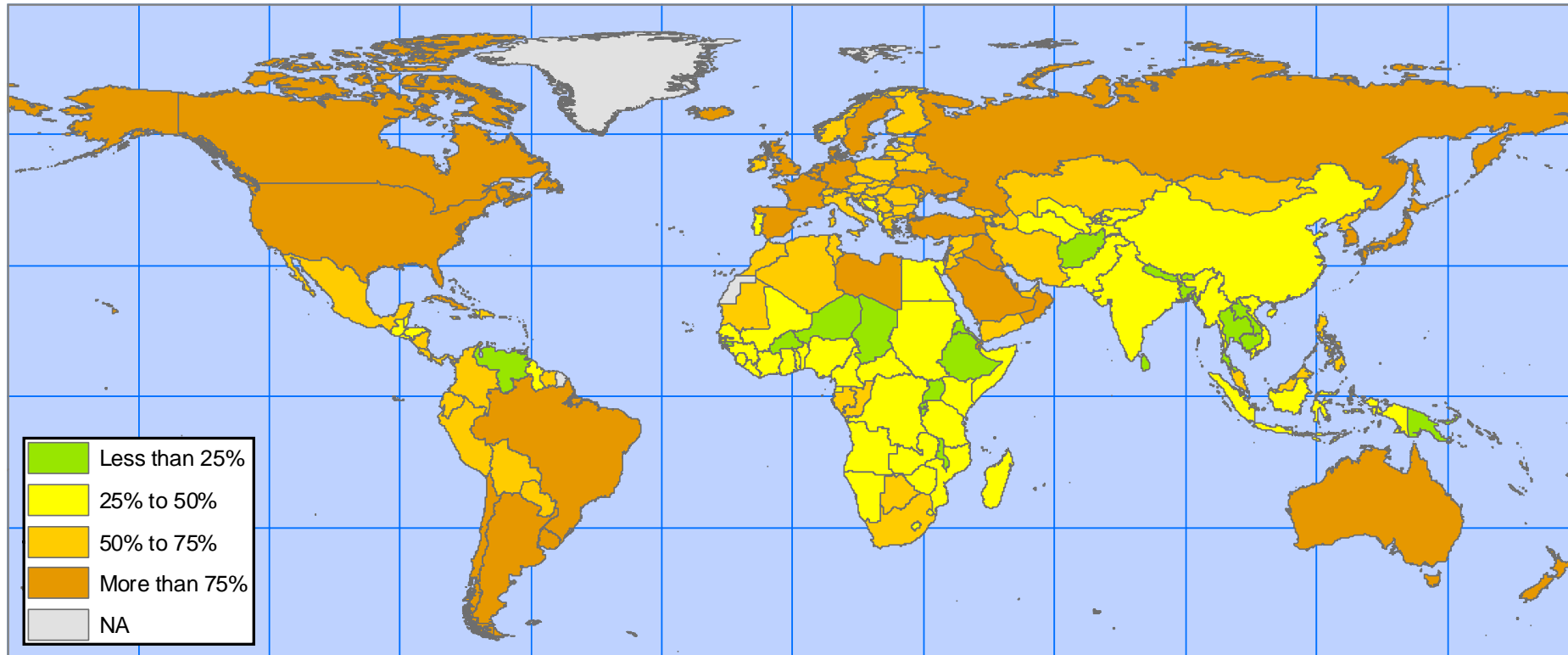




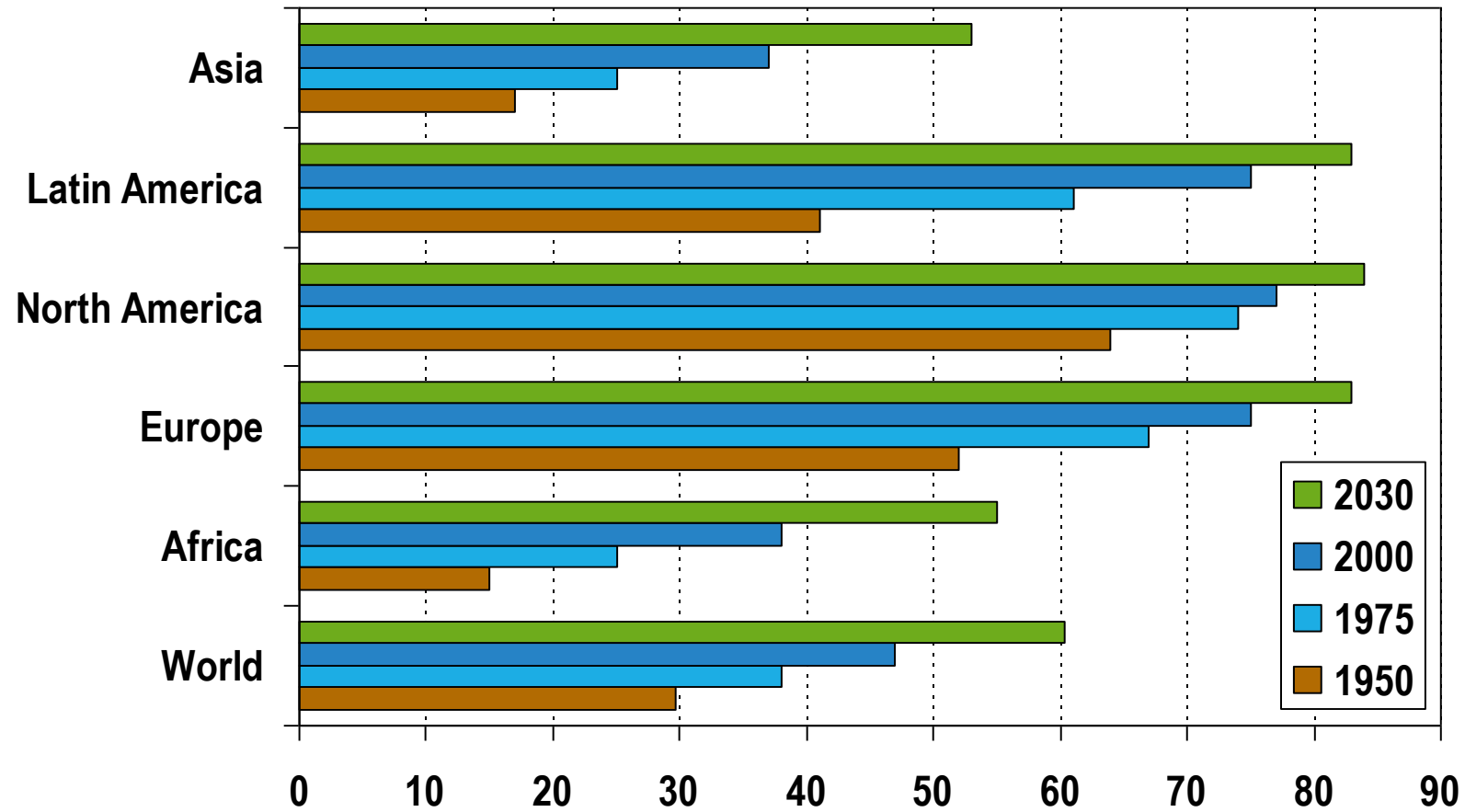
# Stages of Urbanization



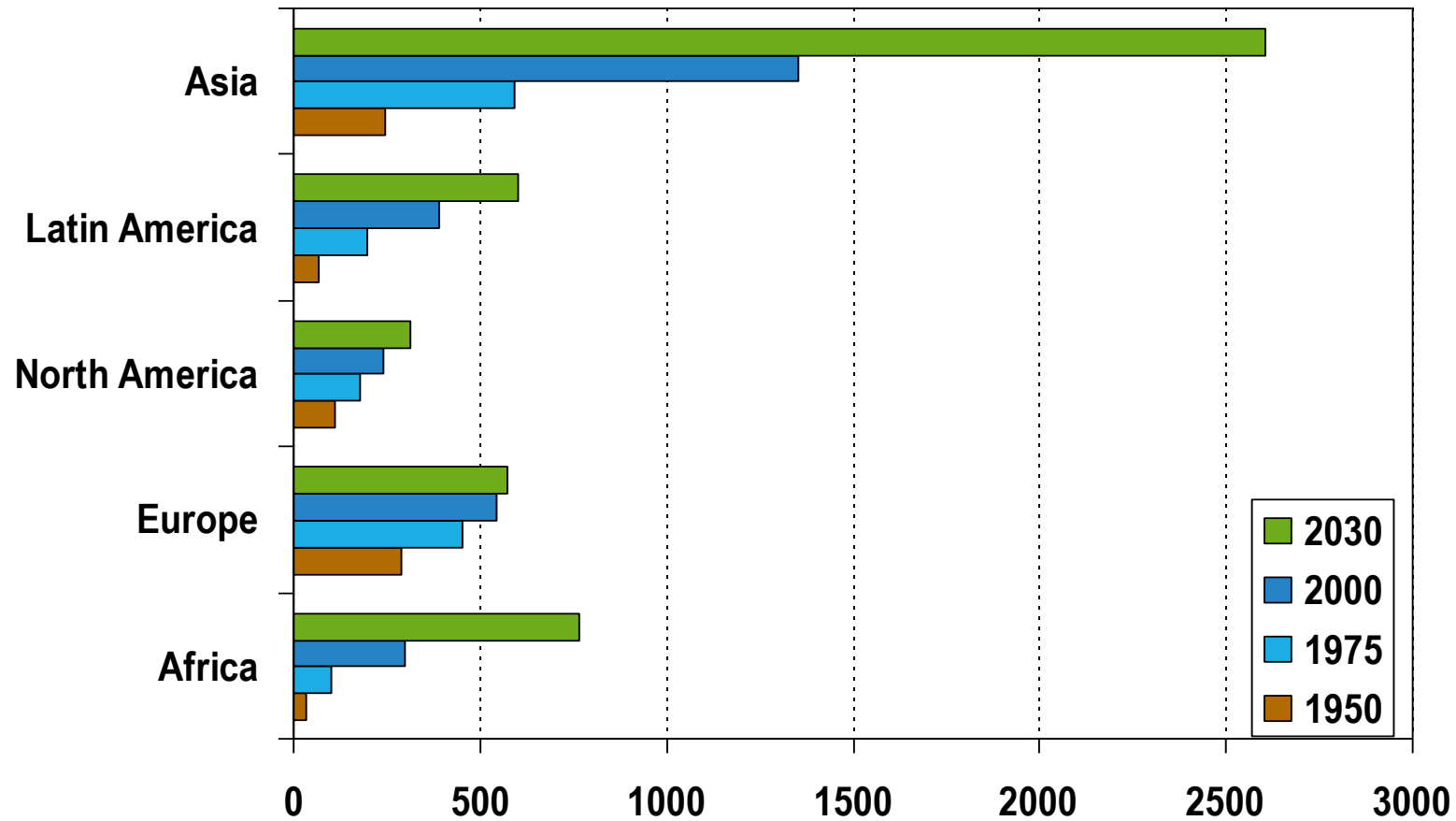
# Percentage of Population Urban, 2000



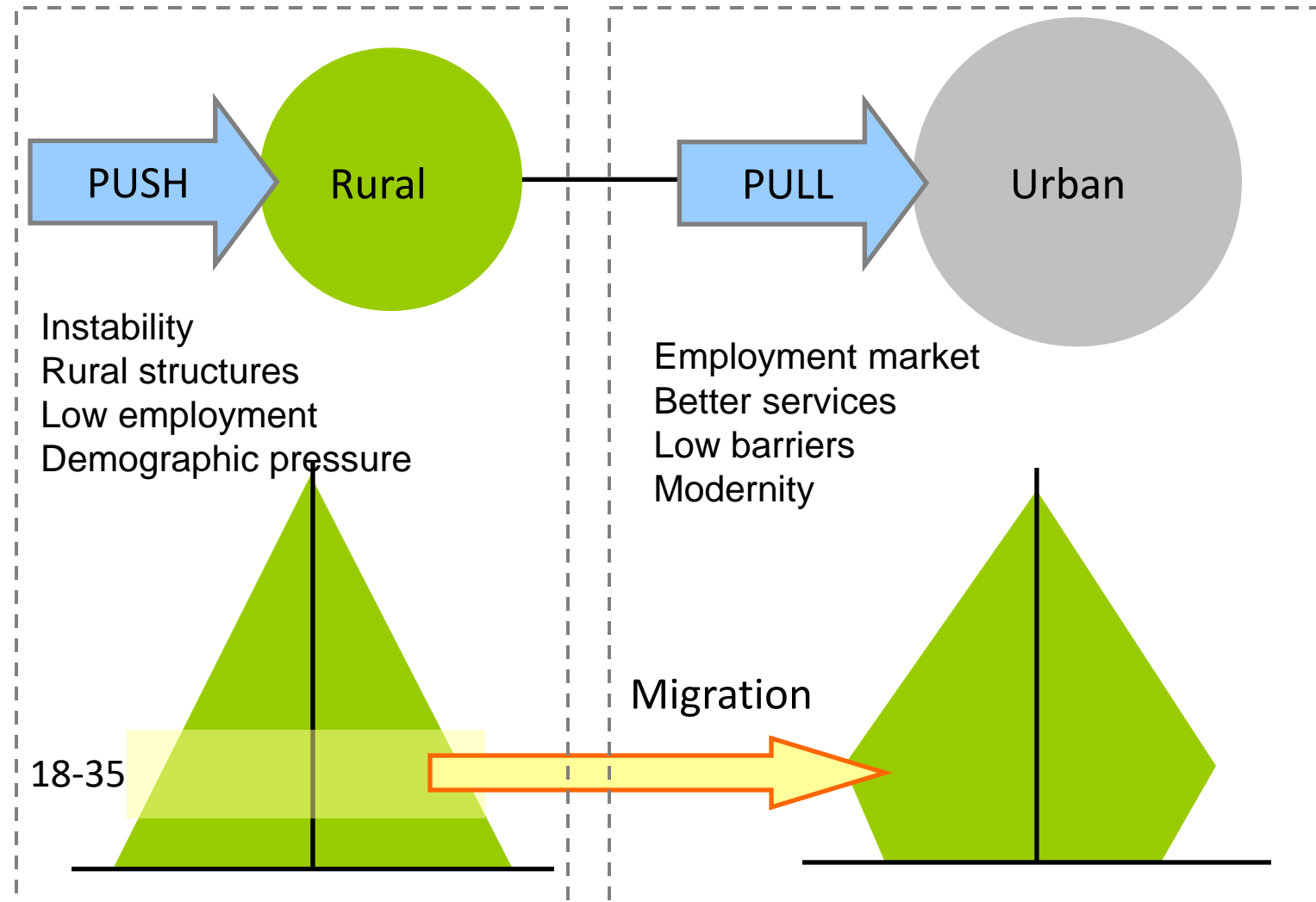
# % of Urban Population, 1950-2030



# Urban Population, 1950-2030 (in millions)



# Push - Pull Factors for Urbanization in the Third World

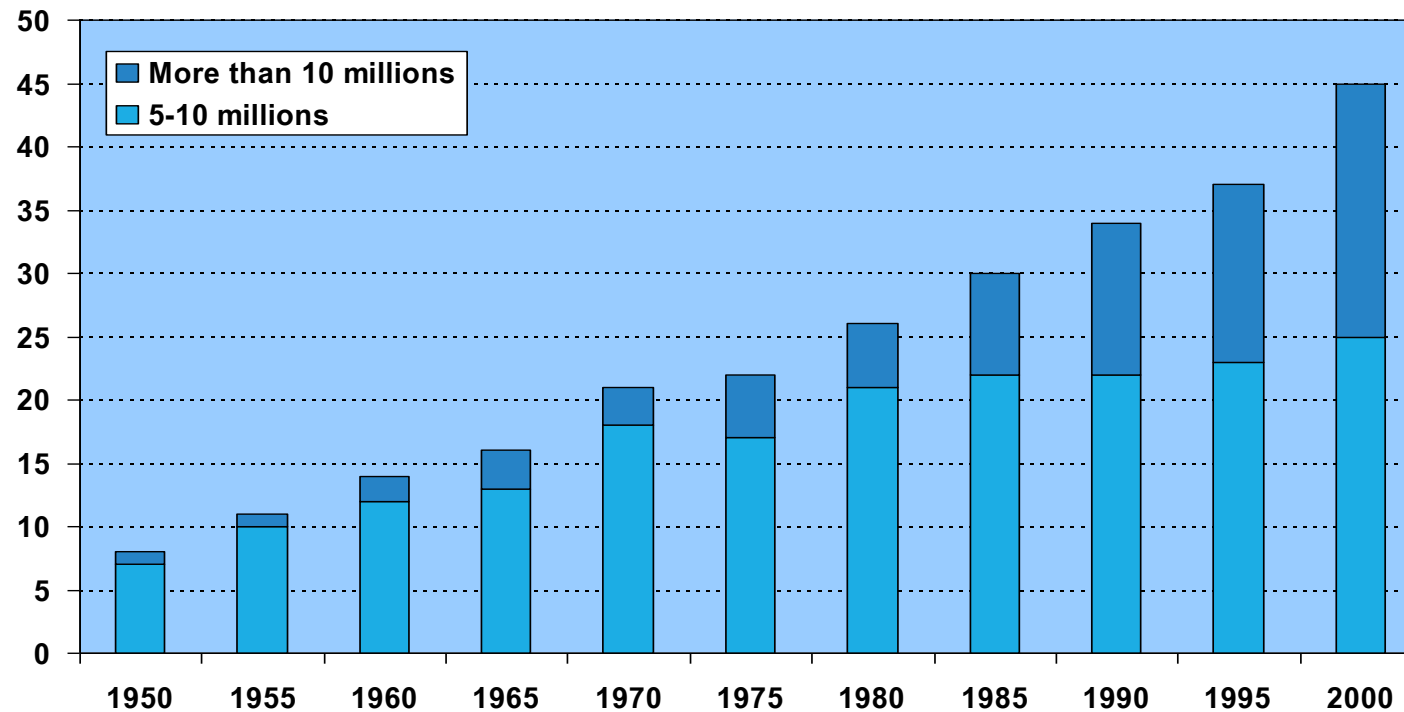


# Why People Move to Urban Areas?

Factor	Condition	Issues
Instability / Disasters / Wars / Famines	Push	Creation of refugees. Cities as safe heavens.
Expectation of jobs	Pull	Higher wages but higher living costs. Large labor markets. Informal sector dominant.
Deterioration of rural life	Push	Demographic growth. Land tenure (landless peasants). Mechanization (surplus labor).
Transportation	Intervening opportunities	Increased mobility. Lower costs. Construction of roads and rails. Access to rural markets.
More and better services	Pull	Better schools and health services. Access to water and electricity. Overcrowding and pollution.



# Number of Cities with Populations of 5 Million or More, 1950-2000



# Cities of more than 8 million, 1950-2000

1950	1970	1990	2000
<i>Developed countries</i>			
New York London	New York London Tokyo Los Angeles Paris	Tokyo New York Los Angeles Moscow Osaka Paris	Tokyo New York Los Angeles Moscow Osaka Paris
<i>Developing countries</i>			
None	Shanghai Mexico City Buenos Aires Beijing Sao Paulo	Mexico City Sao Paulo Shanghai Calcutta Buenos Aires Bombay Seoul Beijing Rio de Janeiro Tianjin Jakarta Cairo Delhi Manila	Mexico City Sao Paulo Shanghai Calcutta Bombay Beijing Jakarta Delhi Buenos Aires Lagos Tianjin Seoul Rio de Janeiro Dhaka Cairo Manila Karachi Bangkok Istanbul Teheran Bangalore Lima

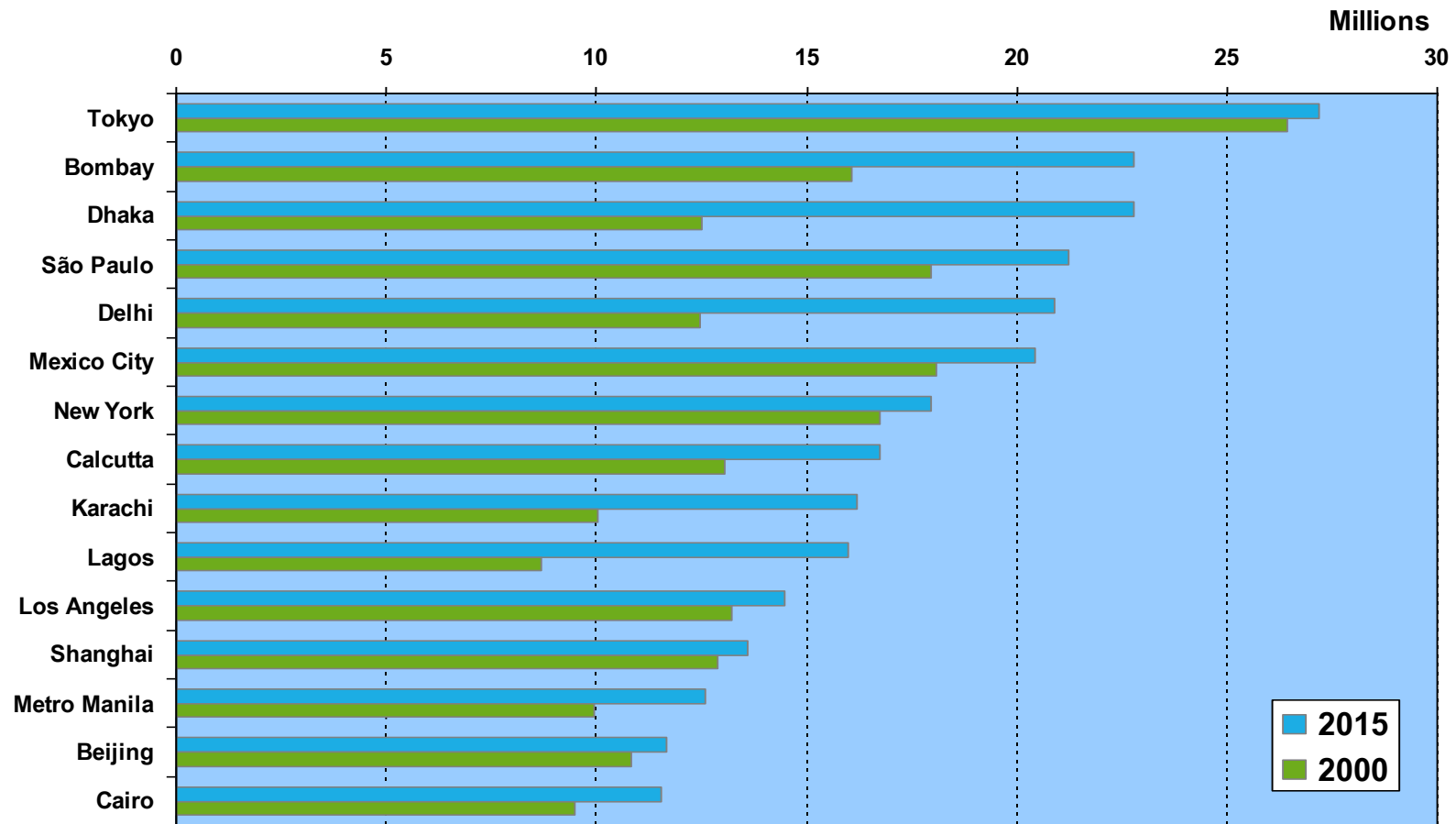




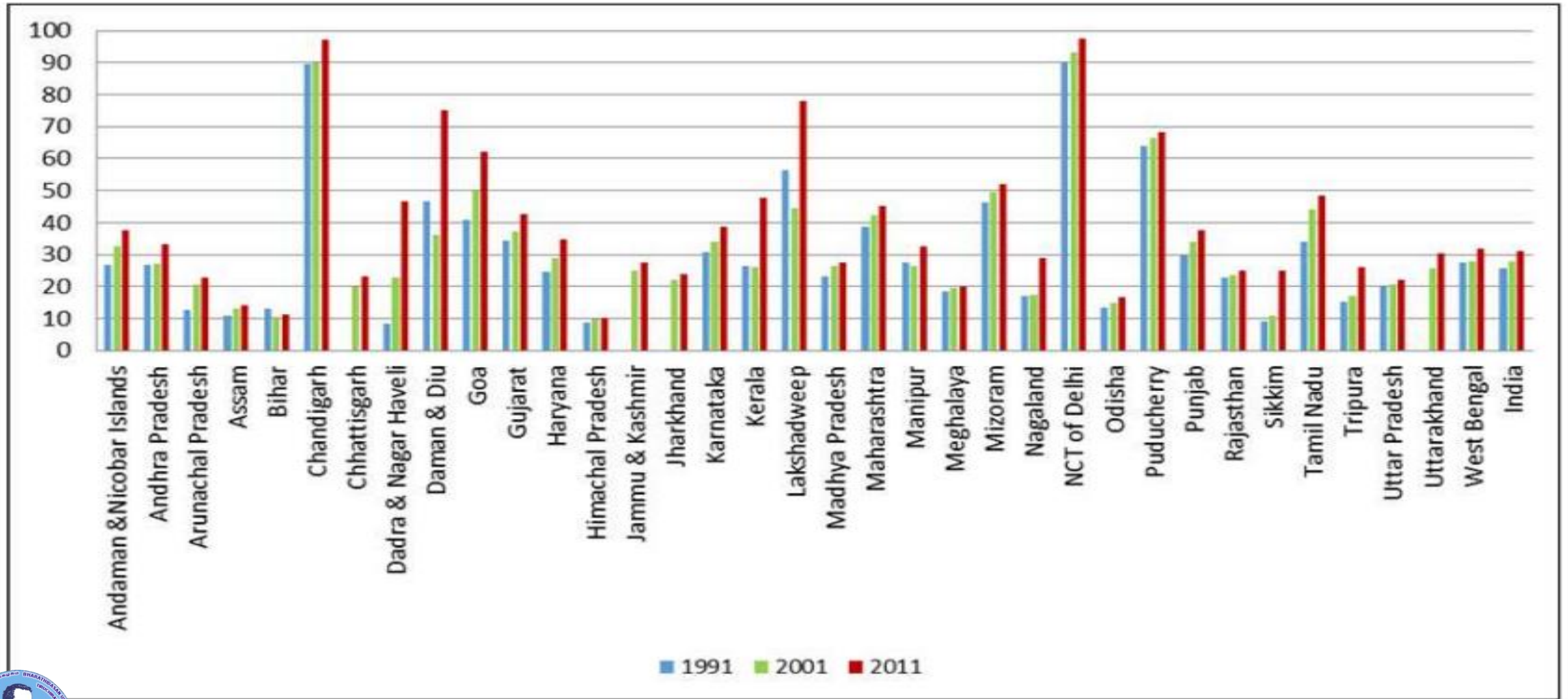
# Cities with more than 5 Million People, 2000



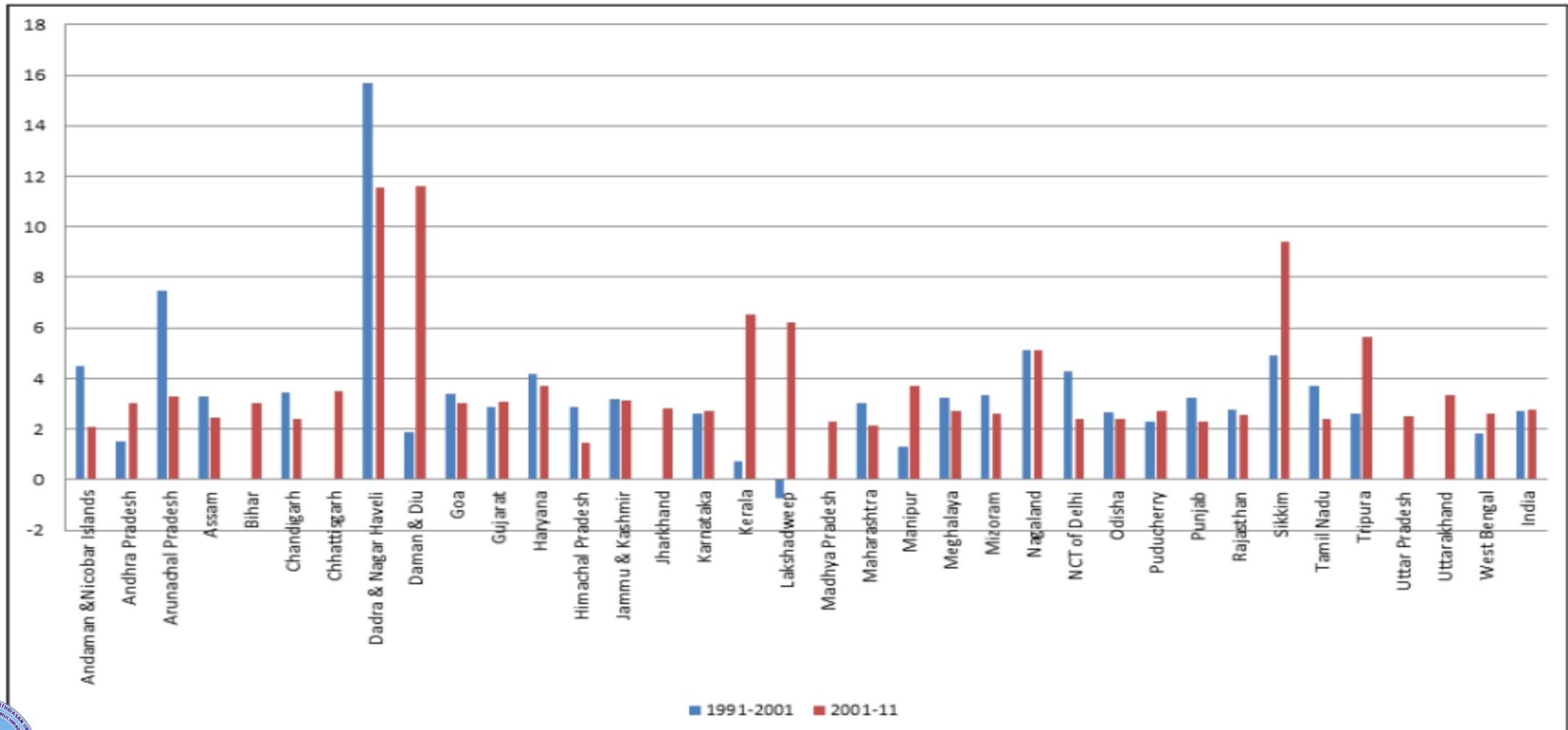
# The 15 Largest cities in the world, 2000-2015



Graph 1.1 : Level of Urbanization (%)



**Graph 1.2: Level of Urbanization-AEGR-1991-2011**



Source: Census of India 1991, 2001, 2011

