**Facts and Statistics about Suburbanization**

* The detached single-family home is the dominant feature on the American suburban landscape
* The suburbs are generally economically middle class
* The first suburban single-family homes appeared in the 1890s
* White Anglo-Saxon Protestants(WASPs) culturally populated the original American suburbs
  + This changed between the late 1960s and 1980s when suburbs become more integrated with Catholic and non-white middle-class populations, who formerly lived in inner city areas
* In the 2000 census, just over 50% of the U.S. population lived in suburban areas
* Suburbs continue to expand outward and are the largest zones within urban models

**Service Relocation in the Suburbs**

* The increase in suburban home construction prompted a number of small services providers to be located in suburban areas
  + Services provided included basic services and non-basic services
    - Examples of basic services are food, doctor, fuel, and auto repair
      * “Needs”
    - Examples of non-basic services are dry cleaning and gift shops
      * “Wants”
* In the 1970s, the combination of middle-class flight from the inner city and deindustrialization of urban manufacturing economies prompted more and larger service providers to relocate to suburban areas
  + Companies brought their services to where suburban consumers lived

**Suburban Sprawl**

* The expansion of housing, transportation, and commercial development to undeveloped land on the urban periphery
* Sustainability within the suburban context can be measured in both economic and environmental terms
* Cited as the cause of numerous problems including traffic congestion, lack of public school funding, environmental degradation, and economic decline in farming
* Suburban political anti-growth movements have emerged in the United States and Canada
  + Push for new laws and regulations that delay suburban development and limit approval of new suburban roads and highways
  + Especially strong in places where the surrounding rural areas are environmentally sensitive or have historical significance
* Increased congestion in suburbs from suburban commercial development and sprawl has compelled some suburban residents to move further away from the city
* Counterurbanization
  + Suburban residents move to rural areas to escape the congestion, crime, pollution, and other negative aspects of the urban landscape

**Colonial City**

* Cities with origins as centers of colonial trade or administration
  + Many retain their European-style buildings and street networks
* Newly independent governments have often changed street names and place-names to reflect local culture and social history
  + India has renamed the major cities of Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata from their British colonial names of Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta
  + Others countries have moved their national capitals away from former colonial capitals

**Fall-Line Cities**

* Larger colonial-era cities in the U.S. were most often port locations
  + Fall-line city is used to describe the ports that lay upstream on coastal rivers at a point where navigation was no longer possible by ocean-going ships
  + Break-in-bulk points were where ships were offloaded and then packed with exports
* Many fall-line cities became both centers of trade and manufacturing in the 1800s
* Industrial Fall-Line Cities in the United States
  + Boston
  + Providence
  + Albany
  + Philadelphia
  + Baltimore

**Medieval Cities**

* Urban centers that predate the European Renaissance
  + In Europe
    - Paris, Rome, London, Cologne, Marseille, York…
  + Outside of Europe
    - Istanbul, Kyoto, Beijing…

**Gateway Cities**

* Places where immigrants make their way into a country
  + Tend to have high immigrant populations

**Entrepot**

* A port city in which goods are shipped at one price and shipped out to other port locations at a higher price
  + Profitable trade
* This trade is made possible by the lack of custom duties
  + Import and export taxes
* Tend to become large centers of finance, warehousing, and the global shipping trade
* Hong Kong, Singapore and Dubai are examples

**Megacity**

* A metropolitan area with more than 10 million people

**Megalopolis**

* The urbanized areas of two or more cities merge together, generally through suburban growth and expansion
* Examples of Megalopolises
  + Northeastern United States- Boston, Providence, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington
  + Tokaido- Tokyo, Yokohoma
  + Randstad- Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam
  + Keinhanshin- Kobe, Osaka, and Kyoto

**World City**

* A metropolitan area that is a global center for finance, trade, and commerce
* World cities are ranked in order of importance; an urban hierarchy
  + First-order world cities- New York City, London, and Tokyo
  + Second-order world cities- Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Chicago, Frankfurt, Paris, Brussels, Zurich, Hong Kong, Sao Paulo and Singapore
  + Third-order world cities- Miami, Toronto, Seoul, Mumbai, Amsterdam, Buenos Aires, and Sydney

**Primate Cities**

* When the largest city in a country has more than twice the population of the country’s next largest city
* Urban primacy is sometimes created when there is an uneven economic development within a country
* Primate cities often receive a large majority of a country’s economic development and investment
* Examples of Primate Cities:

**The Rank-Size Rule**

* An urban hierarchy of city population
* States that a country’s second largest city is half the population of the largest city, third largest, a third, and etc…
* Formula
  + The nth largest city is 1/n the size of the country’s largest city
* Few countries follow the Rank-Size rule, however the United States and Russia closely match

**Segregation**

* Ethnic neighborhoods are occasionally areas of de facto segregation where no law requiring ethnic or racial segregation exists, yet they nonetheless are zones of separation
  + Legal segregation(de jure segregation) existed in the United States
    - Jim Crow laws
* Today, Chinatowns are seen as cultural districts, but many have their origins as zones where Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese migrants were forced to live
* Banks and insurance providers historically engaged in redlining
  + Designating neighborhoods on company maps where house mortgage and insurance applications would be automatically denied
  + The Federal Housing Administration now enforces rules against redlining
* Restrictive covenants where when homeowners added special covenants to their home and real estate titles, restricting future sales of a home to white-only buyers
  + Some covenants have also attempted to restrict Jews from buying
* Even following the Civil Rights Act of 1964, some white urban communities openly engaged in racial steering, mainly through the use of real estate agents
  + When non-whites attempted to buy homes, real estate companies or their agents directed them to racially specific neighborhoods, regardless of income
  + Banned in the Fair Housing Act in 1968

**Women and the City**

* The percentage of female-headed households in urban areas has increased significantly in recent decades
  + Studies show that female heads of household are likely to depend on public transportation and must live near bus and subway stations
  + Female heads of household must access food shopping, health care, and other services and plan their home location accordingly
* The role of women in the United States and Canada has changed significantly in past decades
  + Women are becoming increasingly equal to men in wages, access to higher job positions, and political power
  + Two sectors of the service economy, health care and education, have seen women surpass men in terms of the number of positions and average pay
    - Medical schools in the United States reported in 2008 that entering classes were 50% female for the first time

**Gentrification**

* The economic reinvestment in existing real estate
* Began in the 1970s when people in the historical preservation movement began renovating homes in places such as Greenwich Village in New York City and Georgetown in D.C.
  + Consumer demand for gentrified homes with modern amenities increased
  + By the 1990s, a whole cottage industry in gentrification had emerged where people would buy old homes at low prices, renovated the homes, and then resold them for profit
* Commercial gentrification
  + Formerly closed business places were rebuilt as coffee shops, art houses, bars, and restaurants
  + Mixed use development was also common
* Neighborhood gentrification has a negative effect of driving out low-income residents from the community
  + As the price of gentrified homes increase, the price of non-gentrified real estate increases as well

**Silicon Valley: Economic Growth**

* Companies usually place their offices near growth poles for their industry
  + Economic multiplier effects around these poles result in a multitude of companies and investment in computer hardware and software development
* As rare commodities, standard three-bedroom homes in Palo Alto can cost upwards of $900,000
  + A one-bedroom apartment can rent for over $2000 a month
* Affordable housing for Silicon Valley residents who are not engaged in the technology economy has became a major urban social issue
  + This is true for other cities in the United States where high pay and limited housing have created inflated real estate prices

**The Expense of Schools**

* Property taxes on homes often do not meet the cost and demand for high-quality schools
  + School systems are caught between a public that does not want to pay higher taxes and parents that demand higher-quality schooling for their children
    - Local school districts are increasingly dependent on state governments to help meet funding needs or are forced to cut extracurricular activities and increase class size

**Environmental Sustainability**

* Issues that concern urban governments
  + Local air pollution
  + Wetlands loss
  + Watershed management
  + Parkland creation
  + Waste management
  + Global warming

**Urban Transportation**

* Traffic congestion
  + Smog from vehicles is harmful to public health and can create a haze
  + Carbon dioxide emissions from cars are a significant source of greenhouse gases that contribute to the problem of global warming
* The benefits of mass transit have become important to most cities
  + Fewer cars on the highway, reduced emissions, increased accessibility for low income citizens, etc…

**New Downtown Housing**

* Mixed-use buildings have became popular
  + Contain both housing and commercial space
  + Referred to as “New Urbanism”
* Effect of New Urbanism
  + Has forced cities to re-examine the sustainability of their zoning codes
  + Many cities have added new zoning categories that allow for mixed-use development and special planning districts where housing, public transit, and office space is more spatially integrated
* Criticism of mixed-use downtown housing
  + The purchase of these new units are so high that only the upper middle-class income earners can afford to live there
  + To combat this, some cities require a certain percentage of new construction to be priced specifically for lower to middle income buyers

**Urban Origins**

* Two categorical factors
  + Access to resources
  + Access to transportation
* Resource nodes
  + Town and cities that were founded due to access to natural resources
  + EX: Sacramento, California(gold)
* Transport nodes
  + Places that were founded as settlements due to their location as intersections of two or more lines of transportation
  + EX: San Francisco, California(port)

**White Flight**

* Many social scientists have described the phenomenon of people leaving inner city areas of the United States as “white flight”
  + Regardless of race, many inner-city residents with middle-class incomes moved out to suburban districts to escape the social unrest and economic difficulties of deindustrialization that characterized the 1960s and ‘70s in the United States

**The “Death of the American Downtown” in the 1970s**

* Deindustrialization
  + Old factories and related industries and services were shut down
    - Labor force moved away and capital investment into downtown real estate dwindled
    - Having lost many consumers, the CBD was no longer the most prominent place in the urban economy
  + Moving away from a manufacturing-based economy to a service-based economy
    - As services migrated to the suburbs, money to invest in commercial real estate moved as well
  + Developers continued their focus on suburban expansion and suburban CBD development until the mid-1990s when a renewed focus on downtowns received business and government attention
    - Property prices had dropped significantly through the 1980s and early 1990s, and cost effective opportunities to reinvest in downtown real estate began to emerge

**Squatter and Land Tenure in LEDC cities**

* Rural-to-urban migrants have been forced to build their own squatter settlements on the urban periphery
  + Squatters are people who settle on land they don’t own
    - Often times, this land they settle on is owned by either governments or agricultural landowners
    - In many countries, idle land can be legally squatted upon if the new residents make good use of it
      * Opposite of real estate laws in the United States
  + To avoid retributions, squatters generally settled a new area overnight with a large number of families
    - A land invasion
    - These camps can be quickly assembled by building makeshift homes using available building materials
      * This disorganized housing can give squatters legal protection, because in some places, it is illegal for government to tear down housing of any type without court authority
      * Over time, squatter settlements began to use sturdier materials and more organized methods
  + Squatters attempt to achieve land tenure
    - The legal right or title to the land upon which they build their homes.
    - However, there is a risk that squatters may be expelled from their land before this land tenure is issued
      * To lower this risk, squatter communities often gather resources to pay the landowners, bribe local officials, or if money is limited, promise local elected leaders the guarantee of votes in exchange for their protection

**Zones of Disamenity**

* Squatter communities that are closer to the city
  + Built on land that is deemed unsuitable for standard homes and businesses
  + Settled because of their availability and close proximity to work opportunities in the city center
* Often unstable
  + A mudslide, flood, or fire, would severely endanger these settlements