

Hotspot #4

Sustainable development

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AGENDA

- The need for sustainable cities
 - ➡ “Innovative urban planning in Singapore”
- A solution for a sustainable development?
 - ➡ “Global degrowth may improve sustainable development”

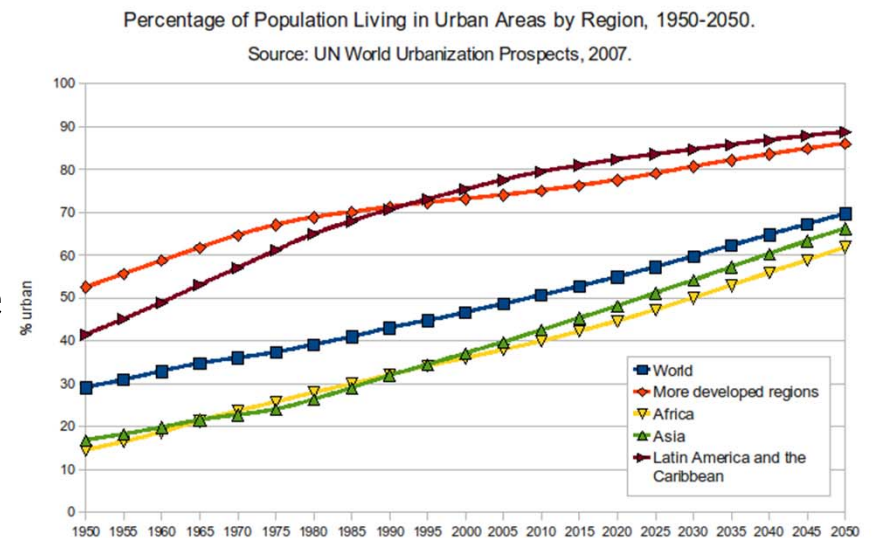
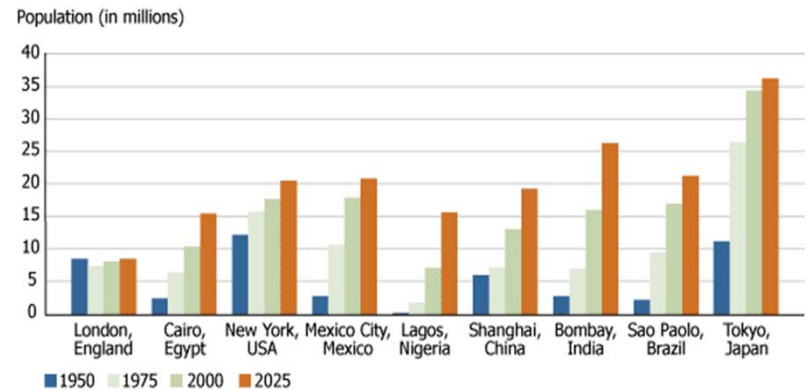


Topic 1

The need for sustainable cities

The need for sustainable cities

- Today's urban population is 3.3 billion and by UN calculations is expected to double by 2050 (75% of the population will live in cities)
- Cities cover just 2% of the Earth's surface but yet consume about 75% of the world's resources
- Problems faced: traffic jams, public transportation, lack of resources, inefficient buildings, housing...
- Urban administrators must manage the resources to become more efficient
- [Unicef Urban Map 1950-2050](#)



Innovative urban planning in Singapore

- Singapore is becoming a “smart” city. Green city index: Singapore is the best-performing city in the region.
- Creation of a national water agency :
 - 2/3 of Singapore's land surface is now a water catchment area
 - Wastewater is collected, treated and used again
- Plan to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2030
- EDF and Veolia signed an agreement with Singapore's Housing Development Board (HDB) to help develop sustainable, urban planning solutions.

Innovative urban planning in Singapore

- **Transportation : a big challenge**
 - 4.8 million people with limited space
 - Smart card innovations → e-Symphony, an IBM-designed payment card that can be used to pay for road tolls, bus travel, taxis, the metro, and even shopping
 - This card can process 20 million fare transactions a day and collects extensive traffic data, allowing city administrators to constantly tweak routes to ensure the most efficient journeys and minimize congestion.



Topic 2

A solution for a sustainable development?



Perpetual pursuit of growth

- Environmental impacts
 - Example : American way of life -> The Earth could sustain only 1.7 billion people
 - Climate change and natural resources issues
- Overconsumption in industrialized societies
- Human impacts
 - Debt burdens, long working hours, obesity, dependence on pharmaceuticals, social isolation and so on...
- Economical and societal decline !

Degrowth idea : “global civilization”

- Transform the consumer culture
 - Food : “Meatless Mondays”
 - Housing : smaller homes
 - Transportation
 - ⇒ **With the help of world governments**
- Distribute tax burdens more equitably
 - On wealthiest sectors of societies: advertising, financial transactions
 - ⇒ Discourage excessive economic growth and overconsumption
- Share working hours
 - Need to calculate the average per-capita work week to reduce unemployment and poverty

Positive effects



Earth

People

Next
genera-
tions?

- Question: Would YOU be ready to plan the degrowth in order to improve sustainable development ? (Ecosystem, well-being, etc.)