

URBAN GEOGRAPHY – 18MAG21C

UNIT – I: Urban Geography: Nature, Scope and Development – Origin and spread of cities – City Classification – Basic and non-basic – Functional classification of towns.

URBAN:

The buildup of the central city and the suburban realm – the city and the surrounding environs connected to the city.

Urban areas are normally marked by:

- Higher literacy, educational achievements and vocational education
- Higher standard of living, higher aspirations and more amenities and services
- Higher age of marriage
- Lower ideal family size, greater use of family planning methods and lower fertility
- Better health infrastructure leading to lower mortality and fertility rates
- Higher autonomy and empowerment of women
- Lower impact of religiosity and supernatural beliefs
- Greater impact of globalization, individualization and secularization

Indian Census Definition of Urban Area

a) Statutory towns: All places with a municipality, corporation, Cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. so declared by state law.

b) Census towns : Places which satisfy following criteria :-

- i) a minimum population of 5000 ;
- ii) atleast 75% of male working population engaged
in non agricultural pursuits; and
- iii) a density of population of atleast 400 persons per sq km.

Origins and Evolution of Cities

- Agricultural surplus or resources for trade Food from surrounding hinterlands
- Denser population
- Fixed location, abandonment of nomadism

- Fixed marketplace for trade
- Social organization and power
- Defensible situation to protect resources
- More complex economy
- Reduced transport costs (goods, people, ideas)
- ✚ 1800: 3% of world's population lived in urban areas
- ✚ 1970: \approx 33% of world's population lived in urban areas
- ✚ 2008 : \approx 49% of world's population lives in urban areas
- ✚ Now: \approx 55% of world's population lives in urban areas
- ✚ Industrialization and commercialization of agriculture foster urbanization
- ✚ Urbanization in developing countries only partly due to industrialization—people from rural areas seeking a better life
- ✚ Urban areas: access to services, service jobs
- ✚ Economic system and urban infrastructure often unable to support rapid urban growth

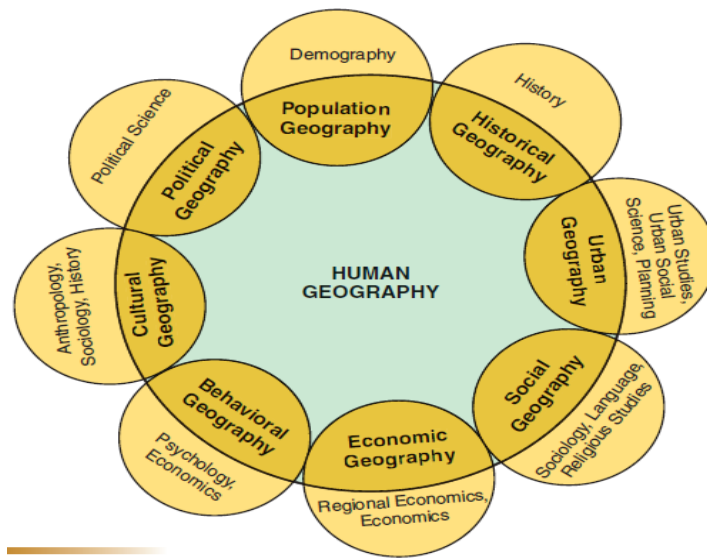
History and development of Urban Geography

- 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.

Urban geography

- a sub-discipline of the larger field of *human geography*.
- Urban geography focuses *on the city* in the context of *space throughout countries and continents*.
- the study of *how people use space in cities*.



Urban geography the geographical study of cities;

the branch of *human geography* concerned with the spatial aspects of

- (1) the locations, functional structures, size hierarchies, and intercity relationships of national or regional systems of cities, and
- (2) the *site*, evolution, *economic* base, internal land use, and social geographic patterns of individual cities.

Meaning and definitions

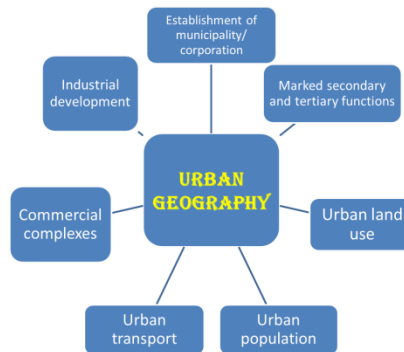
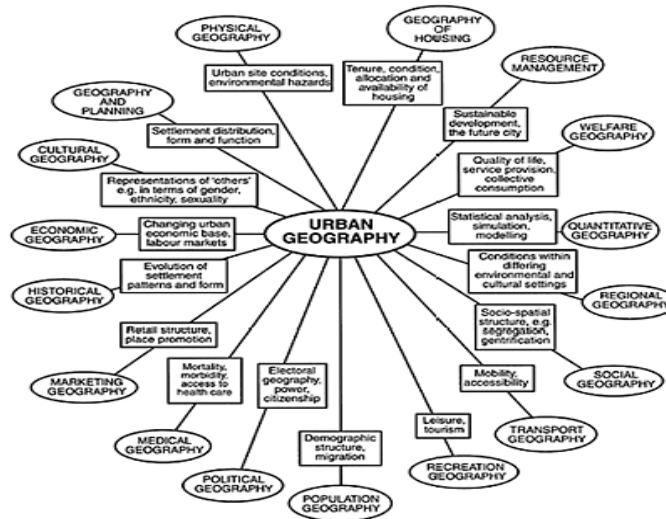
- Urban geography includes the site, evolution, pattern and classification of towns – G.TAYLOR
- Urban geography is in fact the intensive study of towns and their development in all their geographical aspects- L.D. STAMP
- Urban geography is the geographical study of urban places which evolve, grow and exist as service centres for their surrounding areas – G.S. GOSAL

THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Urban geographers are concerned to identify and explain the distribution of towns and cities and the socio-spatial similarities and contrasts that exist within and between them.

Two basic approaches to urban geography:

1. The first refers to the spatial distribution of towns and cities and the linkages between them: the study of systems of cities.
2. The second refers to the internal structure of urban places: the study of the city as a system.

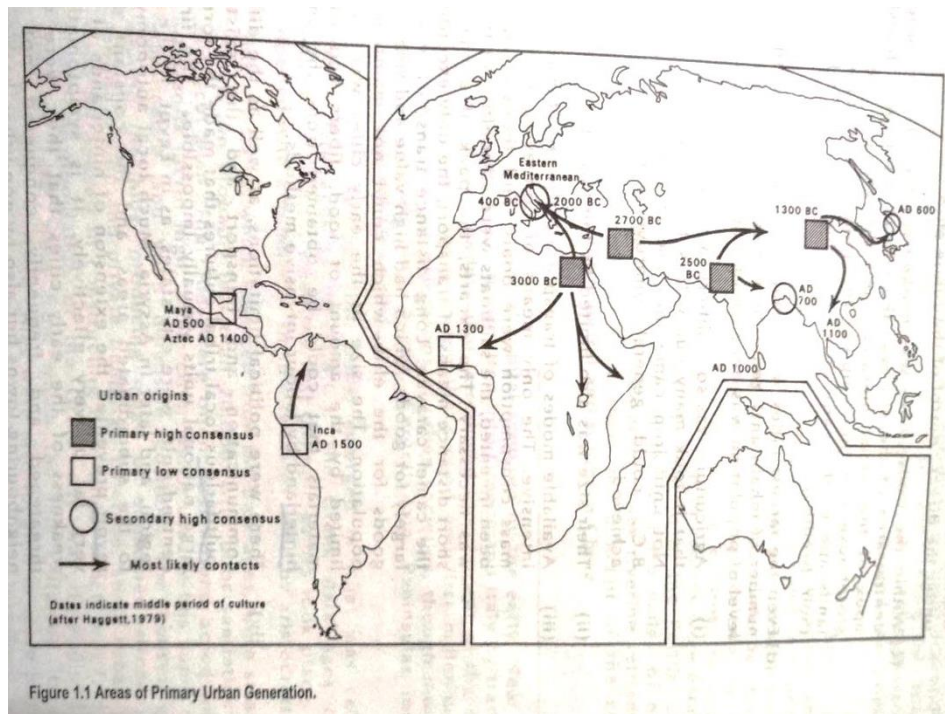


Origin and spread of cities

- Four phases in the history of cities can be clearly marked—
1. The Early Phase, where primary urbanisation took place.
 2. The Greek and Roman Period.
 3. The Middle Period (from 5th century AD).
 4. The Industrial Period (from 17th century till now).

1.1: Areas of Primary Urban Generation

AREA	BEGINNING OF URBAN PERIOD	CITIES
Mesopotamia	5000-3000 B.C.	Lagash, Ur, Uruk
Egypt	3000 B.C.	Memphis, Thebes
Indus	3000-2250 B.C.	Mohenjodaro, Harappa
China	2000 B.C.	Cheng-Chan An Yang
Meso-America	1000 B.C.	Teotihuacan, Tenochtitlan
Central Andes	500 B.C.	Cuzco, Tihuanaco
S.W. Nigeria	1000 B.C.	Sagamu, Owo



FIVE HEARTHS OF URBANIZATION

- Mesopotamia, 3500 BCE
- Nile River Valley, 3200 BCE
- Indus River Valley, 2200 BCE
- Huang He and Wei River Valleys, 1500 BCE
- Mesoamerica, 200 BCE

The Greco-Roman period

- Greek city – polis emerged dark ages (1200-900 B.C.)
- Small – less than 20000 – poor sanitation
- Built around aced hills – “acro polis” – religious significance and defensive position – the house grew up hills.
- 500 B.C. – Rectangular grid plan – like Harappa.

The middle period

- Roman empire falls -5th century A.D
- End of urbanization in western Europe for over 600 years – after slowly grew only.

Reasons:

- Decrease in spatial interaction
- Ineffective government administration
- Domination of Europe by agricultural tribes

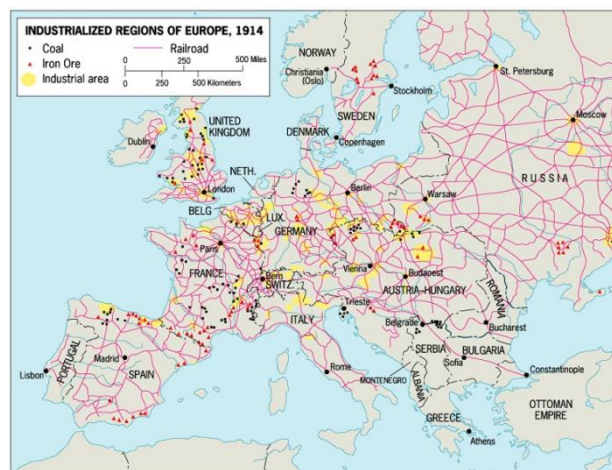
Mercantilism – commerce expanded the function of the city and linked it to the expanding power of the state resulting in a system.

Lead to emergence of the industrial city through *industrial revolution*.

The Second Urban Revolution

A large scale movement of people to cities to work in manufacturing. Made possible by:

1. second agricultural revolution that improved food production and created a larger surplus
2. industrialization, which encouraged growth of cities near industrial resources



- Only happened after the second agricultural revolution.
 - Agricultural practices improved
 - Hybrid Seeds
 - Improved livestock breeding practices
- Industrialization caused an increase in the number of people moving to cities.
- These sudden change in population necessitated changes in infrastructure.
- The Second Urban Revolution started in Great Britain.

City classification

✚ Griffith Taylor

1. **Sub-infantile stage**- It is the first stage of the town the important places evolved in this stage is bus stand, railway station and religions places etc shops and houses aside roads and shops in some houses is also constructed.

2. **Infantile stage** - There is development of settlement, roads and streets are desired.

3. **Juvenile stage**- From the main road, streets is developed in planning form and the criteria of designing of the streets are to facilitate the convenience of the people.

4. **Adolescent stage**- The settlement developed in a form of town and C.B.D. makes its area specifically.

5. **Mature stage**- In this stage there is clearly isolation of functional areas e.g.- Residential, Industrial, commercial, medical and entertainment and in this stage stories of houses increases.

6. **Late Mature stage**- it is the II last stage of development. In this urban development takes place with master plan and industrial development is also with full planning e.g.- Delhi, Mumbai and Agra.

7. **Semile stage**- It is the last stage of a town. The towns become degrade. People migrate to different places. The colonies become man less and remaining few peoples resides along road side e.g.-Kannoj, Farukhabad and Chittor

Munford

With the view of keeping social site of the society he gave 6 stages of a town.

1. **Eopolis**- It is the first stage of a town. Main function- cattle farming, agriculture. The culture of this stage is Neolithic type due to this development of centralized village, development of education and culture is also slowly developed.

2. **Polis**- Polis means town. The big village converted into town. Where markets are settled, educational entertainment center are developed. Crews port communication has been started between town and village roads and streets are also constructed in the residential areas.

3. **Metropolis**- In this stage the town become big in comparison to surrounding towns, area transport, communication and other facilities become centralized, specific industries are developed. From the surrounding region grant and raw material come into the town, in this stage large scale industries, educational institution, and commercial industries business institution are developed. Due to economic competition there is struggle between “Labour and industrialist”.

4. **Megalopolis**- It is the last stage of development. Due to business the businessmen become rich and here number of houses increases day by day. Evolution power worship, capitalization and moral degradation started, Bureaucracy is also started.

5. *Tyrannopolis*- The main characteristic of this is social dependence started in this stage. Satanism starts in the area of business and commerce. And town is surrounded by many problems.

6. *Nekropolis*- Degradation of town starts and there is reason of degradation i.e. war, drought, diseases. Whether this classification is different from each other but these are supplementary.

Basic and non-basic functions

- The economic base concept states that two types of activities or functions exist:
- *those that are necessary for urban growth and those City Functions and Urban Economies that exist primarily to supplement the necessary functions.*
- The former are called basic functions or city-forming activities. They involve the manufacturing, processing, or trading of goods or the providing of services for markets located outside the city's boundaries.
- Economic functions of a city-servicing nature are called nonbasic functions. Grocery stores, restaurants, beauty salons, and so forth are nonbasic economic activities because they cater primarily to residents within the city itself.

- **Basic** : town-forming activities; serve a larger population than just the community and bring wealth into the area
E.g.: tourism, military facilities; transportation

- **Non-basic** : town-serving activities; they exist to meet the needs of the local population
E.g.: grocery stores, municipal services

Functional Classification of Towns

- The structure and functions of any region varies in terms of function, history of development as well as age of the town.
- Some towns and cities specialise in certain functions and they are known for some specific activities, products or services. However, each town performs a number of functions.
- On the basis of functions, Indian cities and towns can be broadly into
 - ❖ *Administrative towns and cities,*
 - ❖ *Industrial towns,*
 - ❖ *Transport Cities,*

- ❖ *Commercial towns,*
 - ❖ *Mining towns,*
 - ❖ *Garrison Cantonment towns,*
 - ❖ *Educational towns,*
 - ❖ *Religious and cultural towns, and*
 - ❖ *Tourist towns*
- ***Administrative towns and cities:*** Towns supporting administrative headquarters of higher order are administrative towns, such as Chandigarh, New Delhi, Bhopal, Shillong, Guwahati, Imphal, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Jaipur and Chennai, etc.
 - ***Industrial towns:*** Industries constitute prime motive force of these cities such as Mumbai, Salem, Coimbatore, Modinagar, Jamshedpur, Hugli, Bhilai, etc.
 - ***Transport Cities:*** They may be ports primarily engaged in export and import activities such as Kandla, Kochchi, Kozhikode, Vishakhapatnam, etc. or hubs of inland transport such as Agra, Dhulia, Mughal Sarai, Itarsi, Katni, etc.
 - ***Commercial towns:*** Towns and cities specialising in trade and commerce are kept in this class. Kolkata, Saharanpur, Satna, etc. are some examples.
 - ***Mining towns:*** These towns have developed in mineral rich areas such as Raniganj, Jharia, Digboi, Ankaleshwar, Singrauli, etc.
 - ***Garrison Cantonment towns:*** These towns emerged as garrison towns such as Ambala, Jalandhar, Mhow, Babina, Udhampur, etc.
 - ***Educational towns:*** Starting as centres of education, some of the towns have grown into major campus towns such as Roorkee, Varanasi, Aligarh, Pilani, Allahabad etc.
 - ***Religious and cultural towns:*** Varanasi, Mathura, Amritsar, Madurai, Puri, Ajmer, Pushkar, Tirupati, Kurukshetra, Haridwar, Ujjain came to prominence due to their religious/cultural significance.
 - ***Tourist towns:*** Nainital, Mussoorie, Shimla, Pachmarhi, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Udagamandalam (Ooty), Mount Abu are some of the tourist destination

Finally,

- The cities are not static in their function.
- The functions change due to their dynamic nature.
- Even specialised cities, as they grow into metropolises become multifunctional wherein industry, business, administration, transport, etc. become important.

- The functions get so intertwined that the city cannot be categorised in a particular functional class.

Mr. N. SARAVANA KUMAR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
P.G. & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
GOVERNMENT ARTS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
COIMBATORE – 641 018.