

THE URBANIZATION OF AMERICA

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The Forces Behind Urban Growth

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- The rapid settling of the country and the opening of new lands was one reason for increased urbanization.
- The four forces – population growth, increased agricultural productivity, factory production, and low-cost transportation are not the only factors behind urbanization.

Urban Concentration and Density

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- The distinguishing feature of many nineteenth century cities was concentration and density.
- As time progressed, the gaps in cities reduced providing space for tall buildings.
- And there came the urbanization factor.

Urban Concentration and Density conti..

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- One major reason was that the water transportation was cheap and the urbanized society used it extensively.
- The desirability of rail and water served locations made the lands in the cities very valuable.

Urban Concentration and Density conti..

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- Manufacturing and commercial places were located in multistoried buildings built side by side.
- A population of well over 100 was crowded in a plot size of $1/20^{\text{th}}$ of an acre.
- All these factors led to massive Urban concentration.

Urban Concentration and Density conti..

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- At the end of civil war, elevator and steel frame construction dominated to make the sky scrapers economically & structurally possible.
- Congestion was the other factor which had more than just aesthetic and psychological consequences.
- The cities thereafter witnessed increased natural decrease (more deaths than births) and decongestion became the major goal for reform minded people.

The Beginnings of Decentralization

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- Mr. H.G. Wells viewed the congestion of the city as a profound evil and the coming decentralization as a desirable event.
- By the end of 19th century, manufacturing began to decentralize.

The Beginnings of Decentralization conti..

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- There were mainly two reasons for the change in population distribution in the late 19th century:
 1. Emergence of street car
 2. Rise in incomes

- People were able to spend more on land, travel and housing to escape the slums and tenements.

Population Density at various distances from the center, Milwaukee 1880 to 1963

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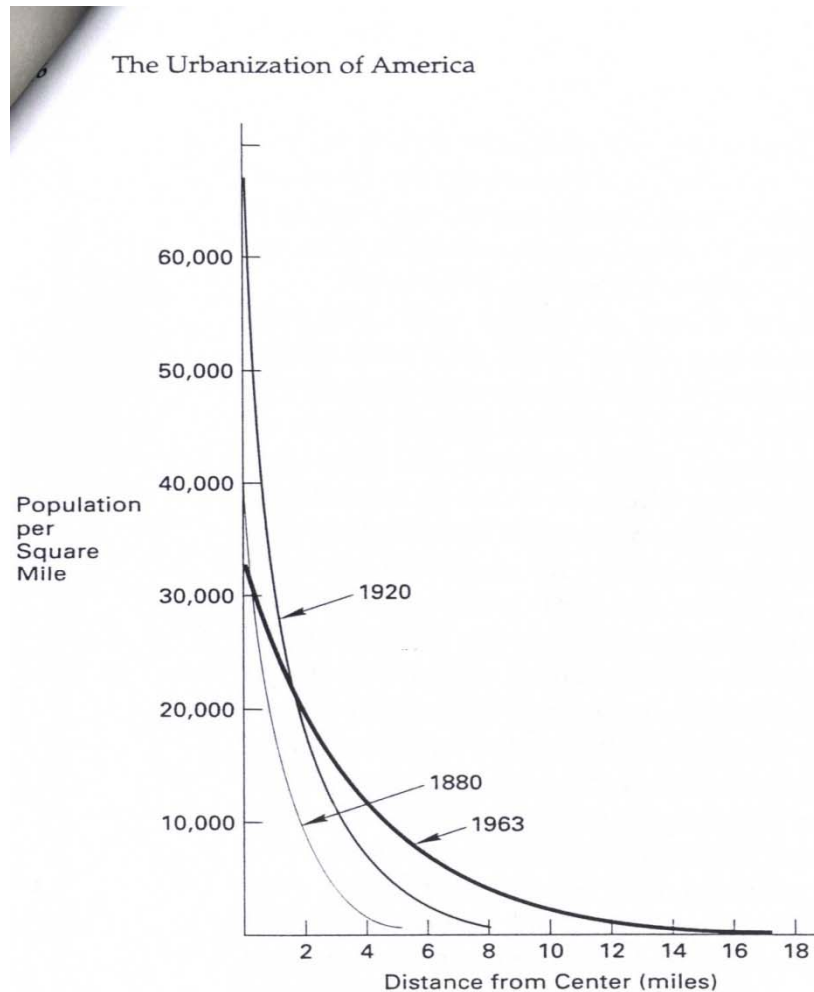


FIGURE 2-1 Population density at various distances from the center, Milwaukee 1880 to 1963.

Note that the density gradient fell during the entire period and that from 1920 to 1963 the density at the center fell by about 50 percent.

Source: Plotted from data in Edwin S. Mills, *Studies in the Structure of the Urban Economy*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1972.

Urban Trends in the Twentieth Century

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- The first half of the 20th century mostly favored the decentralization.
- Thus many large metropolitan cities grew rapidly.
- Any metropolitan city has a *centrally located* region with huge population and *part outside* also popularly known as *Suburbs*.
- Fig 2-2 in the next slide shows the redistribution of population across the 20th century.

US Population 1900 to 2000 by place of residence, in millions

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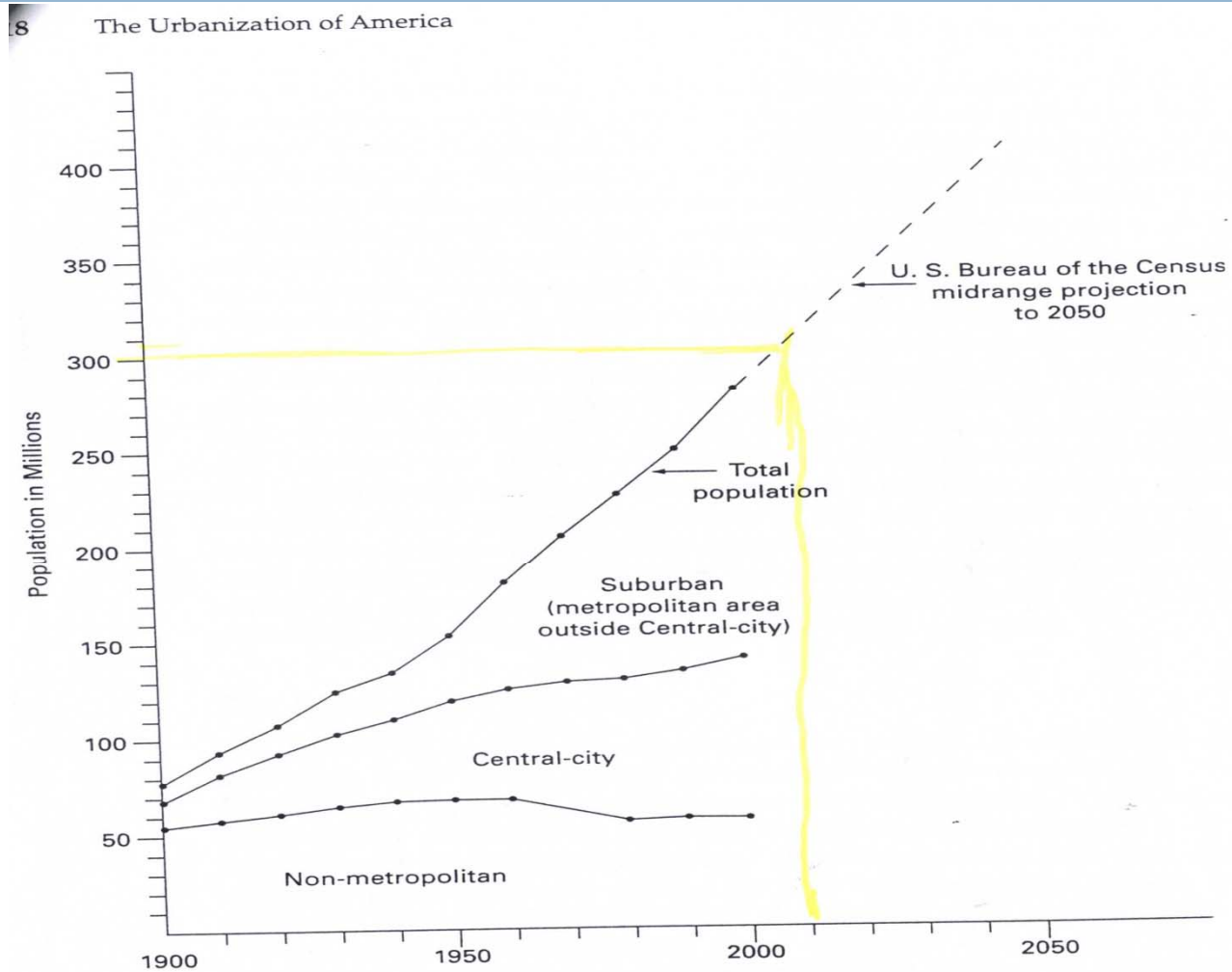


FIGURE 2-2 U.S. population 1900 to 2000 by place of residence, in millions.

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Urban Trends in the Twentieth Century conti..

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- The decentralization was also largely due to the introduction of automobile industries.
- By 1930 United States had 25 million automobiles compared to 5 million in 1915.
- The introduction of trucks helped the firms to locate their factories away from rail lines which helped decentralization.

Urban Trends in the Twentieth Century conti..

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- Other factors which contributed to decentralization were:
 1. Telephone lines, which increased communication by reducing face to face contact.
 2. Introduction of motion pictures and radio reaching the outlying residential areas.
 3. Invention of limited-access highways in the 1920s.

The Rush to the Suburbs conti..

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- Communities started to move to the suburbs as the industries were located in the suburbs.
- The idea of outsourcing to lower wage nations in terms of white collar jobs increased rapidly.
- The electronic communication like computers, closed circuit television, e-mail etc. also helped the cause.
- Some way or the other, microchip proved to be as powerful agent of deconcentration as automobile was.

Regional Trends

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- Increased mail box incomes (Social Security, pensions and the like) after their retirement helped them to live where-ever they liked.
- The population has also increased near coasts as one-half of US population in the 20th century lives within 50 miles of a coast.

Regional Population, 1950-2000 (in thousands)

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TABLE 2-1 Regional population, 1950-2000 (in thousands)

Region ^a	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Percentage Change 1990-2000
<i>Northeast</i>	39,478	44,678	49,061	49,139	50,976	53,610	5.2
New England	9,314	10,509	11,848	12,348	13,197	13,983	6.0
Mid-Atlantic	30,164	34,168	37,213	36,788	37,779	39,672	5.0
<i>North-central</i>	44,461	51,619	56,589	58,854	60,225	64,429	7.0
East North-central	30,399	36,225	40,262	41,670	42,414	45,155	6.5
West North-central	14,061	15,394	16,327	17,184	17,811	19,274	8.2
<i>South</i>	47,197	54,973	62,812	75,349	86,916	100,237	15.3
South Atlantic	21,182	25,972	30,678	36,943	44,421	51,769	16.5
East South-central	11,477	12,050	12,808	14,663	15,347	17,023	11.0
West South-central	14,538	16,951	19,326	23,743	27,148	31,445	15.8
<i>West</i>	20,190	28,053	34,838	43,165	54,060	63,198	16.9
Mountain	5,075	6,855	8,289	11,368	14,035	18,172	29.5
Pacific	15,115	21,198	26,549	31,797	40,025	45,026	12.5

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The Age of Central-City Shrinkage

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- The population of Buffalo shrank from 580,000 to 293,000, St. Louis from 857,000 to 348,000, Cleveland from 915,000 to 478,000 and the like..
- The reason for this was that the cities could not grow because the market itself did not grow.
- The growth of suburban labor force took the firms from downtown to the suburbs.

The Age of Central-City Shrinkage conti..

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- Now, this decentralization of employment led to cross commuting among suburbs than suburbs to central cities.
- Suburbs before were used for only residential purposes for the communities working in central cities but now the trend has changed drastically.

Cities and the Poor

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- City's more prosperous residents made their moves to the suburbs which meant the people left behind were poor and unemployed.
- Another reason was the suburbanization of jobs and thus of income.
- Many firms followed their workers out to the suburbs or beyond.

Cities and the Poor conti..

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- The more prosperous farmers were the one who could mechanize, acquire more land, and stay in farming.
- Today it is taken for granted that in the older and more run-down sections, the population would be largely black or other minority.
- But that's not always the case, as most of the blacks lived in the rural areas & were hit hard by racial discrimination and the legacy of three centuries of slavery.

Trends in the 1990s

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- The population in the northeast and the north central regions of the nations declined from 1990 to 2000.
- The increased cost of living, traffic growth in the suburbs gave a hint that population once again might migrate to central cities.
- Today's population mix with higher percentages of single adults and couples without children may mean more people preferring central city residence.

A Few Exceptions

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- In the census available between 1990 to 2000, there are clear indications that the older cities are growing again.
- Most prominent one is the New York city where the population grew by 9% from 7.3 million to 8.1 million.
- New York Planning Department predict the population could touch 9 million by 2025.

A Few Exceptions conti..

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- Real Estate prices have jumped up, which is a strong indicator for increased residential demand.
- The average price for an apartment in Manhattan is over \$1 million.

Trends in Rapidly Growing Region

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- A mixed pattern of population was observed in southeastern United States.
- In many western states of U.S., there was no effect of this and the urban and suburban populations rose considerably.

A Look Ahead

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- In year 2000, US bureau of the census made a series of projections in the US population till year 2100.
- If the projection turns out to be exact, then the population of America may increase by 100 million in the next 50 years.
- About 60% of this is going to be from net immigration and remaining from natural increase (birth minus deaths).

A Look Ahead conti..

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- As shown in Fig:2-2, the non-metropolitan population of America has remained quite constant in the last century.

- Central city growth in the last decades has relatively been modest due to:
 1. Growth in some cities, particularly in the western US.
 2. Shrinkage in many older large cities(in the northeast and north).
 3. Development of new central cities as smaller cities went congested(passed 50,000 pop and classified as central cities).

A Look Ahead

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- At the end, the mass of population growth in the coming decades is expected to occur in metropolitan cities but just outside the central cities.
- The above projection is by the U.S. Bureau of Census.

THANKS A LOT