

urban centres. The excess production of food grains was perhaps, the main reason for the development of urbanization in prehistoric period. **Ur and Babylon** in Mesopotamia, **Thebes and Alexandria** in Egypt, **Athens** in Greece, **Harappa and Mohenjodaro** in India were noted prehistoric cities of the world.

In ancient times the increase in the number and size of urban centres occurred at the time of the two great colonizing periods of the Greeks and of the Romans. As early as the seventh century B. C. there were many cities bordering the Aegean Sea. The Greek colonizing movement derived its energy from the expansion of trade which promoted the growth of towns and cities. These towns were **Cyrene, Neapolis, Alexandria, Salonica, Priene, Damascus** etc. Various Roman Colonists founded a sprinkling of towns over vast territories particularly along big rivers and main traffic routes. Amongst Roman cities **Aosta, Turin, Autun, Lyon, Mainz, Strasburg, Lincoln, Chester, York, Istanbul, Antioch, Tingad** etc. were important. With the fall of Roman empire, the organization and security were destroyed and consequently many cities were deserted throughout western Europe.

(2) The Medieval Period : The towns and cities in Europe reemerged in medieval period. During medieval period a whole swarm of little towns sprang up spontaneously which were usually placed under the protection of a feudal stronghold. Some medieval towns were also founded during periods of colonisation. After the eleventh century the European countries gained great increase in their overseas trade. Consequently, the West European countries were linked by trade and the merchants travels which played a vital role in the revival of towns and cities. Thus, there was a sudden surge in urbanization. At the end of thirteenth century, **Paris, London, Geneva, Milan, Venice and Colonge** were important cities of Europe. A number of European cities kept their leading part as a Christian capital particularly in Italy such as **Venice, Geneva, Milan, Rome and Florence**.

(3) Modern Period : The modern period forms a third period in the history of urbanization. Since the Age of Discovery, the economic development of the world has steadily favoured the growth of urbanisation and the strengthening urban functions. Since the Industrial Revolution in the nineteenth century, the introduction of machine age with its large-scale industry has added to towns and cities in old countries an enormous flood of population. "The swarming in all parts of the world of Europeans, imbued with urban civilization and natural founders of cities, has given birth to large numbers of new towns, first in North America, then throughout the southern hemisphere, and more recently in Soviet Asia and in the frozen regions of the north of Canada and of Siberia" (Perpillou, 1986, 482).

In modern time, urban growth was provoked by the development of industry due to machinery and coal. Similarly, the improvement brought about by modern means of transport and communication and the appearance of various new trade routes have definitely strengthened all trade centres and urban places. The modern trend of urbanization has profoundly transformed the structure of various countries of the world, though in varying degrees. In Europe and Anglo-America, the districts in which there was an outburst of urbanization coincide with industrial areas. In twentieth century, some Asian countries and the U.S.S.R., have passed through an extraordinary spell of increase in the number and size of towns.

Africa came latest in the field of urbanization but is now undergoing an extraordinary development of new towns which are growing continually due to a regular influx of population. Before 1930, Africa had towns only on its coasts but now it has some 50 towns with populations exceeding 1,00,000 population. Major cities in Africa are **Cairo, Nairobi, Mombasa, Bulawayo, Duala, Abidjan, Lagos, Accra, Addis Ababa, Leopoldville, Luanda, Cape Town, Natal, Pretoria** etc.

5. ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF URBANIZATION

Explain

The process of urbanization in the world has a long history. Within the course of history, some periods have been more favourable than others to the rise of urban centres. "Brisk town growth is noticed in times of busy trade movements, at times when internal and external colonisation has brought on human displacements and migrations. But it is noticed also in time of insecurity, when some communities have been driven to adopt this manner of uniting for defence." (Perpillou, 1986, 478).

(1) The Ancient Period : The urban centres were originated during the prehistoric period when primitive man started domestication of plants and animals around 10 thousand years ago. In prehistoric and historic periods, numerous permanent settlements were established in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Indus valley (India), China and Central America. In these areas, agrarian communities eventually gave rise to urban communities and

Thus, in modern age, the accelerating urbanization is resulting in a redistribution of population throughout the world. In general, every country of the world is experiencing an increasing proportion of urban to total population after Second World War. The number of million cities is growing continually, and the oldest of them continue to become distended with new immigrants.

6. PATTERNS OF URBANIZATION IN THE WORLD

The growth pattern of urbanization in the world as a whole is shown in Table 17.1. In 1800 A.D., total population of the world was some 900 million and its about 3.0 percent was residing in urban places with 5000 inhabitants. The rapid growth in urban population was

started in the beginning of the nineteenth century which obtained very fast speed after industrial revolution. In the end of nineteenth century, 13.6 per cent of the world's population was living in urban places of 5000 and 5.5 percent in the cities of 1,00,000 or more population. In the middle of the twentieth century, about 30 percent of the world's population was found inhabiting in towns of 5000 or more, while cities of 1,00,000 inhabited nearly 13 per cent of total population of the world. In the end of twentieth century, the world's population crossed the limit of 6000 million and its 48.0 percent was living in urban places of 5000 and 25.0 per cent in the cities of 1,00,000. It is also estimated that for 2025, about 57 percent of the world's population would be urban which may rise to 66 percent in 2050.

Table 17.1

Trend of Growth of Urban Population in the world (1800-2000)

Region	Percentage of urban to total population		
	In cities of 1,00,000 +	In towns of 20,000 +	In towns of 5000 +
1800	1.7	2.4	3.0
1850	2.3	4.3	6.4
1900	5.5	9.2	13.6
1950	13.1	20.9	29.8
1960	20.1	27.1	31.6
2000 (estimated)	25.0	38.0	48.0

Source: (1) Gerald Breeze : Urbanization in Developing Countries, 1966.
(2) U.N. Demographic Year Book, 1992.

Table 17.2 illustrates that 48.6 percent of the world's total population resides in the urban centres of varying sizes. Industrially more developed countries under OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) are more urbanized (75.6 percent) than the developing countries (42.7 percent) and least developed countries (26.7 per cent).

Among the continents, North America and South America are the most urbanized continents with 79 per cent of their total population residing in towns and cities. The New World is closely followed by Europe (74 percent) and Oceania (72 percent).

Table 17.2
Level of Urbanization in the Different Regions of the World

Year	Percentage of Urban to total population		
	1975	2005	2015
Developing Countries	26.5	42.7	47.9
Least developed countries	14.8	26.7	31.6
Arab States	41.8	55.1	58.8
East Asia & the Pacific	20.5	42.8	51.1
Latin American & the Caribbean	61.1	77.3	80.6
South Asia	21.2	30.2	33.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	21.2	34.9	39.6
Central and Eastern Europe & the CIS	57.7	63.2	63.9
OECD	66.9	75.6	78.2
World	37.2	48.6	52.8

Source : Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP, New York.

Africa is the least urbanized continent with only 35 per cent of its population living in urban places. The situation of Asia (39 percent) is not very different from that of Africa. The agrarian nature of economy and a long colonial past are the factors responsible for their poor urbanization. Due to enormous socio-economic problems and limited resources in Africa and Asia continents, the processes of socio-economic transformation and urbanization are bound to be gradual.

Table 17.3 illustrates that total population of Singapore and Hongkong lives in urban places. About 98.5 percent population of Kuwait is also urban. On the contrary, only 10 percent population of Burundi and 11.1 percent population of Bhutan resides in urban centres. Thus, on the basis of level of urbanization all the countries of the world may be classified into following 4 groups :

- (1) Very highly urbanized areas (75 percent or above)
- (2) Highly urbanized areas (50-75 percent),
- (3) Medium urbanized areas (25-50 percent)
- (4) Less urbanized areas (below 25 percent).

(1) Very Highly Urbanized Areas : The countries having urban population 75 per cent or above are included under this category. Generally highly industrialized and developed countries are very highly urbanized. Some other countries of Asia and Latin America have also high percentage of urban population. Following are the countries which have very high level of urbanization :

Europe : Belgium, Iceland, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, France, Germany, etc.

Table 17.3

Level of Urbanization in the Selected Countries of the world

Country	Percentage of urban to total population		
	1975	2005	2015
1	2	3	4
Highly developed countries (OECD)	66.9	75.6	78.2

(A) Very Highly Urbanized Countries	100.0	100.0	100.0
Singapore	89.7	98.5	98.5
Hong Kong	89.4	97.2	97.5
Kuwait	94.5	96.5	98.2
Belgium	85.0	95.4	96.2
Bahrain	88.9	95.3	97.2
Qatar	89.7	93.4	95.9
Malta	75.8	92.8	93.1
Venezuela	86.7	92.0	93.1
Iceland	83.4	91.6	91.9
Uruguay	86.6	90.1	91.6
Israel	81.0	89.7	90.6
Argentina	82.7	88.2	89.9
United Kingdom	85.9	87.6	90.1
Australia	78.0	86.6	87.9
Chile	67.0	86.2	87.4
Lebnon	82.8	85.6	86.9
New Zealand	82.2	84.8	87.4
Denmark	57.3	84.2	88.2
Libya	82.7	84.2	88.2
Sweden	61.7	82.8	82.1
Brazil	77.3	82.2	85.3
Luxemburg	57.7	81.0	83.1
Jordon	48.0	80.8	83.7
South Korea	73.7	80.8	83.2
U.S.A.	58.4	80.1	81.4
Saudi Arabia	75.6	80.2	84.9
Canada	63.2	77.4	78.6
Netherlands	68.2	76.7	78.6
Norway	83.6	76.7	78.3
United Arab Emirate	69.6	76.7	78.3
Spain	72.9	76.0	78.7
France	62.8	75.5	74.7
Mexico	64.2	75.2	76.3
Cuba	72.7		
Germany			
(B) Highly Urbanized Countries (50-75 Percent)			
Czech Republic	63.7	74.0	74.1
Russian Federation	66.9	73.0	72.6
Colombia	60.0	72.7	75.7
Peru	61.5	72.6	74.9
Belarus	50.6	72.2	76.7
Ukraine	58.4	67.9	70.2

Italy	65.6	67.6	69.5
Malaysia	37.7	67.3	75.4
Turkey	41.6	67.3	71.9
Iran	45.8	66.9	71.9
Lithuania	55.7	66.6	66.8
Hungary	62.2	66.3	70.3
Austria	65.6	66.0	67.7
Japan	56.8	65.8	68.2
Tunisia	49.9	65.3	69.1
Bolivia	41.3	63.7	68.8
Algeria	40.3	63.3	69.3
Ecuador	42.4	62.8	67.6
Poland	55.3	62.1	64.0
Philippines	35.6	62.7	69.6
Ireland	53.6	60.5	63.8
Congo	43.4	60.2	64.2
South Africa	48.1	59.3	64.1
Greece	55.3	59.0	61.0
Morocco	37.8	58.7	65.0
Paraguay	39.0	58.5	64.4
Portugal	40.8	57.6	63.6
Kazakhstan	52.6	57.3	60.3
Mongolia	48.7	57.3	60.3
Gambia	24.4	53.9	61.8
Jamaica	44.1	52.8	56.7
Angola	19.1	53.3	59.7
Georgia	49.5	52.2	53.8
(C) Medium Urbanized Countries (25-50 percent)			
Nigeria	23.4	48.2	55.9
Ghana	30.1	47.8	55.1
Indonesia	19.3	48.1	58.5
Guatemala	36.7	47.2	52.0
Algeria	32.7	45.4	52.8
Egypt	43.5	42.8	45.4
Sudan	18.9	40.8	49.4
Sierra Leone	21.2	40.7	48.2
China	17.4	40.4	49.2
Zambia	34.9	35.0	37.0
Namibia	23.7	35.1	41.1

Pakistan	26.3	34.9	39.6
Guinea	19.5	33.0	38.1
Thailand	23.8	32.3	36.2
Myanmar	24.0	30.6	37.4
India	21.3	28.7	32.0
Medagaskar	16.3	26.8	30.1
Vien Nam	18.8	26.4	31.6
Chad	15.6	25.3	30.5
Bangladesh	9.9	25.1	29.9
(D) Less Urbanized Countries (Less than 25 Percent)			
Tanzania	11.1	24.2	28.9
Kenya	12.9	20.7	24.1
Laos	11.1	20.6	24.9
Cambodia	10.3	19.7	26.1
Niger	11.4	16.8	19.3
Ethiopia	9.5	16.0	19.1
Nepal	4.8	15.8	20.9
Sri Lanka	19.5	15.1	15.7
Uganda	7.0	12.6	14.5
Trinidad	11.4	12.2	15.8
Bhutan	4.6	11.1	14.8
Burundi	3.2	10.0	13.5
World	37.2	48.6	52.8

Source : Human Development Report 2007/2008, U N D P, New York.

Asia : Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Korea, United Arab Emirates, etc.

North America : United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Cuba etc.

South America : Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, etc.

Africa : Libya.

(2) Highly Urbanized Areas : Many countries of Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa are included in this category. These countries according to continents are :

Europe : Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, Switzerland, Italy, Ireland, Austria, Lithuania, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, Greece, etc.

Asia : Malaysia, Turkey, Iran, Japan, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, etc.

South America : Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Bolivia, etc.

Africa : Tunisia, Algeria, Congo, South Africa, Morocco, Gambia, Angola, etc.

(3) Medium Urbanized Areas : The countries having level of urbanization from 25 to 50 percent are included under this category. These countries are :

Asia : Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, India, Viet Nam, etc.

Africa : Nigeria, Ghana, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Namibia, Guinea, Medagaskar, etc.

(4) Less Urbanized Countries : Less urbanized countries (urban population below 25 per cent) are concentrated mainly in Asia and Africa continents. The economy of these countries are mainly based on agriculture and people in majority live in villages. Some of these countries are :

Asia : Bangladesh, Laos, Combodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, etc.

Africa : Tanzania, Kenya, Niger, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, etc.

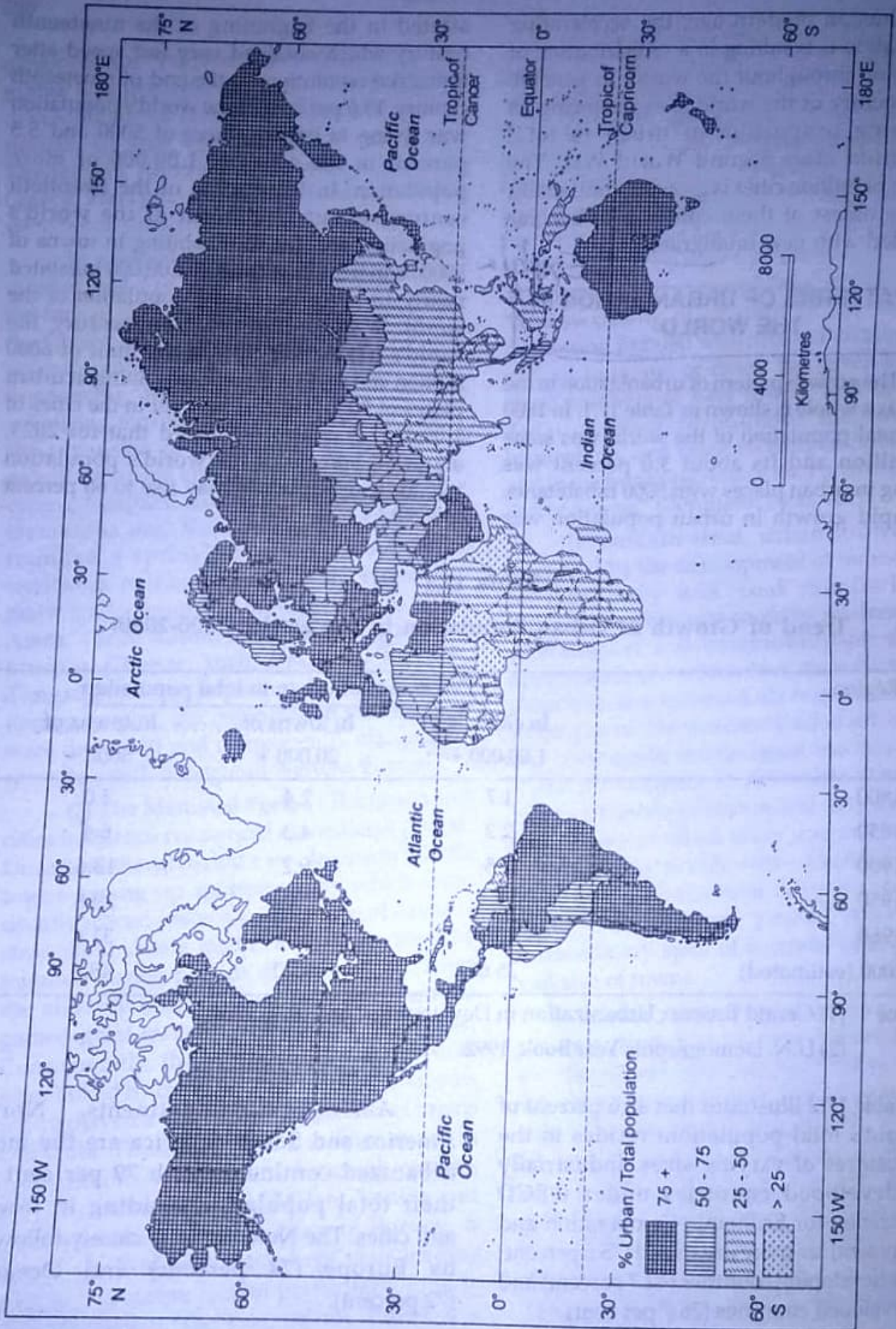


Fig. 17.1 : Regional Pattern of Urbanization in the World (2005)