

Ankara University  
Faculty of Languages, History and Geography  
Department of Geography

## GGR203 URBAN GEOGRAPHY

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# ORIGINS, DEVELOPMENT and the SPREAD of CITIES

The content of this course is exactly compatible with the program in which the same course is taught in Turkish, and the open course materials prepared by Prof. Dr. E. Murat Özgür are used.

## What is a city?

Prerequisites for Urban Formation

Theories of the Origin of Cities

Locations of Old Towns

Spread of Urbanization

*Urban Development and Initial Economic Necessities: Traditional Cities*

*The First City-States: The Land of Sumer*

*Central American City*

*Imperial Cities: Rome*

New Trade Cities

*A Capitalist Economy: Northern Italy, Northern Europe*

Industrial City

Changing City Location and Its Elements

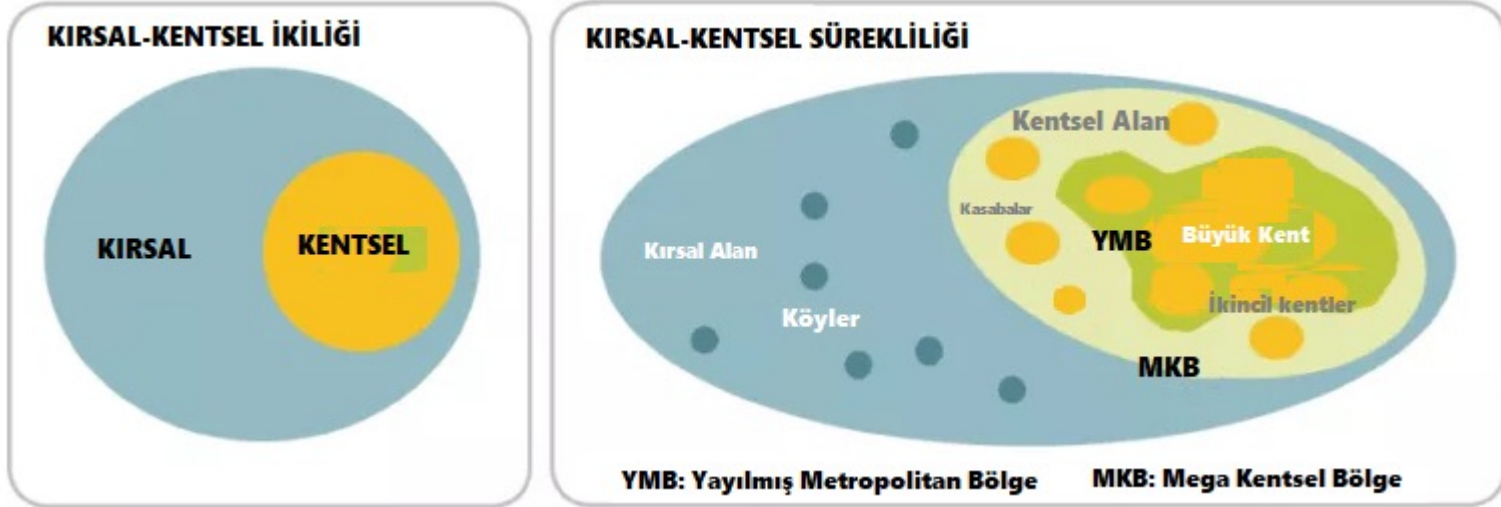
Post-Industrial Urbanism: Post-Modern City

- Historically, cities have been distinguished from other settlement forms by their population size, non-agricultural activity structures, and their position as centers of political, economic and social power.
- The main functions of cities in settled societies:
  1. Regulation of activities carried out in rural areas
  2. Creating a surplus product
  3. Evaluation of surplus product through trade and manufacturing
  4. Meeting people's needs for various goods and services
  5. Proper flow of service

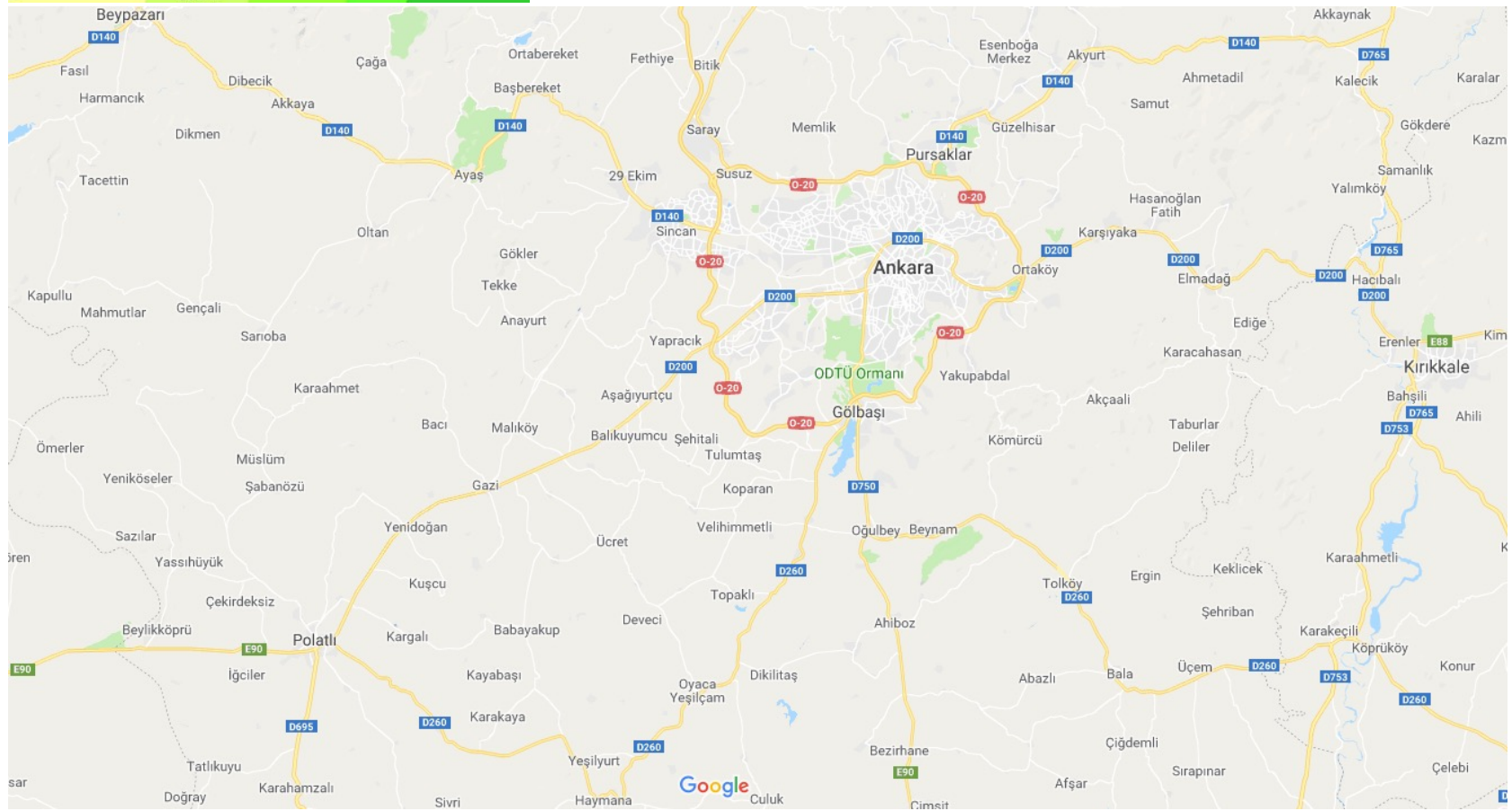
1. Dominance labour-force participation in non-agricultural activities
2. Gathering of large numbers of people and high population density
3. Professional specialization
4. High occupational and spatial mobility
5. Social stratification, complex class and income structure
6. Heterogeneous lifestyles
7. Differentiation and instability in social relations, formal relations
8. Physical appearance differentiation of the settlement: Multi-storey buildings, urban land use

## Rural-Urban: Duality and Continuity

Today, the differences between rural areas and urban areas are decreasing thanks to transportation, communication and technological developments. Even though the rural-urban dichotomy continues in some regions, rural-urban continuity emerges in regions with high urbanization levels due to the spread of cities towards their surroundings and increasing their influence.



# Rural-Urban: Duality and Continuity

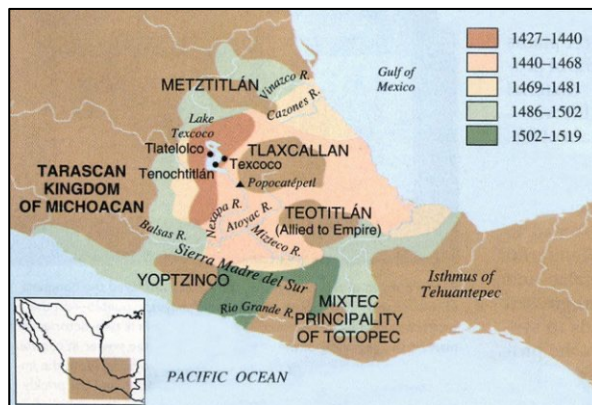


# Conditions That Create Cities

1. Existence of a civilization
2. Suitable ecological environment
3. Technology (Irrigation, construction, transportation/storage)
4. Social Organization, Coordination and Power

# Conditions That Create Cities: Civilization

- **Civilization is a complex socio-cultural organization that organizes an interdependent community with official institutions and under the control of a central authority.**
- Most civilizations in world history have cities of different sizes. For example, evidence of ancient Egyptian civilization shows that there were small Egyptian cities.
- Under Montezuma, the Aztec empire created the enormous city of Tenochtitlán. Many cities have become focal points where traces of civilization can be seen at the highest level.





# Conditions That Create Cities: Ecological Environment

- Cities also benefited from proximity to other physical features:
  1. Natural features suitable for transportation, such as a river and port,
  2. Some mineral deposits suitable for metal production,
  3. Construction materials,
  4. Military defence features such as elevation and slope.

## Conditions That Create Cities: Technology

- **Irrigation technology:** Where cities arise, there is a need for irrigation.
- **Transport and storage technology:** The emergence of cities was also related to technological advances in transportation and food storage.
- **Construction technology:** Cities also needed advances in construction technology to provide houses for people, strengthen settlements' defences, and build ostentatious ceremonial and monumental structures.

## Conditions That Create Cities: Social Organization, Coordination and Power

- **Social organization:** Compared to villages, the first cities were large and complex. Cities were no longer places where everyone knew each other, and other forms of social organization were needed to connect people.
- **Social coordination:** Cities provide food from rural areas by force or trade relations, build and maintain the physical appearance of the city and the area it affects; became places where social coordination was needed to regulate the activities of the people living in the cities.
- **Social power:** Social organization also necessitated social power, which is defined as the degree to which a group gains the ability to control over its material and social resources and to regulate the activities of the people living in the city and its surroundings.



## Theories of the Emergence of Cities

1. Agricultural surplus product
2. Religious reasons
3. Defense needs
4. Commercial requirements

## Theories of the Emergence of Cities: Agricultural surplus product





## Theories of the Emergence of Cities: Religious reasons



Sümer Başkenti Ur'daki Ziggurat Tapınağı



Çatalhöyük-Konya



Mohenjo Daro-Indus Vadisi, Pakistan

## Theories of the Emergence of Cities: Defense needs



Hattuša/Boğazköy, Çorum



San Gimignano, Toscana (Italy)

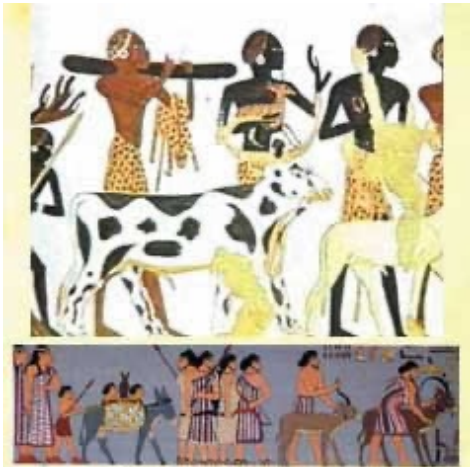


Van Castle (Turkey)



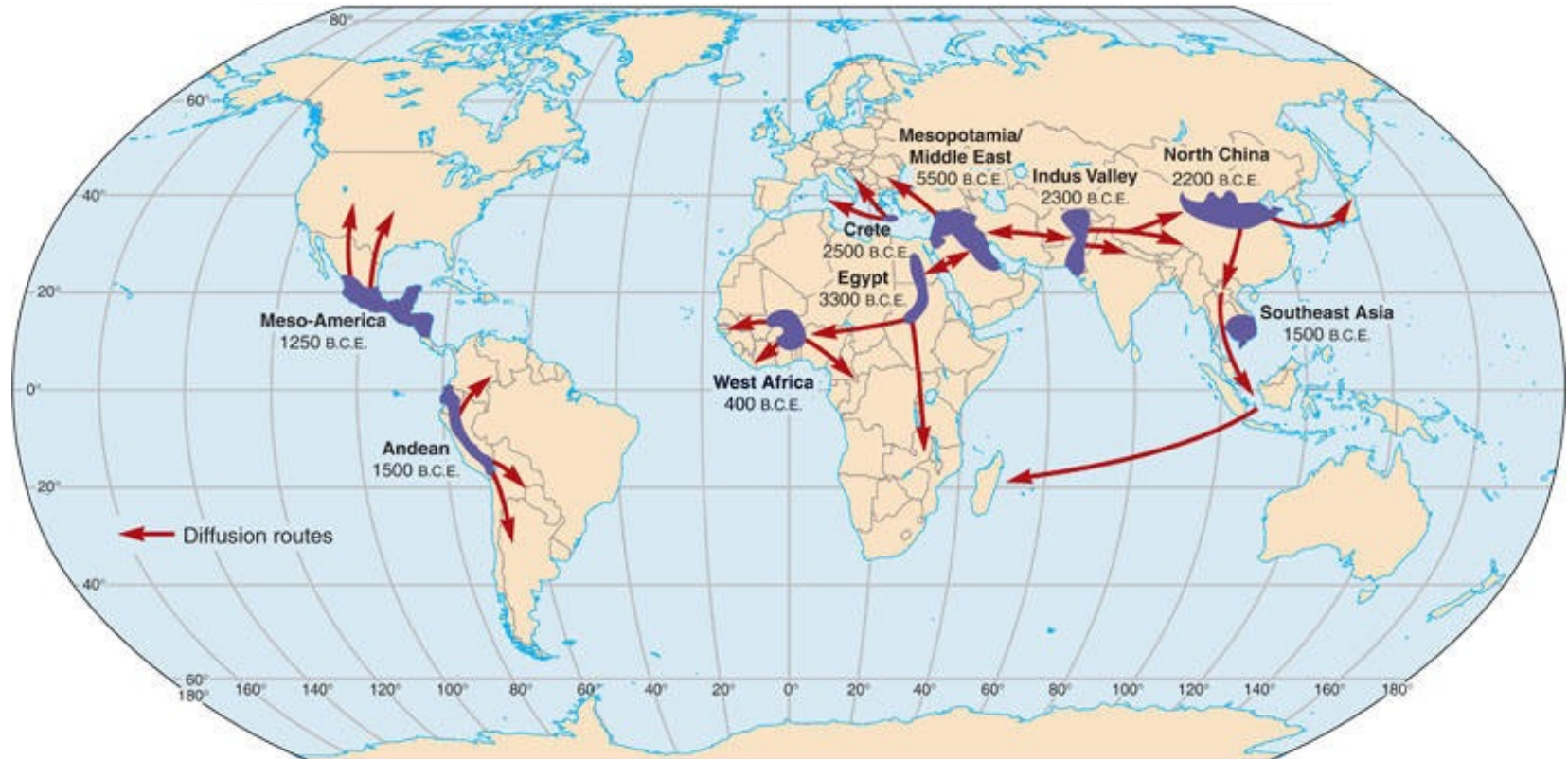
## Theories of the Emergence of Cities: Commercial requirements

- Commerce was an important component of the first cities and a key factor in the revival of urban life during the Middle Ages.
- Archaeological findings point to traders as a group with privileged status.
- In fact, a capitalist economy based on free trade did not exist until the Middle Ages. Economic exchange was carefully regulated and bound by the rules of theocratic life.
- As a result, previous studies do not point to a single reason for the emergence of cities.





- Most researchers agree that the first real cities were seen in **Sumer (Mesopotamia)** around 4750 BC. The cities were later appeared in **Egypt** in 3000 BC, in the Indus Valley around 2200 BC, and in northern **China** along the Huang Ho around 1500 BC. Because agriculture was critical to feeding and supporting cities, urban settlements first emerged in areas with an agrarian economy, and urbanization spread from these early centers. The first cities were established at points of contact between civilizations, often along trade routes.
- **Effective factors in the spread of urbanization since 1200 BC:**
  1. **Transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age**
  2. **Advances in transport**
  3. **Establishment of trading colonies**
  4. **The creation of large political entities by military conquests**



## Traditional cities had three main features:

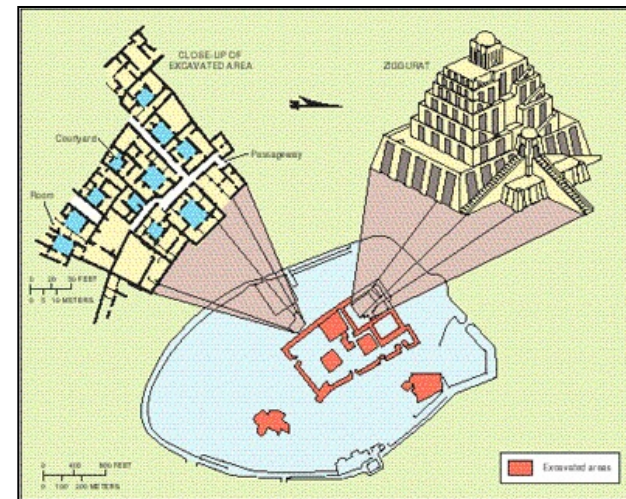
1. The survival of the cities depended on the collection (including taxation) of the surplus product from the hinterland. Although there was trade, it was not the basis of the city's economy.
2. Cities were founded by a select group of people and, thanks to their location, developed in their rural surroundings.
3. Although they reflect the versatility of cultural, political and economic relations, ancient cities also represented the preservation of the current situation and resistance to change.

## First City States: The Land of Sumer

- Hinterland
- Walls protecting the city
- Exclusive residential area in the city center
- Power and prestige associated with spatial access to the city center

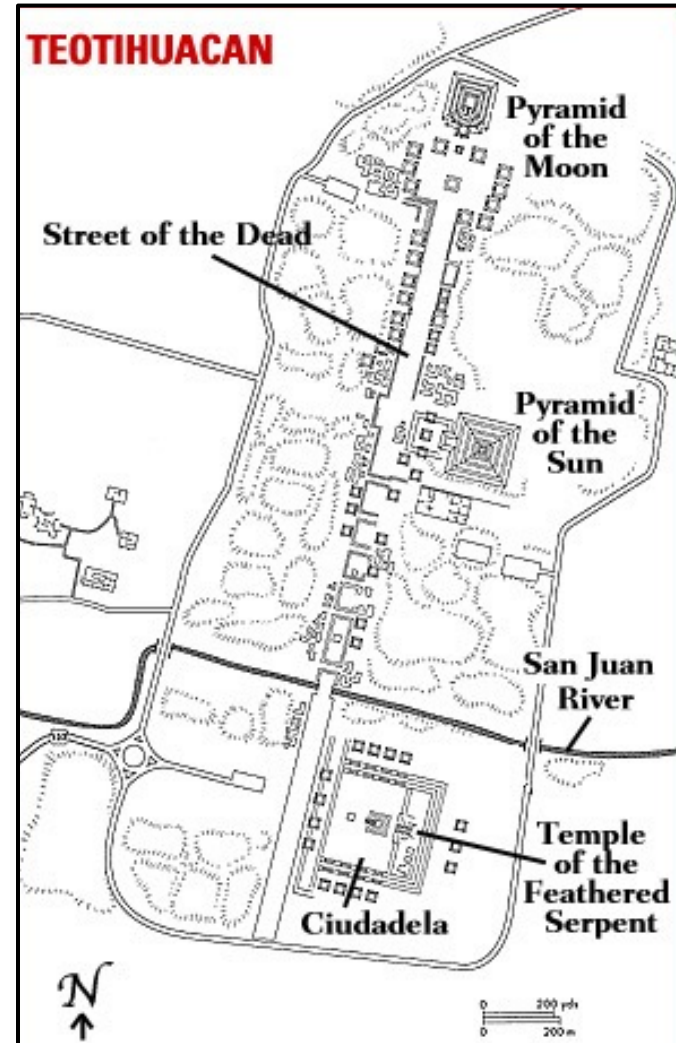
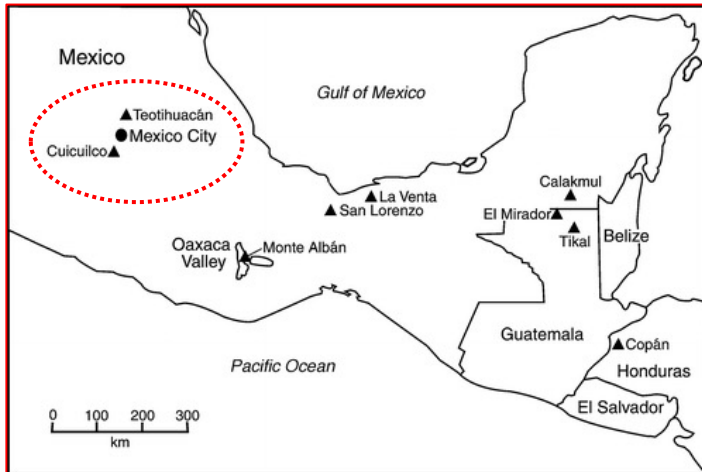


Sümer City: Ur





## Central American City: Teotihuacan

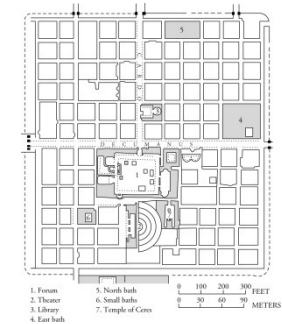


## Imperial Cities: Immortal City Rome

A detailed city system → 1200 cities

The construction of new cities after the conquests → the spread of Roman culture

The relationship between the power and magnificence of Rome and the cities  
 Roman city model → Cities with grid plan, housing estates (domus and insulae), forum, public monuments, public buildings (main temple, bath, library, warehouses, theatre, amphitheater) and complex social geography



1. Forum
2. Theater
3. Library
4. Bath
5. North bath
6. Small bath
7. Temple of Mars







## A Capitalist Economy: New Trade Cities

Prioritization of a capitalist economy (commercial and industrial capitalism)

Development away from feudal governments and kingdoms:

- *Northern Italy (Venice, Genoa, Florence etc.)*
- *Northern Europe (Brugess, Amsterdam, Hanseatic League )*

Cities based on buying and selling, not collecting surplus products from the after country

The economy depends on the activities of merchants and craftsmen and on international trade.



Due Torre: Bologna, Italy





## A Capitalist Economy: New Trade Cities

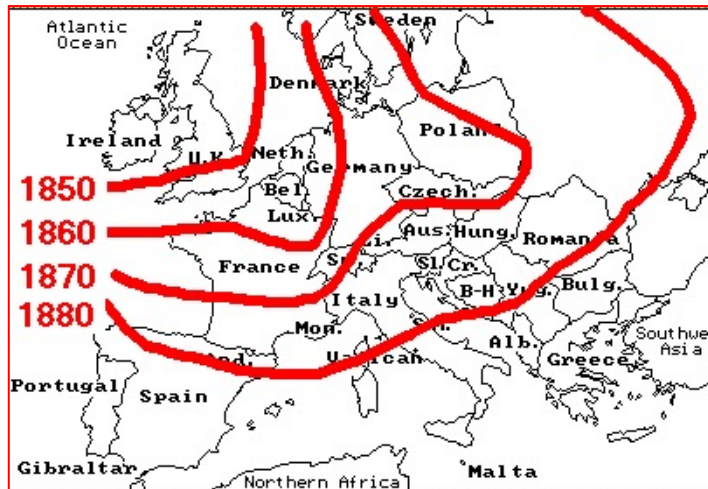
Increasing political power of merchants: the class that maintains social order  
Reflection of the separation from the feudal order: The idea of citizenship  
Increasing importance of city walls with wealth  
Focus of activities: Ports and waterways (canals)  
Artisan associations: Guilds  
Separation of different groups on the basis of profession



## Industrial Revolution and Cities

- Increase in overseas trade and capital accumulation
- Improvements in agricultural productivity and feeding a larger population
- The birth of a different economic structure: Mass production
- Change in power supply: Coal steam engines
- Technical advances in machine parts
- Switching to the factory system
- Industrialization accelerates the urbanization process

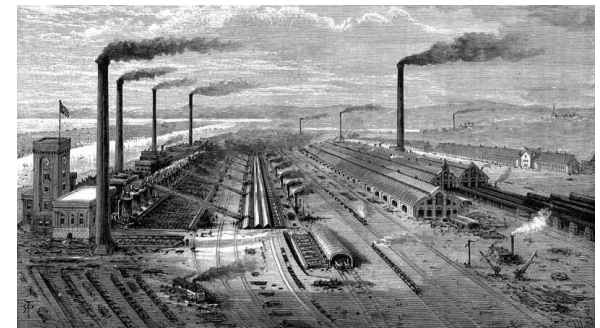
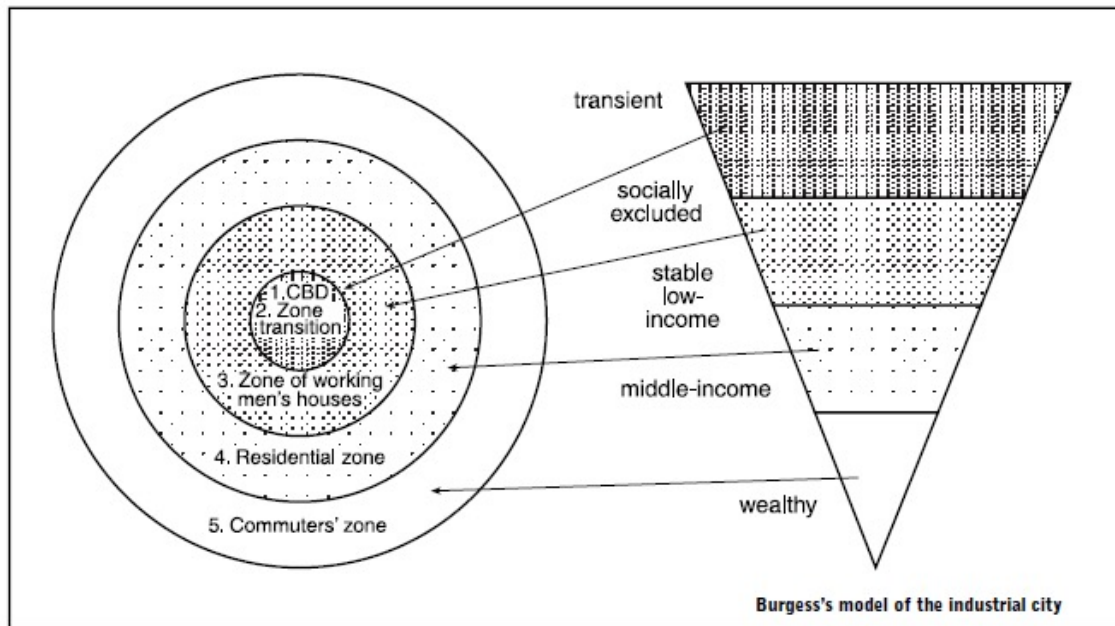
Spread of the Industrial Revolution



First Industrial City: Manchester



## Industrial City Model



- **Key elements of the industrial city:**
  - ✓ **Factories:** being at the center of urban growth and urban form
  - ✓ **Railways:** The element that connects the factories to the ports
  - ✓ **Suburban (worker) quarters**

## Post-Industrial Urbanism

- **Post-industrialization is a social process that has a great impact on the city. Its main features are:**
  1. **Changes in the economy leading to a focus on the service sector rather than manufacturing**
  2. **Changes in the social structure that give more power and status to professional and technological workers**
  3. **Changes in the knowledge base, with emphasis on Research and Development (R&D)**
  4. **More curiosity about the impact of technological change**
  5. **The emergence of advanced information systems and intellectual technology**

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