



### TOWNS AND CITIES OF THE THIRD WORLD

SLIDEFOLIO  
S.1264

The pace of urbanisation in most Third World countries is far beyond the rate of economic development of those countries and may destroy their various social and economic structures. The populations of most large cities in the Third World are growing not only as a result of natural increase but they are also being submerged by a flood of people coming in from the rural areas. Many of the people going to the cities are said to have been "pushed" from their villages by the lack of opportunities there, but many have been selected to go to the towns so that, if they succeed, the village may have the benefit of their success. The cities act as magnets to the rural population and have grown so quickly that the services cannot cope and many millions of their people live in extreme hardship. Nevertheless the migrants may find some opportunity for survival and there are advantages such as the lower death rate of the cities and possible hope for the future.

It is difficult to say exactly how quickly the cities are growing. Accurate statistics are difficult to obtain and there are differences in the definition of "urban". This is generally taken to be 20,000 people but in Morocco, for example, it is only 5,000. The rates at which towns and cities are growing vary in different parts of the Third World. They are most rapid in the large cities with some, such as Lima, Algiers, Delhi and Teheran, doubling or trebling every ten years, whereas small towns tend to stagnate.

Throughout the Third World there are problems arising from this rapid growth, but although aspects may be found in common, there are many variations, according to, for example, the local history of urbanisation, the nature of the society and the policies of individual governments. Latin America is, in general, the most urbanised part of the Third World, but the problems of Asia far exceed those of Latin America and Africa in terms of the vast total of the population — it contains 2/5ths of the world's population, in towns of more than 20,000 people, compared with 1/20th in Africa and 1/10th in Latin America. Outside the Third World, Europe contains one quarter and North America 1/10th, but the industrialised countries are now fairly stable with urban increases of about 100 million people in ten years. However, the Third World countries have almost three times as many people going to the cities and there will now be more people in the Third World cities than in the cities of the industrialised countries. The European, or Western, style of city which has its own special structures and patterns will be in the minority

These pictures show that there are many kinds of cities in the Third World. Their problems vary, for example, with the type of city that has grown from the early days of urbanisation in those countries, such as those of West Africa and India, which had ancient civilizations. They also vary with the types of city introduced by colonising peoples such as the Europeans and Arabs. In Africa most of the larger towns grew, during the Colonial period, as ports from which the exploitation of resources could be directed. In central parts of Bombay, India, there are 3760 people per hectare (about twice the size of a football pitch). However the centres of all Indian cities are not always areas of extreme poverty and overcrowding, as is often thought. Their layout differs with the relationship of the areas built by the British colonists to the old native cities.

The industrial western city is characterised by the ebb and flow of commuters. In the Third World higher densities on the outskirts may represent, not commuters, but squatters living in shanty towns. These squatters are not absorbed into the life of the city. Many of the shanty towns are also physically remote from the city centres. Unlike the rapid urban growth of Europe in the 19th century, the population growth of Third World cities is rarely associated with an increase in industrialisation. Unemployment is high and is largely disguised by large numbers of people who help their relatives in the traditional small craft industries or who barely make a living providing each other with small services. In many countries the cities are becoming "ruralised" as village ways of living are transplanted to the urban areas and as the migrants keep strong links with their villages.

Many urban development plans for the Third World are based on the models of Western cities which are generally not suited to Third World needs. These city plans are of little value without national development plans which should seek to provide opportunities to keep people in their villages or encourage them into the smaller towns. Unfortunately, most Third World cities have only limited facilities and these are generally concentrated on the most important city. Some countries, such as the oil rich countries of the Middle East, are able to provide adequate facilities but, in general, where cities in the Third World have fine motorways and city centres they are surrounded by appalling living conditions.

1. Cities in the Third World vary with the customs and beliefs of the people in different countries. They also vary with the different climates and different building materials which are available. This West African town is built of mud bricks and buildings are designed to withstand the heat. It also reflects the people's beliefs in Islam and, especially on the edge of the town, the occupation of many of the people as farmers. But changes are taking place as new types of prefabricated buildings are introduced.
2. This is a street in Castries, the capital of St. Lucia in the West Indies. The buildings are of wood and corrugated iron in this part of the town. The people are descended from African slaves but the town is laid out in European style as the island was first colonised by the French and British.
3. People of Brunei, South East Asia, live in wooden houses on poles above the water of a shallow lagoon. Other parts of the town are typically European as the country was a European colony. There is also a strong Moslem influence on the town as can be seen by the mosque.
4. Many cities of the Third World are of recent origin. Some have been built to develop the resources of the countries. These include ports and mining towns. This is the mining town of Okuail in West Africa. The long rows of workers homes are very different from the traditional African homes and towns.
5. Many ports were developed from older settlements by the European colonists. Tangier in Morocco, North Africa, was developed by the French. The port and commercial area became a new part of the town. The settlers built themselves a "European" area. The Arabs, who are Moslems, lived in the old town on the hill, huddled around the mosques and soukhs (markets).
6. Most Third World cities are important market towns for the surrounding countryside. This is Cairo in Egypt.
7. In India the markets are called bazaars. This narrow shaded street is the bazaar of Amritsar.
8. In many Third World cities there are now European style shops and large department stores as well as the traditional markets such as the bazaars and soukhs. This is Jampale, India.
9. Many cities have modern offices and commercial centres. They have traffic problems in their central business districts. This is New Delhi which was built as the capital of India. Other cities have similar developments and old parts of the town may have been cleared for them although, outside the business areas, the traditional town may be little changed.
10. This graph compares the rate of population increase between rural areas and cities in four Third World countries. It also shows the trend in Turkey, one of the poorer European countries, which is not in the Third World.
11. Cities could not exist without food produced in the countryside. In many parts of the Third World too many people are employed in producing these crops but if modern farming methods are used then they become unemployed. Then people leave for the towns in search of opportunities. This is in the Philippines where many people are flooding into the cities.
12. This farmer in Sri Lanka has packed all his belongings and is on his way to the city.
13. Many people going to the cities will plan to live with relatives and friends. These people in Calcutta, India, have to live in the street. They may have been forced to come to Calcutta by a sudden disaster.
14. Millions of new arrivals in Third World cities live in shanty towns. They are squatters on land at the edges of the cities or on undeveloped land near the city centre. They do not own the land and build shacks of whatever is available. There are no roads and usually no water or sewage disposal. This family in Bogota, Colombia, is lucky to have a tap shared by many other families. Clean water is essential if disease is to be avoided.
15. Many people find work in traditional industries which families share out between each other. In some places tradition limits the choice of work available. In India religious traditions limit the work a Hindu would wish to do. Only people of the lower groups (castes) would wish to work with leather, as here in Old Delhi.
16. In many cities there are beggars. In some, such as Lagos in Nigeria, the government has tried to ban begging. In India begging has for long been a way to make a living and some children are maimed on purpose so that they can go begging. These beggars are in Dacca, Bangladesh.

17. The governments of many Third World countries and the city authorities have little money to provide the services necessary in the cities. Cleansing and public health services, such as this, are essential to prevent outbreaks of diseases such as cholera which could have catastrophic results.
18. Education is essential to development. As more people converge on the cities these are the areas where most schools are necessary. This school is in Laos, South East Asia.
19. Medical care is also essential but there are few doctors. Treatment is often primitive and may depend on traditional superstitions.
20. People need to be able to relax but most have little to spend on leisure although there are in some cities, fine parks, bars, cinemas and travelling shows, for example. This fair is in Baghdad, Iraq.
21. New industries must be provided to relieve unemployment but there are many people waiting for each new job which is created.

This factory is in Quito, Ecuador. Unfortunately, it is difficult for Third World countries to establish new industries.

22. The old slums in the city centres need to be replaced. Some cities, such as Singapore, have more money than others and have replaced many of their slums with small homes in modern blocks of flats. Building methods may be simple and much hand labour may be used, such as in this large development in Bombay.
23. Some new developments have been for prestige rather than meeting real needs. This is the new city of Chandigarh, India, where, for example, the design and buildings are now thought to be unsuitable for this part of the world and have been much too expensive.
24. In some cities people are being encouraged to help themselves to improve conditions using cheap, simple equipment. This couple in Bogota, Colombia have been given the land where they were squatters. They are making bricks for their new home.

The pictures and notes in this set are not intended as a complete treatment of the subject. They provide a core of material to which the teacher can add further materials and questions. Additional sets in the series provide a useful library of pictures to illustrate the general themes of development studies in the Third World. Other relevant folios are to be found under separate sections in this series of "World Studies" and in the series "Themes for Integrated Studies". A large amount of case study material is available, such as that published by CWDE and Oxfam. Well illustrated studies of these general themes may be found in "The Third World" by R.Clare (Macdonald Educational: World Topics. Colour Units) and other books in the same series. Similar themes are considered more simply in "Tropical Forests" and "Hot Deserts" by R.Clare (Edward Arnold: Meet the World).

The author and publishers gratefully acknowledge the help given by the following in supplying information and photographs:— Voluntary Service Overseas; David and Jill Wright; Mary Allwood; ILO; UNICEF; FAO; Keynote Pictures.

Series compiled by:

ROGER CLARE

Published by:

THE RICKITT ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SLIDES  
143 Chatham Road, London SW11 6SR

Published: 11/1978 : S.1264

© Copyright Roger Clare 1978

**TOWNS AND CITIES OF THE THIRD WORLD : QUESTIONS**

(Numbered to correspond with the related slides)

1.
  - a. Describe the traditional buildings. Of what are they made?
  - b. Are there any new buildings? How do they differ from the traditional ones?
  
2.
  - a. Locate St. Lucia on a map of the West Indies.
  - b. Describe the buildings. Of what are they made?
  
3.
  - a. Locate Brunei on a map of South East Asia.
  - b. Describe (1) the houses, (2) the Mosque.
  
4.
  - a. Describe the homes. Of what are they made?
  - b. Why was this town built? What does it look like to you?
  
5.
  - a. Identify (1) the port (2) the old Arab town on the hill.
  - b. Who developed the port?
  
6.
  - a. Why have these people come to Cairo?
  - b. Find examples of different kinds of markets in Third World towns.
  
- 7-8
  - a. How do the streets and shopping facilities differ in these parts of two Indian towns?
  - b. Find examples of different kinds of shopping facilities, including large stores and super-markets, in the Third World.
  
9.
  - a. Describe the busy central area of New Delhi.
  - b. What kinds of traffic are there?
  
10.
  - a. Compare the different increases of urban and rural populations.
  - b. Are such increases found only in the Third World?
  - c. Why do you think that Turkey has a similar pattern?
  - d. Find out if industrially developed countries have a different pattern.

11. Why is this rice important for the expanding cities?
12. Why are people leaving the countryside for the cities?
13.
  - a. Find Calcutta on a map of India.
  - b. Why are many people forced to sleep on the streets of Calcutta?
14.
  - a. Find Bogota on a map of South America.
  - b. What is a shanty town?
  - c. Is this family lucky to be able to share a water stand pipe with others?
15.
  - a. What type of craftsmen are these?
  - b. What is an advantage of the traditional craft industries?
16.
  - a. Why are large numbers of people forced to beg?
  - b. Is begging new in India?
17.
  - a. Why are cleansing services essential?
  - b. What other services do the city authorities need to provide?
  - c. Why may Third World cities not be able to afford these services?
18.
  - a. Why are increasing numbers of schools needed in Third World cities?
  - b. Find out about educational needs in the Third World.
19.
  - a. What is unusual about this doctor's services?
  - b. Find out about the needs of health care in Third World cities.
20.
  - a. Identify Baghdad on a map of the Middle East.
  - b. Why do most Third World cities have few facilities for leisure?

21.
  - a. Identify Quito on a map of South America.
  - b. What is being made?
  - c. How important is it to provide new industries?
  
22.
  - a. What is being built here, in Bombay?
  - b. What difficulties are there in building programmes in Third World cities?
  
23.
  - a. Find examples of impressive developments in Third World cities, such as Caracas in Venezuela.
  - b. Are buildings, such as fine new sports arenas, justified when homes are needed?
  
24.
  - a. What is this couple doing?
  - b. What kinds of encouragement and help do the authorities need to give people if they are to help themselves to build new homes?