

# URBANIZATION



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Nairobi and Johannesburg
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on Urbanization

# Definition

Process by which people are attracted to settlements of large human population

# Factors that Influenced the Development of Early Urban Centers

1. Water availability
2. Religious centres developed into towns
3. Development of transport and communication
4. Places that were secure/strategically placed for defence developed into towns
5. Mineral availability
6. Administrative centres developed into urban centers
7. Trading activities
8. Food availability or development of agriculture
9. Major crossroads

## Early urbanization in Africa

### **Factors which led to the Development of Early Urban Centres in Africa**

1. Development of agriculture
2. Trading activities
3. Existence of trade routes -which connected various places
4. Administrative/royal centres developed into towns e.g. Kumasi

5. Centres of learning — developed into towns e.g. Alexandria, Timbuktu
6. Religious influence/centres
7. Security
8. Water availability
9. Existence of local industries —e.g. Meroe
10. Ports and harbours
11. Cross roads

# Cairo

- ❖ Egyptians referred to it as Misri. Cairo is an Arab word meaning the ‘victorious one’

## Background to the founding of Cairo

- ✓ *Egypt faced a number of invasion several times e.g.*
- ✓ *Rule of the Fatimids (960 4.D - 1100 A.D)*
- ✓ *Syrian rule of 1100— 1249*
- ✓ *Rule of Turkish Mamluks (Mamelukes) 1249 — 1517: Some developments under Mamluks:*
- ✓ *Rule of Ottoman 1517-1798 and 1805- 1882*
- ✓ *French Rule 1798— 1805:*
- ✓ 1922 — Egypt became self-governing
- ✓ 1936 — 1952 — Egypt was ruled by a Turkish dynasty
- ✓ 1952 — Egypt became independent under colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser.

# Factors that contributed to the growth of Cairo

- 1) Water availability from the River Nile
- 2) Agriculture - development of agriculture.
- 3) Cairo was conveniently located astride the Nile.
- 4) Improved ports in the 19th century.
- 5) Opening up of the Suez Canal in 1869 encouraged many Europeans to come to Cairo



6. Opening of the Aswan High Dam in 1902. Aswan High Dam was harnessed for irrigation purposes lead to increased food production.
7. During the first and second world wars, international trade was disrupted. This promoted the growth of domestic industries in Cairo.
8. High population
9. Cairo's rich cultural and religious heritage characterized by monuments dating thousands of years such as the Pyramids of Giza.

## Functions of Cairo

- 1) National capital of Egypt and political centre of the Arab world
- 2) Transport and commercial centre for North Africa and the Middle East
- 3) Recreation centre
- 4) Historical & tourist centre and national focus culture
- 5) Industrial centre — centre of textiles, chemicals, food processing, assembly of vehicles and pyramids
- 6) Medical centre — many hospitals have been built
- 7) Intellectual centre universities i.e. University of Cairo, Al-Azhar and American University
- 8) Religious centre — Cairo is a major Islamic centre

# Problems facing Cairo

- High population — Cairo is the largest city Africa.
- Scarcity of food
- Unemployment
- Pollution from
  - ✓ Industries
  - ✓ Vehicle exhausts
  - ✓ Desert storms
  - ✓ Burning garbage
- Inadequate educational and health facilities
- Poor sanitation
- Acute housing problem - leading to the development of shanties.
- Inadequate infrastructure and hence traffic jams due to congestion on roads
- High crime rate / prostitution / insecurity.

# Solution to Cairo's problems

1. Reclamation of agricultural land
2. Launching of the 'Cairo Metro' a sub-way system in 1987 has eased the traffic jam on the roads
3. Relocation of industries to the suburbs of Cairo e.g. the Helwan suburbs.

## **Meroe (Merowe)**

### ***Founding of Meroe***

- ❑ This town was located at Kush in modern day Sudan below the point where the Atbara river joins the River Nile
- ❑ Founded by Nubians/cushites at about 650 B.C
- ❑ Around 7th Century B.C, they(Nubians) were attacked by Assyrians from Asia and fled southwards, to establish a kingdom known as Kush with its capital at Napata.
- ❑ , Napata was attacked by Egyptians 6th century B.C. making the Nubians to shift their capital to Meroe in the South.

## **Factors that contributed to the growth of Meroe**

- 1) Meroe was a rich agricultural land.
- 2) It was rich in iron and became an important iron working centre
- 3) Meroe had abundant wood fuel, this facilitated iron smelting.
- 4) Meroe was strategically situated up the river and on the trade routes.
- 5) Presence of open grass lands to the east and west were ideal for livestock grazing
- 6) The development of the meroetic religion based on the worship of the Lion-god-Apedemek. This drew many pilgrims to Meroe.

# Functions of Meroe

1. Centre of religion - had many temples and shrines
2. Centre of trade - it was a terminus of caravan routes
3. Administrative centre
4. Iron- working centre/industrial
5. Centre of crafts.

## **Reasons for the decline of Meroe**

1. Decline and collapse of agriculture due to deforestation and overgrazing leading to desertification
2. Deforestation affected the iron industry as there was shortage of wood to smelt iron
3. Deterioration of trade
4. Rise of the kingdom of Axum to the East of Meroe.
5. Conquest of Meroe by King Ezana of the Kingdom of Axum in 350 A.D.



# Kilwa

## Founding of Kilwa

Kilwa's greatness was established in the 15<sup>th</sup> century by Shirazi rulers from the Banadir coast in Persia.

- ❖ One of the prominent Shirazi ruler was Ibn al-Hassan.

# KILWA



# Achievements of Ibn al-Hassan.

1. He transformed Kilwa from a small trading p into a powerful island fortress.
2. Raided along the coast and brought settlements as far as Pemba under Kilwa's control.
3. Constructed a stone citadel which protected Kilwa from invasion
4. Obtained a monopoly of the gold trade and gained economic control over the northern towns
5. Kilwa began minting its own coins
6. Constructed magnificent buildings made of stone Using wealth from the gold trade
7. He constructed the great mosque of Kilwa
8. Another of the Shirazi rulers i.e. Sultan Hassan Ibn Sulaiman II (1310-1333)
  - ✓ Built a large place known to archaeologists as Husuni Kubwa.
  - ✓ Conquered the Mafia Islands.

## Functions of Kilwa

1. A trading centre — based on the gold trade
2. Religious centre e.g. the Great mosque
3. Administrative centre — the Husuni Kubwa i.e. large palace was located here
4. Tourist attraction (the Great Mosque).
5. Architectural centre with numerous splendid buildings e.g. the Great mosque and the Great palace.

# Factors that contributed to the growth of Kilwa

1. Competent leadership provided by the sultans from Persia e.g. All Ibn Al-Hassan
2. Control of the gold trade gave the island a measure of economic control
3. Kilwa had its own currency
4. It was heavily protected against outside attacks by a stone citadel
5. It was strategically positioned for trade
6. Islam unified the people of Kilwa in times of war

## **Factors that contributed to the decline of Kilwa during the 15th Century**

1. Decline of the gold trade
2. Dynastic quarrels and rivalries in the later part of the 15th century
3. Insubordination from towns e.g. Sofala
4. Rise of Mombasa, became a powerful rival to Kilwa
5. The coming and attack by the Portuguese In 1505, whereby, they looted and burnt it down.

# **Early Urbanization in Europe**

## **London**

- ❖ It is the capital city of Great Britain

### **Stages in its growth**

43 AD— 410A.D

Founded by the Romans who conquered Britain in 43A.D

Located on the banks of the Thames River

The initial settlement was called London from where the modern name London derived.

- ❖ **It Developed under the Romans**
- ❖ **It was developed under the Saxon rule From 450 A.D**
- ❖ **It made Developments under Normans; Under the leadership of King William:**

# Factors which influenced the growth of London

1. Trade and commerce
2. Growth of industries e.g. textiles, chemicals, metal works
3. Employment
4. Improved transport network
5. Shipping activities attracted people to London
6. Its location on the banks of River Thames, gave it accessibility to the interior and the sea.



# Functions of London

1. Centre of learning (with many schools, colleges and universities)
2. Centre of cultural activity (drama, opera, the ballet, sculpture and painting)
3. Religious centre with many cathedrals and monasteries
4. An administrative centre
5. Financial hub of Britain
6. Commercial centre
7. Industrial centre
8. Transport and communications centre

# Problems facing London

1. Poor housing leading to the development shanties
2. Poverty especially during its initial stages of growth
3. High crime rate
4. Unemployment
5. Pollution and especially air pollution
6. Rural to urban migration

# Athens

## Foundation of Athens

1. It is one of the ancient Greek city states
2. Was named after Athena. the goddess of wisdom
3. Located on the plain of Attica
4. Athenians were divided into four classes i.e.
  - i. First class — wealthy citizens
  - ii. Second class — provided cavalry for the army
  - iii. Third class — provided soldiers for the infantry
  - iv. Fourth class — poor and slaves

5. It started as a commercial and industrial centre and controlled most of the trade in the Aegean and Black seas
6. Athenians also relied on minerals such as silver and gold
7. Public buildings included:
  - ✓ Public baths
  - ✓ Gymnasiums
  - ✓ The Agora (market centre).

## Problems that faced Athenians in its early stages

- 1) Athenians lived in appalling conditions i.e.
- 2) Mud houses! unbaked bricks and wattle houses
- 3) Weak walls
- 4) Poorly constructed and thatched roofs
- 5) Unpaved, narrow and winding streets
- 6) Cramped and dirty living quarters
- 7) Poor drainage
- 8) Garbage ridden town
- 9) Diseases such as cholera and plague were common

**Athens was razed to the ground in 480 B.C. by Persians and had to be rebuilt i.e.**

- i. New walls were erected
- ii. New houses were built of stone
- iii. Piraeus, the port of Athens was fortified.
- iv. Between 450 - 429 B.C. Athens was ruled by Pericles
- v. It became prosperous
- vi. Became militarily strong
- vii. Trade boomed

# Factors that led to the growth of Athens

1. Trade activities
2. Being an island, it was difficult to be attacked by enemies
3. Availability of minerals
4. The port of Athens facilitated the expansion of the town and promoted trade
5. A powerful army and navy that led to the defeat of the Persians at Marathon (490 B.C) and Salamis (480 B.C)
6. It was a cultural centre that drew many people especially to watch theatres

# Functions of Athens

1. Cultural centre
2. Religious centre — had a large temple, the Parthenon
3. Centre of art and architecture
4. Education centre. Great thinkers emerged in Athens e.g. Aristotle, Pythagoras
5. Centre of sports such as racing, wrestling, ball games etc.
6. Reasons for the decline of Athens
7. Outbreak of war between Athens and Sparta in 431 B.C
8. Plague outbreak in 429 B.C. It led to heavy casualties of human life
9. Destruction of the port city of Piraeus, which had been a source of wealth and power of Athens.
10. Death of their war leader, Pericles



# Emergence of Modern Urban Centers in Africa

## Nairobi

### Origin of Nairobi

- a. It is the capital city of the Republic of Kenya
- b. The name is derived from a Maasai term ‘enkare Nairobi’ meaning a place of waters
- c. It started as a market place for Maasai and Agikuyu traders
- d. Swahili Arab caravans enroute to north also exchanged commodities with the Agikuyu
- e. Its development as a modern town can be traced to the year 1899 when the Uganda railway reached Nairobi.

# NAIROBI CITY



## **Factors influencing the growth of Nairobi**

- 1) Adequate supplies of fresh
- 2) Availability of level land facilitating the construction of a station, workshops and stores
- 3) Strategic location i.e. halfway between Mombasa and L. Victoria
- 4) Located at an altitude of 1700 metres, Nairobi had cool temperatures ideal for European settlement
- 5) The plains to the East and South of Nairobi provided good, agricultural land and hence diversified farming activities such as dairy and estate / plantation farming
- 6) It provided an ideal place on the plains to SW before the ascent to the west
- 7) Transfer of the colonial government's headquarters from Mombasa to Nairobi in 1907.

# Functions of Nairobi

- 1) Administrative centre — It is the seat of government
- 2) Tourist centre. Has numerous tourist attraction e.g. Nairobi National Park, National Museum Bomas of Kenya
- 3) Cultural centre: Bomas of Kenya, National theatre and French cultural centre with the diverse cultures of the people of Kenya
- 4) Educational centre — Has primary schools, secondary schools, polytechniques, colleges and universities
- 5) Commercial and financial centre — Banks and other business offices are located here
- 6) Industrial centre — Has many manufacturing establishments

- 7) Transport and communications centre —  
Connected to other parts of Kenya and the world by road, rail, air and water transport and is also well served by modern communication networks
- 8) International centre — It is the headquarters of several international organizations such as :-
  - a. United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
  - b. United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat)
  - c. African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF)
  - d. International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)
  - e. International Livestock and Research Institute (ILRI)
  - f. It also houses embassies of various foreign countries

9) Nairobi has also hosted numerous international meetings e.g.

- a. UNCTAD conference — 1975
- b. OAU heads of state and government summit—1981
- c. IGAD meetings
- d. COMESA meetings
- e. All Africa games — 1987

# Problems facing Nairobi

- 1) Overpopulation
- 2) Inadequate housing — leading to development of slums
- 3) Unemployment — and consequent rise in crime rate, alcoholism, prostitution and drug abuse
- 4) Traffic congestion
- 5) Inadequate social services such as education and health facilities
- 6) Overstretched sewerage services and poor sanitation
- 7) Poor town planning leading to poor drainage

- 8) Pollution especially from industries
- 9) Inadequate clean water
- 10) Rising number of street families
- 11) Water shortage
- 12) High rate of HIV/AIDS infection
- 13) Problem of waste disposal i.e garbage collection. Disposal services are overstretched
- 14) Inadequate public transport.



## **Solutions to these problems**

1. Construction of new housing units
2. Implementation of the cost-sharing strategy to help expand the educational facilities
3. Rehabilitation of street families
4. Expansion of the informal sector in order to create more jobs
5. Development of new water projects to ease the water problem
6. Construction of dual carriage ways, expanding matatu fleets and enforcing traffic rules, use of railway commuter services to ease the transport problem
7. Sensitizing Kenyans on HI V/AIDs
8. The private sector has also been involved in delivery of services in Nairobi e.g. Garbage collection.

# Johannesburg

## Factors influencing its growth

1. Discovery of large deposits of gold at the Witwatersrand in 1886
2. Existence of other minerals such as iron ore, fluorspar, chromite and diatomite
3. Water availability from the Vaal river for mining, industrial and domestic use
4. Its location on the plain facilitated construction work
5. Availability of coal for energy from the nearby coal fields
6. Availability of fertile soils for agriculture
7. The town is centrally located, connecting various parts of Southern Africa
8. Availability of cheap labour from among the *black people in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique*
9. Growth of manufacturing industries.

# Functions of Johannesburg

- 1) Education centre — has schools, colleges and universities
- 2) Industrial centre
- 3) Transport and communications centre
- 4) Cultural centre — has museums, galleries and theatres
- 5) Commercial and financial centre
- 6) International centre — hosted the all Africa Games (1999), UN World Summit (2002) and Cricket world cup finals (2003).

# Problems facing Johannesburg

1. Over population
2. Inadequate housing and rise of shanties
3. Industrial pollution
4. HIV/AIDS
5. Unemployment and poverty especially among the black people in South Africa
6. Rising crime rate
7. Overstretched social amenities such as education and health

- 8) Hostilities among the people of South Africa during the apartheid era and after
- 9) Persistent racial tension
- 10) Traffic congestion
- 11) Challenge of revenue collection rendered. This originated from culture of the apartheid regime
- 12) Poor sanitation.

## **Solutions to these problems**

1. Racial hostility has been solved by the ending of the apartheid era
2. Construction of better housing estates through slum upgrading
3. Creating HIV/AIDS awareness among the people of South Africa
4. Crime is contained by creating more job opportunities and also policing the city to curb criminal activities.

# Impact of Agrarian and Industrial Developments on Urbanization

1. Communities became sedentary. *They congregated in small settlements which grew into villages, towns and big cities*
2. The Agrarian revolution displaced many peasants who moved to urban centers in search of employment. *This contributed to the expansion of urban centres*
3. The agrarian revolution led to adequate food supply for the urban population
4. Production of surplus agricultural and industrial goods
5. Development of a class system in urban due to different professions
6. Job specialization - Some people acquired various skills such as farming, others crafts men and blacksmiths etc

7. The Agrarian revolution led to the production of raw materials for industry. *Hence many factories were established and this drew people to towns in search of jobs*
8. The industrial revolution relied on mineral resources. *Places where huge deposits of mineral were found developed into towns*
9. The transport and communication development that accompanied the agrarian and industrial developments enabled people to travel from rural to urban centres faster and also from urban to urban centres
10. Industrial developments led to pollution of air and water in towns



11. The continuous influx of people into agrarian and industrial towns led to:

- i. Overstretching of social amenities
- ii. Over crowding
- iii. Slum development
- iv. Poor sanitation
- v. Unemployment,
- vi. High crime rate and
- vii. Poor living conditions.

# KCSE SAMPLE QUESTIONS



The End 