Urbanization Focus

- analyse the impact on natural and human systems of some of the side-effects of urbanization and urban growth (e.g., the destruction of wildlife habitat, traffic congestion, land-use conflicts)

(OMoE, Canadian & World Studies Curriculum document, 2005)

Keywords

urbanization

rural

urban

rural-urban migration

megacity

counterurbanization

squatter settlement

shantytown

favella

Urbanization Questions:

If you were developing a set of questions to learn about and analyze urbanization, based on a geographical framework for inquiry what questions would you come up with?

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Urbanization Questions:

If you were developing a set of questions to learn about and analyze urbanization, based on a geographical framework for inquiry what questions would you come up with?

- What is "urban" and "urbanization"?
- Where does urbanization occur?
- Why do people migrate to cities?
- How is urbanization important (i.e. why is urbanization a world issue?)

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What is 'Urban'?

- generally refers to people living in towns and cities; however, it is defined differently in different countries, so precise comparisons are not directly possible

- reflects FIVE distinguishing characteristics

1. POPULATION: requires a minimum population

Canada - 1000

Denmark - 200

Greece - 10, 000

United States - 2, 500

● time is also a factor (e.g. in ancient/medieval times 5,000 people considered a major city)

Human Settlement Continuum (HSC)

	Type	**Example**

Urban

Megalopolis (agglomeration of megacities)

Mega-City (>5 million; >8 million;>10 million)

Metropolis (>100,000 - CMA)

City (>10,000)

Town (1,000 - 10,000)

- -

Village (100 - 1,000)

Hamlet (<100)

Farm (family)

Rural

Cities with more than 10 million people in the year 2015

19. Istanbul, Turkey
21. Moscow, Russian Federation
20. Beijing, China
11. Karachi, Pakistan
10. Calcutta, India
15. Shanghai, China
14. Los Angeles,** U.S.A.
6. New York,* U.S.A.
1. Tokyo, Japan
18. Osaka-Kobe, Japan
22. Paris, France
7. Dhaka, Bangladesh
13. Cairo, Egypt
16. Manila, Philippines
4. Mexico City, Mexico
9. Lagos, Nigeria
3. Delhi, India
2. Mumbai, India
8. Jakarta, Indonesia
17. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
5. São Paulo, Brazil
12. Buenos Aires, Argentina

* Refers to the New York to Newark urbanized areas
** Refers to the Los Angeles to Long Beach to Santa Ana urbanized areas

10-15 million people
16-19 million people
20-37 million people

Data source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision*

Based on the data shown here, write a statement to describe the location of megacities.

2. ECONOMIC BASE: contains a wide range of economic activities (secondary, tertiary, and quaternary), but NO primary economic activities

3. POLITICAL ORGANIZATION: have local self-government which controls issues within a specific area delineated by jurisdiction (e.g. collect taxes, provide services, enacts laws)

4. CULTURE: are centres of cultural variety and innovation, but most creative output is generated in metropolitan areas

5. LANDSCAPE: architectural and symbolic monuments to demonstrate the achievements of civilization

<u>Urban Growth</u> refers to an increase in the absolute numbers of people living in urban areas
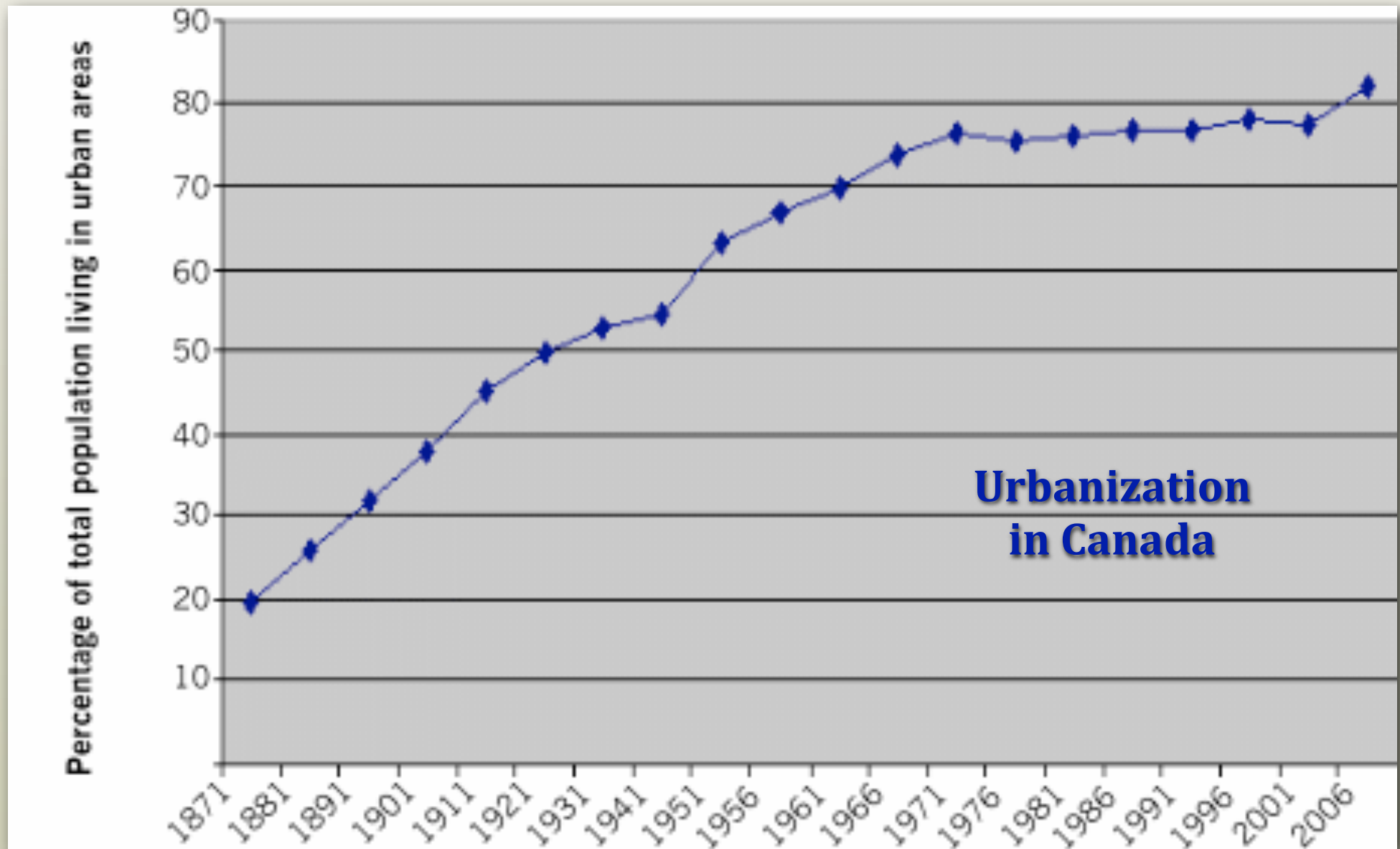
<u>Urbanization</u> an increase in the proportion (%) of people living in urban areas to the proportion (%) of people living in rural areas.

Prior to the industrial revolution, 95% of people lived in rural areas on farms and in small villages = only 5% were urban.
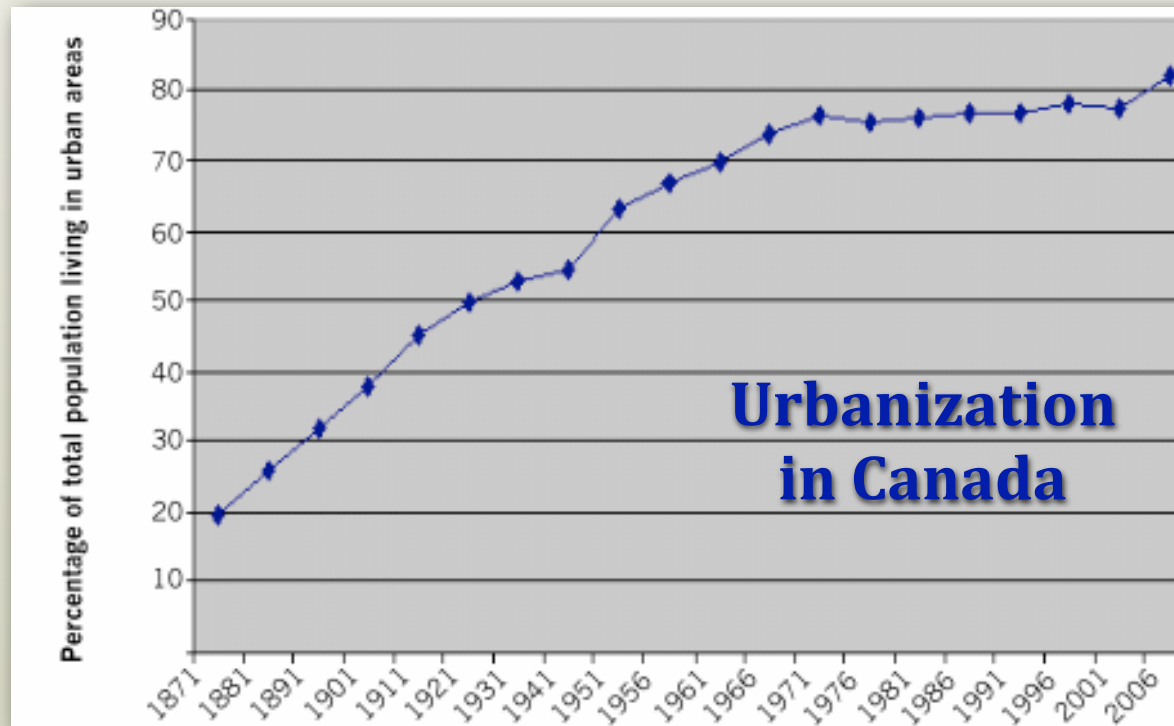
With the mechanization of farming, machines began to replace people. This coincided with the need for a labour force to run factories in the cities.

The result was **<u>rural-to-urban migration</u>**: the steady movement of people from rural to urban areas. By the 1920s, Canada's urban population had grown larger than its rural population.

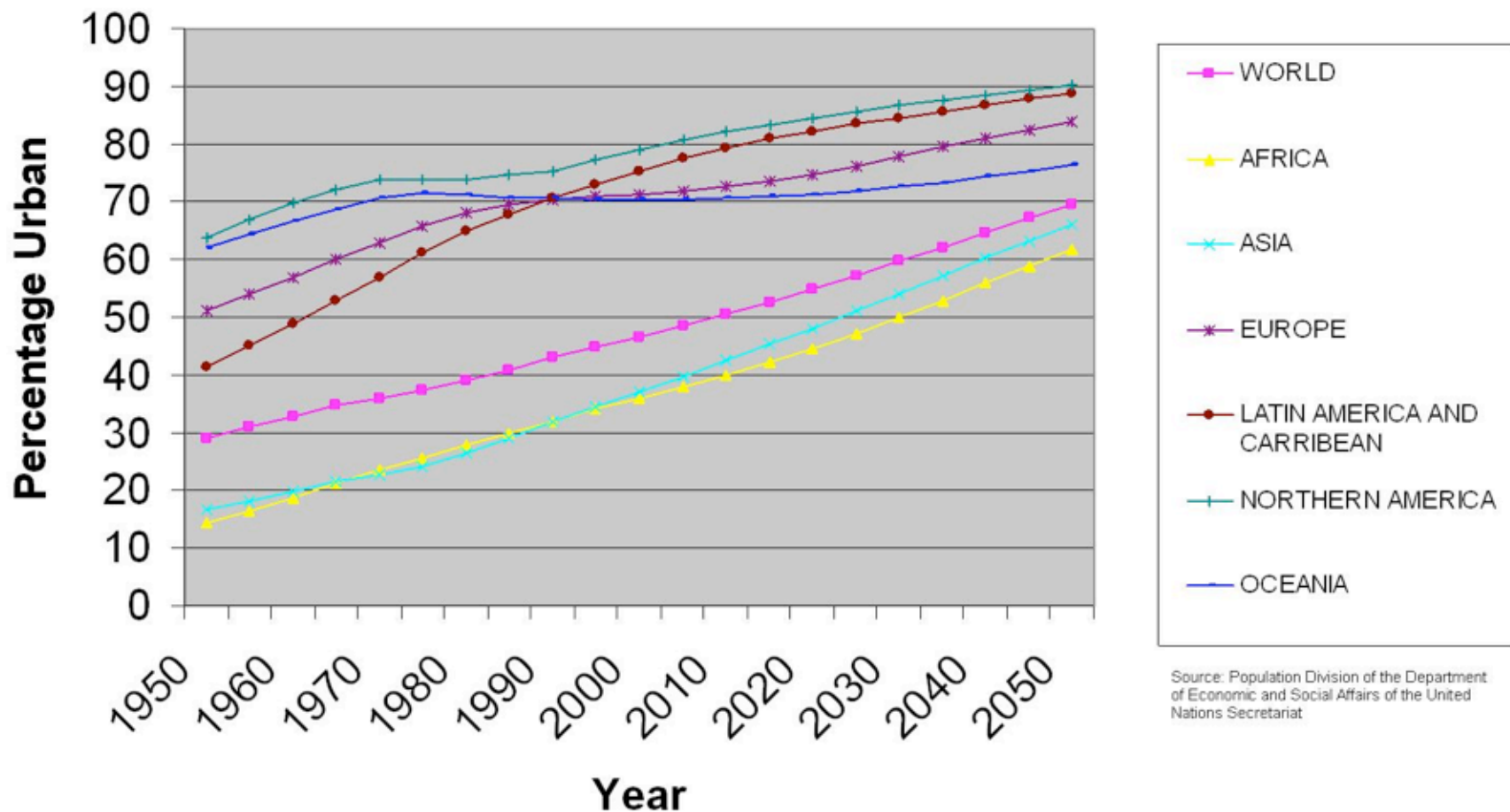# What does this graph tell you about urbanization in Canada?

Urbanization in Canada

What does this graph tell you about urbanization in Canada?

Urbanization in Canada

- 20% urban in 1871;
- rose steadily to 50% in 1931 and to 78% by 1971 where it has remained
- at about 80% urban, Canada is one of the most urbanized of countries; most MDCs have followed the same pattern
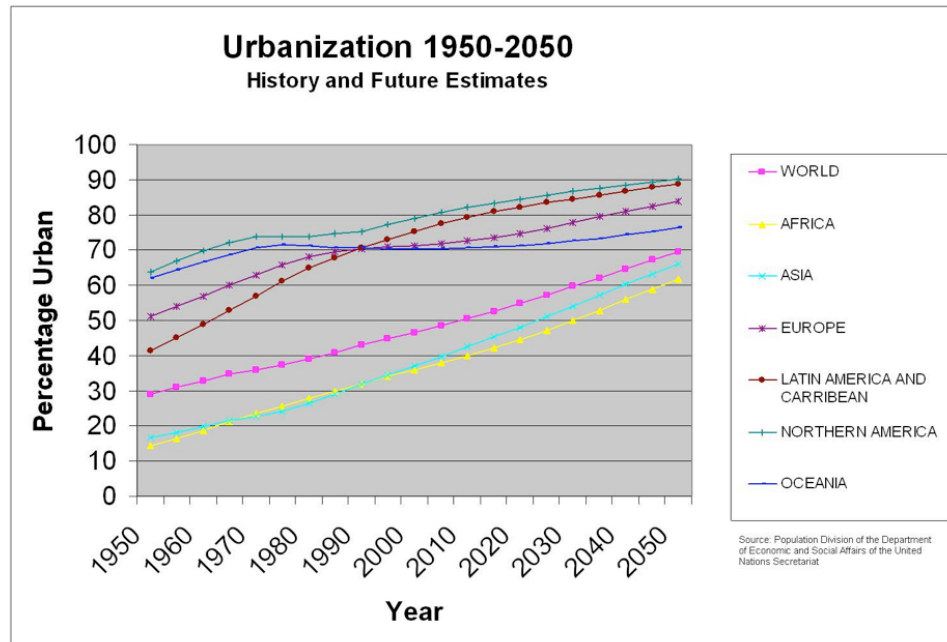
What does this graph tell you about world urbanization?

Urbanization 1950-2050
History and Future Estimates

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

What does this graph tell you about world urbanization?

Urbanization 1950-2050
History and Future Estimates

- in 2000, North America, Europe & South America most urbanized at ~80%

- Asia & Africa at ~35% but increasing the fastest

- by 2050, Asia & Africa over 60% urban

Cities with more than 10 million people in the year 2015

19. Istanbul, Turkey
21. Moscow, Russian Federation
20. Beijing, China
11. Karachi, Pakistan
15. Shanghai, China
10. Calcutta, India
6. New York,* U.S.A.
1. Tokyo, Japan
14. Los Angeles,** U.S.A.
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- 10-15 million people
- 16-19 million people
- 20-37 million people

Note: This list of cities may differ from other sources due to differences in how cities and urban areas/agglomerations are defined.

...on Division, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision*

Cities with more than 10 million people in the year 2015

Cities in both MDCs and LDCs share some issues common to cities around the world. At the same time, there are some significant differences.
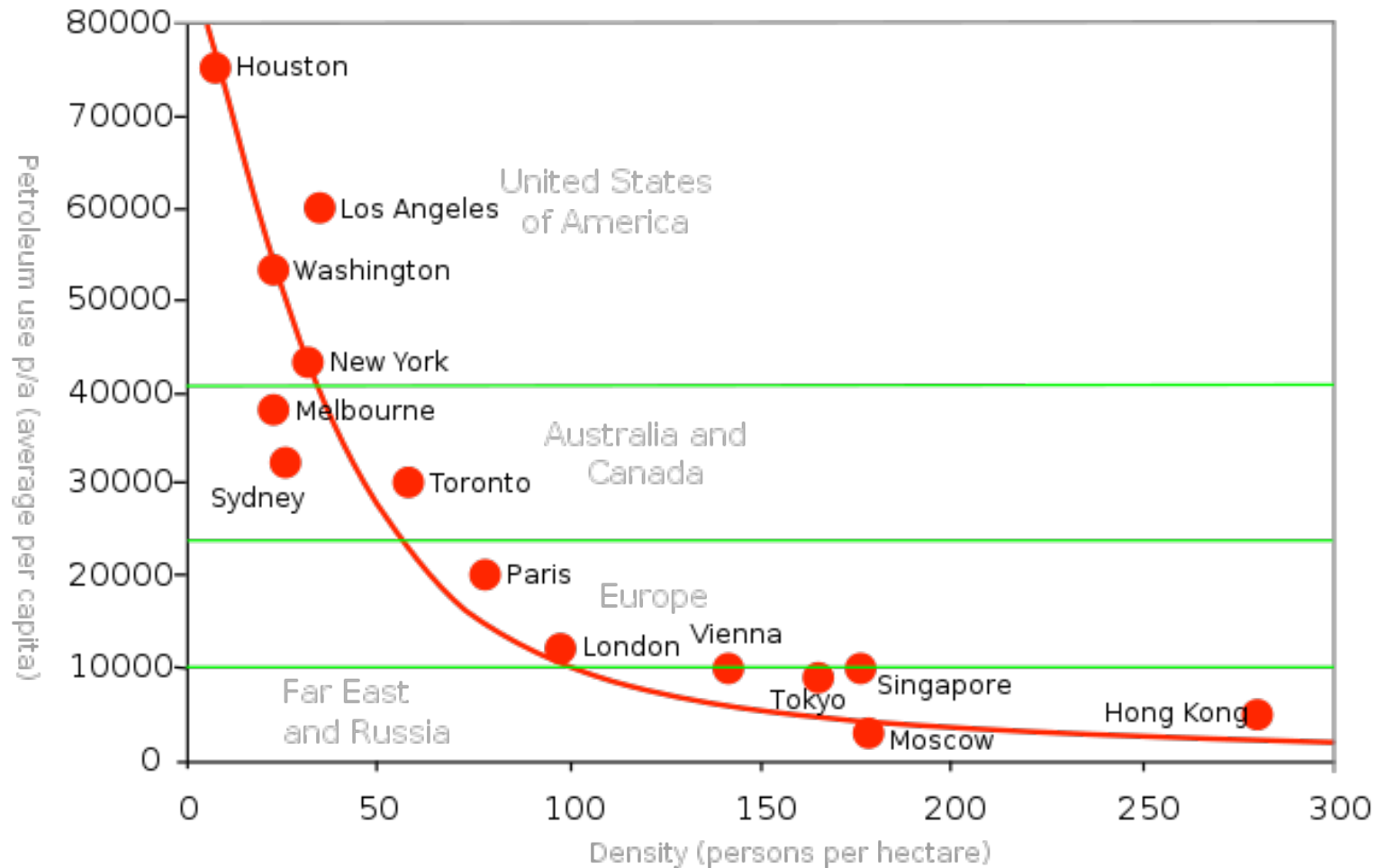
Issues in MDCs

Based on your knowledge, what difficulties are cities in MDCs facing?

Check your list against this list:

- urban sprawl
- low income inner city areas
- homelessness
- traffic

Relationship between Transport and Land Use

A commonly used study of 32 cities by Newman & Kenworthy in 1989 concluded that there was a strong link between urban development densities and petroleum consumption.

Annual petroleum use per capita adjusted to US MJ (1980)
After Andrew Wright Associates, small section taken from 'Towards an Urban Renaissance',
Urban Task Force Partnership, 1999, © DETR, 1999