
Urbanization as a global trend: causes and consequences

Abstract. *Since ancient times, cities have been places of attraction for people, the center of thought and innovation. The Industrial Revolution and subsequent industrialization noticeably accelerated the movement of people from rural areas to cities. The emergence and development of the Internet and technology have turned the rapid growth of cities into a real boom. Today, cities are the centers of the social, economic, political, and cultural life of their countries. This article attempts to explain and assess the scale of urbanization, as well as to predict its further course. The article examines the process of urbanization that has acquired a planetary scale over the past few decades. The object of the study is considered a global trend. The concept is reflected that in the future the city will become the main model of human settlement. The theory that urbanization directly correlates with economic growth, thereby being its main driver, is considered. The causes and consequences, both positive and negative, of the considered process are investigated. The article, in particular, considers and typologies of urbanization in Kazakhstan. In addition, the article analyzes and compares the growth rates of the urban and rural populations both in the world as a whole and in Kazakhstan, in particular.*

Keywords: *urbanization processes, urban population, urban growth, urbanization in Kazakhstan.*

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Introduction

History clearly demonstrates that the main achievements of civilization are inextricably linked with the growth of cities. The development of cities contributed to the growth of the welfare of society, and the development of culture and social life. The proof of this is the level of urbanization - the percentage of the urban population to the total population of the country - which is high in developed countries and low in countries with low per capita income.

In most countries of the world, there is a steady trend towards urbanization, which is a natural consequence and incentive of economic

development going through the stages of industrialization and post-industrialization [1].

So, since 2018, the share of the urban population exceeds the share of the rural population. The gap is increasing every day and will only increase. According to the UN, by 2050 the share of the world's urban population will be 2/3 (68%) of the world's population [2]. For comparison: back in the 1950s, the share of the urban population was 30%. A similar ratio of the world population in favor of the rural population was in the 1960s, and in less than a century the picture of world settlement is moving towards acquiring a polar appearance. It is obvious that cities are gradually becoming the main form of human settlement,

and the process of urban population growth and the role of cities in the development of society - urbanization - is becoming a global trend.

Since ancient times, cities have been places of concentration of human life, places of achievements and overthrows, historical discoveries and events. Several centuries later, similar processes continue to occur in cities. On top of this, cities are facing unprecedented population growth rates.

Research methods

The interdisciplinary method was chosen as the main method of studying urbanization as a global trend. Historical, sociological, and comparative research methods were also used to confirm the global nature of urbanization processes.

Discussion

The trend of urbanization is global. For example, the population of Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, in 1975 was 7.2 million. By 2030, it will grow to 24 million. Across Nigeria, the proportion of the urban population has increased eightfold over the same period of time. Even more eloquent is the fact that in the same 1975, there were only three ten-million agglomerations in the world - Tokyo, New York, and Mexico City. Today there are already 31 of them, and by 2030 there will be ten more.

It is worth noting that despite the global nature, the levels of urbanization in different geographical regions vary greatly. A comparison of the levels of urbanization and socio-economic development of different countries shows a direct relationship between these indicators.

Table 1. The share of the urban population of the 10 largest economies in the world in 2020

Country	Share of the urban population	Country's status
USA	82.7%	developed
China	61.4%	developing
Japan	91.8%	developed

Germany	77.5%	developed
UK	83.9%	developed
India	34.9%	developing
France	81%	developed
Italy	71%	developed
Canada	81.6%	developed
Republic of Korea	81.4%	developed

Cities are experiencing what Brookings Institution researcher Bruce Katz calls a «metropolitan revolution.» Financial capitals - New York and London - are turning into the world's largest centers. This process is typical for many other cities undergoing similar transformations caused by the global trend toward urbanization [3].

Causes of urbanization

The wave of urban population growth is driven by the desire of more and more people to get access to the best social and economic benefits (better education, healthcare, housing, career opportunities, business, and self-realization).

The main causes of urbanization:

1. Industrialization - the transition from the traditional stage of development to the industrial one - has expanded employment opportunities, giving people the opportunity to work in modern sectors of the economy.
2. Commercialization. Commerce and trade are related to the general idea that cities provide better opportunities compared to rural areas.
3. Developed sphere of goods and services. Living in cities has many social advantages - better living conditions, better healthcare, better conditions for recreation, and a better social life in general.
4. Technology development. In the age of digitalization, many human needs are quickly met thanks to the development of technologies that are mostly concentrated in cities.

Global urbanization has led to the fact that cities have become drivers of economic growth. According to economic geographer Z. N. Galich,

Table 2. The ratio of the shares of the rural and urban population of the world from 1960 to 2020

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2018	2019	2020
Rural	66,4%	63,4%	60,7%	57%	53,3%	48,4%	44,7%	44,3%	43,8%
Urban	33,6%	36,6%	39,3%	43%	46,7%	51,6%	55,3%	55,7%	56,2%

urbanization is a prerequisite for development. The more employed people there are in a city, the higher the economic growth. Therefore, urbanization is not just relocation, but also the participation of people in global economic life [4]. For example, 65% of the US population lives in cities and produces 75% of the country's GDP.

Urbanization in Kazakhstan

Since the 1960s, there are two periods of urbanization can be distinguished in Kazakhstan:

1. The Soviet period (1960-1991), characterized by Soviet urban planning. A distinctive feature of this period is the lack of connection between urban growth and economic growth;

2. The period of independent Kazakhstan (1991-present) is characterized by the process of nation-building: the transfer of the capital, the repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs, the promotion of a multi-ethnic society, the transition to a market economy.

According to the analytical portal Finprom, the share of the urban population in Kazakhstan is 58.5%. In 2020, the two largest cities of the country demonstrate the highest population growth rates: Nur-Sultan (+5.3%) and Almaty (+3.3%) [5].

Urbanization is one of the priority directions of the country's development. According to the State Program for the Development of Territories for 2020-2025, by 2025 the level of urbanization in

the country should be 62.6%. At the same time, the government seeks to control its growth, namely, to ensure the gradual migration waves in order to avoid overpopulation and social tension [6].

Consequences of urbanization

Despite the seemingly obvious reasons for moving to cities, urban population growth has negative effects, the main and main of which is overpopulation. The infrastructure created in cities is designed for the needs of a certain number of residents, and in case of its sharp increase, the quality of services provided decreases.

To satisfy the needs of the urban population and for the functioning of all urban systems, an industrial complex (enterprises, factories) carries its operation with waste, harmful emissions and toxins. The activities of such enterprises play a direct role in global warming and are a real environmental problem on a planetary scale.

The World Health Organization also warns about the harm to health that urbanization brings with it. The main reason for this is the pollution of fresh water reservoirs by enterprises serving the needs of the urban population. The construction of the main urban goods - roads, houses, buildings - leads to a decrease in the groundwater level [8]. As a result, millions of people face a shortage of clean water every day.

In addition to the above consequences, the main negative consequence of the social effect of urbanization is stratification - unequal access

Table 3. Ratios of the shares of rural and urban population of Kazakhstan from 1960 to 2020

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2018	2019	2020
Rural	55,8%	49,8%	45,9%	43,7%	43,9%	43,2%	42,6%	42,5%	42,3%
Urban	44,2%	50,2%	54,1%	56,3%	56,1%	56,8%	57,4%	57,5%	57,7%

to social benefits and satisfaction of needs. As a result, stratification leads to marginalization and an increase in criminality. Today, it is the cities that are the center of crimes.

Conclusion

In recent decades, urbanization has acquired a global scale. Urban population growth is observed all over the world. Urbanization has both significant advantages and disadvantages. If they are not managed properly, these shortcomings will be detrimental to cities, countries and the planet as a whole. For the sustainability, governments and the society need to cooperate

and solve the problems and challenges created by urbanization.

Cities are the basis for the implementation of state industrialization programs, at the same time, without being confined to the tasks of industrialization, cities must adapt to post-industrial trends, new challenges of our time, developing new models of urban growth and development.

The positive and negative consequences of urbanization are a complex reflection of the process, indicating its imperfection, as well as the need for control through public policy and self-government.

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Урбанизация жаһандық тренд ретінде: себептері мен салдары

Аңдатпа. Ежелгі заманнан бері қалалар адамдарды қызықтыратын орын, ой мен инновацияның орталығы болды. Өнеркәсіптік революция және одан кейінгі индустрияландыру адамдардың ауылдық жерлерден қалаларға көшуін айтарлықтай жеделдетті. Интернет пен технологияның пайда болуы мен

дамуы қалалардың қарқынды өсуін нағыз серпіліске айналдырды. Бүгінгі таңда қалалар өз елдерінің әлеуметтік, экономикалық, саяси және мәдени өмірінің орталықтары болып табылады. Бұл мақалада урбанизацияның ауқымын түсіндіруге және бағалауға, сондай-ақ оның одан әрі барысын болжауға тырысады. Мақалада соңғы бірнеше онжылдықта планетарлық масштабқа ие болған урбанизация процесі қарастырылған. Зерттеу нысаны жаһандық тренд ретінде қарастырылады. Тұжырымдамада болашақта қала адамдарды қоныстандырудың негізгі моделіне айналатыны көрсетілген. Урбанизация экономикалық өсумен тікелей байланысты деген теория қарастырылады, осылайша оның негізгі қозғаушы күші болады. Қарастырылып отырған процестің оң және теріс себептері мен салдары зерттеледі. Атап айтқанда, мақалада Қазақстанда урбандалу қарастырылады және типологияланады. Бұдан басқа, мақалада жалпы әлемде, сондай-ақ Қазақстанда қала және ауыл халқының өсу қарқыны талданады және салыстырылады.

Түйін сөздер: урбандалу процестері, қала халқы, қалалардың өсуі, Қазақстандағы урбандалу.

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Урбанизация как глобальный тренд: причины и последствия

Аннотация. Издревле города были местами притяжения людей, центром мысли и инноваций. Промышленная революция и последовавшая за ней индустриализация заметно ускорили переезд людей из сельских местностей в города. Появление и развитие интернета и технологий превратили стремительный рост городов в настоящий бум. Сегодня города – это центры социальной, экономической, политической и культурной жизни своих стран. В настоящей статье дана попытка объяснить и оценить масштабы урбанизации, а также спрогнозировать ее дальнейший ход. В статье исследуется приобретенный за последние несколько десятилетий планетарный масштаб процесс урбанизации. Объект исследования рассматривается как глобальный тренд. Отражено понятие о том, что в будущем город станет основной моделью расселения людей. Рассмотрена теория о том, что урбанизация напрямую коррелирует с экономическим ростом, тем самым являясь его основным драйвером. Исследуются причины и последствия рассматриваемого процесса. Среди последствий рассмотрены как положительные, так и отрицательные стороны урбанизации. В статье, в частности, рассмотрена урбанизация в Казахстане. Дана ее типология. Кроме того, в статье анализируются темпы роста городского населения и их соотношения с сельским населением как во всем мире в целом, так и в Казахстане в частности.

Ключевые слова: урбанизационные процессы, городское население, рост городов, урбанизация в Казахстане.

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