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# European Urban Research in Global Context

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# European Urban Research in Global Context

- Prelude: Positive Urban Images
- Part 1: Global Urban Trends
- Part 2: Urban Challenges – Pointers for Research
- Part 3: Exploring the Nature of Urban Research

PRELUDE

**Positive Urban Images**



Bombay (Mumbai)

Sources: Mumbai in Pictures:  
<http://www.cs.utah.edu/~suyash/Images/Mumbai/Mumbai.html>; Berlin Tourism Site: <http://www.berlin.de>

Berlin





Chicago

London



Sources: Getty Images

# Melbourne



# Milan

Sources: Getty Images



Sao Paulo

Sources: Estação Metr pole;  
<http://www.estacaometropole.bravehost.com/> and Getty  
Images

Shanghai



# Tokyo



# Warsaw

Sources: Explore Japan: <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/>  
and City of Warsaw Official Website 'E-Warsaw'  
<http://www.e-warsaw.pl/>

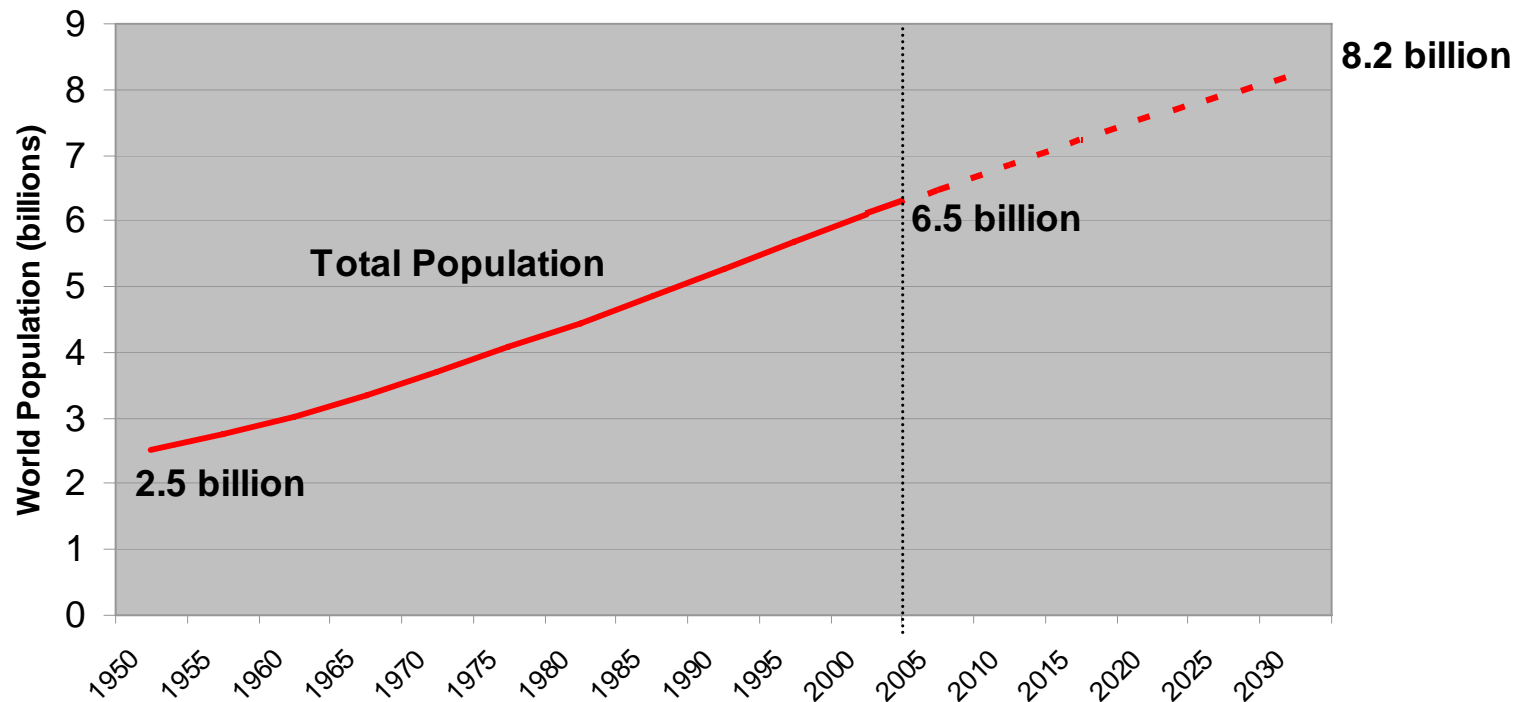


# PART 1

## **Global Urban Trends**

# World Population Growth

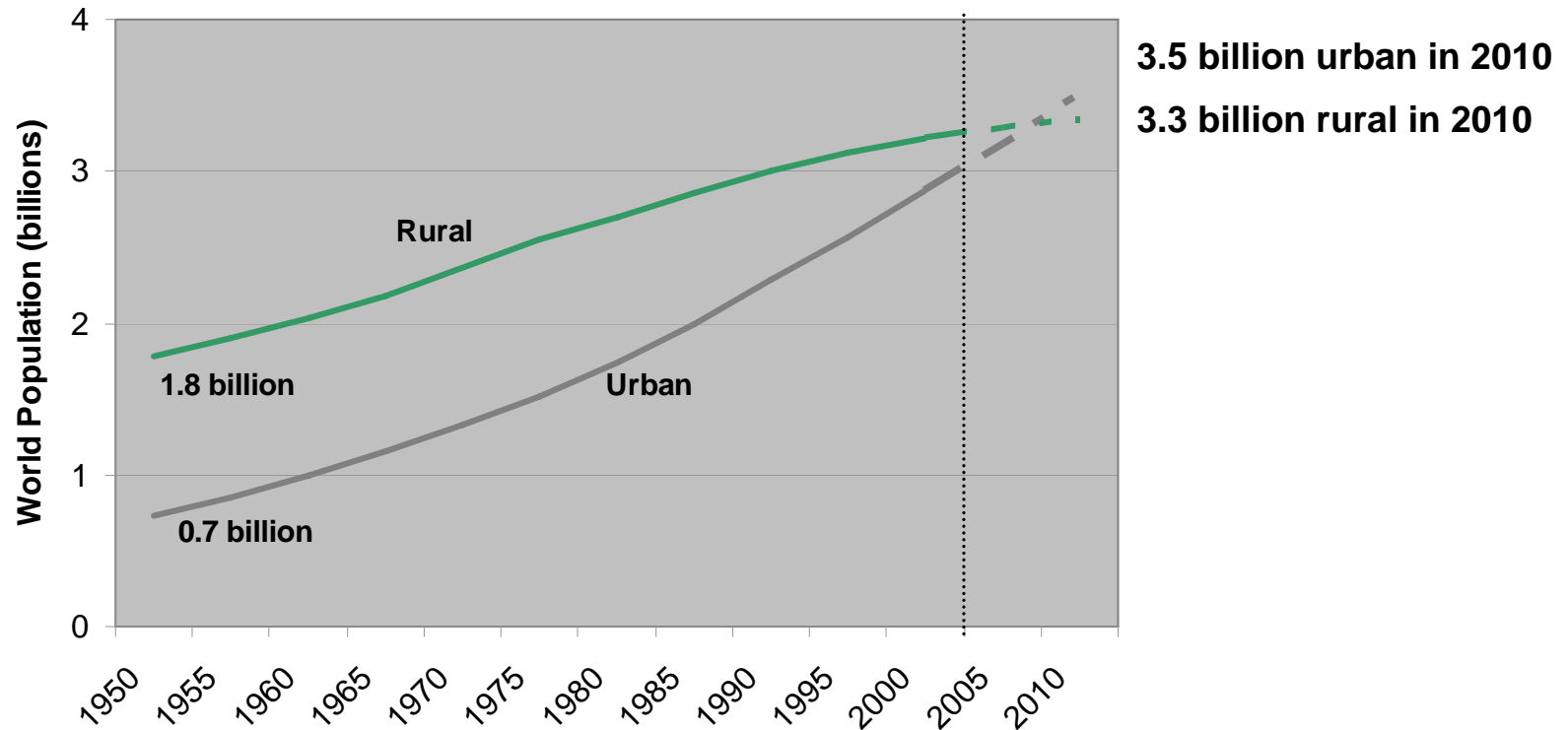
- Total world population is projected to grow from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 8.2 billion in 2030.



Source: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, <http://esa.un.org/unup/>

# The world goes urban in 2007

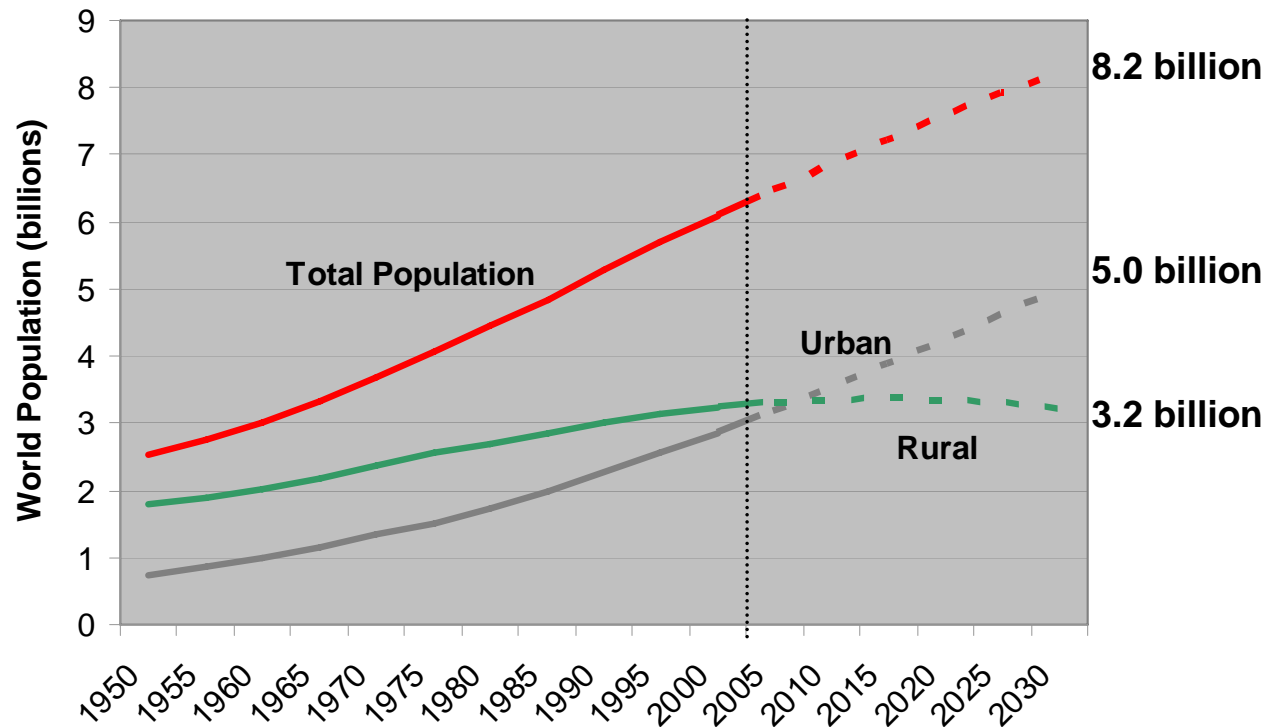
- In 2007, for the first time ever, more people will live in urban areas than in rural areas.



Source: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, <http://esa.un.org/unup/>

# The future is largely urban

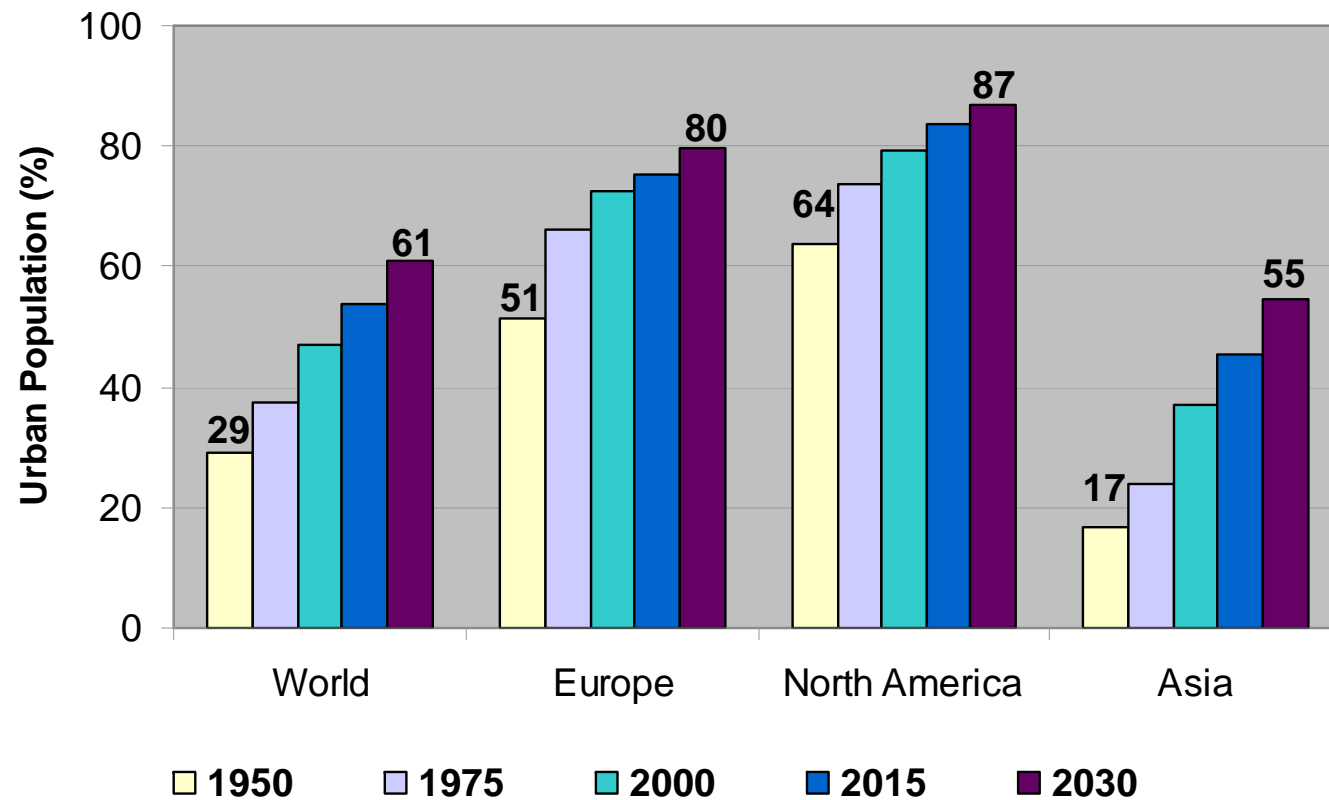
- By 2030, there will be 5 billion people living in urban areas (61% of the estimated world population of 8.2 billion).



Source: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, <http://esa.un.org/unup/>

# Urbanized populations by continent

- The population is urbanizing at different rates in different continents



Source: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, <http://esa.un.org/unup/>

# Country population projections

- Projections for 2000 – 2050 suggest some countries will grow at a spectacular rate, while some will actually decline.

<b>Population change 2000-2050 (millions)</b>			
<b>Population increase (top nine)</b>	<b>Population decline (top nine)</b>		
1 India	572	1 Russian Federation	- 35
2 Pakistan	162	2 Ukraine	- 23
3 Nigeria	141	3 Japan	- 15
4 Congo	127	4 Italy	- 7
5 China	118	5 Poland	- 7
6 Bangladesh	114	6 Romania	- 5
7 USA	111	7 Germany	- 4
8 Uganda	103	8 Belarus	- 3
9 Ethiopia	102	9 Bulgaria	- 3

Source: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, <http://esa.un.org/unup/>

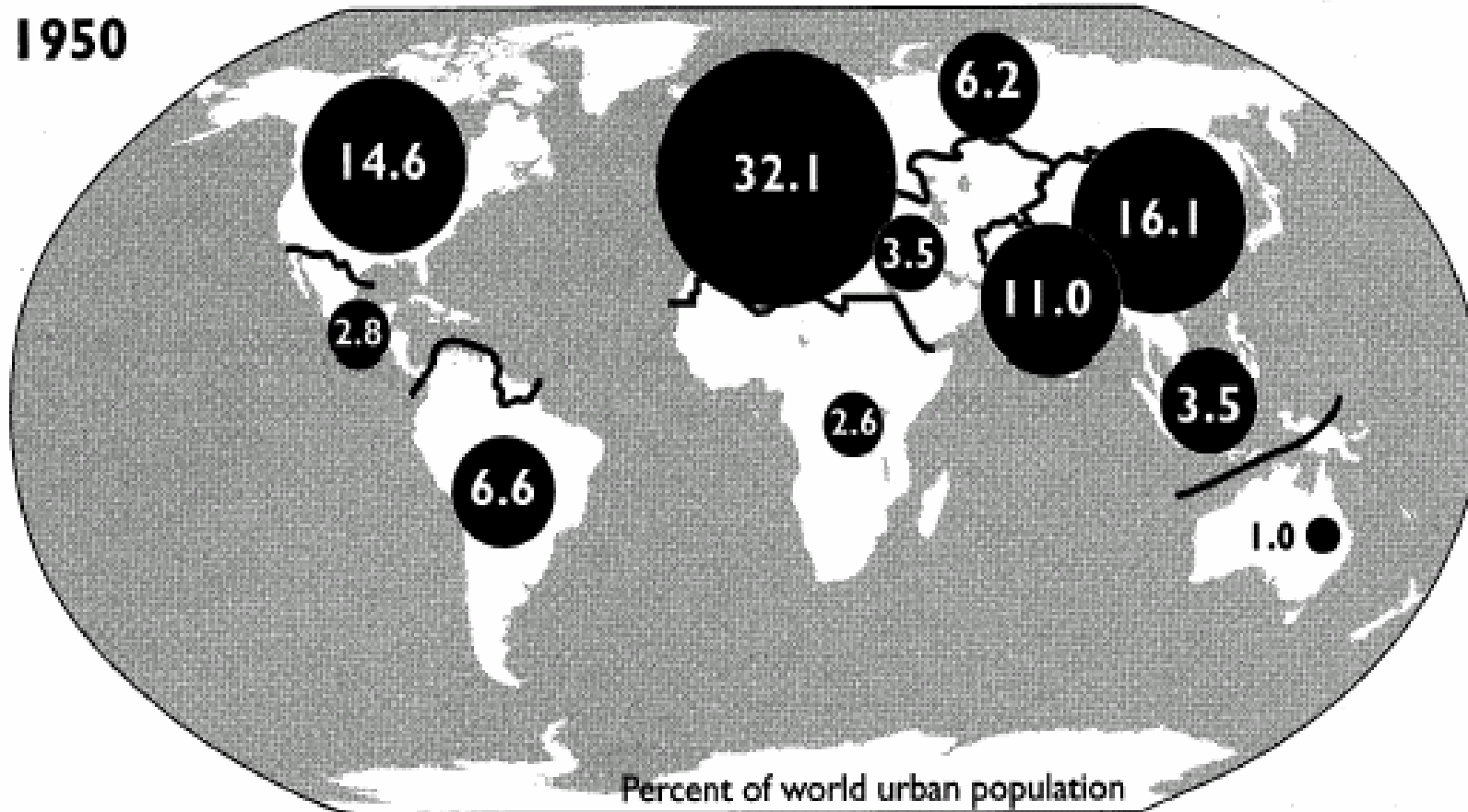
# Largest urban agglomerations

- Some of the biggest mega-cities used to be in Europe
- But not anymore...

1950 (population, millions)			2015 (population, millions)		
1	New York	12.3	1	Tokyo	36.2
2	London	8.7	2	Mumbai (Bombay)	22.6
3	Tokyo	6.9	3	Delhi	20.9
4	Paris	5.4	4	Mexico City	20.6
5	Moscow	5.4	5	São Paulo	20.0
6	Shanghai	5.3	6	New York	19.7
7	Rhine-Ruhr North	5.2	7	Dhaka	17.9
8	Buenos Aires	5.0	8	Jakarta	17.5
9	Chicago	4.9	9	Lagos	17.0
10	Calcutta	4.4	10	Calcutta	16.8

Source: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, <http://esa.un.org/unup/>

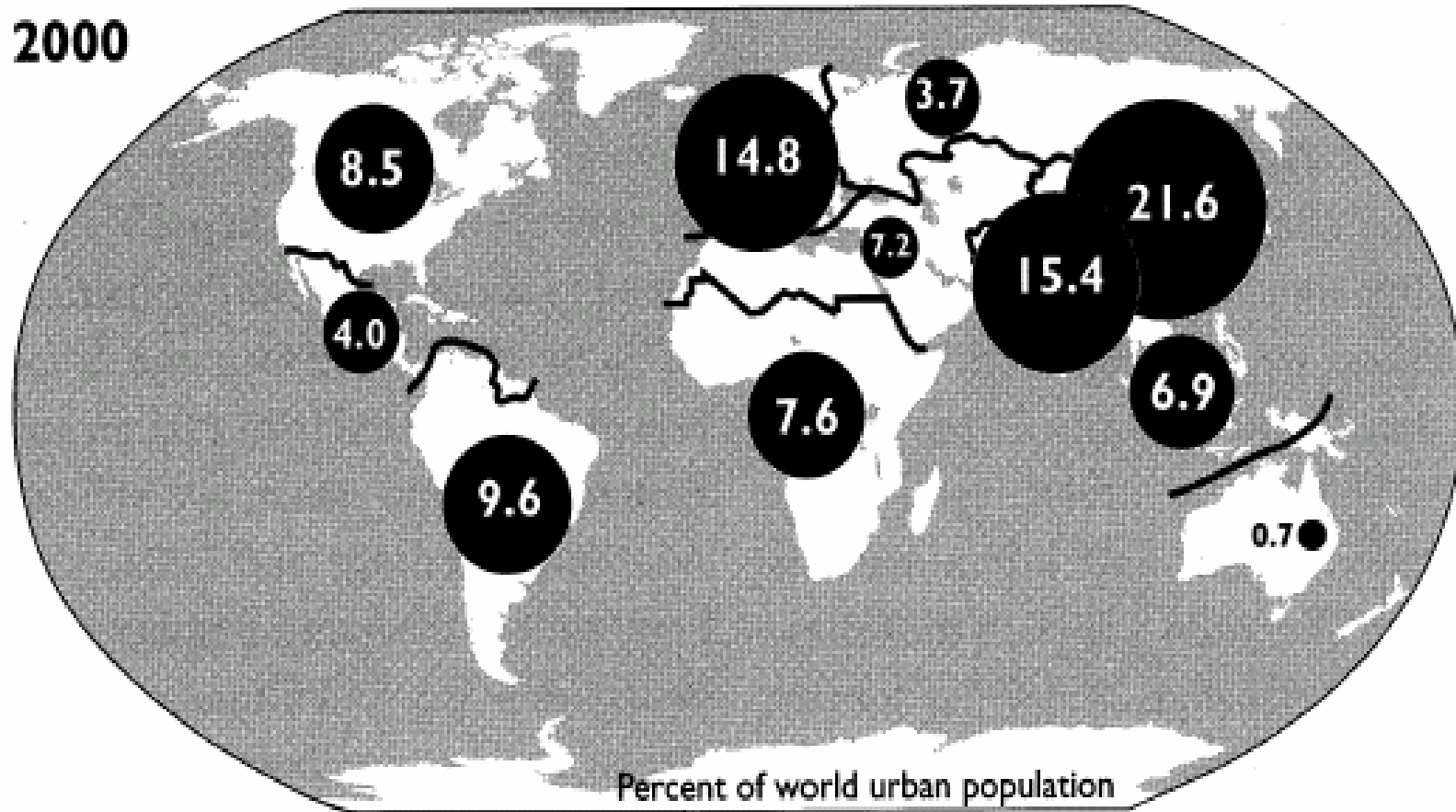
# World urban population (%): 1950



Source: Data from United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects, 2001 Revision (New York: United Nations Population Division, 2002), [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). Brunn et al (2003).

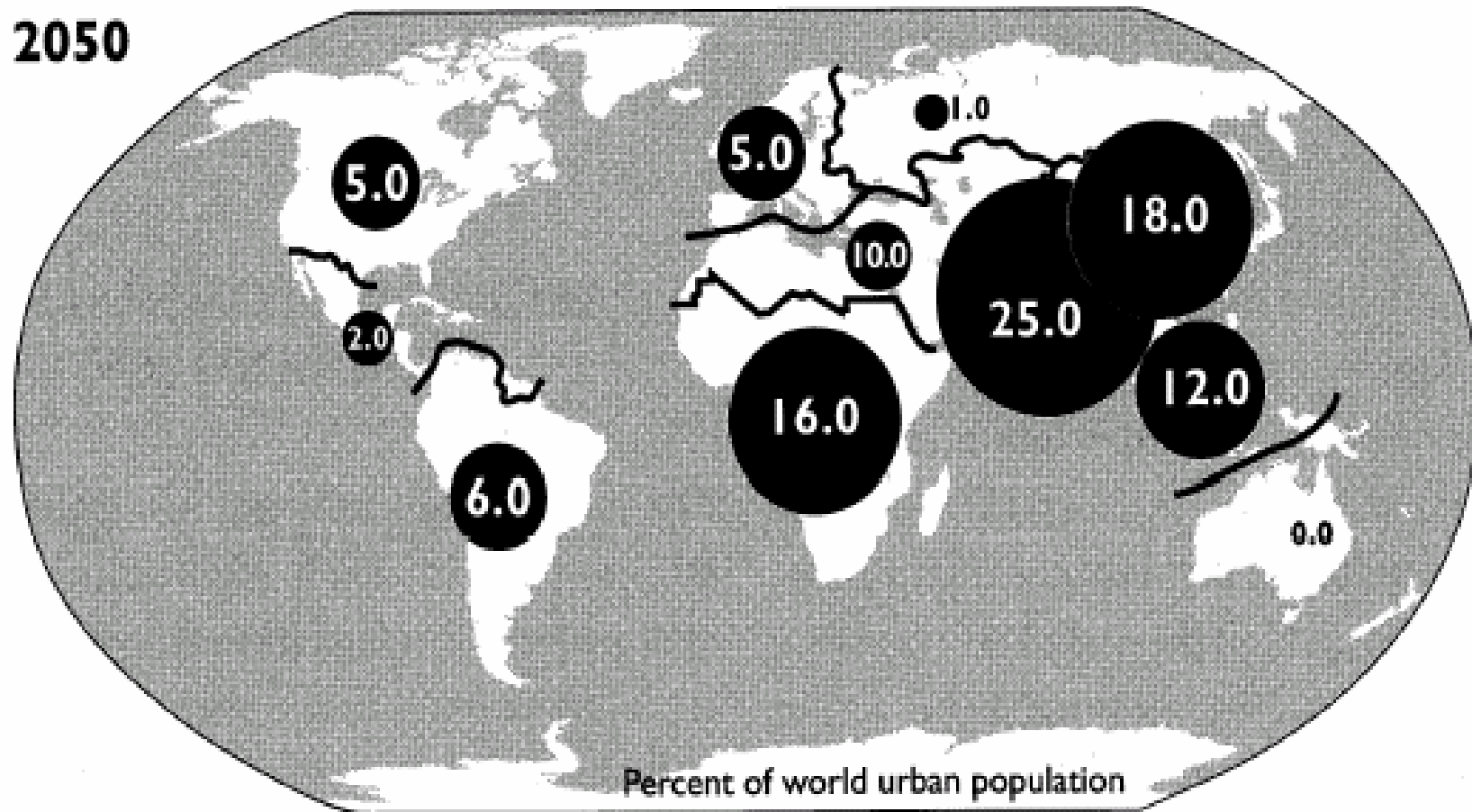


# World urban population (%): 2000



Source: Data from United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects, 2001 Revision (New York: United Nations Population Division, 2002), [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). Brunn et al (2003).

# World urban population (%): 2050



Source: Data from United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects, 2001 Revision (New York: United Nations Population Division, 2002), [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). Brunn et al (2003).

# PART 2

## **Urban Challenges – Pointers for Research**

# The big picture

- The world is both globalizing and urbanizing
- Economic functions of cities and city regions are changing rapidly: growth of the ‘knowledge economy’
- Horizontal connectivity aided by new information and communication technologies in transforming societies
- New opportunities arise in a ‘flat world’\*
- But there is great danger of a growing ‘digital divide’

\*Thomas L. Friedman (2005) *The World is Flat*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

# Globalization and uneven development

‘Cities present some of the starkest...contrasts: homeless people living in cardboard boxes, next to skyscrapers...; growing gaps between [salaries and housing costs]...; enormous levels of consumption alongside great pyramids of waste...; and hitherto unseen patterns of segregation...’

Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, 2001

# Mapping the challenges

- Caution – cities and localities vary
- Overarching challenge – creating sustainable cities and city regions
- Cross-cutting themes:
  - 1) Economic restructuring
  - 2) Social needs
  - 3) Urban environmentalism
  - 4) City leadership, management and local democracy
  - 5) Intergovernmental relations

# Theme 1) Economic restructuring

- Re-examining theories of economic development
- From manufacturing to services
- Impact of information and communication technologies
- Changing role of human and social capital
- Significance of the 'creative class'
- Challenge of the 'dual labour market' and the 'digital divide'
- City as an entertainment machine

## Theme 2) Social needs

- Affordable housing
- Access to jobs
- Transport to serve all residents
- Settlement patterns: geographical segregation
- Urban education
- Urban health
- Crime, policing and community safety
- Embracing the multi-cultural city



# Theme 3) Urban environmentalism

- City planning for unprecedented rapid urban growth in some continents
- Urban transport – the access/environment tradeoff
- Energy demands and consumption
- Water supply and sanitation
- Mixed use urban development
- Urban design and green buildings
- Balancing mega-projects and neighborhood renewal

# Theme 4) City leadership, management and local democracy

- Innovation in city leadership
- Rethinking the roles of politicians and officers
- Comparing approaches to metropolitan governance
- Enhancing the legitimacy of government through participation
- Hearing all voices and overcoming gender, class and ethno-religious divides
- Improving public/private collaboration
- A new role for city regions?

# Theme 5) Intergovernmental relations

- Multi-level governance to improve competitiveness and social cohesion
- Roles and relationships – from supranational to neighborhood
- Intergovernmental fiscal flows
- Powers of local authorities in relation to tax raising and local action
- Revitalizing democratic accountability at all levels
- New roles for city regions and neighborhoods

# PART 3

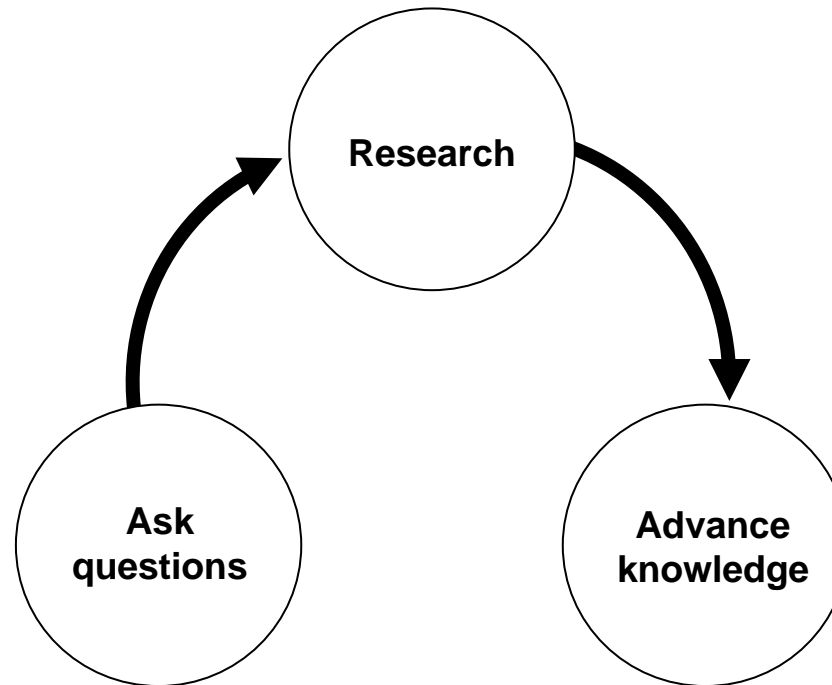
## **Exploring the Nature of Urban Research**

# The meaning of 'urban'

- A term used to describe towns and cities
- Used here to refer to cities, metropolitan areas, and city regions
- 'Urban' can also be used to describe a 'way of life' which may exist beyond the boundaries of urban areas\*

\*Louis Wirth (1938) *Urbanism as a way of life*. *American Journal of Sociology*, 44:1-24, July 1938.

# Research: the traditional model

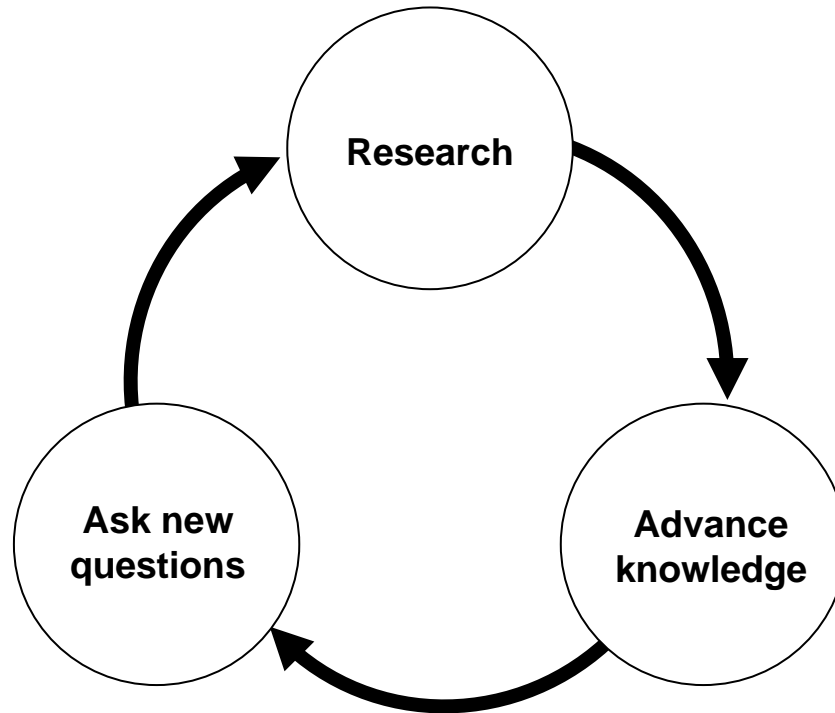


Traditional definition of research:

‘Original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge and understanding.’\*

\*UK Research Assessment Exercise. RAE 01/2005. Annex B.

# Traditional research process



- Advances in knowledge often raise new questions requiring further research

# Social scientific research and the city

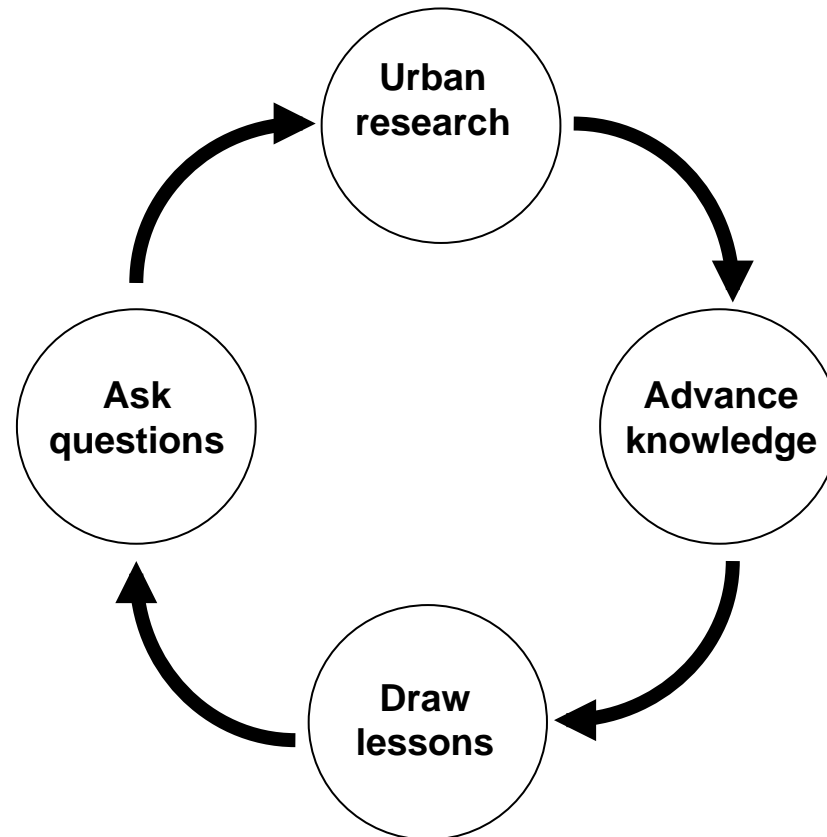
- Research on the city
- Research for the city
- Interdisciplinary study to enlighten policy



# Engaged urban research: features

- Partnership with urban stakeholders
- Multi-disciplinary
- Lesson drawing for policy and practice
- Strong emphasis on dissemination and policy impact

# Engaged urban research process



Engaged urban research:

‘Original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge and understanding and influence policy and practice.’

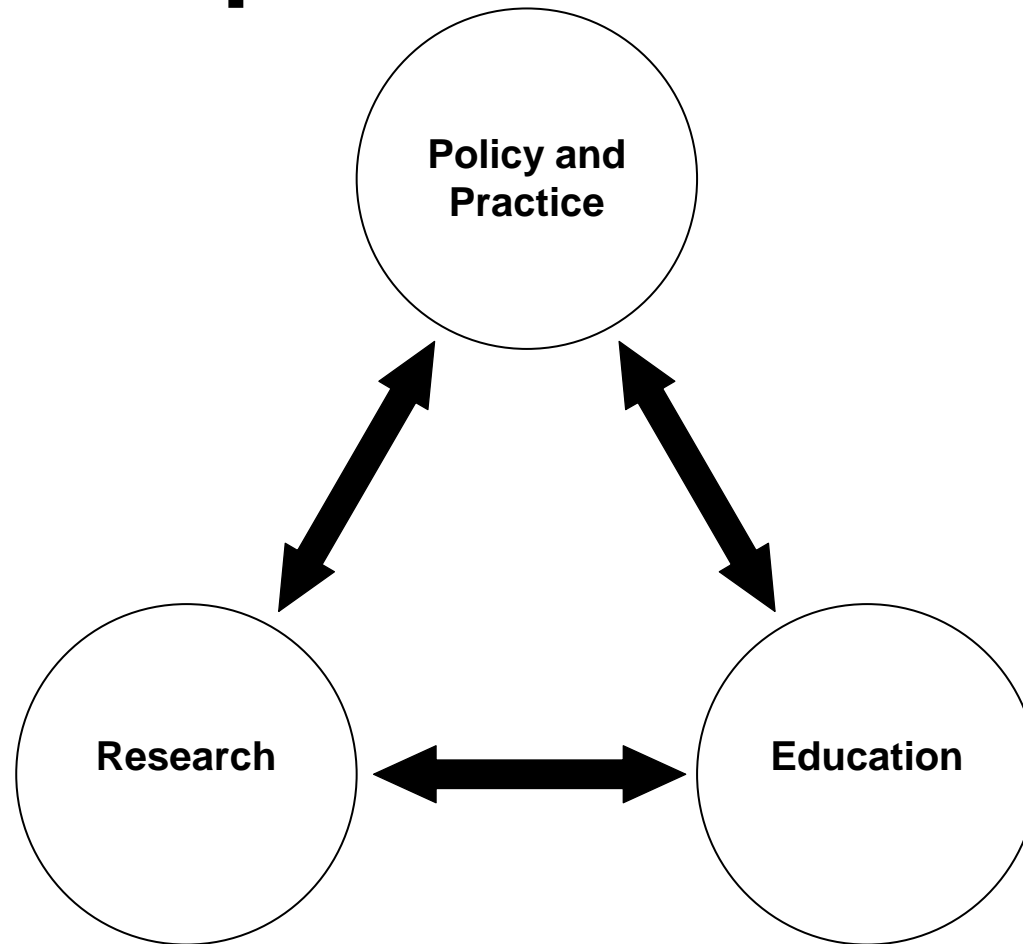
# The changing role of the university

- The traditional 'European' model of research and teaching
- The US Land Grant university – research, teaching and service (Morrill Act, 1862)
- The modern urban university – research, teaching, engaged scholarship and a contribution to community leadership

# The redefinition of scholarship

- The scholarship of discovery
- The scholarship of integration
- The scholarship of application
- The scholarship of teaching

# The triangle of engaged scholarship



Source: Robin Hambleton (2006) Rethinking the role of the modern urban university – insights from the USA. Milan: Politecnico di Milano

# Implications for urban research

- Scale of global changes requires a rapid expansion of engaged urban research
- New alliances need to be formed at an international level among universities, governments and cities
- European urban researchers should build bridges with scholars in other continents
- The European Urban Research Association (EURA) should receive 'core funding' from the EC to promote comparative urban research

# A skills agenda for urban research

- Important to advance the field of comparative urban studies
- Universities should value the four dimensions of scholarship identified by Boyer
- Crucial for urban researchers to become more skilled in engaged research including:
  - Comparative methods
  - Negotiating access/understandings
  - Lesson drawing
  - Dissemination

# Further information

## Sources: websites

- United Nations World Urbanization Prospects  
<http://esa.un.org/unup>
- European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)  
<http://www.eukn.org>
- College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) City Futures International Conference  
<http://tigger.uic.edu/cuppa/cityfutures/>



# Further information

Sources: published

- Ernest L. Boyer (1990) *Scholarship reconsidered. Priorities of the professoriate*. New Jersey: Carnegie Foundation
- Stanley D. Brunn, Jack Williams and Donald J Zeigler (eds) (2003) *Cities of the World*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Thomas L. Friedman (2005) *The World is Flat*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux
- Robin Hambleton, H.V. Savitch and M. Stewart (eds) (2003) *Globalism and local democracy*. Basingstoke: Palgrave
- Murray Stewart (ed) (1972) *The City: Problems of planning*. London: Penguin
- United Nations Center for Human Settlements (Habitat) (2001) *Cities in a globalizing world*. London: Earthscan

# Acknowledgements

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CUPPA website: [\*\*www.uic.edu/cuppa\*\*](http://www.uic.edu/cuppa)

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