

## Urbanization and Modernization

**By 2020 the majority of the world's population will live in cities.**

**Urbanization** – the migration of people from rural (country) areas to the cities will drastically change the global population. Poverty and subsequent improvements in agriculture and large-scale farms have driven millions of people in developing nations to emigrate to these cities looking for jobs and education.

Urbanization of the World's Population			
	1900	1985	2020 est.
<b>Population</b>	<b>1.6 Billion</b>	<b>4.9 Billion</b>	<b>8.1 Billion</b>
<b>People living in cities of 1,000,000 or more</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
<b>People living in cities of less than 1,000,000</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>
<b>People living in Rural Areas</b>	<b>86.4%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>

These rapidly growing urban populations need more food, heat, water, schools, and healthcare than the cities infrastructures can currently provide. Overcrowding leads to slums, air and water pollution, inabilities for garbage and sewerage disposal and traffic jams. The newly arrived migrants also face the problem of **Modernization** – the process of shredding their traditional beliefs and adopting new methods, ideas, and technologies.

Traditional beliefs and cultural values are often lost as people in developing nations now adopt modern ideologies from the Western world. Some developing nations attempt to return to fundamentalist values but in most cases, cultural change due to urbanization is imminent.



**Sao Paulo, Brazil.**

**The slums (favelas) are in the foreground, the modern city skyline in the background.**