



Cities and Urban Life (Fifth Edition)

By John J. Macionis, Vincent N. Parrillo

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Cities and Urban Life provides an introduction to the study of urban environments around the world. Using an approach that is multidisciplinary but fundamentally sociological, authors John Macionis and Vincent Parrillo help students see how cities have evolved over time, how cities reflect culture, and where the urban story may take us next. The inclusion of the latest data and research references throughout the seventh edition, as well as updated case studies on a variety of cities, ensures that students come away with an up-to-date understanding of contemporary urban life. Look Inside. Sample Life in US cities today is certainly complex. On the one hand, many US cities are vibrant places, filled with museums and other cultural attractions, nightclubs, theaters, and restaurants and populated by people from many walks of life and from varied racial and ethnic and national backgrounds. Many college graduates flock to cities, not only for their employment opportunities but also for their many activities and the sheer excitement of living in a metropolis. Social scientists have long thought that poor urban neighborhoods pose, in and of themselves, significant health risks for their residents. These neighborhoods lack supermarkets with fresh fruits and vegetables, and they lack safe parks and other settings for exercise. What are the disadvantages of urban life? Cities are overcrowded. Due to high population density, people living in cities experience traffic congestion and long commuting hours. Air quality is often poor in heavily built-up areas. Life in urban areas is fast-paced and there is lack of personal relationships. The cost of living is higher. What else can you think of?

Unlike those in urban cities, houses in rural areas are widely spaced with ample space for fields. There is room for pets and grazing animals, large pieces of agricultural land, and greenery. People in these areas live in the proximity of nature, which has a positive effect on their overall health. Pollution levels are low due to less vehicles and very less or no industries. Thus, the equilibrium in nature is better maintained.¼ Life in the urban areas is not very peaceful.¼ Life is fast, there is greater competition. Life is fraught with stress and lifestyle diseases.¼ There is easy availability of grocery, medical shops, and other essentials.¼ The access to health care facilities is quick and easy.¼ In urban areas, poverty rates are low and the standard of living is high. Links between urban pollution and respiratory diseases drive most calls to clean our cities' air. But the effect on our lungs is only one reason to be concerned by city living.¼ If urban life is a serious concern for our health, mental wellbeing and outlook, then it is only going to become a greater issue for more of us as time passes. Mental wellbeing. Prevalence of psychiatric disorders is significantly higher among people living in urban areas, says a meta-analysis of 20 pieces of research conducted over the past 35 years. Specifically, people in cities suffer from mood disorders and anxiety at a disproportionately high rate. Key Benefit Cities and Urban Life provides an introduction to the study of urban environments around the world. Using an approach that is multidisciplinary but fundamentally sociological, authors John Macionis and Vincent Parrillo help readers see how cities have evolved over time, how cities reflect culture, and where the urban story may take us next. The inclusion of the latest data and research references throughout the seventh edition, as well as updated case studies on a variety of cities, ensures that readers come away with an up-to-date understanding of contemporary urban life. Key Topi