The Latin American City Model

**General Definition:** The Latin American City Model combines elements of Latin American Culture and globalization by combining radial sectors and concentric zones. Includes a thriving CBD with a commercial spine. The quality of houses decreases as one moves outward away from the CBD, and the areas of worse housing occurs in the disamenity sectors.

**Different aspects of the model:**

**Commercial/CBD:** The focus of employment, entertainment, and economic activity; Roads, trains, and buses are fairly reliable here.

**Market:** An area made up of formal and informal economic activities

**Industrial:** The area of manufacturing and industry.

**Elite residential sector:** Forms on either side of a narrow spine that contains the important amenities attractive to the wealthy, such as water and electricity, as well as offices, shops, restaurants, parks, and theatres. Outside the CBD, the dominant component is a commercial spine surrounded by the elite residential sector. These two zones are interrelated and called the spine/sector.

**Gentrification:** A process of converting an urban neighborhood from a mostly low income renter-occupied area to a mostly middle to upper-middle class owner-occupied area.

**Inner-city zone of maturity:** Residential area in which a stable population has gradually transformed the district into one that is fully serviced. Homes are typically traditional colonial homes and upgraded self-built homes. Area of upward mobility, but residents unable to participate in the spine/sector.

**Zone of situ accretion:** A mix of middle and low income housing, generally thought of as a transitional area between the zone of maturity and the zone of squatter settlements. Housing is diverse in type, size, and quality. Area of ongoing construction and change. Some neighborhoods have city-provided utilities, others must rely on water and gas delivery trucks for essential services.

**Disamenity:** Contains relatively unchanging slums (barrios or favelas) that may not be connected to regular city services.

**Zone of peripheral squatter settlements:** Home for impoverished and unskilled; housing consists of mostly shantytowns. Lawless barrios/favelas usually behind a main ring highway known as a periferico. Houses often built from scavenged materials, gives the appearance of a refugee camp. Streets are unpaved, open trenches carry wastes, residents carry water from long distances, electricity is often “pirated”.

**Notes:**

- The larger poor areas reflect the movement of people from rural to urban areas
- Industry is on the opposite side of the elite
- The middle class are next to the elite separating them from the poor
- Disamenity can reach all the way to the core but tends to stick to the outside
- Gentrification is more likely near the CBD and elite areas
Southeast Asia City Model

Background- Southeast Asia contains some of the most populous and fastest growing cities in the world. While they are still developing, many feature high-rise developments and several of the world’s tallest buildings. This model was developed in 1967 by T.G. McGee. It is sometimes called the McGee Model. McGee studied several cities in Southeast Asia and discovered that they shared certain aspects of land-use. Some similarities include:

- Old colonial port zone surrounded by a commercial business district
- Western commercial zone (dominated by Chinese merchants)
- No formal central business district (CBD)
- Hybrid sectors & zones growing rapidly
- New Industrial parks on the outskirts of the city

Parts of the Model: As the model shows, no CBD is visible. However, several components of the CBD are present in separate areas in the city. Basically the components of the CBD are clustered around the port zone. The Western commercial zone for western businesses. The alien commercial zone is dominated by the Chinese who have migrated to other parts of Asia and live in the same buildings as their businesses. These are Chinese merchants. And then there is the mixed land-use zone that has miscellaneous activities including light industry. There is also a separate area known as the government zone near the center of the model. Also note the mixed-land use zone contains various economic uses which can include informal business.

The focal point is the Port Zone reflecting a city oriented around exporting.

Key Concepts:

- The Southeast Asian City Model is similar to the Latin American City Model in that they each feature high-class residential zones that stem from the center, middle-class residential zones that occur in inner-city areas, and low-income squatter settlements that occur in the periphery.
- The main difference between the two models is that the Southeast Asian City Model features middle-income housing in suburban areas. This reflects the larger percentage of middle-class citizens that reside in the peripheral regions than those of Latin America. This may reflect a smaller MC in Latin-American cities by comparison.
- Due to the alien commercial zone these cities also experience a blended culture but also strong ethnic ties.
African City Model

Background: Africa has the world’s fastest growing cities, and the impact that European Colonialism has had is clearly evident. The Europeans created prominent urban centers including ports along the coast. Africa also has certain cities that are neither traditional nor colonial such as South Africa’s major urban centers that are mostly Western, with elements of European and American models, including high-rise central business districts and suburbs. Due to the diversity of its cities, it is complicated to develop an African City Model. This model was created in 1962.

The central city is found to have three central business districts (CBDs): a remnant of the colonial CBD, an informal and periodic market zone, and a transitional business center where commerce happens from the curbside or storefronts. The former colonial CBD has vertical development, the traditional business center is usually a zone of single-story buildings with a touch of traditional architecture, and the market zone is open-air, informal (economically), and yet important. Sector development is the encircling zone of ethnic and mixed neighborhoods, in which people have strong ethnic identities. Mining and manufacturing zones are found next to some parts of these ethnic neighborhoods. On the outermost part of many African cities, there are informal satellite townships, which are squatter settlements. These squatter settlements consist of poor neighborhoods, or shantytowns, in which people make home anywhere that is possible or open, no matter if it is public or private.

Note:
- This reflects the nature of Africa’s development. Of the three CBDs, the colonial reflects the past
- The mining and manufacturing areas reflect the nature of the types of jobs found in African cities
- The lack of an mentioned areas of elite, middle-class and gentrification tells something as well
- The small colonial CBD reflects a lack of development since that is the area of the formal economy and TNCs (transnational corporations)
- The ethnic neighborhoods reflect the tribalism that exists
- The informal satellite townships house the poor who have moved in to be close to the city
- The lack of any other class getting mentioned reflects the poverty of the area

Middle East City Model

Model was published in 1955. The focus of this model is the religion. The center of the city is the major mosque and it is surrounded by a bazaar or market area.

The mosque and bazaar are surrounded by residential quarters; generally these areas do not get a lot of foot traffic. Minor mosques can be found out toward the edges of town as well.

Across town are major traffic arteries (roads) these are relatively recent developments, and also where modern retailing is found.

The city is surrounded by a wall and has a castle as part of the wall; this is a reflection of times past when these cities were often under attack.

Cemeteries for Muslims and Christians can be found outside the wall of the city.