Key Issue Two: Where are people distributed within urban areas?
URBAN STRUCTURE

Three models of urban structure

- Concentric zone model
- Sector model
- Multiple nuclei model
- Geographic applications

Use of the models outside North America

- European cities
- Less developed countries
THREE MODELS OF URBAN STRUCTURE

Sociologists, economists, and geographers have developed three models to help explain where different types of people tend to live in an urban area: the concentric zone, sector, and multiple nuclei models.

The three models describing the internal social structure of cities were all developed in Chicago, a city on a prairie.

Except for Lake Michigan to the east, few physical features have interrupted the region’s growth.

The three models were later applied to cities elsewhere in the United States and in other countries.
In the concentric zone model, a city grows in a series of rings surrounding the CBD.
In the sector model, a city grows in a series of wedges or corridors extending out from the CBD.
The multiple nuclei model views a city as a collection of individual centers, around which different people and activities cluster.
The three models help us understand where people with different social characteristics tend to live within an urban area.

Effective use of the models depends on the availability of data at the scale of individual neighborhoods.

Urban areas in the United States are divided into census tracts, which contain approximately 5,000 residents and correspond where possible to neighborhood boundaries.

Every decade, the U.S. Bureau of the Census publishes data summarizing the characteristics of the residents living in each tract.
The distribution of renters in Indianapolis illustrates the concentric zone model.
The distribution of high income households in Indianapolis is an example of a sector model.
The distribution of minorities in Indianapolis is an example of a multiple nuclei model.
American urban areas differ from those elsewhere in the world.

Social groups in other countries may not have the same reasons for selecting particular neighborhoods.

As in the United States, wealthier people in European cities cluster along a sector extending out from the CBD.

In Paris, for example, the rich moved to the southwestern hills to be near the royal palace.

The preference was reinforced in the nineteenth century during the Industrial Revolution

Factories were built to the south, east, and north along river valleys, but relatively few were built on the southwestern hills.

West African immigrants being removed from an apartment building in suburban Paris where they are accused of being squatters.
Higher income professionals are likely to live in the center of Paris, while factory workers tend to live in the suburbs, in contrast to the pattern of many American
EUROPEAN CITIES

Similar high-class sectors developed in other European cities, typically on higher elevation and near royal palaces.

However, in contrast to most U.S. cities, wealthy Europeans still live in the inner rings of the high-class sector, not just in the suburbs.

A central location provides proximity to the region’s best shops, restaurants, cafes, and cultural facilities.

By living in high-density, centrally located townhouses and apartments, wealthy people in Europe do not have large private yards and must go to public parks for open space.

To meet the desire for large tracts of privately owned land, some wealthy Europeans purchase abandoned farm buildings in clustered rural settlements for use as second homes on weekends and holidays.

In the past, poorer people also lived in the center of European cities.

Social segregation was vertical: Richer people lived on the first or second floors, while poorer people occupied the dark, dank basements, or they climbed many flights of stairs to reach the attics.

During the Industrial Revolution, housing for poorer people was constructed in sectors near the factories.
Top professionals in Glasgow, Scotland, are more likely to live near the center of the city, in contrast to most U.S. cities.
In LDCs, as in Europe, the poor are accommodated in the suburbs, whereas the rich live near the center of cities, as well as in a sector extending from the center.

The similarity between European and LDC cities is not a coincidence.

Most cities in less developed countries have passed through three stages of development—before European colonization, during the European Colonial period, and since independence.
PRE-COLONIAL CITIES

Before the Europeans established colonies, few cities existed in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and most people lived in rural settlements.

Cities were also built in South and East Asia, especially India, China, and Japan.

Cities were often laid out surrounding a religious core, such as a mosque in Muslim regions.

Government buildings and the homes of wealthy families surrounded the mosque and bazaar.

Families with less wealth and lower status located farther from the core, and recent migrants to the city lived on the edge.

Commercial activities were arranged in a concentric and hierarchical pattern: Higher-status businesses directly related to religious practices were located closest to the mosque. In the next ring, were secular businesses.

Food products were sold in the next ring, then came blacksmiths, basket makers, and potters.

A quarter would be reserved for Jews, a second for Christians, and a third for foreigners.
When the Aztecs founded Mexico City—which they called Tenochtitlán—the settlement consisted of a small temple and a few huts of thatch and mud west of present-day downtown Mexico City on a hill known as Chapultepec.

Forced by other people to leave the hill, they migrated a few kilometers south.

Then in 1325 (they moved) to a marshy ... island in Lake Texcoco. Over the next two centuries the Aztecs conquered the neighboring (territories).

The Aztecs built elaborate stone houses and temples in Tenochtitlán. The node of religious life was the Great Temple.

The main market center, Tlatelolco, was located at the north end of the island.

Most merchandise crossed from the mainland to the island by boat.

The island itself was laced with canals to facilitate pickup and delivery of people and goods.

An aqueduct brought fresh water from Chapultepec.
The Aztec city of Tenochtitlán was built on an island in Lake Texcoco. Today poorer people live on a landfill in the former lakebed, and the elite live to the west.
The Aztec city of Tenochtitlán was built on an island in Lake Texcoco. Some features from the old Aztec city and region can still be identified.
The main square in downtown Mexico City, the Zócalo, was laid out by the Spanish.
The Zócalo in downtown Mexico City on Oct. 22, 2006 with 13,000 simultaneous games of chess in order to set a record.
The old city has narrow winding streets and dense population. The French laid out a new district to the west with a geometric street pattern.
In Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), the French demolished the previous city and replaced it with a colonial design with boulevards and public squares.
Colonial cities followed standardized plans.

All Spanish cities in Latin America, for example, were built according to the Laws of the Indies, drafted in 1573.

Cities were to be constructed (on) a gridiron street plan centered on a church and central plaza, and neighborhoods centered around smaller plazas with parish churches or monasteries.

After the Spanish conquered Tenochtitlán they destroyed the city, and dispersed or killed most of the inhabitants.

The city renamed Mexico City, was rebuilt around a main square, called the Zócalo, in the center of the island, on the site of the Aztecs’ sacred precinct.

The Spanish reconstructed the streets in a grid pattern extending from the Zócalo.
In many Latin American cities, the wealthy live in the inner city and in a sector extending along a commercial spine.
High income households in Rio de Janeiro live in the CBD and in a spine along the ocean. Low-income households often live in peripheral areas.
Many poor immigrants live in squatter settlements, or favelas, many of which are on the hillsides around Rio.
The Aztec city of Tenochtitlán was built on an island in Lake Texcoco. Today poorer people live on a landfill in the former lakebed, and the elite live to the west.
SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS

The LDCs are unable to house the rapidly growing number of poor.

A large percentage of poor immigrants to urban areas in LDCs live in squatter settlements.

Squatter settlements have few services, because neither the city nor the residents can afford them.

Electricity service may be stolen by running a wire from the nearest power line.

In the absence of bus service or available private cars, a resident may have to walk two hours to reach a place of employment.

At first, squatters do little more than camp on the land or sleep in the street.

Families then erect primitive shelters with scavenged (materials).

The percentage of people living in squatter settlements, slums, and other illegal housing ranges from 33 percent in São Paulo, Brazil, to 85 percent in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, according to a U.N. study.