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| Basic industries | Industries exported mainly outside a settlement and constitute that communities’ economic base. These industries employ a large percentage of a community’s workforce. |
| Basic/public services | Firemen, Police, Waterworks, Electrical grid maintenance, transportation Maintenance teachers, and other services acquired as a public good required for the operation of a city |
| Business services | They service other business and include financial services, professional services, transportation, communication, and utilities service |
| Central business district | A central business district (CBD) is the commercial and often geographic heart of a city |
| Central place theory | A theory which examines the relationship between settlements of different sizes relative to the goods and services they provide and their market areas. |
| Commuter zone | An exterior ring in the concentric zone model where people reside and commute to the CBD. |
| Concentric zone model | The Concentric ring model also known as the Burgess model was the first to explain distribution of social groups within urban areas. |
| Consolidation | statutory combination of two or more corporations or political jurisdictions |
| Council of Government | A legislative body within a metropolitan area responsible for its governance, for example the D.C. city council and its mayor |
| Density gradient | is a variation in density of a feature over an area |
| Economic base | An industry or agglomeration of industries which employ the majority of residents or provide the majority of taxes for a jurisdiction. |
| Edge city | an area on the outskirts of a city having a high density of office buildings, shopping malls, hotels for example Tyson’s Corner. |
| Employment structure | The division of all employment into four employment sectors, primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary jobs. |
| Enclosure movement | Division or consolidation of communal lands in Western Europe into the carefully delineated and individually owned farm plots |
| Ethnic neighborhood | An enclave of a larger city in which individuals of a particular ethnicity have settled together. |
| Favela | a shantytown in or near a city, esp. in Brazil; slum area |
| Federation | The formation of a political unity, with a central government, by a number of separate states, each of which retains control of its own internal affairs. |
| Filtering | When houses are subdivided and occupied by successive waves of lower-income people which results in broken communities, the abandonment of property, and declining populations. |
| Gateway city | A city with an Airport or seaport that serves as the entry point to a country by being the primary arrival and departure point |
| Gentrification | The buying and renovation of houses and stores in deteriorated urban neighborhoods by upper- or middle-income families or individuals, thus improving property values but often displacing low-income families and small businesses. |
| Gravity model | A model which predicts that the best location for a service is directly related to the number of people in the area and inversely related to the distance that people must travel for it. |
| Greenbelt | an area of woods, parks, or open land surrounding a community |
| Heterogeneous | An area with variation in type among a shared feature; IE the ethnic makeup of an urban population with be diverse and hence heterogeneous. |
| Hinterland | Rural land adjacent to a population center which produces materials for consumption for that population center. |
| Homogenous | An area with no variation in type among a shared feature; IE the ethnic makeup ethnic neighborhood inside of an urban population with be the same and hence homogeneous. |
| Indigenous city | A city that is harmonized with its environment even as it shaped that environment and gave focus and significance to elements of the environment that were held to be important to its occupants. |
| Information services | System of persons, data records and activities that process the data and information in an organization, and it includes the organization's manual and automated processes. |
| Inner city | the central area of a major city or metropolis typically characterized by poverty a |
| Invasion and succession | A model of change used in urban ecology to represent changing land use within a neighborhood. For example, a few in-migrants who are content with multiple dwelling invade a neighborhood to the discontent of the original residents who will eventually leave. Succession is the end of the process when the area has changed completely. |
| Lateral commuting | the journey from one residential location to another as the suburbanization of industry develops. |
| Megacities | A megacity is defined by the United Nations as a metropolitan area with a total population of more than 10 million people. |
| Megalopolis/conurbation | A large conurbation, where two or more large cities have sprawled outward to meet, forming something larger than a metropolis; a megacity |
| Metropolitan area | A metropolitan area is a large population (contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population) center consisting of a large metropolis and its adjacent zone of influence, or of more than one closely adjoining neighboring central cities and their zone of influence(Washington D.C. and its MD and VA suburbs) |
| Micropolitan statistical area | A micropolitan Statistical Area contains a core urban area of 10,000 or more population and adjacent jurisdictions with a high degree of social and economic integration (Charles, St. Mary’s, and Calvert County could be the Southern Maryland micropolitan area.) |
| Multiple nuclei model | An ecological model put forth by Chauncey Harris and Edward Ullman similar industries with common land-use and financial requirements are established near each other. These groupings influence their immediate neighborhood. |
| Non-basic industries | Industry that sells its products within the community; it does not bring money into the community. |
| Optimal location | The most advantageous location to provide a service or manufacture a good. |
| Peak land value intersection | The point in a CBD, often, but not always, at a road intersection, where land values are at a maximum. |
| Peripheral model | A city surrounded by growing suburbs that combine residential and business areas and are tied together by a beltway or ring road. |
| Personal services | A business whose principal activity is the performance of personal services. The fields of health, law, engineering, architecture, accounting, actuarial sciences, performing arts and consulting are personal service activities |
| Poverty | the state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support; condition of being poor; indigence. |
| Primate city | A primate city is the leading city in its country or region, disproportionately larger than any others in the urban hierarchy |
| Primate city rule | When a country has one city that is more important than any other city in a country; many of these are found in LDCs and in some European countries. |
| Public housing | housing owned or operated by a government and usually offered at low rent to the needy |
| Public transportation | any form of transportation that charge set fares, run fixed routes, and are available to the public such as buses, subways, ferries, and trains |
| Rank size rule | If one ranks the population size of cities in a given country or in the entire world and calculates the natural logarithm of the rank and of the city population, the resulting graph will show a remarkable log-linear pattern. This is the rank-size distribution |
| Redlining | To refuse home mortgages or home insurance to areas or neighborhoods deemed poor financial risks |
| Restrictive covenants | Land deeds contain clauses against selling the land to people of certain ethnicities. |
| Rush Hour | Hours of the day in which most individuals are commuting too or from work which results in the greatest traffic congestion. |
| Sector model | A Model proposed in 1939 by economist Homer Hoyt. It is a model of urban land use and modified the concentric zone model of city development. The benefits of the application of this model include the fact it allows for an outward progression of growth |
| Sector, (economic) Primary | involve getting raw materials from the natural environment e.g. Mining, farming and fishing. |
| Sector, (economic) Quaternary | Jobs that involve research and development e.g. Internet Technology |
| Sector, (economic) Secondary | involve making things (manufacturing) e.g. making cars and steel. |
| Sector, (economic) Tertiary | involve providing a service e.g. teaching and nursing |
| Segregation | The legal division of a population by race in terms of where they are allowed to receive public and pirate services and where they can reside. |
| Settlement | Where people live. |
| Slum | a run-down area of a city characterized by substandard housing and squalor and lacking in tenure security |
| Smart growth | anti-sprawl development that is environmentally, fiscally, and economically smart and includes land-use planning, mixed use development, and transportation efficiency |
| Sprawl (Urban) | Haphazard growth or extension outward, especially that resulting from real estate development on the outskirts of a city: urban sprawl |
| Squatter settlement | An area of usually unauthorized, makeshift housing, generally at the edge of a Third World city, |
| Street Pattern (dendritic) | the typical suburb, with its looping street pattern and dead-end cul-de-sacs, „is laid out so that it can't grow‟ |
| Street Pattern (grid) | is a type of city plan in which streets run at right angles to each other, forming a grid. |
| Suburbanization | The establishment of residential communities on the outskirts of a city. In the United States, many suburbs were created after World War II, during a period of tremendous growth in population and industry. Suburban dwellers typically work in the cities but raise their families in a less-congested, safer, and more relaxed atmosphere. Especially in the United States, suburbanization often is associated with the sprawl of population |
| Tenement | Also called tenement house. a run-down and often overcrowded apartment house, esp. in a poor section of a large city |
| Underclass | a social stratum consisting of impoverished persons with very low social status |
| Underemployment | employed at a job that does not fully use one's skills or abilities (Example a person with a Bachelor’s degree working at McDonald’s restaurant) |
| Urban renewal | the rehabilitation of city areas by renovating or replacing dilapidated buildings with new housing, public buildings, parks, roadways, industrial areas, etc., often in accordance with comprehensive plans. |
| Urbanization | the social process whereby cities grow and societies become more urban |
| World city | A global city (also called world city) is a city deemed to be an important node point in the global economic system |
| Zoning ordinance | A law which requires how land will be used in urban planning in advance of development in various parts of the world, including North America, the United Kingdom, and Australia. |