

The Mega Cities, the Smart Cities, the Sustainable Cities

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SUMMARY

Modern science dates the Agricultural Revolution to about 12,000 years ago. Homo sapiens, hunters and gatherers for the previous 150 thousand years more or less, began to cultivate wheat which bound them to the land due to seasonal demands of planting, nurturing, harvesting and storage of grains. Instead of roaming over large areas they began to settle into shelters and eventually into villages. The success of the new paradigm of living resulted in collective labor arrangements that led to community security and social cooperation. A logical extension of industry and commerce was development of the city which, in turn has led to innovation, invention, social advancement and, in some views, prosperity.

Social scientists, historians and anthropologists may differ as to the value of urban life to the advancement of homo sapiens, but the studies continue and predictions persist. What is the ultimate future of the city – will it prosper to a point of security and happiness for all, or will the city, by concentrating all its environmental and biological risk into ever more clustered areas spell the end of civilization as we know it? In short, is the city sustainable?

In fact cities have become the preferred living arrangement for a majority of the World's population, evolving into what we call Mega Cities. The marvel of the internet in this digital age with its possibilities of instant communication and immediate control of most or all functions of homo sapiens now in the 21st century, are expected to develop the Smart Cities for a majority of us which in turn will make urban sustainability possible a mere 12,000 years after we had begun living and working together.

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