

Metropolitan California

Purpose: To explain and understand the role of urbanization in influencing the California landscape.

I. Initial Observations

- A. Cal. unquestionably one of nations most urbanized states.
 - 1. 1970 census 81% of pop. is living on 2% of the land area.
 - 2. by 1980 census 90% are urbanized. Trend Continues in the 21st century
- B. Single most important observation = urban vs. agricultural land takeover. PP. 263-270. Miller.

II. Historical Development

- A. There are only three "planned" cities in Ca.
 - Los Angeles 1781, San Jose 1777 and Branciforte 1797.
- B. Most developed from presidios i.e. S.F., San Diego, Santa Barbara. Only 2 at site of missions; Ventura, San Luis Obispo.
- C. S.F. was the largest city (due to the gold rush) until L.A. caught up in the 1920's.
- D. L.A. growth very rapid after WWII.
- E. San Jose and San Diego have grown most rapidly in recent times.
- F. Today most of urban pop. in southern Cal. much political clout.
- G. Today 23 urban (SMSA's) in Ca. – pg. 235 Map

III. City Morphology

- A. Cities succeed only where they provide useful services and grow only in response to demands of their areas.
 - There are many cities in Cal. that exist as bedroom communities for nearby cities. Called suburbs; people living there called suburbanites.
- B. Classification of Cities
 - 1. **Commercial Cities** - commerce and trade i.e.: farm centers like El Centro, Salinas, Stockton, Fresno, Sacramento. Largest in Cal. are L.A., S.F., Oakland, & San Diego.
 - 2. **Industrial Cities** - Manufacturing dominates economy i.e.: Burbank, South Gate, Fontana, San Leandro, Richmond, South S.F.. Some like L.A. may also be multiply classed.
 - 3. **Primary Cities** - extraction of nearby resources i.e.: mining, lumbering, fishing. Normally fragile economies due to being usually one-industry towns. Examples: petroleum - Coalinga, Borates - China Lake, lumbering - Scotia, Weed and Westwood no Cal. city is dependent primarily on fishing resources.
 - 4. **Resort Cities** - recreation, health, retirement. i.e.: almost all of the cities dotting the state's coastline, also Avalon on Catalina Island, Newport Beach in Orange Co., & Monterey, Palm Springs, some mountain cities in foothills of Sierras. (Lake Arrowhead, Bishop, Tahoe City, Mt. Shasta.
 - 5. **Government Cities** - govt. paychecks, state, federal, or local dominates economy. i.e.: county seats, Sacramento, military and naval installations, (S. Diego, Coronado, Port Hueneme, Vallejo).
 - 6. **Educational Cities** - university campuses. i.e.: Berkeley, Palo Alto (Stanford), Claremont (Claremont Colleges).
- C. Factors influencing City Growth
 - 1. Jobs
 - 2. Personal decisions to locate industry by individuals in charge of industry. i.e. motion pictures to Hollywood (Why not Ventura, San Diego, Santa Cruz?) = a personal decision based on land values, climate, shooting ease, variability of landscapes, the president's wife's living preferences, etc.
 - 3. Location with respect to transportation hubs.
 - 4. to a lesser degree climate, landforms, etc.
- D. City Growth Models
 - 1. Burgess model - discuss zonal growth of a city. **Ref. Diagram from Lecture**
 - 2. The California variation - multiple nuclei concept.
 - 3. Growth patters affected by;
 - a. the natural environment - mtns., rivers, topog. S.F.
 - b. artificial barriers - railways, freeways, factories
 - c. decisions of private developers.
 - d. government controls - zoning regulations

4. Economic growth of a city usually enhanced by new freeway
5. 1946 L.A. first city in U.S. to establish broad zoning or districting on a broad scale. (L.A. needed it)
6. Cal. city growth is characterized as peripheral (sprawls out). S.F. only large city constrained from doing so.
7. early 1970's smaller cities began to grow faster than the large ones. This is a national trend. People seeking new life styles. Long term residents of small towns try to keep their standard of living. = conflict. There are many local examples.

IV. Urban California

- A. Time does not permit detailed discussion on cities and towns. Ref. Text pp. 236-256
- B. Some highlights from Miller.

1. San Francisco SOME USEFUL FACTS

- a. Founded as Yerba Buena (means "good grass") in 1835, also called Baghdad-by-the-Bay.
- b. About 60 sq. miles area (Hartman says 45). Limited on three sides, has grown up instead of out.
- c. Pop. declining, (1990=16,000 short of 1960 population. Housing very expensive. Much housing substandard (i.e. 60 % of China Town).
- d. Usual crime problems (this is a real concern for a town which makes much \$ on tourism).
- e. People have located across the Bay in Oakland, Marin, and farther. Big commute - listen to sig alerts! Bridges, rail lines, freeways, BART.
- f. ABAG-Assn. of Bay Area Govts. has 4 million residents and 85 incorporated cities.
- g. S.F. remains the cultural and financial heart of its metropolitan area.

2. Los Angeles or el Pueblo de Nuestra Senora La Reina de Los Angeles. (La Reina) = queen USEFUL FACTS:

- a. Lots of room to spread out, and it has.
- b. Pop. 1500 in 1836.
- c. Lots of room and mildest of Mediterranean climates.
- d. Boom of the 1880's (RR fare = \$1.00 (one dollar) from Kansas City to L.A. on the Santa Fe to encourage immigration). People came.
- e. By the turn of century- the urban area was already spread out.
- f. Edward Doheny- found & developed oil west of Figueroa.
- g. Wm. Mulholland - water via Owens Valley.
- h. One Million pop. by 1920's, Today, about 3 million.
- i. Area 456 sq. mi.
- j. L.A. owns San Pedro Harbor. (Largest man made harbor on earth)
- k. Watts- Willowbrook = Ca. largest black community.
- l. S.F. Valley from desert to citrus to bedroom community in less than 70 years.

3. All Cities - Manufacturing and trade. USEFUL FACTS

- a. Cal. largest in country in retail trade. 1992 = 224.6 Billion (pg. 257)
- b. Wholesalers are moving distribution centers to suburbs.
- c. 1972 only N.Y. had more manufacturing employees than Cal.; 1992 California became #1
- d. Alameda, Santa Clara, L.A., San Diego and Orange Co.'s = 74% of manufacturing in state, well diversified and market oriented. Not too specialized
- e. San Jose city, and Orange Co. = fastest growing.
- f. L.A. Co. 3rd after N.Y. and Chicago in manufacturing employment.
- g. L.A.- Long Beach strong in petroleum production.

There are 3320 shopping Malls in California

End