

Great Cities of the World



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Today 3 billion of the world's people live in urban areas. In 2007, for the first time,

city-dwellers will exceed in number those living in rural areas, and, according to United Nations' demographic experts, by 2030 they will total 5 billion against the 3.2 billion in non-urban areas. Large cities have prospered in both the ancient and recent past, contributing immeasurably to the development of human culture in terms of knowledge, the arts, architecture, and industrial progress. However, only during the last 50 years have cities have influenced our everyday lives strongly; not until today have conglomerations of 20 or 30 million people existed. Cities are chosen from across the six continents. Some like Athens, Rome and Cairo, have fascinated visitors for thousands of years. Others are just a few centuries old, like Cape Town, Singapore, Sydney or St. Petersburg, built on the orders of Peter the Great at the start of the 18th century. Some cities are vast, with populations in continual, rapid expansion. Others, particularly in Europe, number just a few hundreds of thousands inhabitants; their greatness belongs to past historical eras. "Great Cities of the World" examines civilization through the places man where man has chosen to live, and where stable, long-lasting communities have been built up. The book describes these cities' histories and architecture. An established series; features 56 of the World's largest and greatest cities.

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