

Rise of the *Asian megacity*

By Thomas J Campanella

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1. *urbanisation*
 2. **traffic** +
 3. *superlative*
 4. **the rise** of ...
 5. *megacity*
 6. *sustained*
 7. *booming*
 8. *lured*
 9. *impoverished*
 10. **migration**
 11. *unprecedented*
 12. **scale**
 13. **the equivalent of...**
 14. *nationwide*
 15. **workforce**
 16. *devoured*
 17. *relocated*
 18. **the People's Republic** China (The People's Republic of China)
 19. *ubiquitous*
 20. **priceless**
 21. **heritage**
 22. *displaced*
 23. *renewal*
 24. **staggering**
 25. **footprint**
 26. **pancake**
- the creation of cities
smuggle, sell
word describing the greatest or most extreme - such as 'highest', 'richest', 'most huge' and so on
the beginning of...
city of over 5 million
continued
developing rapidly
attracted
poor
exodus/journey
not seen before
size
the same as...
around the country
the working population
eaten up or consumed
moved to a new place
widespread/universal
so valuable there is no price
history, tradition
moved away (by something else)
regeneration, making something new
very large number
mark left by one's foot or area
thin fried layer of milk, egg, sugar and

27. sprawl	flour (薄餅)
28. <i>nonetheless</i>	spread out, widespread urban area
29. periphery	nevertheless, despite that,
30. network	the outer area of
31. <i>on the verge of...</i>	organization, system, structure with
32. <i>eclipsing</i>	linked elements
33. <i>extensive</i>	on the brink of.../very close to...
34. artifact	surpassing, going beyond
35. <i>bodes well for...</i>	widespread, large
36. <i>ironic</i>	object made by a living creature
37. carbon footprint	Is a good sign for...
38. combat	coincidental in a strange or funny way
39. <i>global warming</i>	Co2 emissions
40. addiction	fight against
41. <i>the very</i>	the warming of the planet
42. amenities	the need to have something
43. <i>fried</i>	the exact same
44. <i>unsustainable</i>	facilities or pleasant features
45. catastrophe	cooked in a pan at a high heat
46. <i>conserve</i>	not able to be continued
47. <i>solar</i>	disaster
48. <i>clean energy</i>	save, use less
	related to the sun
	non-polluting kinds of energy

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'Peacemakerfoundation.com' class.



Shanghai now has twice as many skyscrapers as New York

1. To write about **urbanisation** in China is to **traffic** in **superlatives**. Three decades of **sustained** economic growth, concentrated along the **booming** coast, has **lured** millions from the **impoverished** Chinese countryside. This great **migration** - **unprecedented** in human history - has put 46 Chinese cities over the one million mark since 1992, out of a national total of 102.
2. And this is just the start.
3. Currently only about 40% of China's population lives in cities, roughly that of America in 1885.
4. It is estimated that another 350 million Chinese will become urban by 2025, raising China's urban numbers to a cool billion.
5. Accommodating all these people has meant building on a **scale** the world has never seen before.
6. In the first 20 years of China's economic revolution, begun under Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s, China built some 6.5bn sq m (70bn sq ft) of new housing - **the equivalent of** more than 150 million average-sized apartments.
7. In Shanghai there were no skyscrapers in 1980; today it has twice as many as New York. Between 1990 and 2004 developers erected 85m sq m of commercial space in the city - equivalent to 334 Empire State buildings.

8. **Nationwide**, China's construction industry employs a **workforce** of about 37 million.
9. Nearly half the world's steel and cement is **devoured** there, and much of the world's heavy construction equipment has **relocated** to **the People's Republic**. Tower cranes, for example, have become the **ubiquitous** symbol of urban China.

'Spreading **pancake**'

10. But China's urban revolution has also destroyed as much as it has built.



Qianmen Street in one of Beijing's oldest neighbourhoods is now a tourist attraction

11. In its head-long rush to be rich and modern, China has deprived itself - and the world - of a **priceless heritage**.
- 12. Beijing, once among the world's great urban treasures, is fast becoming just another node of globalised consumerism; full of absurdly sanitised reconstitutions of its lost past, unaffordable to working people, lacerated by eight-lane highways.*
13. Urban development in China has also **displaced** more people than any nation in peacetime.
14. In Shanghai alone, redevelopment projects in the 1990s displaced more residents than did 30 years of **urban renewal** in the United States.
15. Because China's cities are growing outward as well as upward, urbanisation has also consumed a **staggering** amount of rural countryside.
16. Between 1985 and 1995, Shanghai's **footprint** grew from 90 sq miles to 790.

17. The "spreading pancake" of urban growth in China - "tan da bing", the popular Chinese expression for **sprawl** - has devoured some 45,000 sq miles of productive farmland over the last 30 years, nearly half the land area of the United Kingdom.

18. Chinese suburban development is much more concentrated than in the US. Large detached homes owned by single-families - the American standard - are relatively rare.



China's domestic automobile market now exceeds America's

19. The basic unit of Chinese suburbia - with its mid-rise apartment towers, community centre and shared public spaces - is half way between a Maoist "dan wei" (work unit) and a Californian gated community.

20. *Nonetheless*, such development on the **urban periphery** is fast making China a nation of motorists.

21. China's domestic car market now exceeds America's, and the largest car showrooms in the world today are not in Los Angeles or Houston but the People's Republic.

22. Accommodating the steady flow of new cars - Beijing and Shanghai average 1,000 new vehicle registrations a day - is a national road **network on the verge of eclipsing** the American interstate system as Earth's most **extensive** human **artifact**.

23. And with cars and highways have come all the standard spaces of suburban consumerism - drive-through restaurants and big-box shopping malls, budget chain motels, and even that vanished icon of middle America, the drive-in cinema.

Saving the world

24. None of this **bodes well for** planet Earth. How **ironic** that, just as the West has begun to get its environmental house in order - finally

taking serious action to reduce its **carbon footprint**, **combat *global warming***, and end its oil **addiction** - here come the millions of China, wanting *the very* lifestyle and material **amenities** that have put us on the verge of environmental collapse.



China has invested billions of dollars in the clean energy industry in recent years

25.If China were to match, per capita, car ownership in the US (which is falling, incidentally), it would mean more than one billion cars.

26.The planet, in a word, would be *fried*.

27.And this takes no account of India, which will soon overtake China as the world's most populous nation.

28.Experts such as Paul Gilding have come up with a measure for our total global footprint in terms of our impact on the environment and resources. In his book *The Great Disruption* he concludes that our economy is operating at about 150% of capacity - in other words, the way we live will take between one-and-a-half planets to sustain.

29.That is not just *unsustainable*, it is a **catastrophe**.

30.And yet, who are we to say to China: "We've had our playful, wasteful day in the sun but you must now *conserve*."

31.Happily, we don't need to; the Chinese are saying it themselves.

32.Even as it sprawls, China is building more public transit than all other nations combined, and is well ahead of the US in developing sustainable building technologies and clean-energy alternatives such as *solar*, wind, and biomass.

33. According to a study by the Pew Charitable Trusts, China invested \$34.6bn (£21bn) in the **clean energy industry** between 2005 and 2009 - nearly twice that of the US.

34. We may have taught China to drive, eat, and buy its way to ruin; China may yet show us how to save the world.

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Q1: What will happen if more and more people from the countryside move to live in the cities?

Q2: What are the advantages and disadvantages of more people in less space?

Q3: What should governments do to protect the environment as cities expand?

10 Largest cities in the world ranked by land area (2012) (<http://www.citymayors.com>)

Rank	City / Urban area	Country	Population	Land area (in sqKm)	Density (people per sqKm)
1	New York Metro	USA	17,800,000	8,683	2,050
2	Tokyo/Yokohama	Japan	33,200,000	6,993	4,750
3	Chicago	USA	8,308,000	5,498	1,500
4	Atlanta	USA	3,500,000	5,083	700
5	Philadelphia	USA	5,149,000	4,661	1,100
6	Boston	USA	4,032,000	4,497	900
7	Los Angeles	USA	11,789,000	4,320	2,750
8	Dallas/Fort Worth	USA	4,146,000	3,644	1,150
9	Houston	USA	3,823,000	3,355	1,150
10	Detroit	USA	3,903,000	3,267	1,200

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