

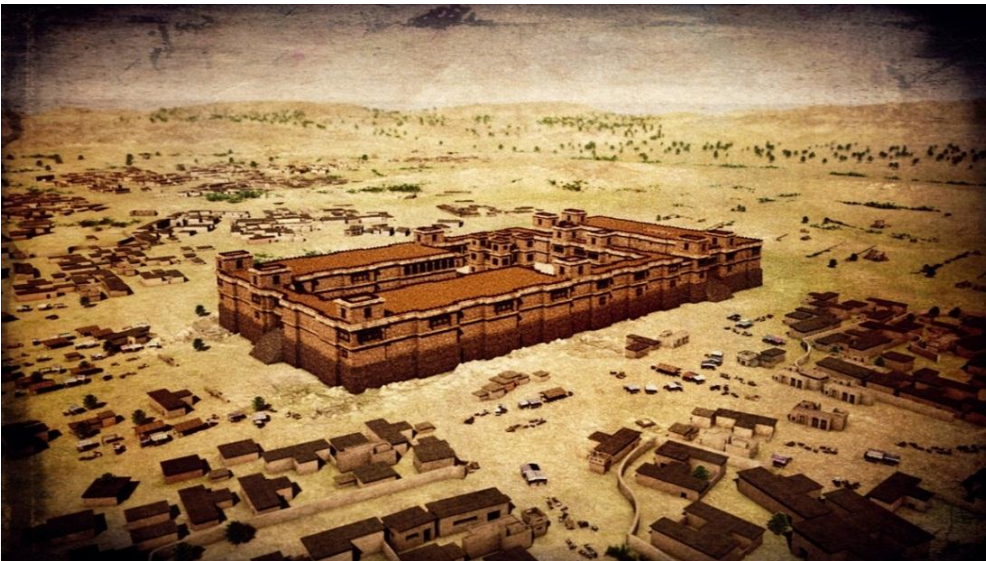
Post-Colonial Urban Developments

focusing on Africa

Lecture 6

Back ground

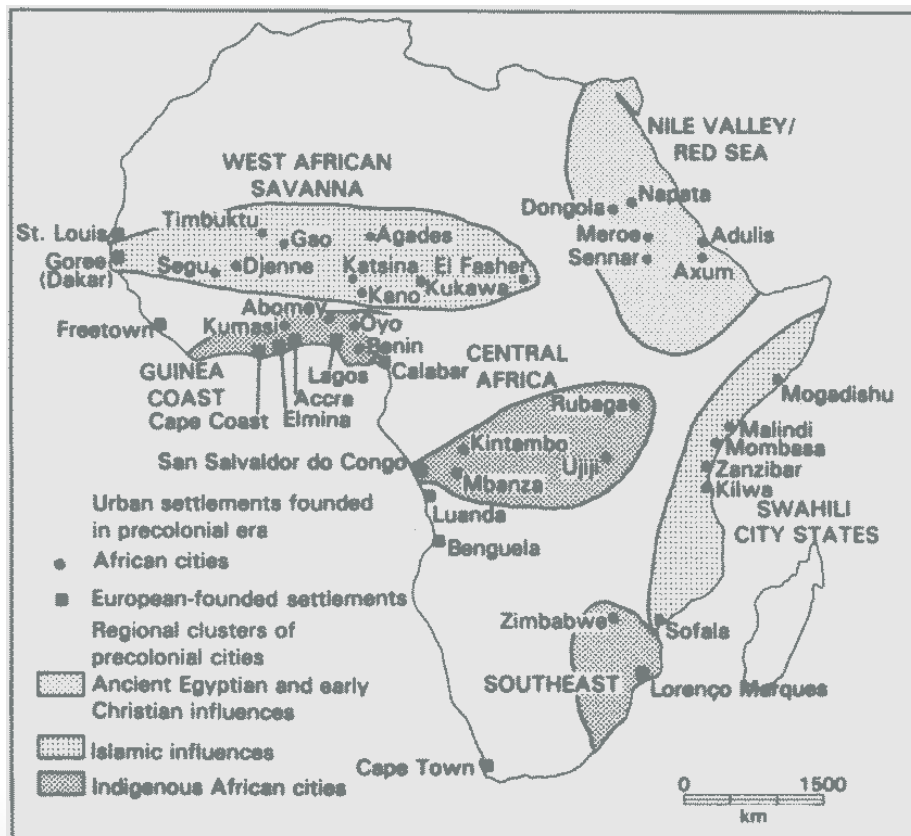
- ❑ Urbanization In Africa started long before the arrival of the Europeans in the 1400s, **urbanization appeared in northern Africa early as 3200 bc** and later extended to the rest of the continent.
- ❑ Some of these urban centers include cairo (kahira) and Alexandria in present day egypt ,tripoli in libya ,fez in morocco, timbuktu in mali, kumasi in ghana and kano in nigeria.



The Aksum Kingdom

Pre colonial urbanization

- Pre colonial urbanization was widespread. It reflected a variety of local influences (Ancient Egyptian) and external influences (Christian and Islamic influences) .



Pre-colonial urbanization in Africa

Pre-colonial cities

Pre-colonial cities were **surrounded by walls of stone or earth**. Walls surrounding those ancient cities had three main purposes:

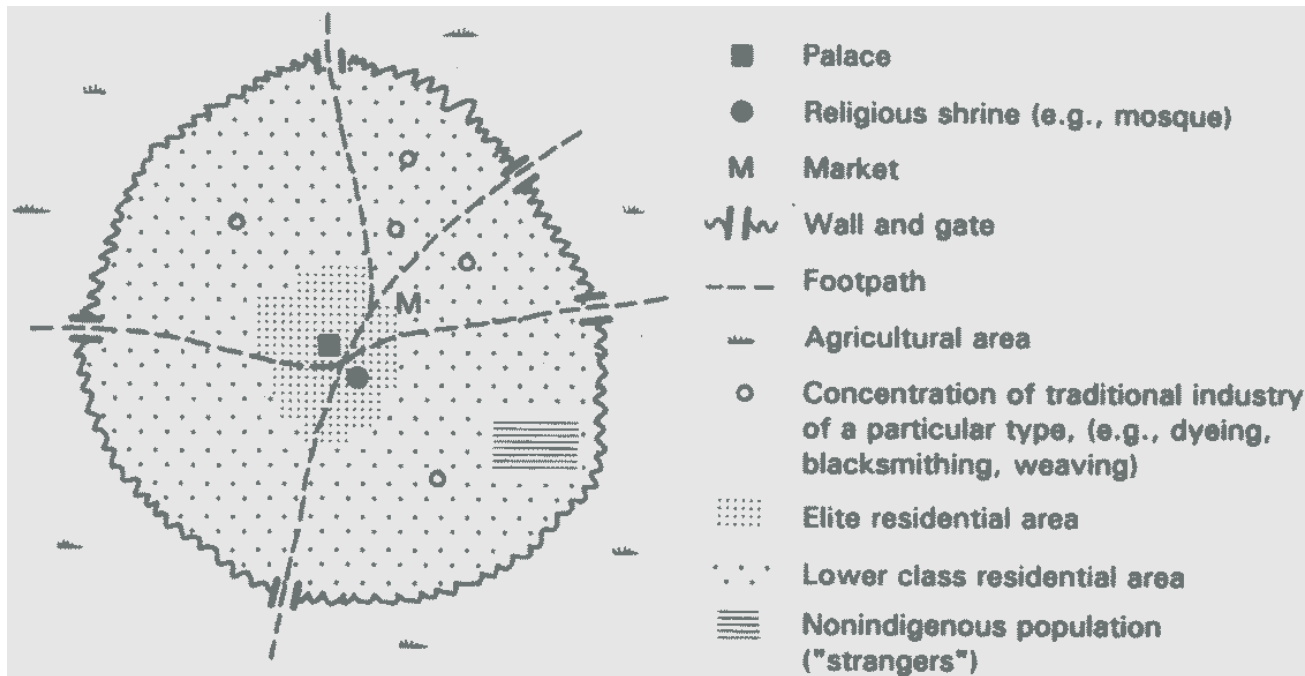
- defining the settlements,
- controlling growth and
- protecting the inhabitants from external threats.



Harer Ethiopia

Cont..

- Pre-colonial cities served a variety of social, economic, and political functions such as Palace ,religious shrine (e.g mosque) ,market , wall and gate ,foot path ,agricultural area ...



Schematic map of a typical pre-colonial city

colonial times

- ❑ Colonialism, which in most of Africa lasted from the late 19th century until at least the early 1960s, **influenced the structure and pattern of African urban growth in a number of ways.**
- ❑ only Ethiopia and Liberia were left as independent states, the remainder of the continent was under British, French, Portuguese, German, Belgian, Italian or Spanish control.



Colonial urbanization

The most obvious characteristic of colonial urban planning was the portioning of urban space into two highly distinct zones:

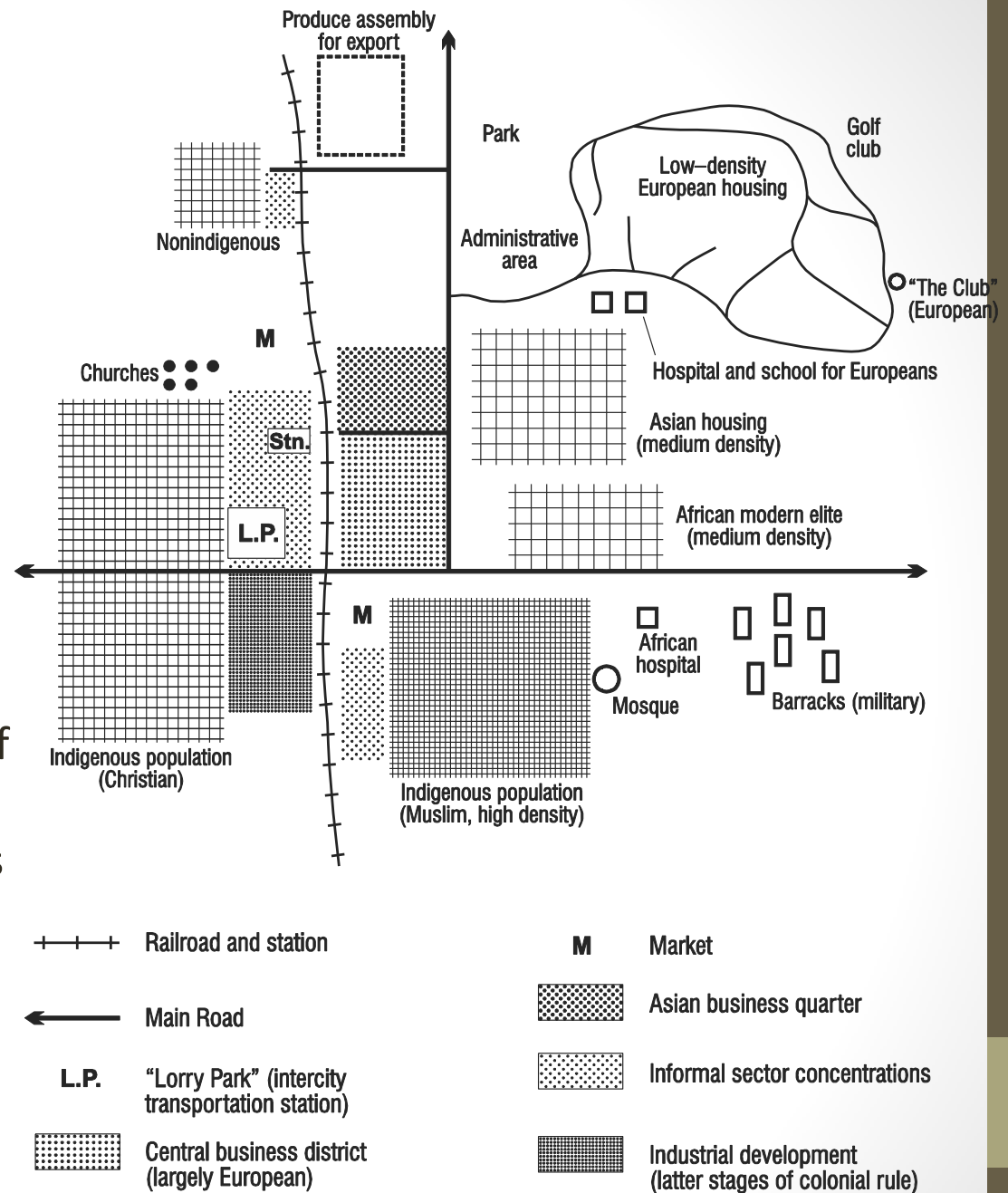
- A 'European' space that enjoyed a **high level of urban infra-structure and services,**
- An 'indigenous' space that was **marginally serviced.**



Residence of the French colonial governor, Djibouti.

Cont....

- The colonial city showed the influence of urban planning:
 - a grid pattern of streets
 - a spatial separation of urban functions and population subgroups



Schematic map of a typical colonial African city.

Colonial urban planning

- ❑ Colonial planning of urban settlements was frequently bound up with the **'modernizing and civilizing'** mission of colonial authorities.
- ❑ Colonial authorities confidently assumed that **European models of planning would be effective in colonized territories.**



Cont....



View over the old city of Kano,

Post colonial urbanization

- ❑ In the years after independence, many foreign professionals left; but **a significant number remained to work under post-colonial governments**, in most cases implementing planning legislation inherited from colonizing powers.
- ❑ In this way **institutionalized modernist planning approaches** retained influence in governments well after the colonial era.
- ❑ Lawrence Vale explores the complexities of **post-independence architectural production were Power, and National Identity.**

Cont....



Two cities that reflect their different colonial heritages. The colonial-era central square, Dakar, Senega still an important focal point in this city.

Cont....



- Keren, Eritrea. Two elements that show the colonial origins of this small town are its layout, radiating from a central plaza, and the Italian influences visible in the architecture of some buildings.

Challenges of Urbanization in Africa

- ❑ One of the major challenges of urbanization in Africa is the **rapid expansion of areas of informal settlements**. In sub-Saharan Africa, where only 32.8 percent of the population resides in cities, 72 percent of urban residents live in slums.



slum

- ❑ A slum is a highly populated urban residential area consisting mostly of **closely crowded, decrepit housing units in a situation of deteriorated or incomplete infrastructure**



slums

Un-habitat defines a slum housed as a group of individuals living under the same roof in urban area who lack one or more of the following ;

1. Durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions.
2. Sufficient living space which means not more than three people sharing the same room.
3. Easy access to safe water in sufficient amount at an affordable price.
4. Access to adequate sanitation in the form of private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people.
5. Security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.

Causes of slums

- Slums form and grow in different parts of the world for many different reasons. Causes include
 - rapid rural-to-urban migration,
 - economic stagnation and depression,
 - high unemployment,
 - poverty,
 - informal economy,
 - poor planning,
 - politics,
 - natural disasters and social conflicts

Strategies to reduce slums

- Strategies tried to reduce and transform slums in different countries, with varying degrees of success, include a combination of;
 - slum removal,
 - slum relocation,
 - slum upgrading,
 - urban planning with citywide infrastructure development, and public housing



Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya,

Suburbanization

- ❑ Suburbanization is a population shift from central urban areas into suburbs, resulting in the formation of (sub)urban sprawl.
- ❑ Urban sprawl is basically another word for urbanization. It refers to the migration of a population from populated towns and cities to low density residential development over more and more rural land. The end result is the spreading of a city and its suburbs over more and more rural land.



Soweto township, home to approximately 40% of Johannesburg's population.

Causes of Urban Sprawl

- Lower Land Rates
- Rise in Standard of Living
- Lack of Urban Planning
- Lower House Tax Rates
- Rise in Population Growth
- Consumer Preferences



Effects of Urban Sprawl

- Increase in Public Expenditure
- Increased Traffic
- Health Issues
- Environmental Issues
- Impact on Social Lives



Some African city after colonial



Algiers, Algeria.



Abidjan, Ivory Coast

THANK YOU