

Chapter 1 : Urbanization Without Cities | Open Library

The city at its best is an eco-community. Urbanization is not only a social and cultural fact of historic proportions; it is a tremendous ecological fact as well. We must explore modern urbanization and its impact on the natural environment, as well as the changes urbanization has produced in our.

The rise in urbanization in Africa in Opinions June 6, Urbanization is growing in both developed and developing countries, and the rapid rise in urbanization in Africa in particular, has received wild attention from and around the world. Indeed, urbanization can mean that, there is an improvement in the social status of people living in rural areas, or upgrading or renaming of rural areas as urban centres, or is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of rural migration and even suburban concentration into cities, particularly the very large ones. The realities of rapid urbanization and population growth in Africa are objectively patent with the realities of diversity of challenges, constraints and threats to service delivery in urban centres. Urban centres are attraction centres for rural population and, through multiplier effects, population sizes continue to grow concomitant with the demand for the services thus, hospitals, schools, industrial and commercial zones, security, etc. By it is predicted that In the developing world, Africa has experienced the highest urban growth during the last two decades at 3. Yet, urbanization in Africa has failed to bring about inclusive growth which, in turn, has resulted in proliferation of slums, urban poverty and rising inequality. Inequality in African cities remains the second highest in the world with an average Gini coefficient of about 0. Rural-urban migration and natural population growth rates in cities are the major causes of the increasing rate of urban growth and slum proliferation in Africa. The rapid rate of urbanization in Africa, can be associated with people moving into cities to seek economic opportunities. Cities, on the other hand, are known to be places where money, services and wealth are centralised. Cities are made attractive where fortunes are made and where social mobility is possible. It is easy to see why someone living on a farm might wish to take their chance moving to the city and trying to make enough money to send back home to their struggling family. There are more job opportunities and a greater variety of jobs. Health is another major factor. People, especially the elderly are often forced to move to cities where there are doctors and hospitals that can cater for their health needs. Other factors include a greater variety of entertainment restaurants, movie theaters, theme parks, etc and a better quality of education, thus tertiary, especially universities. Urbanisation again occurs as individual, commercial, and governmental efforts to reduce time and expense in commuting and transportation while improving opportunities for jobs, education, housing, and transportation. Living in cities permits the advantages of the opportunities of proximity, diversity, and marketplace competition. Businesses, which provide jobs and exchange capital are more concentrated in urban areas. Whether the source is trade or tourism, it is also through the ports or banking systems that foreign money flows into a country, commonly located in cities. Moreover, just as rural → urban migration is a cause of rapid urbanization, it can as well occur by natural increases in the urban population as well as the reclassification of rural areas as urban. Urbanization in Africa has largely been translated into rising slum establishments, increasing poverty and inequality. However, the relatively fewer slums in North African countries is mainly attributed to better urban development strategies, including investment in infrastructure and in upgrading urban settlements. In contrast, SSA has the lowest proportion of urban population Most SSA cities are characterized by insufficient basic infrastructure, particularly in low-income areas. As a consequence, many African cities have to deal not only with slum proliferation but also with increasing insecurity and crime. Weak institutions have contributed to poor urban enforcement, resulting in dysfunctional land and housing markets, which in turn has caused mushrooming of informal settlements. The expansion of cities is generally at the expense of destruction of forests and other natural environment or ecosystems, and increasing pollution especially air pollution with the related diseases. Furthermore, African governments have neglected the key drivers of productivity which include small and medium-size enterprises, human resource and skills development, and technological innovation. These factors are essential in advancing predominantly informal, survivalist and basic trading activities to higher value-added work. In order to address the challenges of urbanization facing many African

cities, some key reforms should be pursued by governments. These include the provision of integrated infrastructures and services that target the marginalized groups, including the poor, youth, women and elderly people, thus upgrading the informal settlements. In addition, governments should act proactively to ensure orderly urban development by defining and implementing clear urban development strategies. Again, mobilizing urban financing from local and foreign investors a strategy can be used. Governments on the continent must as well make the concerted effort to improve human capital through equal access to education and healthcare services and facilities for all categories of citizens in order to meet labor market needs. Moreover, diversification of economic activities through the creation of new economic hubs oriented towards high sustainable and value-added production and exportation. These reforms should be more inclusive to ensure that all categories of citizens, regardless of their age, race, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic conditions, have equal access to adequate housing, basic infrastructure and services and equal job opportunities.

Urbanization Without Cities The Rise and Decline of Citizenship MURRAY BOOKCHIN BLACK ROSE BOOKS Montreal/New York.

Urbanization is a process whereby populations move from rural to urban area, enabling cities and towns to grow. It can also be termed as the progressive increase of the number of people living in towns and cities. It is highly influenced by the notion that cities and towns have achieved better economic, political, and social mileages compared to the rural areas. These include social and economic advantages such as better education, health care, sanitation, housing, business opportunities, and transportation. Therefore, as populations move to more developed areas towns and cities the immediate outcome is urbanization. This normally contributes to the development of land for use in commercial properties, social and economic support institutions, transportation, and residential buildings. Eventually, these activities raise several urbanization issues. To learn more about urbanization, here are its causes, effects and solutions.

Causes of Urbanization

Industrialization Industrialization is a trend representing a shift from the old agricultural economics to novel non-agricultural economy, which creates a modernized society. Through industrial revolution, more people have been attracted to move from rural to urban areas on the account of improved employment opportunities. Industrialization has increased employment opportunities by giving people the chance to work in modern sectors in job categories that aids to stir economic developments. **Commercialization** Commerce and trade play a major role in urbanization. The distribution of goods and services and commercial transactions in the modern era has developed modern marketing institutions and exchange methods that have tremendously given rise to the growth of towns and cities. Commercialization and trade comes with the general perception that the towns and cities offer better commercial opportunities and returns compared to the rural areas. **Social benefits and services** There are numerous social benefits attributed to life in the cities and towns. Examples include better educational facilities, better living standards, better sanitation and housing, better health care, better recreation facilities, and better social life in general. On this account, more and more people are prompted to migrate into cities and towns to obtain the wide variety of social benefits and services which are unavailable in the rural areas. **Employment opportunities** In cities and towns, there are ample job opportunities that continually draw people from the rural areas to seek better livelihood. Therefore, the majority of people frequently migrate into urban areas to access well paying jobs as urban areas have countless employment opportunities in all developmental sectors such as public health, education, transport, sports and recreation, industries, and business enterprises. Services and industries generate and increase higher value-added jobs, and this leads to more employment opportunities. **Modernization and changes in the mode of living** Modernization plays a very important role in the process of urbanization. As urban areas become more technology savvy together with highly sophisticated communication, infrastructure, medical facilities, dressing code, enlightenment, liberalization, and other social amenities availability, people believe they can lead a happy life in cities. In urban areas, people also embrace changes in the modes of living namely residential habits, attitudes, dressing, food, and beliefs. As a result, people migrate to cities and the cities grow by absorbing the growing number of people day after day. **Rural urban transformation** As localities become more fruitful and prosperous due to the discovery of minerals, resource exploitation, or agricultural activities, cities start emerging as the rural areas transform to urbanism. The increase in productivity leads to economic growth and higher value-added employment opportunities. This brings about the need to develop better infrastructure, better education institutions, better health facilities, better transportation networks, establishment of banking institutions, better governance, and better housing. As this takes place, rural communities start to adopt the urban culture and ultimately become urban centers that continue to grow as more people move to such locations in search of a better life. **Effects of Urbanization** Positive effects of urbanization Urbanization yields several positive effects if it happens within the appropriate limits. Some of the positive implications of urbanization therefore include creation of employment opportunities, technological and infrastructural advancements, improved transportation and communication, quality educational and medical facilities, and improved standards of

living. However, extensive urbanization mostly results in adverse effects. Below listed points are few of them.

Housing problems Urbanization attracts people to cities and towns which lead to high population increase. With the increase in the number of people living in urban centers, there is continued scarcity of houses. This is due to insufficient expansion space for housing and public utilities, poverty, unemployment, and costly building materials which can only be afforded by few individuals.

Overcrowding Overcrowding is a situation whereby a huge number of people live in a small space. This form of congestion in urban areas is consistent because of overpopulation and it is an aspect that increases day by day as more people and immigrants move into cities and towns in search of better life. Most people from rural or undeveloped areas always have the urge of migrating into the city that normally leads to congestion of people within a small area.

Unemployment The problem of joblessness is highest in urban areas and it is even higher among the educated people. It is estimated that more than half of unemployed youths around the globe live in metropolitan cities. And, as much as income in urban areas is high, the costs of living make the incomes to seem horribly low. The increasing relocation of people from rural or developing areas to urban areas is the leading cause of urban unemployment.

Development of slums The cost of living in urban areas is very high. When this is combined with random and unexpected growth as well as unemployment, there is the spread of unlawful resident settlements represented by slums and squatters. The growth of slums and squatters in urban areas is even further exacerbated by fast-paced industrialization, lack of developed land for housing, large influx of rural immigrants to the cities in search of better life, and the elevated prices of land beyond the reach of the urban poor.

Water and sanitation problems Because of overpopulation and rapid population increase in most urban centers, it is common to find there are inadequate sewage facilities. Municipalities and local governments are faced with serious resource crisis in the management of sewage facilities. As a result, sanitation becomes poor and sewages flow chaotically, and they are drained into neighboring streams, rivers, lakes, or seas. Eventually, communicable diseases such as typhoid, dysentery, plague, and diarrhea spread very fast leading to suffering and even deaths. Overcrowding also highly contributes to water scarcity as supply falls short of demand.

Poor health and spread of diseases The social, economic and living conditions in congested urban areas affects access and utilization of public health care services. Slum areas in particular experience poor sanitation and insufficient water supply which generally make slum populations susceptible to communicable diseases. The environmental problems such as urban pollution also cause many health problems namely allergies, asthma, infertility, food poisoning, cancer and even premature deaths.

Traffic congestion When more people move to towns and cities, one of the major challenges posed is in the transport system. More people means increased number of vehicles which leads to traffic congestion and vehicular pollution. Many people in urban areas drive to work and this creates a severe traffic problem, especially during the rush hours.

Urban crime Issues of lack of resources, overcrowding, unemployment, poverty, and lack of social services and education habitually leads to many social problems including violence, drug abuse, and crime. Most of the crimes such as murder, rape, kidnapping, riots, assault, theft, robbery, and hijacking are reported to be more prominent in the urban vicinities. Besides, poverty related crimes are the highest in fast-growing urban regions.

Solutions of Urbanization Building sustainable and environmentally friendly cities Governments should pass laws that plan and provide environmentally sound cities and smart growth techniques, considering that people should not reside in unsafe and polluted areas. The objective here is to build sustainable cities that embrace improved environmental conditions and safe habitats for all urban populations. Governments should also encourage sustainable use of urban resources and support an economy based on sustainable environment such as investment in green infrastructure, sustainable industries, recycling and environmental campaigns, pollution management, renewable energy, green public transportation, and water recycling and reclamation.

Provision of essential services Urban stakeholders must ensure all populations within the urban areas have access to adequate essential social services namely education, health, sanitation and clean water, technology, electricity, and food. The objective here is to provide and implement employment opportunities and wealth creation activities so that people can earn a living to pay for the maintenance of the services. Subsidies can also be availed by the government to lower the costs of basic healthcare, basic education, energy, education, public transportation, communication systems and technology. Creation of more jobs To lessen the negative effects

of rapid urbanization while at the same time conserving natural ecosystems, private investments should be encouraged so as to utilize natural resources and create more job opportunities. Tourism promotion and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources can create more jobs for the urban populations. Subsidies and grants may as well be provided to foreign and private investment in environmentally friendly development projects that encourage job creation. Population control Key stakeholders in urban areas must provide campaigns and counseling for effective medical health clinics and family planning to help reduce the high rates of population growth. Medical health clinics oriented towards family planning options must be made accessible across the entire urban area with the objective of controlling diseases and population growth.

Chapter 3 : Urbanization Without Cities : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

urbanization without cities rise and fall of citizenship black rose books no v Download Book Urbanization Without Cities Rise And Fall Of Citizenship Black Rose Books No V in PDF format. You can Read Online Urbanization Without Cities Rise And Fall Of Citizenship Black Rose Books No V here in PDF, EPUB, Mobi or Docx formats.

Bookchin makes the argument that urbanization and citification are antagonistic concepts. Modern day "citizens" view the city in economistic "The assumption that what currently exists must necessarily exist is the acid that corrodes all visionary thinking. Modern day "citizens" view the city in economically reductionist terms of what services it has to offer. And in turn the "citizen" is reduced to a mere "taxpayer", "voter", "constituent". Below I will try to lay out the structure of the argument as briefly as I can, to give a very shallow overview of what the reader can expect. The unfolding of the dialectical argument is as ever prevalent in this work as well: The "good" traits of the early city are identified "partly" in the Athenian polis [2], from which the author then identifies two other concepts which are at odds with each other, the body politic and the electorate, the well-rounded citizen vs. Out of which emerges the yet even greater distinction between the democracy, and the republic Athenian democracy vs. Roman Republic in history. This ever-unfolding argument, naturally, returns to previously stated arguments to enrich them. Chapter four The Ideal of Citizenship then synthesizes the most important lessons we have to draw from history in our quest to reinvigorate citizenship [4]. Chapter 5 Patterns of Civic Freedom is a pleasure to read, and is mostly a historical account of various ways in which face-to-face democracy has existed throughout Europe. Chapter Six From Politics to Statecraft tries to explain how politics degenerated into statecraft, and identifies how confederation was a viable candidate and partially succeeded in the case of Switzerland to the centralist tendencies of the nation state. Critiques of the nation-state abound [5], [6]. Bookchin maintains that the potential for confederation still exists, and should definitely not be ignored as it is by the majority of people; this is of the most striking importance for current day Rojava which are trying to make these decentralist ideas into reality [7]. Chapter seven The Social Ecology of Urbanization tries to create an ecological view of the rise of urbanization, i. Capitalism "of course" is among the main culprits [8]. Chapter eight, tries to synthesize a "New Municipal Agenda" as is its name from everything that was learned in the previous chapters. It puts cities in conflict with the state, it puts confederation in conflict with centralism and command-control hierarchy, it puts well-rounded citizens in "conflict" with the voter, and the market vs. At the same time having an honest discussion about the potential failures of this new agenda [12]. The appendix The Meaning of Confederation is a must read for it provides quite clear distinctions of what the limits of this vision are, what its preconditions are, and what obstacles it faces. At the end of the day, the message of this book is quite clear, dire, urgent, and explicit. We either reclaim citizenship in the classic sense and arrest urbanization, or "Another ultimate vision also faces us: Indeed, one of the great tasks of ecological thinking will be to develop an ecological civicism that restores the organic bonds of community without reverting to the archaic blood-tie at one extreme or the totalitarian "folk philosophy" of fascism at the other. We not only confuse urbanization with citification, but we have literally dropped the city out of the history of ideas both in terms of the way it explains the present human condition and the systems of public governance it creates. They must not only want it but know it. Or does it center around social entities such as cooperative, vocational societies or tribes in the countercultural sense of this much-abused term? Or some broad concept of grass-roots organization that passes under words such as "localism," "decentralism," and "bioregionalism"? Or is it primarily a form of "management" whose goal is administrative efficiency and fiscal shrewdness? No modern body of ideas, to my knowledge, has wrestled with the answers to these questions adequately enough to draw clear distinctions among the social, the political, and the statist so that a meaningful outlook can be formulated—one that will seek the delicate balance of ingredients traditional, familial, ethical, and institutional and the paideia that articulates an authentically democratic politics with a concept of citizenship that gives this outlook reality. Nor do we have a clear idea of the extent to which the city, properly conceived as a humanly scaled ethical community, differs from urbanization and the inhuman scale produced by the nation-state. We rarely

understand how integrally an ethical politics is wedded to a comprehensible civic scale, to the city itself, conceived as a thoroughly manageable and participatory union of citizens, richly articulated by tradition and by social, cultural, and political forms. We live so contemporaneously within the given state of affairs, the overbearing "now" that eternalizes the status quo, that no society is more prey to the workings of mindless forces than our own. Bereft of a serious regard for history, indeed for the experiences of our own century, we find ourselves in the airless vacuum of an immutable "present," a time warp that precludes any sense of futurity and ability to reason innovatively. These are not trifling distinctions. We cannot ignore them without grossly simplifying politics. Differences in degrees of stratification can have major practical consequences for politically concerned individuals and communities. We of a later generation have good reason to lament the loss of the confederal alternative that appeared at an earlier epoch in Europe, one that might have averted the terrifying turn "national unity" took between and It raises the crucial question of whether or not seemingly "undeveloped" peoples today are to achieve what we so flippantly call "modernization"â€”by confederalism or nationalism, decentralism or centralism, libertarian institutions or authoritarian ones. We have not removed these questions from the future of our civilization nor can they be concealed from purview by the veil of history. If anything, hindsight has made them as searing today as they were in earlier times, when the terrifying future that now looms before us was very far removed from the eyes of men and women in the sixteenth century. What makes the market society we call "capitalism" unique, even by contrast to its early mercantile form, is that it is an ever-expansive, accumulative, and, in this respect, a cancerous economic system whose "law of life" is to "grow or die. Owing to its metastatic invasion of every aspect of life by means of monetization and what Immanuel Wallerstein calls "commodification," it threatens the integrity of the natural worldâ€”soil, flora, fauna, and the complex ecocommunities that have made present-day life forms and relationships possible by turning everything "natural" into an inorganic, essentially synthetic form. Soil is being turned into sand, variegated landscapes into level and simplified ones, complex relationships into more primal forms such that the evolutionary clock is being turned back to a biotically earlier time when life was less varied in form and its range more limited in scope. The effect of capitalism on the city has been nothing less than catastrophic. The commonly used term "urban cancer" can be taken literally to designate the extent to which the traditional urbs of the ancient world have been dissolved into a primal, ever-spreading, and destructive form that threatens to devour city and countryside alike. Growth in the special form that singles out modern capitalism from all earlier forms of economic life, including earlier forms of capitalism itself, has affected what we still persist in calling the "city" by leading to the expansion of pavements, streets, houses, and industrial, commercial, and retail structures over the entire landscape just as a cancer spreads over the body and invades its deepest recesses. Cities, in turn, have begun to lose their form as distinctive cultural and physical entities, as humanly scaled and manageable political entities. Their functions have changed from ethical arenas with a uniquely humane, civilized form of consociation, free of all blood ties and family loyalties, into immense, overbearing, and anonymous marketplaces. They are becoming centers primarily of mass production and mass consumption, including culture as well as physically tangible objects. Indeed, culture has become objectified into commodities as have human relationships, which are increasingly being simplified and mediated by objects. The simplification of social life and the biosphere by a growth-oriented economy in which production and consumption become ends in themselves is yielding the simplification of the human psyche itself. The strong sense of individuation that marked the people of the mixed society preceding capitalism is giving way to a receptive consumer and taxpayer, a passive observer of life rather than an active participant in it, lacking in economic roots that support self-assertiveness and community roots that foster participation in social life. Citizenship itself, conceived as a function of character formation, and politics, as part of paideia or the education of a social being, tend to wane into personal indifference to social problems. The decline of the citizen, more properly his or her dissolution into a being lost in a mass societyâ€”the human counterpart of the mass-produced objectâ€”is furthered by a burgeoning of structural gigantism that replaces human scale and by a growing bureaucracy that replaces all the organic sinews that held precapitalist society together. The counselor is the humanistic counterpart of the indifferent bureaucrat and the counseling chamber is the structural counterpart of the governmental office. Hence the need for a new

municipal politics to become an intensely educational and participatory experience at every level of civic life. It must be repeated not as part of a patronizing sermon but as a living practice that people incorporate into their personal lives and their communities. The vacuity and triviality of life today must be filled precisely by those visionary ideals that sustain the human side of life as well as its material side, or else the coordinates by which the future should be guided will totally disappear in that commodity oriented world we call the "marketplace of ideas. They will become the mere ornaments needed to garnish an inherently antihuman and antiecological society that threatens to undermine moral integrity as such and the simple social amenities that foster human intercourse.

Chapter 4 : Urbanization without cities (edition) | Open Library

*Urbanization Without Cities: The Rise and Decline of Citizenship [Murray Bookchin] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The city at its best is an eco-community. Urbanization is not only a social and cultural fact of historic proportions; it is a tremendous ecological fact as well.*

The Outpost “ Posted on May 7, Posted in: Nairobi-based urban practitioner Jane Lumumba argues they might only make social and economic problems worse. Yet, who will actually live and work in them? Comprehensively planned, independent, relatively self-contained communities, usually built from scratch, and large enough to provide within their borders housing, public facilities, socio-cultural opportunities and employment for their residents. Eko Atlantic will change the face of Africa and will help Lagos State transform itself into megacity status on the world map. This state will provide space for the 25 million people expected to live and work in the region by the year Eko Atlantic is a creative and ambitious development and is rapidly becoming a source of great national pride in Nigeria. New City projects emerging in Africa are planned urban areas, usually on the periphery of an older city, designed to meet their own residential, commercial, industrial and retail needs. The concept is not a novel one. But of concern is that, with so many New Cities already in the pipeline, still no one knows what their impact will be. A vast urban experiment is underway, with not nearly enough study or forethought as to how these places will affect the economies, environments and lives of people who will live both in and outside of them. Lagos is eyeing the construction of Eko Atlantic , a city for , built on land reclaimed from the ocean. And Lusaka, Zambia is welcoming Roma Park , a residential and commercial development being built on hectares of greenfield. The list of projects continues to grow as other African cities jump on the bandwagon. This trend in urban development calls for empirical diagnosis and analysis of the opportunities, challenges and implications of these emerging urban forms. Does it ever make sense to plan a city where nothing yet exists? More Connected, Global and Sustainable? Based on the assumption of a shared longing for new urban spaces, these cities come with promises of impressive amenities and functioning systems that will enable the urban lifestyle most Western cities provide. What is worrying is that there is little recognition of place, economy, context and even poverty in these cities. This begs several questions. To whom do these cities belong? Who is planning them? Are they inclusive cities, or simply profit-driven businesses? Rendering by OBR Architects. Originally made of mud brick walls and thatched roofs, compound structures have been a prevalent form of housing in Ghana for centuries, built to encourage communal life. The Hope City towers pretend to use this as a prototype. These governments are betting on two things. The first is that an emerging African middle class that will demand and pay a premium for high-quality urban space. In this gleaming vision, the old Lagos of slums has an uncertain future. Many New Cities are being built with input exclusively from architects, engineers and property developers. This lack of fundamental technical input from other stakeholders is worrying. For example, Tatu City in Nairobi is set to be developed on prime agricultural land. This land was initially a coffee plantation, which happens to be an important foreign exchange earner for Kenya. This draws in the issue of land use, particularly in countries where there are weak regulatory frameworks and cultural influences on land ownership. These cities also risk exacerbating the problems of spatial fragmentation, and social and spatial polarization. The sustainable agenda inherent in the designs of these New Cities is not feasible for the urban poor. Will informal housing or vending be allowed in these cities? Will the glass high-rises with their expensive cooling systems “ functioning against the backdrop of unreliable electricity “ exclude those who cannot afford to support these costs? But they are well aware that Lagos is Lagos because of the people that live here. They are doing this without regard for the people who live here. Though the consequences of these cities are speculative, Africa can learn from recent cases. The most relevant is in Angola. Nova Cidade de Kilamba was built by a state-owned Chinese investment company on an assumption of housing deficits and a need to provide mixed-use buildings in the outskirts of Luanda, the capital city. Today, this development is empty. It is clear that this project was not well thought through. Indeed, it was a fantasy and has remained so since its inception “ an ominous sign for the many other New Cities popping up around the continent. Jane

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Chapter 5 : Urbanization without cities: the rise and decline of citizenship - Murray Bookchin - Google Book

About us. By , one of the most historically significant decades had just ended. It was a time of ideas, and of actions: of change, so dramatic and so basic, that deep political and cultural roots were then implanted.

Chapter 6 : URBANIZATION WITHOUT INDUSTRIALIZATION: The rise in urbanization in Africa |

Urbanization Without Cities: The Rise and Decline of Citizenship Murray Bookchin introduces provocative ideas about the nature of community and what it means to be a fully empowered citizen.

Chapter 7 : Urbanization without Cities : Murray Bookchin :

urbanization without cities the pdf Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban residency, the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas, and the ways in which each society adapts to this change.

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Urbanization Without Cities by Murray Bookchin, , Black Rose Books edition, in English.

Chapter 9 : Urbanization Without Cities: The Rise and Decline of Citizenship by Murray Bookchin

The city at its best is an eco-community. Urbanization is not only a social and cultural fact of historic proportions; it is a tremendous ecological fact as.