APPENDIX 9

THE CHALLENGE OF URBANIZATION [1]

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Man or a close cousin has resided on this planet for some 2 to 2½ million years. Over this period four developments, interrelated and reaching climactic proportions during this century, have profoundly affected man's attitudes, values and behaviorisms. These developments are: one, the population explosion; two, the population implosion; three, population diversification; and four, the acceleration in the tempo of technological and social change.

The "population explosion" refers to the remarkable increase in the rate of world population growth, especially during the three centuries of the modern era. In the long view world population growth rates have increased from perhaps two per cent per millennium during the Paleolithic Period (the Old Stone Age spanning some 600,000 years) to two per cent per annum at the present time—a thousand-fold increase.

Since mid-17th century world population has increased over six-fold, from about one-half billion to 3.3 billion at the present time (1968). In quick summary, it took most of the 2 to 2½ million years man has occupied the earth to generate a world population of 1 billion persons—a number not achieved until about 1825. It required only 105 years more to reach a population of 2 billion, by 1930; and only 30 years more to reach a total population of 3 billion, by 1960.

The "population implosion" refers to the increasing concentration of the world's peoples on a small proportion of the earth's surface—the phenomenon of urbanization and metropolitanization. Again, in the long view, this is a relatively recent development. Permanent human settlement was not achieved until the Neolithic Period (the New Stone Age), some 10,000 years ago. Such permanent settlement had to await the great inventions, technological and social organizational, of the Neolithic Revolution—domesticated plants and animals, and the proliferation of the crafts. Clumpings of population large enough to be called towns or cities did not emerge until after about 3500 B.C.; and mankind did not achieve the technological and social organizational development to permit cities of 100,000 or more until as recently as Greco-Roman civilization. With the collapse of the Roman Empire the relatively large urban agglomerations in the Roman sphere of influence diminished in size to small towns providing services to rural hinterlands together with which they constituted almost autonomous subsistence economies.

With the emergence of Europe from the Dark Ages and the series of developments known as the Agricultural Revolution, the Commercial Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the Scientific Revolution and the Technological Revolution, man achieved levels both of technological and social organizational development that permitted ever larger agglomerations of people and economic activities. In consequence, the proliferation of cities of 1,000,000 or more inhabitants became possible during the 19th century, and the emergence of metropolitan areas and megalopolis, the coalescence of metropolitan areas, during the second half of the 20th century.

In 1800 only 2.4 per cent of the world's people resided in places of 20,000 or more; and only 1.7 per cent in places of 100,000 or more. By 1960, 27.1 per cent were located in places of 20,000 or more, and 19.9 per cent in places of 100,000 or more.

"Population diversification" alludes to the increasing heterogeneity of populations not only sharing the same geographic area but, also, the same life space—economic, social and political activity. And the "same geographic area" and "the same life space," with accelerating technological and social organizational

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