

Metropolitan Structure and function
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Stages of U.S. Urbanization

- 1500-1790 Frontier
- 1790-1840 Mercantile
- 1840-1875 Expansion and realignment
- 1875-1920 The organization of industry
- 1920-1945 Automobile era and depression
- 1945-1972 Spatial decentralization and metro consolidation
- 1972-1983 Economic Crisis and urban Restructuring
- 1983-Present, Emergence of informational cities-global cities hypothesis

Frontier Period

- Location on ports, trade some start to exploiting agricultural staples.
- Gateway ports, 1) assembly point for export for staple commodities: 2) entry point for manufactured goods: 3) administration centers for new colonies-mix of functions
- Entreports and their hinterlands.

Mercantile Era 1790-1840

- Urbanization helped by constitution – central bank prevented fragmenting of the economy
- More links developed between entreports and hinterlands regional economies begin to merge
- Gateway places grow as do inland gateways
- Striking growth on Mississippi, challenge to east coast post Louisiana purchase
- Start to see more manufacturing at artisan level, import substitution; circulation of capital is more local, wealth growing.

Expansion and Realignment 1840-1875

- Railroads and steam power big story!
- More industrialized manufacturing
- Central places shift
- Cities begin to specialize on basis of comparative advantage textile, pork, and lumber, Coal, transport more mixed.
- Power site textiles wood craft (along Appalachian fall line) Allentown, New England cities

Spatial Decentralization and Metropolitan Consolidation 1945-1972

- Highways!! Sprawl
- Redlining!!
- Regional convergence income spatial fix, government expenditures, urban hierarchy of control centers emerges
- Regional decentralization with continued consolidation or metro area
- Sunbelt-rustbelt shift.

1972-1983 Economic Crisis and Urban Restructuring

- End of Fordist more of production, rise of flexible specialization
- OPEC oil crisis
- Foreign competition in steel cars, other core industries, consumer electronics
- Government devolution, retreat labor relations, urban issues, edu, ect.