

Pro Case:

Value Premise: General Welfare

We strongly affirm the resolution, on balance, the benefits of urbanization in West Africa **DO** outweigh the harms. Africa is currently one of the fastest-growing continents in the world in terms of urbanization. More and more people are moving into cities at higher rates than ever seen before in Africa. The percentage of the urbanized population jumped from 27% in 1950 to 40% in 2015 and projected to reach 60% by 2050 according to the UN department of economic and social affairs. To begin this debate we will define urbanization as the widespread movement of populations towards urban areas, and away from rural ones. **Urbanization is a force of good within West Africa because urbanization leads to exponential scientific advancement, modernization, and positively impacts the livelihoods of individuals across the spectrum.**

Life expectancy is at an all-time high, the average annual income has been consistently growing, average wages have increased, and the overall economic growth has been rising at exorbitant rates. All these factors are desired by all nations across the globe. The African Development Bank reported Africa to be the world's second-fastest-growing economy, and estimates that rapid growth will increase in the coming years (Here) ...

Contention 1: Urbanization and Rapid population growth leads to: exponential scientific advancement, modernization, and industrialization

One of the most desired factors for any country is the growth of modernization and industrialization... For clarification sake, we will define modernization as the rapid growth of ideas, and the process of solving problems, and we will define industrialization as the growth of industries, and the expansion of modern manufacturing. The correlation between modernization and urbanization is not to be overlooked. Just four months ago Investopedia released an article covering the “World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change” ([Here](#)). In the article, they stated quote “Industrialization has historically led to urbanization by creating economic growth and job opportunities that draw people to cities” end quote. The boom of economic growth leads to building manufacturers, retailers, and service providers all following to meet product demand of workers.

From the same article we see, quote “In the modern era, manufacturing facilities like factories are often replaced by technology-industry hubs. These technological hubs draw workers from other areas in the same way factories used to, contributing to urbanization.” end quote. As certain places develop, more and more the demand for improved education and public work agencies increases. This is due to the industry looking for new technology to increase productivity, and demand due to urbanization is what spurs further growth and development, which is exactly what we are seeing in Africa as it continues to develop.

With the implementation of modern technology, we see wage increases... Urbanization and industrialization have a one and one relationship and are inseparable. For reference, the international journal of research of India has posted an extremely similar article in 2014 entitled "Urbanization and Development". The first sentence of the abstract reads "The level of urbanization and economic development are positively related". ([Here](#))

Contention 2: Urbanization positively impacts the lives of individuals across the spectrum.

Another factor that is important in deciding whether or not urbanization is good is observing how it positively or negatively affects the common citizen, the farmer, and even the downtrodden or impoverished.

The Common citizen: The common citizen has benefitted in countless ways. To simplify their benefits we will focus on both their wage increase and overall employment rates. The International Labour Organization in 2019 released a study on wage trends in Africa. A quote from their abstract read "Average real wages have increased by about 20 percent in Africa between 2006 and 2017, supported by labor productivity gains." As rates of urbanization increase, the average wage tends to increase simultaneously. In regards to employment, a separate study was done by the same organization in 2020. An excerpt from that study reads: "From 2000 to 2019, employment grew at an annual rate of between 2.5 and 3 percent... Additionally, Africa's employment-to-population ratios (EPRs) are high compared to those globally."

The Farmers: In July of 2014 Harvard released an analysis covering the effects of urbanization and its correlation to poverty. Albeit, This article covered Vietnam specifically, however, the statistical evidence provided by the study can be applied to Africa. After extensive research, the group came to the conclusion that urbanization positively leads to increased wages as well as decreased expenditure poverty rates among rural areas. ([Here](#))

The Downtrodden: in February 2020 the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs released a report on the effects that urbanization has on the poor. An excerpt from the article reads "...Urbanization can reduce poverty and inequality by improving employment opportunities and quality of life, including through better education and health."

In conclusion, Upward mobility has been achieved across the board. The benefits do outweigh the harms, and judges with the contentions we have stated we only see a strong pro ballot.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/04/17/developing-countries-need-to-harness-urbanization-to-achieve-mdgs-imf-world-bank-report>

<https://www.fordfoundation.org/just-matters/just-matters/posts/habitat-iii-urbanization-can-be-a-force-for-tackling-inequality/>

Crossfire

- Entrepreneurs are attracted to Urban Areas
 - Rural America is struggling at the moment
- Crossfire to the point of infrastructure problems...
 - Can you provide me with any evidence to show that that issue of infrastructure is occurring right now?
 - What is to say that that issue is not being improved upon
 - State of being vs rate of improvement fallacy
- Do you believe in a slow urbanization?
- Can we not seek the benefits while heeding the risks?

Rebuttals

The current rate at which Urbanization is growing in Africa is unsustainable

- We have never stated the speed at which urbanization should be at... In certain cases, we even acknowledge that slow urbanization may be necessary
- Malthusian doomsayer on unsustainability
 - This exact ideology has been adopted from a Malthusian perspective, for clarification sake. Malthus was a well-known British scientist that gave a graph between the rise of population and the required food needed to provide for such a vast number of people. Malthus predicted that the world population would come to a stop due to this lack of supplies...
 - Malthus was famously proven wrong over time. Malthus did not account for the exponential growth in scientific development... If we were farming with the same methods we were in the 1790's then he would have been correct, however that is not the case.

Urbanization is unsustainable

- "Risk is all around us. Life is a series of calculated risks. Everything you decide to do has a margin of risk. No outcome is ever 100 percent certain but it pays to calculate risks to advance your life and career. He who risks and fails is better than he who decides to do nothing. You might be one chance away from reaching your dream position."

- Everything has risk, that is simply being realistic, urbanization is a risk. However, The benefits of that risk outweigh the harms 10 to 1. As I have stated earlier, some benefits include:
 - Higher wages
 - Higher employment rates
 - Higher quality of life
 - Higher quality of living
 - Higher access to common goods
 - Higher access to education
 - Higher life expectancy
 - All of these are traits that are directly linked to urbanization
- Urbanization is especially important when comparing it to the negative effects of not having urbanization
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Infrastructure

- Urbanization leads to a lack of provisions and sustenance such as water and food
 - In rural areas the time to collect water is a whole 8 minutes shorter than if you lived in a rural area, not to mention that even in the states it is far far far more expensive to acquire water outside of town than inside of town... it is easier to run a pipe 100feet than 100 football fields
- Infrastructure is simply a risk, not a direct outcome...
 - Subjecting a country to not urbanize is subjecting a country to not modernize
- Urbanization, through Scientific advancement, will create new talent and manpower, which will lead to new infrastructure and greater public welfare.
- The solving of issues is exactly what modernization is... let us look at a few of the wealthiest businessmen of all time, who have led to scientific advancements, and overall better lives.
 - In 2005 there was a massive need for a simpler way to communicate with others
 - In 2007 Steve Jobs and his associates released the first iPhone
 - Stemming scientific advancement, and a new age of development
 - In 2006 there was a need for mass transport that doesn't negatively affect the environment to the extent as most gas-powered vehicles do, and in 2008 Tesla released the first efficient electric car
- Taking this logic, if I am an intelligent businessman and there is a demand for concrete in a certain region... there is no reason why I would not want to produce and sell concrete...
 - I benefit because I make money selling concrete, and my consumer and the community benefits because they receive the ability to grow and develop

Slow Urbanization

- If you support slow urbanization then you support urbanization. From the con side, if you say that you prefer urbanization, then you are saying that the benefits of urbanization outweigh the harms of urbanization.
 - You also can not argue the status quo, the status quo, as pointed out by my framework, shows that urbanization is occurring.

Entrepreneurs Are Not Attracted to Urban Areas

- Rural America
 -
- Urban Areas are centers of development and opportunity

Morality

- In “Free to Choose,” Milton Friedman warns that people vote with their feet, moving where they can enjoy the fruits of their labor
 - If they choose to live in urban areas because they think their chances of having a better life is greater than living in a rural area, then they can stay in the urban neighborhood as they please as long as they have the means to sustain it
 - Through Scientific development spurred by urbanization the well being of all is raised...
 - All ships rise with the tide

You Can Not Use Other Countries as Examples

- Rebuttal to Con’s you can’t use other countries as examples
 - We can’t tell the future...
 - Malthus once argued that we would hit the carrying capacity of the Earth. However, they did not account for the exponential growth in technological advancement that came from urbanization.
 - If we can’t use any other countries in this case you are rejecting statistical analysis

Urban Areas Account for a Majority of The Poor

- They account for a majority of the people... that is like saying that America has more Covid Cases than Luxembourg... Of course, we will!!! We are hundreds of times larger than Luxembourg... It is important to use rates in comparison to the population... The only just stats are stats that are per capita.

Why hasn't Africa scientifically developed?

- State of being vs rate of improvement.
- Scientific development is currently happening in Africa, however development will take time... Unfortunately we can’t snap our fingers and have Africa become a world leader.

As we see Africa continue to develop we will wage increases, and quality of life increases...

- When we analyzed data using Elsevier's SciVal tool, which measures the research performance of 8,500 research institutions and 220 nations worldwide, a more detailed picture of Africa's research emerged. Compared to other regions, Africa has by far the strongest growing scientific production: 38.6 percent over a 5-year period from the start of 2012 to the end of 2016. The number of authors is growing at an equally astounding rate of 43 percent over that period. This is 10 percent higher than the next fastest growing author population in the world – that of the Middle East – at 33 percent during the same period.
 - <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/africa-generates-less-than-1-of-the-worlds-research-data-analytics-can-change-that#:~:text=Compared%20to%20other%20regions%2C%20Africa,43%20percent%20over%20that%20period>.

social instability prevent industrialization/modernization

- Implausibility Fallacy
 - The validity of an argument can't come from "un cas de force majeure", or in English in the case of a national disaster...
 - The likelihood of such an event is far fetched
 - The event is generally outlandish
- <http://reportnewstoday.com/africas-slums-arent-harbingers-of-anarchy-theyre-engines-of-democracy/>
- <https://www.ivint.org/africa-on-the-up/>

These problems are being produced by urbanization

- They are simultaneously being solved
- Problems occur in every aspect of life... Are you so blind as to think that America does not undergo problems as well?
 - To believe that the only solution to problems being produced is by ceasing the growth of scientific advancement is outlandish, and fundamentally flawed.

Covid and general issues with overcrowding (disease) and infrastructure.

- Due to scientific development spurred by urbanization, access to sanitation products that aid in the prevention of the spread of Covid, are more easily accessible. Eventually, through further development, labs will be able to help in the search of viable methods to eradicate/"cure" the virus... Such as vaccines and treatment.
- There is also the transportation of those goods are a lot more feasible, it is far far more economical to run a supply of vaccines door to door, to get to every house than it is

- To bring in the example of the United States. If it was not for urbanization, the US would not have access to research facilities that aid in the mitigation of Covid-19, as well

Modernization leads to urbanization but does urbanization lead to modernization?"

- Absolutely, let us hop into a hypothetical if I am a smart business owner or entrepreneur, would it be more profitable to place my business near a city with a vast population of possible workers typically more educated than those outside of a city? Or would I set it up in the far reaches of civilization?
 - The answer is obvious... I will get a more educated workforce, and I will get more possible workers...

Urbanization is good for the environment

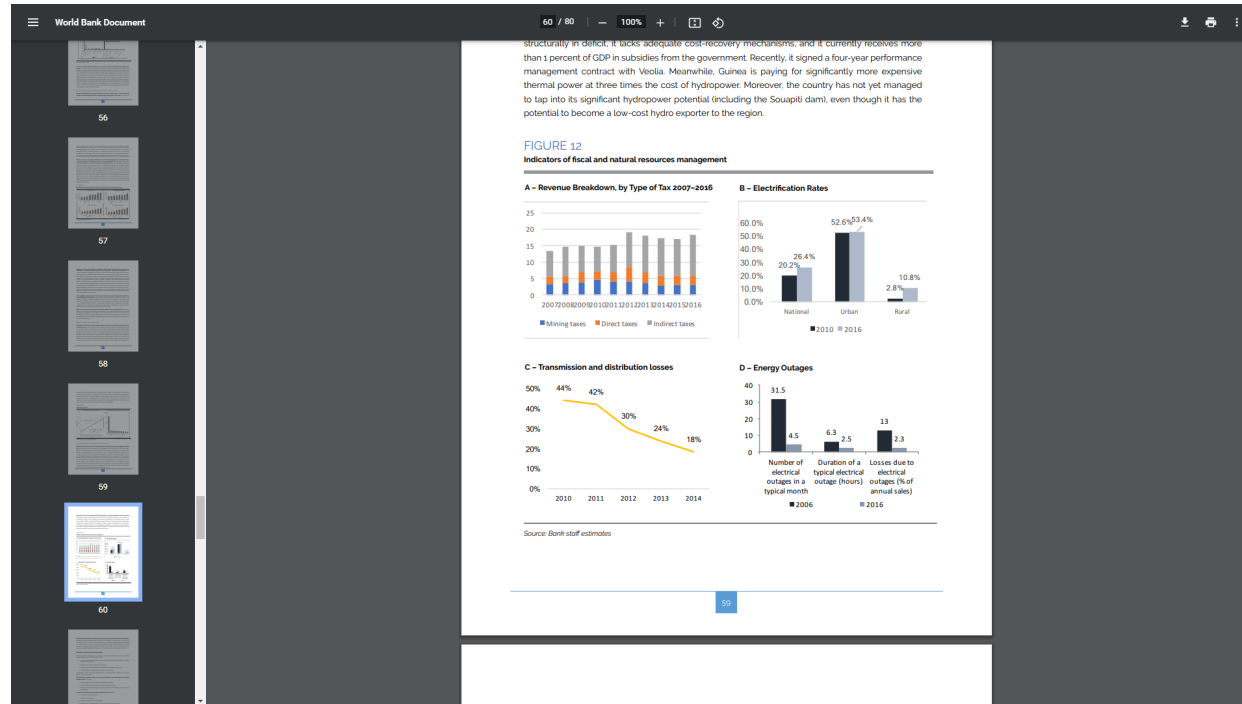
- According to the Asian Development Bank, you are fundamentally misinformed
 - This view has led many developing countries to limit rural - urban migration and curb urban expansion. But this view is incorrect. There are a number of reasons urbanization can be good for the environment, if managed properly.
 - First, urbanization brings higher productivity because of its positive externalities and economies of scale. Asian urban productivity is more than 5.5 times that of rural areas. The same output can be produced using fewer resources with urban agglomeration than without. In this sense, urbanization reduces the ecological footprint. The service sector requires urbanization because it needs a concentration of clients. As services generally pollute less than manufacturing, this aspect of urbanization is also beneficial to the environment.
 - Second, for any given population, the high urban density is benign for the environment. The urban economics literature shows that compactness is a key determinant of energy use. High density can make public transport more viable and reduce the length of trips. Urban living encourages walking and cycling rather than driving.
 - Third, environment-friendly infrastructure and public services such as piped water, sanitation, and waste management are much easier and more economical to construct, maintain, and operate in an urban setting. Urbanization allows more people to have access to environment-friendly facilities and services at affordable prices.
 - It is a lot easier to run a pipe 100 feet as opposed to 100 football fields
 - Fourth, urbanization drives innovation, including green technologies. In the long term, environment-friendly equipment, machines, vehicles, and utilities will determine the future of the green economy. Green innovations in Asia's cities will be supported by the region's vast market as the billions of people who will be

buying energy-efficient products will create opportunities and incentives for entrepreneurs to invest in developing such products.

- Finally, the higher standard of living associated with urbanization provides people with better food, education, housing, and health care. Urban growth generates revenues that fund infrastructure projects, reducing congestion and improving public health. Urbanization fosters a pro-environment stance among property owners and the middle class, which is crucial for the introduction and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.
 - <https://www.adb.org/news/op-ed/why-urbanization-may-benefit-environment-guanghua-wan>

- Urban areas account for a majority of the poor
 - They account for a majority of the people... that is like saying that America has more Covid Cases than Luxembourg... Of course, we will!!! We are hundreds of times larger than Luxembourg... It is important to use rates in comparison to the population... The only just stats are stats that are per capita.
- Benefits from urbanization are variable
 - Beneficial and variable are not mutually exclusive, something can vary in the way it benefits something...
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 -
- It is way too risky to put Africa in harm's way of rapid urbanization (overcrowding, conflict, etc)
 - The biggest risk is not taking any risk at all. Geena Davis notes "If you risk nothing, then you risk everything."
 - "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something." - Franklin Roosevelt
 -
- Crime is a big issue
 - Military policing,
 -
- Con case on Morality "Slums and overcrowding will reduce happiness", as well as poor in the Urbanized areas
- Urbanization scientific development
 - All ships rise with the tide
 - False equivocity if stating that overcrowding will be exacerbated by urbanization rather than solved

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- Rebuttal to Con's urbanization creates issues like infrastructure
 - Rebuttal to Con's negative effects on the environment



<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30042/127145-WP-PUBLIC-TheChallengesOfUrbanizationInWestAfrica.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>

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SPAM

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lived in a rural area, not to mention that even in the states it is far far far more

expensive to acquire water outside of town than inside of town... it is easier to run a

pipe 100feet than 100 football fields

- risk of corruption
 - the likelihood of such extreme examples and tyranny and
 - not to mention the legislature

technological advancement is not happening in Africa

- we will not see such advances such as
- we can't take statistics from other countries

malthusist theory

tanamny hall

If we cant use any other countries in this case you are rejecting statistical analysis and history of facts that follow

the glory of urbanization is

tpo say that Africa is in a bad state now, and therefore will not b in a good state is extremely flawed

Life expectancy is at an all-time high, the average annual income has been consistently growing, and the overall economic growth has been rising a exorbitant rates. All these factors are desired

by all nations across the globe. The African Development Bank reported Africa to be the world's second fastest growing economy, and estimates that an average growth will surpass 4% by 2018.

Con contentions:

infrastructure can not support urbanization...

- poor people live in slums often found in cities,
- Covid

Social instability

- has halted growth and urbanization

Despotism

Resoponse:

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Rebuttal to Con's urbanization creates issues like infrastructure

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why I would not want to produce and sell concrete...

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My opponent attempted to compare 1st world countries such as the United Kigdom or The USA to

My opponent said that overcrowding has lead to

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both their wage increase and overall employment rates. The International Labour Organization in 2019 released a study on wage trends in Africa. A quote from their abstract read “Average real wages have increased by about 20 percent in Africa between 2006 and 2017, supported by labor productivity gains.”. As rates of urbanization increase, the average wage tends to increase simultaneously. In regards to employment, a separate study was done by the same organization in 2020. An excerpt from that study reads: “From 2000 to 2019, employment grew at an annual rate of between 2.5 and 3 percent. . . . Additionally, Africa’s employment-to-population ratios (EPRs) are high compared to those globally.”

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Where is your evidence on a decreased value of life? I begged the question and my opponent failed to

-

Social instability

During my opponents rebuttal he begged the question... Who is going to use the factories

My opponent also made the argument that

They do serve as role models when my opponent compared the USA and West Africa...

-

My opponent challenged us on the the value of life of Africans including the wage gaps

- Rebuttal to Con argument "Urbanization leads to higher unemployment"

According to the International Labour organization's analysis entitled "Report on employment in Africa".

Between 2000 and 2019, labour force participation rates were high and remained largely unchanged.

(Indeed, standing at 63.1 per cent in 2019, the rate for Africa was higher than the global average of 60.1 per cent)

Africa's labour force participation rate has been driven by eastern Africa and Central Africa.

Gender gaps continue

to be wide, although they have narrowed over time and are better than the world average.

I

Employment in high paying jobs vs low paying jobs

As you said Africa has a lack of Businesses, that is exactly why we need urbanization

My opponent has continued to compare modern day America To Africa

My opponent has failed to respond to my points on Urbanization and it's correlation to Scientific development

Especially regarding my logic

Life expectancy is at an all-time high, the average annual income has been consistently growing, average wages have increased, and the overall economic growth has been rising at exorbitant

rates. All these factors are desired by all nations across the globe.