

# THE URBAN WORLD

J. J O H N P A L E N



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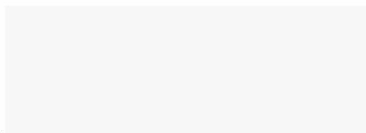
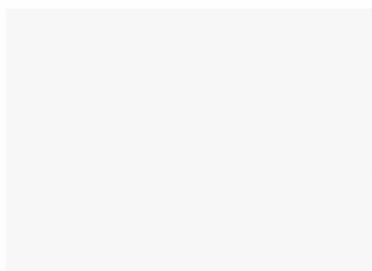
FIFTH EDITION

# THE . URBAN . WORLD

FIFTH EDITION

J. JOHN PALEN

Virginia Commonwealth University



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who will grow up in an urban world

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**The Urban World**

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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J. John Palen is Professor of Sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University, where in 1994 he received the College's Distinguished Scholar Award. His primary research interests are patterns of suburbanization and gentrification in the United States, and comparative urbanization in Southeast Asia. One of his recent books, *The Suburbs*, was published by The McGraw-Hill Companies in 1995. Palen is a Civil War buff who enjoys hiking in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains and observing the street life and social organization of any large city.

# PREFACE

The fifth edition of *The Urban World* represents an extensive and detailed revision of this widely used text. The fifth edition brings the range of urban changes up to the new century. Of course, selectivity is both inevitable and necessary. The topics included here and the emphasis they receive reflect the state of social science knowledge, my own interests, and a conscious effort to provide for the needs of students with different backgrounds and interests. There has also been a conscious attempt to explore emerging developments. A textbook should reflect contemporary developments rather than simply rehash stale issues of decades past. There is a substantially new chapter on suburbs titled, “Changing Suburbanization Patterns,” which reflects new developments. A new chapter also has been added discussing the changing roles of women in urban and suburban places, titled “Women in Metropolitan Life.” This chapter has been written by colleagues Christine Wright-Isak and Sylvia Fava.

The fifth edition contains revised chapters on “Urban Political Economy,” “Metropolitan and Edge-City Growth,” and “Housing and the Community.” The first of these was especially written for this book by colleagues David Smith and Michael Timberlake. In order to provide students greater theoretical insight, the chapter on “Urban Political Economy” directly follows the discussion of ecological models.

Every chapter has been rewritten to reflect new research findings and recent demographic and social changes. More than half the pages contain updates or new research. Examples of changes are new discussions of suburban economic and demographic dominance, the growth of Hispanic populations during the next decade to become the nation’s largest minority population, and the effective end of federally sponsored public housing. Throughout the text, the latest available figures have been used. Additionally, a half dozen maps have been included to increase reader understanding. Hopefully, the overall result is a volume that has organizational continuity with earlier editions while containing substantially new and updated material.

The goal of this new edition is to convey to students the excitement I feel when studying our changing urban environment. The goal is to give a student having little formal exposure to urban sociology and urban studies a coherent overview of the urban scene, while providing the most up-to-date information on urbanization and the nature of urban life as the century turns.

I find that reviewers play an important role in the development of a manuscript. This fifth edition benefited from the comments of Robert L. Boyd, SUNY at Buffalo; William M. Cross, Illinois College; Susan A. Farrell, Kingsborough Community College; Geoffry Grant, South Dakota State University; Jan C. Lin, University of Houston; Patrick McNamara, University of New Mexico; and Dale R. Spady, Northern Michigan University. Contributions to earlier editions were made by James Bessers, Ed Borgatta, Harvey Choldin, Thomas Drabek, Gary Crester, William Cross, William Engelman, Scott Greer, George Hesslink, Christen Jonassen, Michael Lang, Bruce London, William Michelson, Ephraim Mizruchi, Alex Muntean, Leo Schnore, Daphne Spain, John Stahura, and Ralph Tonlinson.

Finally, special thanks go to Phillip Butcher as publisher, Jill Gordon as sponsoring editor, Kate Scheinman as project supervisor, and Inge King as photo editor. It was my good fortune to again be able to work with such fine professionals. Invariably even the most carefully edited work contains errors of omission or commission. Hopefully, these are minimal, but in any instance they are solely my responsibility.

*J. John Palen*

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# PART ONE



## FOCUS AND DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER

1

THE URBAN WORLD

*A city is a collective body of persons sufficient in themselves  
for all purposes of life.*

*Aristotle, Politics*