

UD101: Fundamentals to Urban Design

Lecture 1

Introduction to Cities & Regions

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Section A:

Basic Information

Course Objectives

- Help builders be familiar with key concepts and theories of urban and regional development
- Help builders develop skills necessary for analysis of various aspects of cities and regions
- Help builders to appreciate various planning and architecture projects in Minecraft

Grading

- Non-credit bearing course, no grades will be issued
- There is no examination but practical will be provided
- Try to complete the assessment as you like

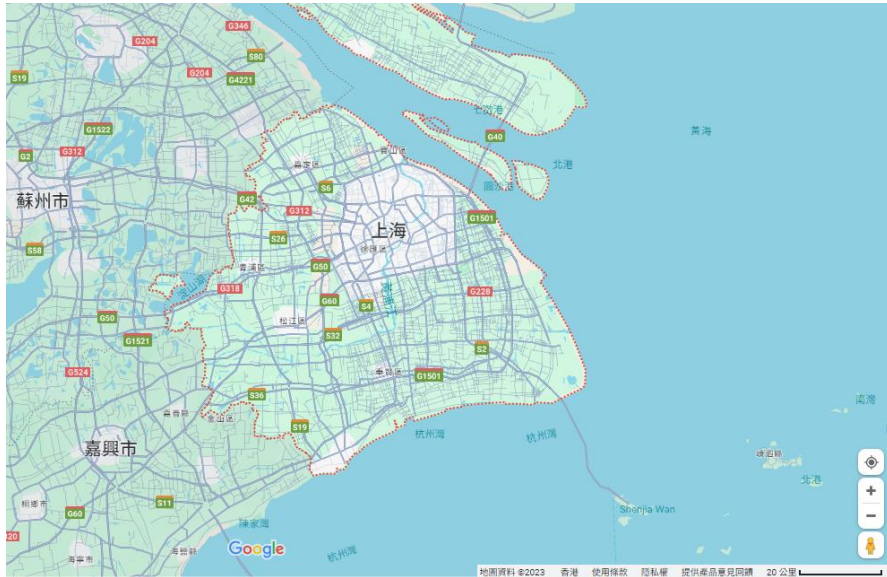
Section B:

Introduction to Cities & Urbanization

At all, what is city?

- Chinese: 城市、都市
 - Centre of politics/public administration
 - 城: Residential Place inside the wall
 - 城，所以盛民也 —— 《說文》
 - 都: The place where the emperor lives
 - 都，有先君之舊宗廟曰都。—— 《說文》
 - 距閭王百里爲都。—— 《周禮》
 - Centre of economic trades
 - 市: Place of trade
 - 市，買賣之所也。—— 《說文》
- Practical Definitions (You guys won't have to remember)
 - Locality or a single political entity exceeding a certain threshold population level
 - Have a certain built-up portion of land area

Shanghai vs Chungking



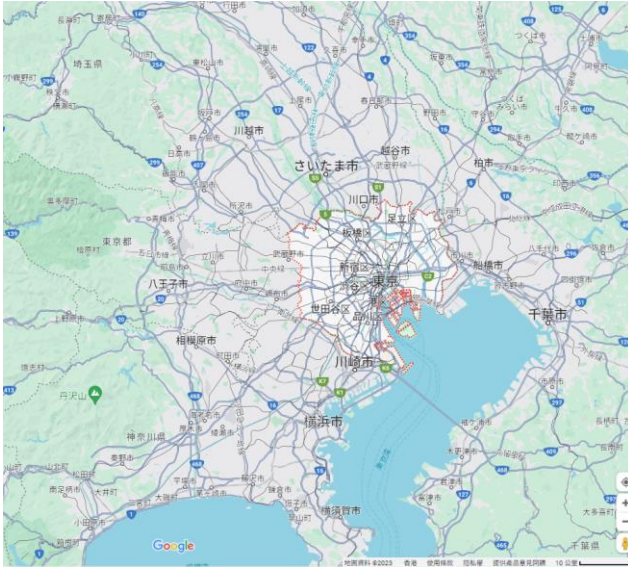
Shanghai, Population: 24.75M

But why still Shanghai be regarded as largest city in China?



Chungking, Population: 32M

Chungking vs Tokyo



Tokyo 23 wards: 9M

Which city is 'bigger'?



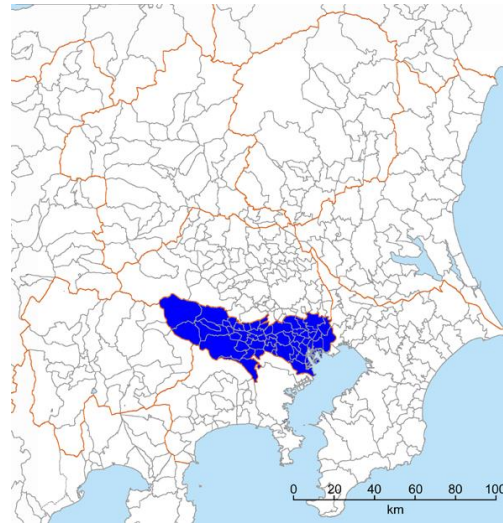
Chungking, Population: 32M

What is the population of Tokyo?

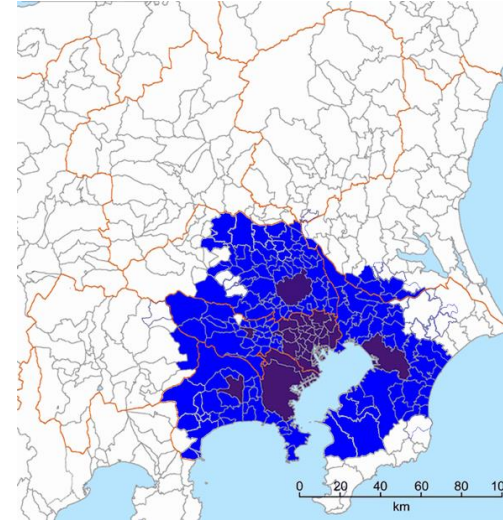
- Different definition defining 'Tokyo'
 - 23 wards of Tokyo: 9M
 - Tokyo-to: 14M
 - Tokyo-Yokohama Metropolitan Area (Tokyo & 3 prefectures): 37M
 - Tokyo Metropolitan Area (Definition of government): 41M



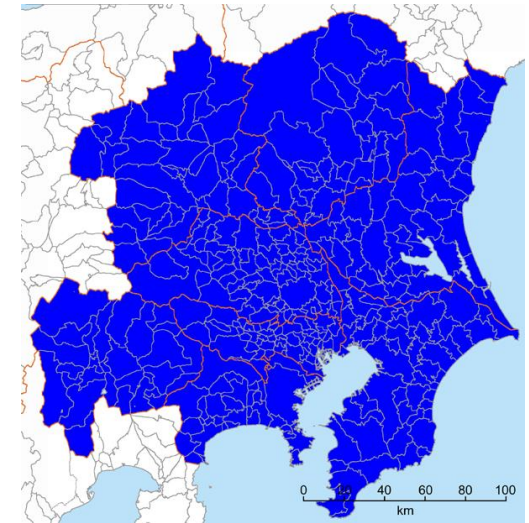
23 wards



Tokyo-to



Tokyo Employment Area



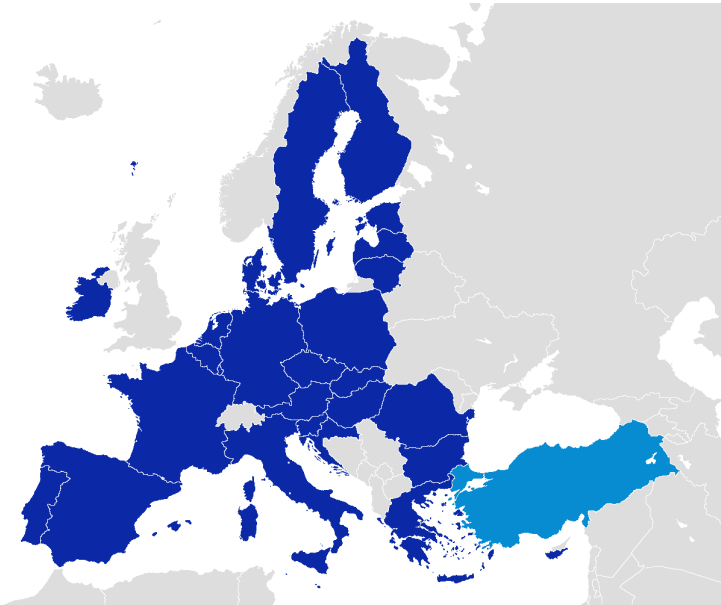
Government definition

Definition from UN

- From World Urbanization Prospects
 - the population living within the administrative boundaries of a city or controlled directly from the city by a single authority
 - city proper as defined by administrative boundaries may not include suburban areas where an important proportion of the population working or studying in the city lives.

What is a 'region'

- A set of lower-level spatial or economic units
- Share common characteristics/functional complementarities
- Often geographically inter-connected



Supra-national region examples
European Union

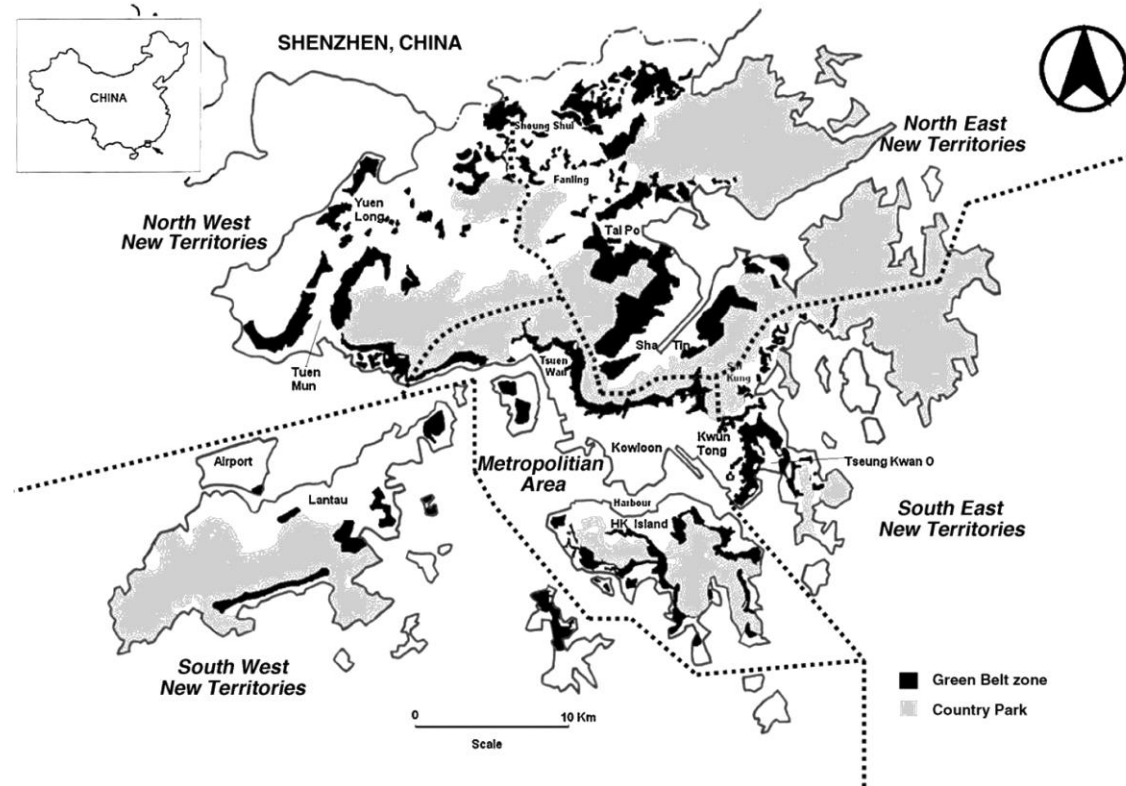


Sub-national region examples:
Rhine-Ruhr Region

8 Major Regions in Japan

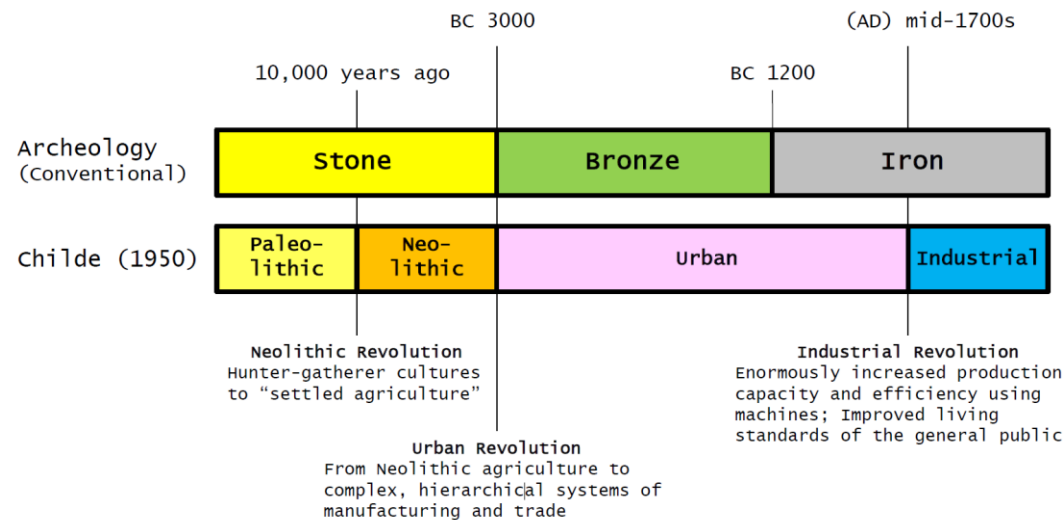


Regions in Hong Kong

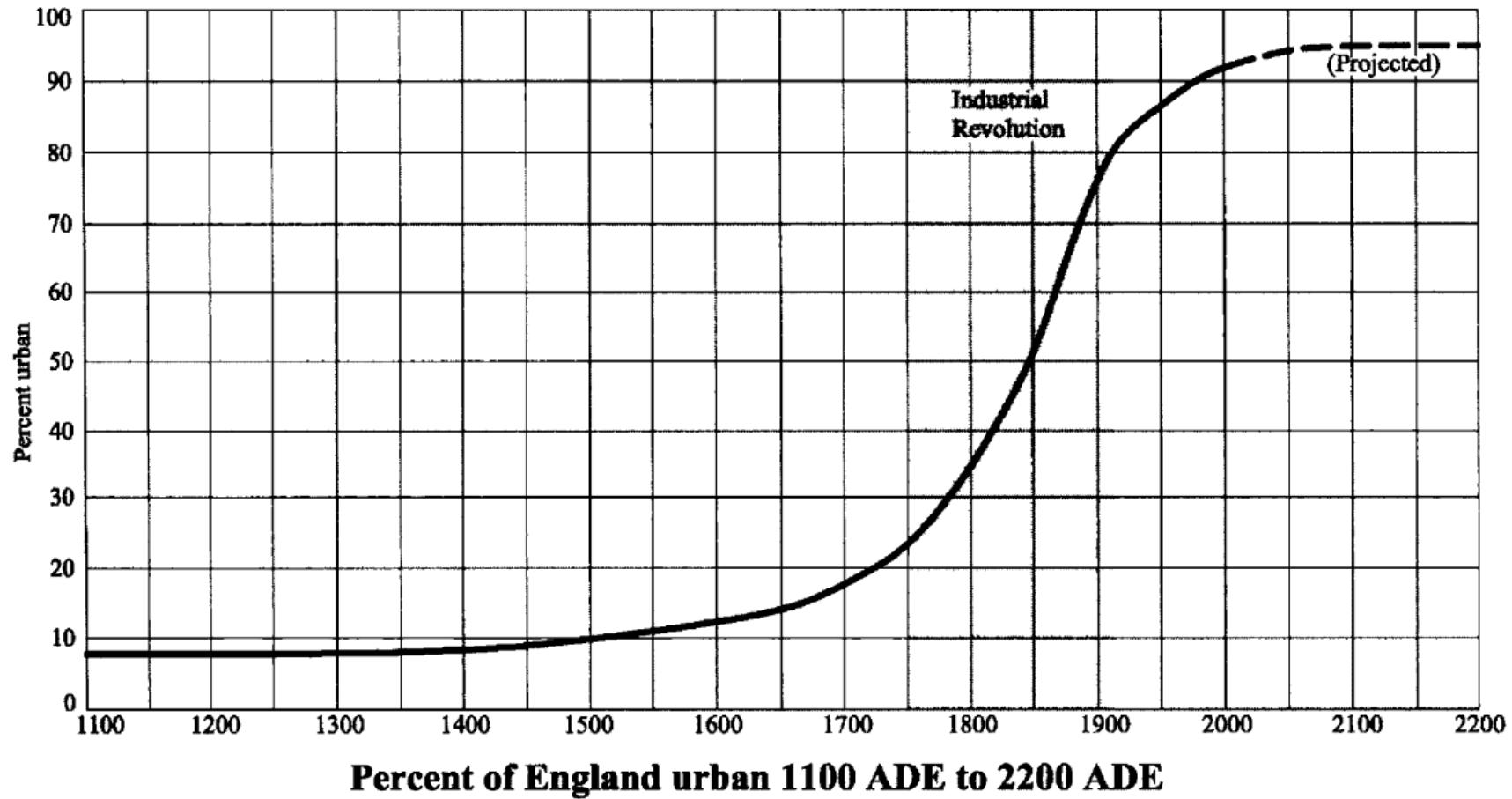


Urbanization

- Growth of *relative* size of cities
 - Often measured as urban share of total population
- Absolute population can still grow even when a country enters a stable phase of urbanization
- Often Driven mainly by social rather than natural growth
 - Net-migration from rural to urban >>>> Positive net birth rate



England's Urbanization Pattern



Urbanization, Why?

- Accumulation of capital
- Conversion of Surplus labour in rural sector into urban sector
- Agglomeration economy
 - Reduced production cost
 - Increased labour productivity due to specialization of jobs
 - Promoted innovation

Problems & Challenges

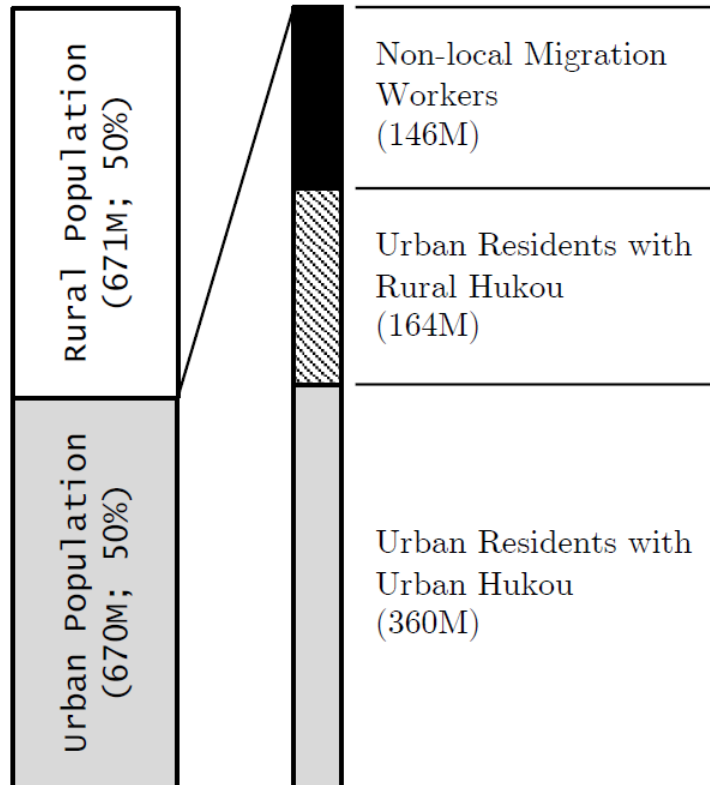
- Environmental Pollution
- Climate change
- Social exclusion
- Income inequality
- Housing affordability
- Etc.

Social Exclusion

- Definition: Loss of ability to both literally and metaphorically connect with many of the jobs, services, and facilities that they need to participate fully in society
- Types of social exclusion:
 - Physical exclusion
 - Geographical exclusion
 - Exclusion from facilities
 - Economic exclusion
 - Time-based exclusion
 - Fear-based exclusion
 - Space exclusion

Example: Hukou in China

China's Population by Hukou Status, 2010



Status of China's Migration Workers, 2010

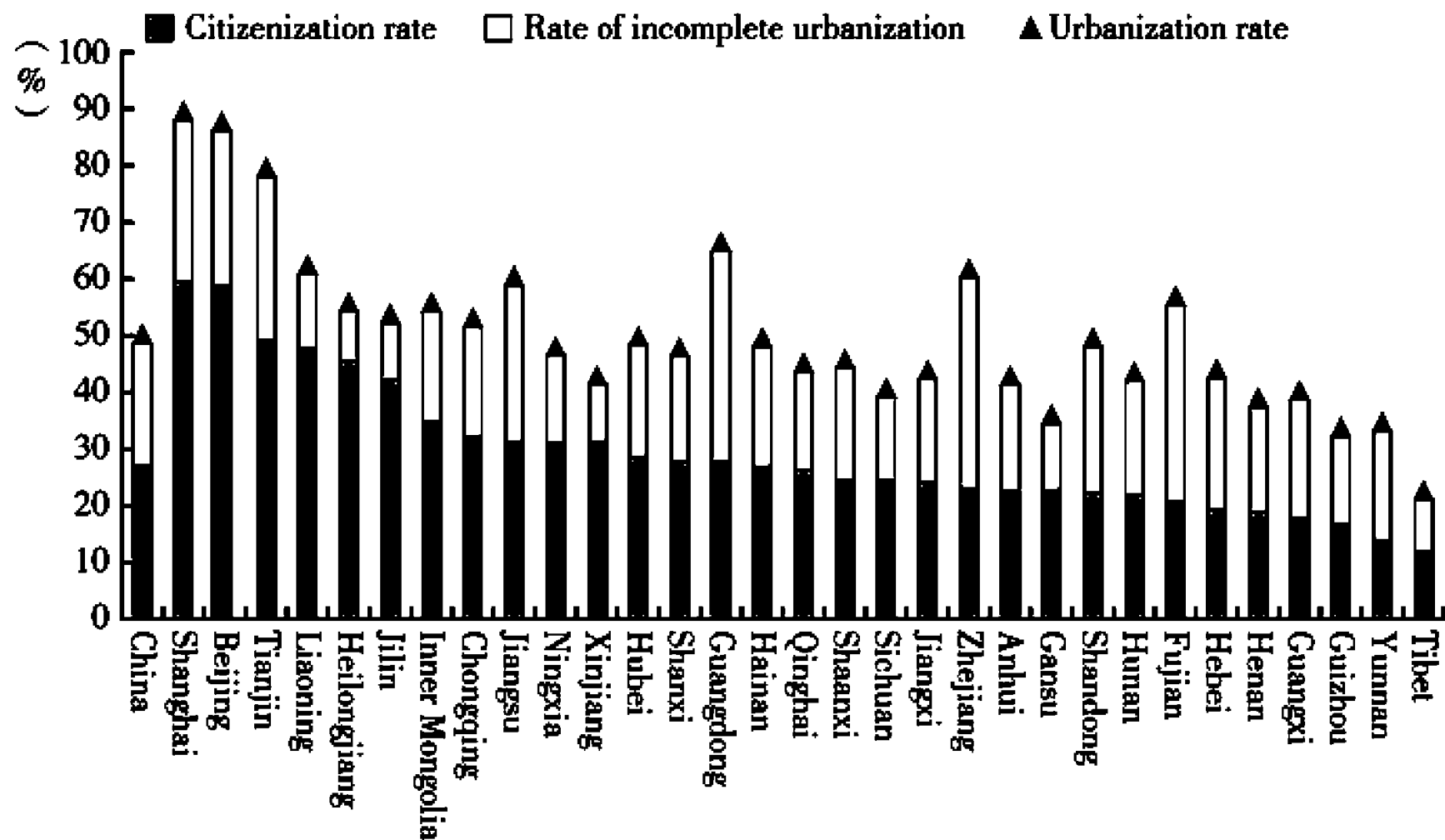
Political Rights	37
Public Services	45
Financial Conditions	51
Cultural Competence	36

Note: Urban residents with urban hukou = 100.

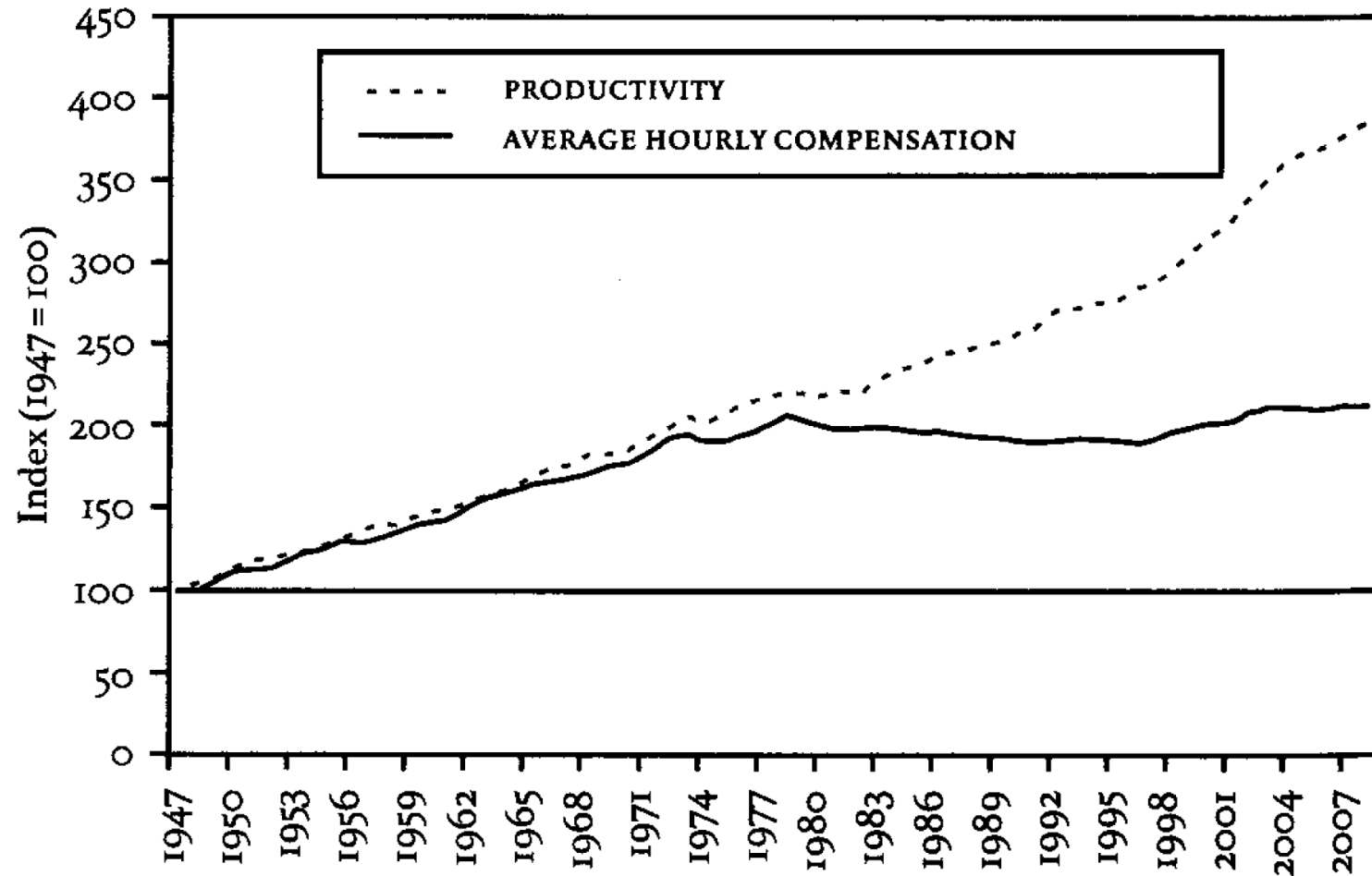
"The average per-capita annual income in China is 30,000 yuan (US\$4,193), but there are over 600 million people whose monthly income is barely 1,000 yuan (US\$140), not enough to rent a room in the Chinese cities."

May 28, 2020
Li Keqiang

'Incomplete' Urbanization



Income Inequality



Productivity v Wage Growth

Of course, Minecraft is a utopia...

But those real-life examples and problems are worth thinking.

Section C:

Introduction to Planning

After those bullshit, what is 'planning at all?

- Planning is a 'process for determining appropriate future action through a sequence of choices.'
(Davidoff & Reiner, 1962)
- 'Planning attempts to link scientific and technical knowledge to actions in the public domain.'
(Friedmann, 1987)
- Planning is engaged in:
 - Defining the problem
 - Modeling and analyzing the situation for the purpose with policy, institutional innovations, social mobilization
 - Design of solutions in forms of plans, policies, etc.
 - Carrying an evaluation of alternative solutions

Urban Planners, do they plan towns?

- Town planners do NOT design buildings, boarder settlements, estate layouts, etc.
- They DO attempt to control the development of our environment through the application of regulations
- “A town planner helps communities, companies and politicians to decide on the best way to use land and buildings”

Do planners control development like this?



Green belt plans to regulate urban development, England

Or this?



Of course this is Minecraft...

- You can't make AI to build for you right? :>
- Every server need builders, c'on
- You still have to design buildings, estate layouts, etc.
- The point is: How to achieve a good environment?
- Plan first, build second

Planning vs Plan

- Physical plan (that you often do in Minecraft) is a small part of planning
 - Planning is a composite art that incorporate territorial, economic, social, political and environmental theory and policy components.

Planning	Plan
Decision-making process	Outcome
Process of making, evaluating and implementing plans	Guidelines for actions, documented as outcome of planning A map showing land uses, roads, etc.

Planning often used to:

- Guide overall economic stability and growth in national societies.
- Provide public services to meet the general needs of the population.
- Invest in areas that are of little interest to private capital because of low rates of return, diffused benefits, and the large size of the investment required.
- Subsidize corporate interests and farmers to encourage specific actions.
- Protect property owners and local business interests against the ravages of unrestrained market rationality.
- Redistribute income to achieve amore equitable and just social order.
- Apply comprehensive and coordinate planning approaches to area development.
- Restrain market rationality in the name of social interests.
- Transfer income to the victims of market rationality.
- Ameliorate other dysfunctional consequences of market rationality.

Theory (in/of) planning

- Theory in planning:
 - Substantive theories
 - Knowledge required to understanding how the world has been working and forecast conditions
- Theory of planning *important:
 - Procedural theories
 - Knowledge about the process of act itself
 - Like you plan a small piece of area everyday

Types of Action

- Societal Guidance
 - Affected from neo-classical economics, sociology, public administration
 - A systematic change from the **top** within the existing system
- Societal Transformation:
 - A concept from anarchist, Marxist, and utopian ideologies
 - Political practices of **system transformation**

Planning as...

- Social reform
 - Role of state in market
- Policy analysis
 - 'mainstream' planning theories
- Social Learning
 - Reduce the gap between theory and reality
- Social Mobilization
 - Collection action from the bottom

Section D: Policy Analysis

Policy Analysis

Descriptive Analysis	Predictive Analysis	Prescriptive Analysis
ex post	ex ante	ex ante
Historical analysis of past policies Evaluation of new policy as it is implemented	Projection of future states resulting from adopting alternatives	Analysis that recommend actions based on the expected result they bring about

The above methods often incorporates rather than mutually exclusive.

Rational Policy Making

- Identify problem and define goals
 - Identify possible course of action
 - Selection course of action, OBJECTIVELY (Neutral, based on scientific evidence)
-
- Example: Climate change – current issue?
 - Huge problems?
 - We should cut gas emissions as much as possible nationally and globally

Rational Policy Making

Is impossible

Bounded rationality

Decision makers can never be completely rational in reality.

- Constraints of time, resources, and intelligence
- Decision problem is not to optimize but to “satisfice” one’s values.
- Neither market fundamentalism nor Soviet central planning model would be ideal.
- Increasing objectivity through scientific policy analysis process and learning-by-doing based on interactive feedback loops can lead us more rational and ideal solutions to the problem.

Example: Urban-rural Divergence

Problem: divergence between urban and rural areas in terms of income levels

Goal: attract young population group to rural area

Preferred alternative: build an industrial complex in selected rural areas

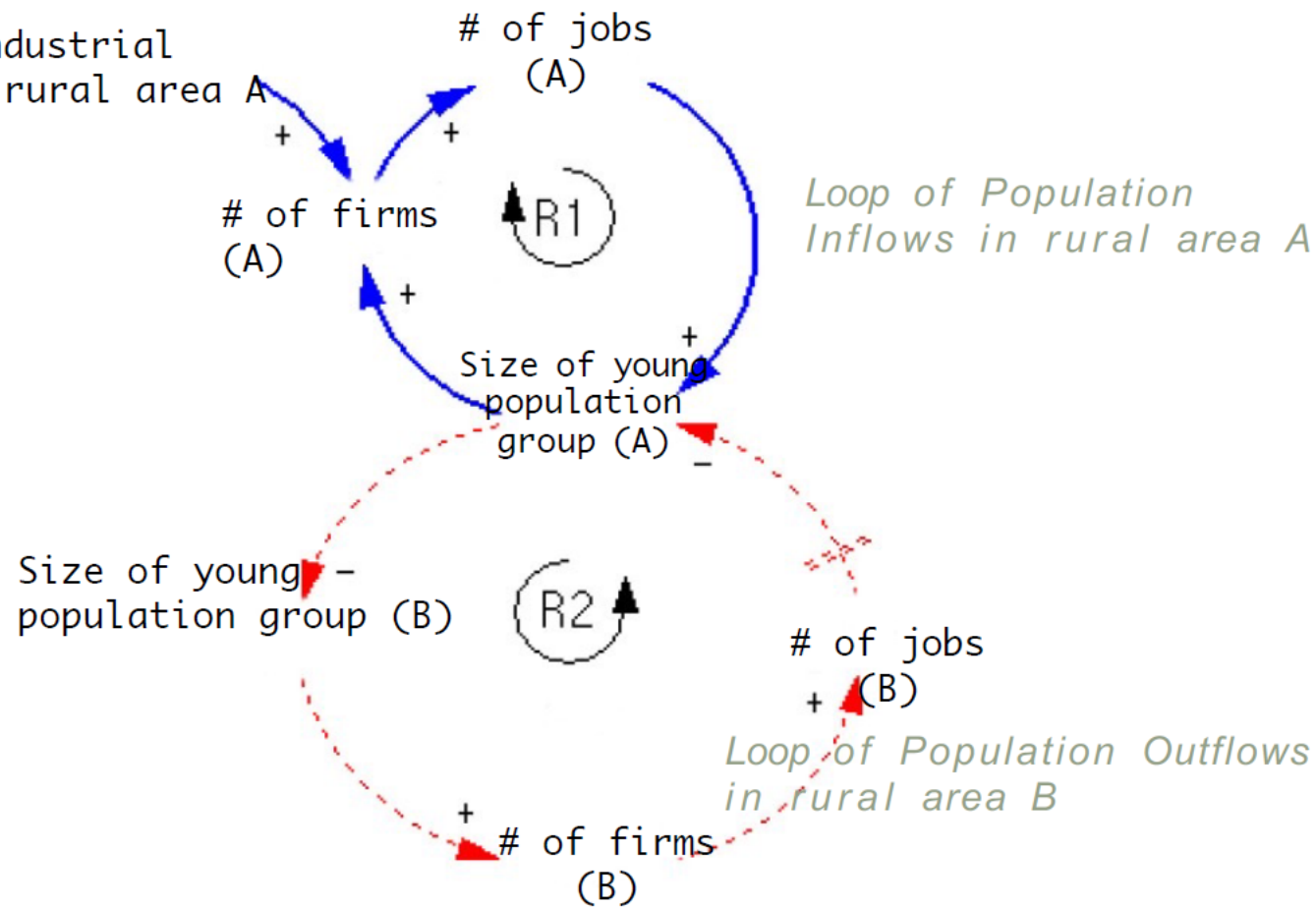
Expected outcomes:

Industrial complex in rural areas → More jobs → Higher income levels → Larger younger population

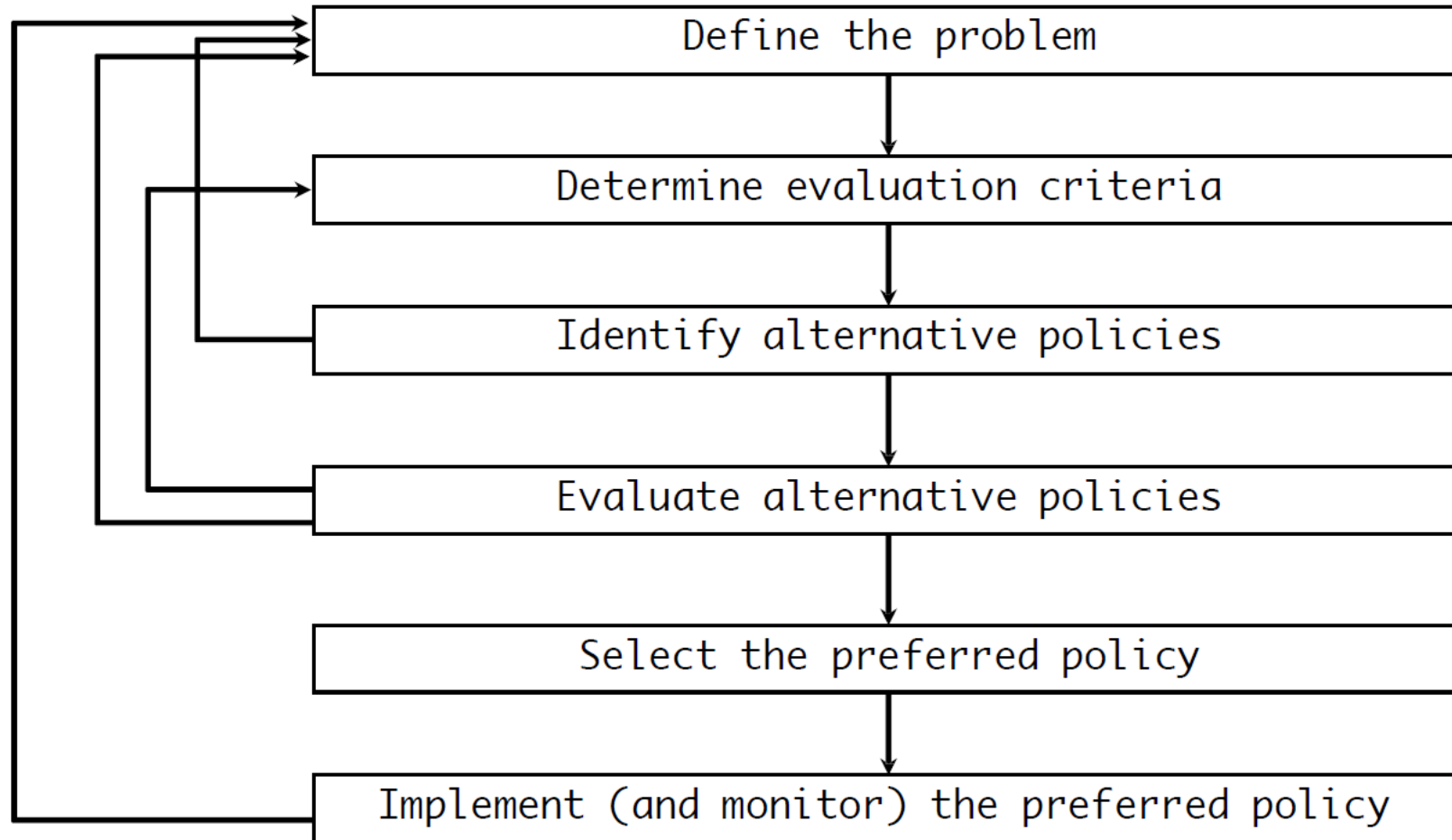
In reality...

What actually happened...

Build an Industrial
Complex in rural area A



Model of Policy Analysis



Define the problem

It could be somehow difficult because

- Objective of client is not clear
- Stated objectives may be in conflict

It is somehow difficult to know what you want to do and what you have to do in the complex world

Statement example:

'The demand of affordable housing is growing faster than our ability to supply it at an acceptable cost'

Evaluation Criteria

What is the goal of your action

Why we need intervention to the problem?

What criteria to use for evaluation of alternatives?

Another alternative...

Do nothing.

Evaluate Alternative

Quantitative analysis, qualitative analysis

Whatever method suits you to see whether the solution is good

Select Alternative

- Choose what you like
- In real life practice, we only give analysis not decision

Implementation & Monitoring

- Many policies do not produce the expected outcome
- Monitoring is vital in analysis (feedback loops) and improve the existing ones
- When the policy produce poor outcomes, it is important to clarify whether they are due to inappropriate nature of the policy or implementation failure

UK: Reforms to National Planning Policy Framework

- Changes in Prime Minister
- Political parties
- Reforms in NPPF
- Scrapped housing target

Rishi Sunak has ruled out allowing building on the green belt after **Labour** backed the move in order to alleviate the housing crisis.

The Prime Minister said he wants to “make sure our green spaces are protected” after being accused by Sir Keir Starmer of killing off the dream of home ownership by failing to build.

Mr Sunak has dropped plans for mandatory local housing targets as part of a plan to build 300,000 homes a year in response to a revolt by Tory MPs and activists.

But he is under pressure to get **Britain** building in order to increase the supply of homes to alleviate soaring rents and shortages.

Speaking to reporters travelling with him in **Japan**, Mr Sunak said: “I was very clear over the summer, I wanted to make sure our green spaces are protected. I think that is what local communities want.

[Source](#)

“At the same time, we have empowered local communities with local plans.

“What I find is that it’s not necessarily an opposition to housing itself, it’s how and where exactly it is done and the infrastructure that comes alongside it.”

Sir Keir said that under his plan local areas would be given “more powers to direct where houses are built”, including on the green belt in some circumstances, but he insisted “I want to protect the green belt, I value our countryside”.

“There is already building on the green belt, the question is do local areas have sufficient control over where that happens and how that happens,” he said in a speech to the **British Chambers of Commerce**.

He highlighted an example of a car park which was in the green belt and a playing field which was not, with the latter site chosen for development.

“We’ve got to take better decisions than that,” he said.

Former levelling up secretary **Simon Clarke** is among the Tory critics of the Prime Minister’s housing approach.

After the party’s poor local election results, Mr Clarke argued Mr Sunak’s “major mistake” of dropping housebuilding targets had played a role.

Mr Clarke said that the Government’s attempts to “pander to the public’s worst instincts” of Nimbyism – wanting building but “not in my backyard” – was failing.

- We may want to impose order
- But the market itself imposes its own order
- In the world of Minecraft, we don't have orders so we create our own
- Are you building a city or just an empty shell?
- What can players (not builders) do in the city?

Quick wrap-up

Things worth recap

- What are cities? What is planning?
- Why urbanization? What's the problem arised?
- How to make a good policy? (less important to you guys)

Practical 1:

- Look for a city
- Briefly talk about its background information like population, metropolitan area, etc.
- Find one problem in the city and how the government is solving the problem?
- If you are the policymakers, how would you solve the same problem?
- You may also look for examples in Minecraft (Project Nazca, Night Town, etc.)