



A street sweeper walks past a billboard showing an artist's depiction of the Pudong skyline at dusk, Shanghai, China, July 4, 2006. "Where urbanization is ebullient. . . ." Photograph by Qilai Shen/epa/Corbis.

are rapidly expanding yet incoherently organized urban areas, largely in the underdeveloped world, like Lagos in Nigeria. Fifth, there are mature urban metropolitan areas, again largely in the well-developed world, in which central areas have declined appreciably, suffering from de-urbanization, like Detroit and St. Louis. In between, the spatial and functional arrangement of what is referred to as the "urban-rural continuum," in the Changjiang Delta, for instance—Shanghai's hinterland—is different in kind, especially with regard to labor participation and associated settlement, from ostensibly similar hinterlands of large metropolitan areas elsewhere in the world, like, for instance, those around Barcelona. Also in-between, the "internal urban areas" of a place like Italy—once referred to as the country of one hundred cities—are distinctive in their maintenance of older physical character, yet less-visible contemporary reorganizations of functional activities.

In 1956, little of the above would have been evident. Rome was experiencing substantial population immigration and construction; Shanghai remained largely stagnant, after over twenty years of strife and disinvestment; Barcelona was a relatively small, demoralized and dilapidated city emerging from the infamous *años de hambres*; Lagos