

# A LITERATURE REVIEW OF WORLD CITIES: WHERE IS VANCOUVER?

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## Introduction

### Purpose

- to identify, organize, and discuss the key themes and characteristics that have been associated with world cities in the literature to date.

### Paper Structure

- Paper consists of five sections.
- Sections one to three discuss the physical and intangible attributes of world cities.
- Sections four and five explore the effects generated by the formation of world cities.
- Conclusion examines whether Vancouver possesses world city attributes.

# Introduction

## Various Terms

- **'Word Cities' (1915)** - Patrick Geddes described areas in Europe where business activities are conducted.
- **'Global Cities' (1991)** - Saskia Sassen observed world cities are connected with other major urban areas through telecommunication and information technologies.
- **'Globalizing Cities' (2000)** - Peter Marcuse and Robert van Kempen argued other smaller-size cities also possessed the characteristics of global cities suggested by Sassen.
- **'Leading World Cities' (2005)** - Peter Taylor introduced leading world cities to provide a neutral position between the different terms used to describe the concept of world cities.

# Introduction

World Cities Themes	World Cities Attributes
<b>Commercial and Financial Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advanced Producer Services (APS)</li><li>• International Financial Centres</li><li>• Multinational Cooperation Headquarters</li></ul>
<b>Transportation and Telecommunication Networks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Airline Networks</li><li>• Freight Networks</li><li>• Telecommunication Networks</li></ul>
<b>Migration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skilled Labour</li><li>• Unskilled Labour</li><li>• Tourism</li></ul>

## Introduction

World Cities Themes	World Cities Attributes
<b>Social Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Income Disparity</li><li>• Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</li><li>• Quality of Life</li></ul>
<b>Environmental Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Challenges</li><li>• Environmental Sustainability</li></ul>

## Commercial and Financial Sector

- The three components that characterize this theme are:
  - Advanced Producer Services (APS)
  - International Financial Centres
  - Multinational Cooperation Headquarters
- Advanced Producer Services (APS) were proposed by Beaverstock et al., which are financial and commercial services that are intended for corporations. APS includes: accountancy, advertising, banking and legal services.
- International Financial Centres were pioneered by Reed and further developed by Saskia Sassen. International Financial Centres are major urban concentrations of financial services that facilitates international financial transactions.

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## Commercial and Financial Sector (cont'd)

- Multinational Corporations Headquarters were explored by Cohen and Anderson and Beckfield. Multinational corporations locate headquarters in world cities to access advanced producer services.
  - Each of these authors designed hierarchies or classifications of world cities on the basis of these characteristics. For instance:
    - Beaverstock et al. produced a roster of 55 world cities based on advanced producer services (APS). These cities were classified into three levels: alpha, beta, and gamma.
    - Alpha describes cities with the highest concentration of APS. There are 10 Alpha cities, which included London, Paris, New York, and Tokyo, Chicago, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Milan, Singapore
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## Transportation and Telecommunication Networks

- The three components that characterize this theme are:
    - Airline Networks
    - Freight Networks
    - Telecommunication Networks
  - Airline Networks were examined by Witlox et al. The authors mapped a global network economy based on the global passenger flow within the airports of major cities. London was ranked first with 30 to 32 million airline passenger flow in 2001.
  - Freight Networks were analyzed by Rimmer. He argued there's a relationship between freight network traffic and world cities.
  - Telecommunication Networks were pioneered by Moss. He observed office buildings in major urban centers installed technology equipment to connect to international telecommunication networks.
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## Migration

- The three components that characterize this theme are:
  - Skilled Labour
  - Unskilled Labour
  - Tourism
- Skilled Labour was identified by Sassen and Mahroum. World cities required skilled labour to support advanced producer services.
- Unskilled Labour was discussed by Sassen and Friedmann. The authors argued that skilled workers need services, such as restaurants and hotels, which requires unskilled labour.
- Tourism was explored by Friedmann and Wolf, Abrahamson, Euromonitor, and the Government Office of London. World cities attract tourists for many reasons, such as its monuments, attractions, and culture. Toronto was the most visited city in Canada in 2006. It hosted an estimated 4.2 million visitors.

## Social Indicators

- The three components that characterize this theme are:
  - Income disparity
  - Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
  - Quality of Life
- Income disparity was discussed by Friedmann and Sassen. The authors identify spatial and class polarization within world cities.
- GDP of world cities was reported by the 2007 UK Economic Report. World Cities produce the lion's share of GDP for their nation. World's top 30 cities ranked by GDP produced 16% of the total world GDP.
- Quality of Life was examined by the Corporation of London and Mercer Consulting Group. These groups have used various methodologies and variables in determining Quality of Life.

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## **Environmental Factors**

- The two components that characterize this theme are:
    - Environmental Challenges
    - Environmental Sustainability
  
  - Environmental Challenges was discussed by Kiel, Liddle and Moavenzah, and Satterthwaite. The increase in population has created environmental challenges within cities.
  
  - Environmental Sustainability was explored by Newman and Kenworthy, Dittmar, and Alberti and Susskind. These authors urged city planners to adopt environmental sustainability practices on areas such as transportation, water management, and energy usage.
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## **Conclusion: Where is Vancouver?**

### **Commercial and Financial Sector**

- Vancouver is not included in the roster of the top 55 world cities based on advanced producer services. However, Vancouver did show evidence of world city formation because Vancouver possessed a minor concentration in accountancy services.

### **Transportation and Telecommunication Networks**

- Vancouver International Airport is ranked in the top 47 largest world cities airports in terms of the number of passengers arrivals in departures and arrivals from January to August 2001.
  
  - In 2005, the American Association of Port Authorities ranked Vancouver the 39th largest seaport in the world based on cargo traffic.
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## **Conclusion: Where is Vancouver?**

### **Migration**

- The Euromonitor did not include Vancouver in the list of the world's top 150 cities based on the number of visiting tourists in 2006.
- Vancouver did not possess one of the world's top 50 most visited world attractions in 2007 according to Forbes Traveler.

### **Social Indicators**

- Vancouver is ranked 64th in terms of GDP in 2005 and is ranked 75th in terms of projected GDP in 2020 by 2007 UK Economic Report.
  - Vancouver is ranked first in 2005 and 2006 in terms of Quality of Life by the Economist Intelligence.
  - Vancouver is ranked third for three straight years - 2005 to 2007 – in terms of Quality of Living by Mercer Consulting Group.
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## **Conclusion: Where is Vancouver?**

### **Environmental Factors**

- In 2007, Forbes Magazine ranked Vancouver 10th – tied with Bern, Switzerland, and Montreal, Canada in the list of top 25 cleanest cities in the world.
  - In 2004, Elisa Woods ranked Vancouver as the third greenest city in the world in terms of innovation and eco-friendly energy usage.
  - In 2007, Corporate Knights did not include Vancouver in its ranking of the top five Canadian sustainable cities.
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