

Overpopulation Fuels Megacities, for Better or Worse

In the next 30 years, the global population **1. (will have been expected , is expected , was expected)** to increase by 2 billion – from 7.7 billion in 2019 to 9.7 billion in 2050. Not only are more babies being born, but people in the 21st century are **2. (the healthiest , healthiest , healthier)** and they are living longer than ever before. **3. (Will we have , We will have , Won't we have)** the resources – food, water, energy – to sustain this ever-growing population? Where are all of these people going to live?

Well, not in the countryside. The speed of urbanization – the rate at **4. (that , where , which)** the rural population of the world is moving to larger cities – is amazing. In 1950, only one in three people lived in urban areas, **5. (while , moreover , similarly)** the rest lived on farms or in towns and small communities. At the same time, only two cities in the world – Tokyo and New York City – **6. (was being considered , had considered , were considered)** megacities: cities with a population of over 10 million. Now, there are 33 megacities and more **7. (are being added , were being added , is being added)** yearly. Over three million people every week migrate from rural areas to cities. The number of megacities is projected to reach 43 by 2030. Already well on their way to **8. (become , becoming , have become)** megacities are Beihei in China, Palembang in Indonesia, Chittagong in Bangladesh, Toluca in Mexico, and Ghaziabad, Surat, and Faridabad in India.

The traditional pattern **9. (had been , have been , has been)** that industrial revolutions prompt people to abandon the countryside. North America and Europe experienced their industrial revolutions in the 1800s. this was a time when new machines for farming and manufacturing changed human life forever. Farming became more mechanized and this mechanization meant that **10. (fewer , a few , less)** people were needed to run a farm. Many country dwellers moved to cities in search of better jobs, higher wages, and an easier life.