LDC City and Shantytowns

Precolonial
- In Africa, Asia and Latin America, very few cities existed before colonization by Europeans
- A religious core and marketplace were usually part of these
- Basic crafts had shops towards the center
- Food products were sold in the marketplace for the most part

Colonial
- During this time, many of the cities in LDCs were created
- Expanded the role of the city in these countries towards trade (exporting)
- Also were military centers for the colonial powers
- Quite often built along a set plan established by the colonizer
- Spain had set plans with grid patterns, squares and European design of the buildings which they used for all the cities they designed in Latin America
- Quite often these areas are now the old part of the cities in modern LDCs

Shantytowns and Modern Times
- In modern times people have migrated to the cities in search of work

Shanty town (also called a squatter settlement) is a slum settlement (sometimes illegal or unauthorized) of impoverished people who live in improvised dwellings made from scrap materials: often plywood, corrugated metal and sheets of plastic. Shanty towns, which are usually built on the periphery of cities, often do not have proper sanitation, electricity, or telephone services.
Shanty towns are mostly found in developing nations, or partially developed nations with an unequal distribution of wealth (or, on occasion, developed countries in a severe recession). In extreme cases, shanty towns have populations approaching that of a city. As of 2005, one billion people, one-sixth of the world’s population, live in shanty towns.

Developing countries entered a period of rapid change
-Cities have often been a focal point of this change
-Millions have migrated to cities in search of a better life
-Economic activities have often changed their orientation from external to local markets
-Cities have been centers of political and social unrest

Mumbai suffers from the same major urbanisation problems seen in many fast growing cities in developing countries:
-Widespread poverty and unemployment,
-Poor public health and poor civic and educational standards for a large section of the population.
-With available space at a premium, Mumbai residents often reside in cramped, relatively expensive housing, usually far from workplaces, and therefore requiring long commutes on crowded mass transit, or clogged roadways.

Usually begin as collections of crude shacks constructed from scrap materials

- Gradually become more elaborate and permanent
- Paths and walkways link houses, vegetable gardens spring up
- Often water and electricity are boot-legged in so a common tap or outlet serves a number of houses
- Later economic activities such as handicrafts or small-scale artisan activities develop -informal economy
- Absence of formal street grids, numbered streets, sewage network, electricity, or telephones. Even if these resources are present, they are likely to be disorganized, old or inferior
- Lack basic services present in more formally organized settlements, including policing, medical services and fire fighting
- They have maximum density—a million people per square mile in Mumbai—and minimum energy and material use