

Urbanizing China

A reflective dialogue

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Source: Jin, Justin. "[Slide Show: A Chinese Push for Urbanization](#)," *New York Times*, June 15, 2013.

Chongqing, one of the fastest-growing and biggest cities on earth, with a population of 29 million. The old buildings under the high-rises are destined for demolition in the near future.

Justin Jin for The New York Times

Photograph removed due to copyright restrictions.

Source: Jin, Justin. "[Slide Show: A Chinese Push for Urbanization](#)," *New York Times*, June 15, 2013.

Visitors from the countryside amid a giant project under construction in Chongqing. In southwestern China, away from the coast, it is the engine of China's inland economic development.

Justin Jin for The New York Times

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Source: Jin, Justin. "[Slide Show: A Chinese Push for Urbanization](#)," *New York Times*, June 15, 2013.

Minxin Jiayuan is a flagship low-income housing project in Chongqing. Vast sums of money will be needed to pay for schooling, health care and retirement programs for the now landless farmers.

Justin Jin for The New York Times₄

Photograph removed due to copyright restrictions.

Source: Jin, Justin. "[Slide Show: A Chinese Push for Urbanization](#)," *New York Times*, June 15, 2013.

Li Rui, 60, scavenged his former village for building materials in Liaocheng. Mr. Li was a farmer until three years ago, when the local government razed his village for an urban development zone.

Justin Jin for The New York Times

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Source: Jin, Justin. "[Slide Show: A Chinese Push for Urbanization](#)," *New York Times*, June 15, 2013.

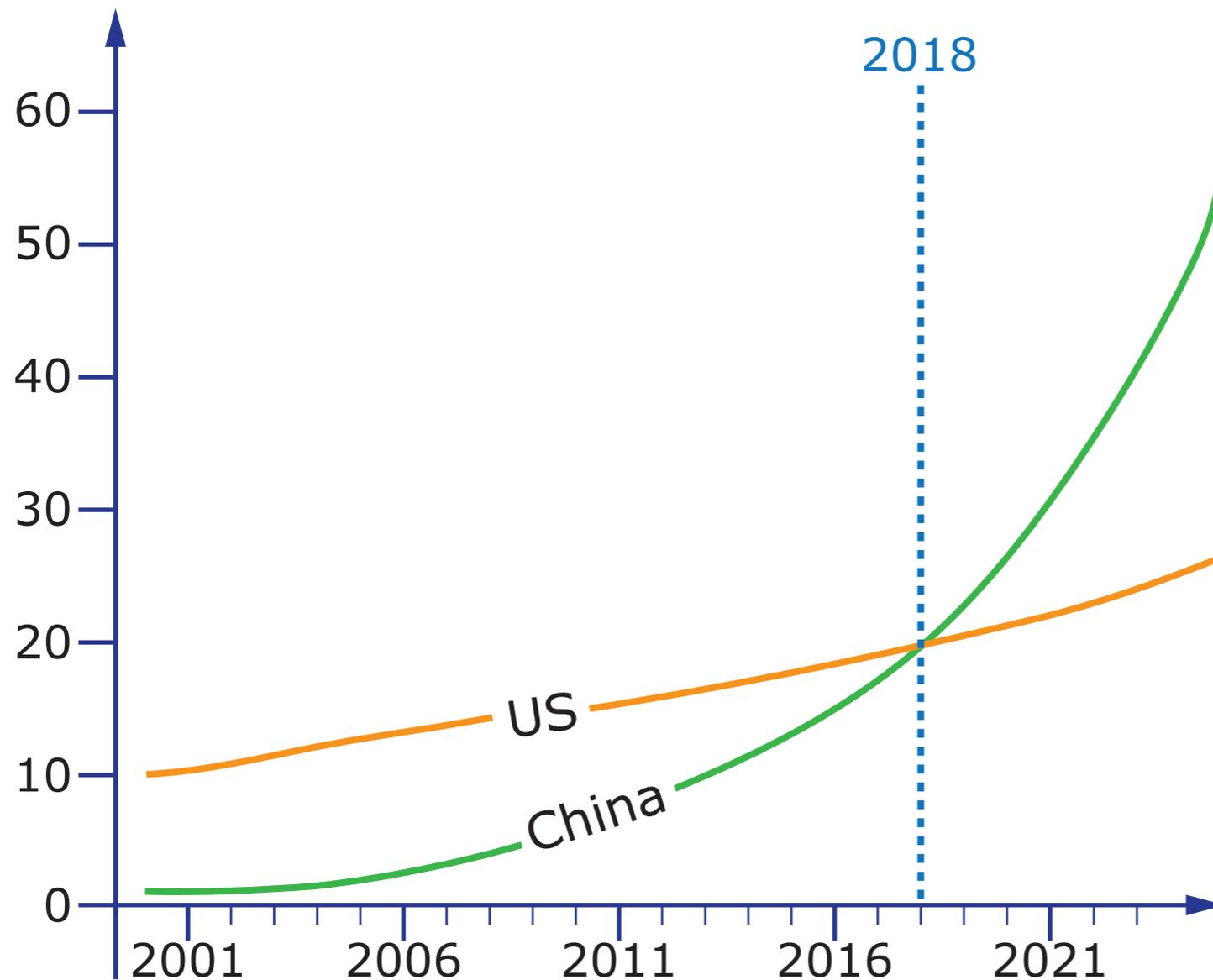
A rural migrant in a garment factory on the outskirts of Chongqing. Skeptics say the government's headlong rush to urbanize is driven by a vision of modernity that has failed elsewhere.

Justin Jin for The New York Times

Why do we care about China?

China vs. US

GDP, \$trn at current prices and market exchange rates



Long Term Assumptions Annual Average %

	China	US
Real GDP Growth	7.75	2.5
Inflation (GDP Deflator)	4	1.5
Yuan Appreciation against the Dollar	3	

China Overtakes US in 2018

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.

Source: "Daily Chart: The Dating Game," *The Economist*, Dec. 27, 2011, online edition.

OVERPOWERING



Sources: BP; Canadean; CEIC; Deutsche Bank; *Fortune*; IMF; ITU; Thomson Reuters; WIPO; World Bank; World Federation of Exchanges; World Steel Association; The Economist Estimates.

*China Net Foreign Assets \$2trn;
US Net Foreign Debt \$2.5trn
#Purchasing-Power Parity

China vs. US
Measured by
21 different
indicators:
manufacturing
output, exports and
fixed investment.

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.

Source: "Daily Chart: The Dating Game," *The Economist*, Dec. 27, 2011, online edition.

Map showing U.S. and China superimposed and map of population densities removed due to copyright restrictions.

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/china/geog/maps.htm>

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Courtesy of NASA Earth Observatory/NOAA NGDC. Satellite image is in the public domain.



Courtesy of NASA Earth Observatory/NOAA NGDC. Satellite image is in the public domain.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/NPP/news/earth-at-night.html#.UicfGGSgm3U

GHG Emissions from Transport 2000-2050

Map removed due to copyright restrictions.

Per Capita GHG Emissions from Transport 2000-2050 (t CO₂/cap/a)

Map removed due to copyright restrictions.

Policy Transfers

- Singapore → Shanghai
 - Car industry
 - City state vs. city in a region
- Shanghai → Beijing?
 - Bidding vs. lottery
 - Control use vs. control ownership
- China → West?
 - Local context vs. generic human nature

*Borrowing from
the west*

*Experimenting
within*

*Exporting
knowledge?*

Poor People vs. Poor Country?

**1.3 Billion Poor People in Middle
Income Countries**

As a researcher...

A dynamic system vs. a static system

Why do we care about China?

- Intellectual curiosity
- Altruism
- Interconnected world (abstract / tangible)
- Exporter of knowledge?
 - Technology implementation
 - Policy transfer
 - New phenomena and new experience

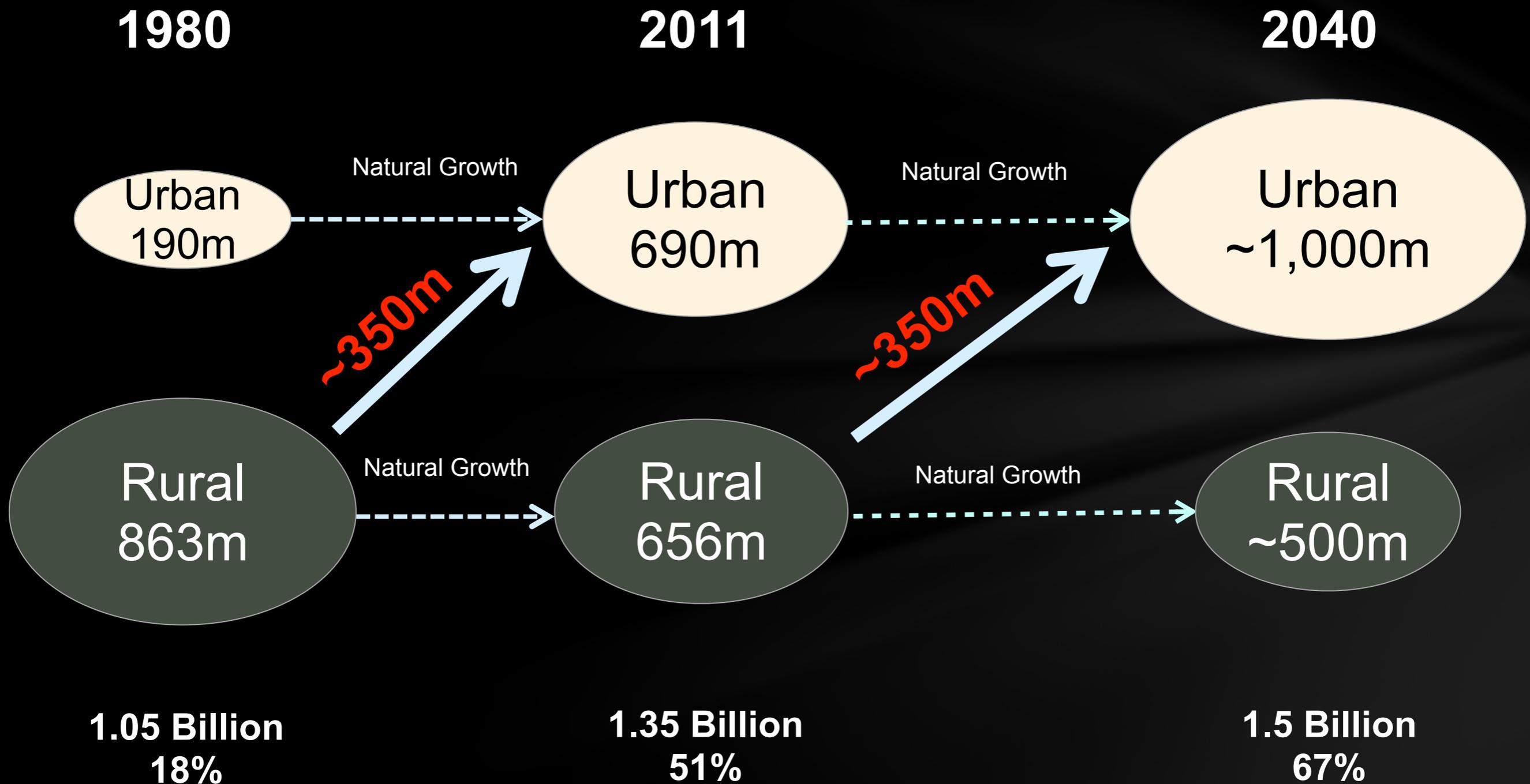
Excerpt and issue cover removed due to copyright restrictions.
Source: "[The Paradox of Prosperity](#)," *The Economist*, Jan. 28, 2012.

Immense

Rapid

Out of Sync

Urbanization Rate in China



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division:
World Urbanization Prospects, the 2009 Revision. New York 2010

Rebuild all American cities in 30 years

- **infrastructure**
- **services**
- **institutions**
- **...**

1990



Shanghai

2010



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Photograph of bicyclists in Beijing streets removed due to copyright restrictions.



Photograph courtesy of [ding_zhou](#) on Flickr.

Photograph of smog-clouded sky removed due to copyright restrictions.

Immense

Rapid

Out of Sync

Class 1: Multiple Interpretations

Urbanization Out of Sync

Multiple Interpretations

Built environment

Administration

Economy

Welfare

Lifestyle

Political

Cultural

Multiple Interpretations

“Noosphere”

Sphere of Human Thoughts

both at the top and at the bottom

Multiple Interpretations

Spatiality

De-spatialization

Other interpretations?

migrants going back to hometown

Tensions

Tensions

People vs. land

Economy vs. environment

Financing vs. urban form

Locals vs. migrants

Tensions

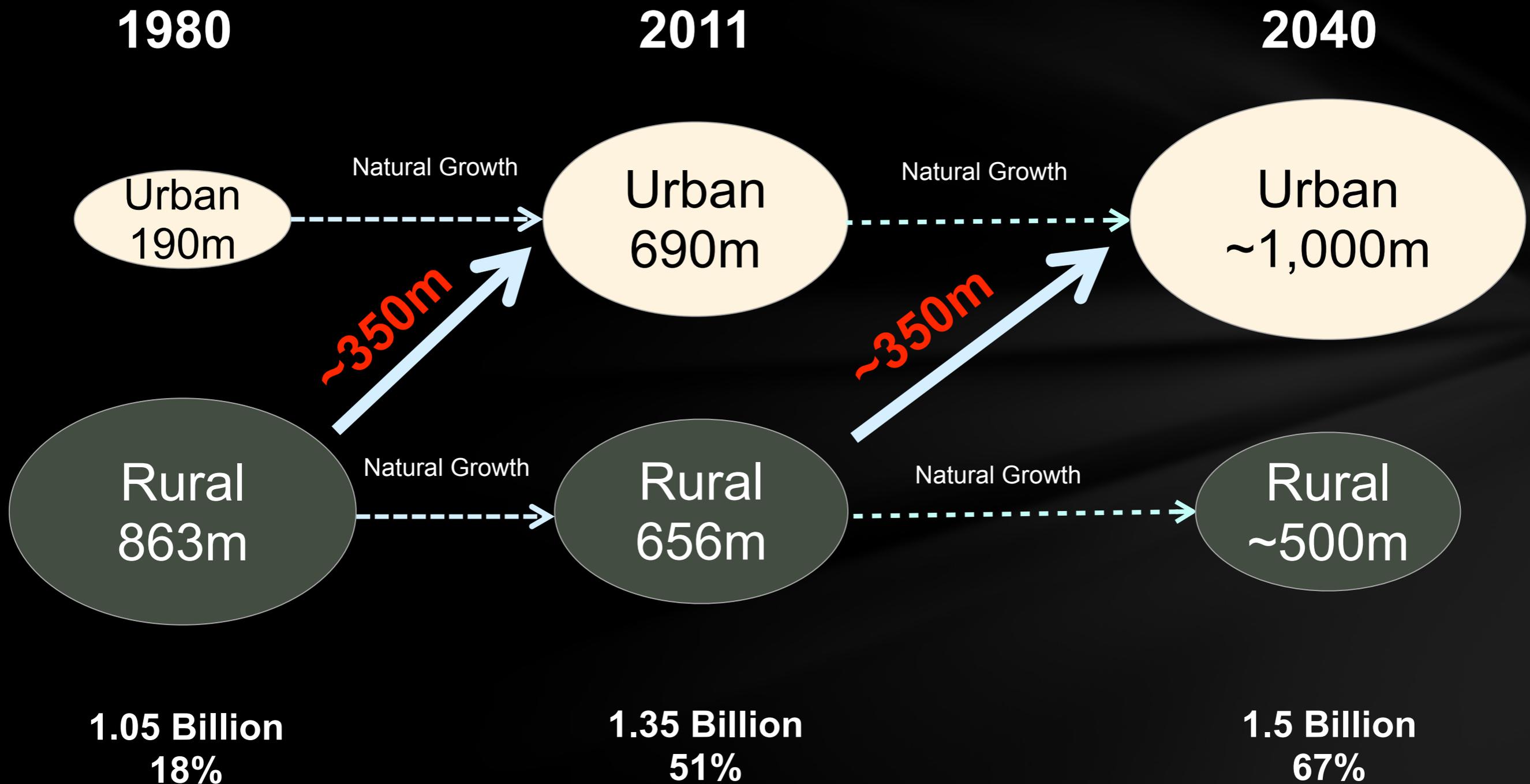
Examples from the syllabus

Next 30 years vs. past 30 years

Percentage of urbanized population in 2009

World map removed due to copyright restrictions.
Refer to: [\hfd. ##YgU"i b"cf\[# bdX#k i d#](#)

Urbanization Rate in China



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: *World Urbanization Prospects, the 2009 Revision*. New York 2010

Next 30 years vs. past 30 years

- changing nature of the challenges
- responses in urban governance

China's transition

Status quo

- Quantity
- Production



Direction / Ideal

- Quality
- Consumption

-
- Infrastructure centered



- People centered

- Large scale

- Small scale

-
- Competitive



- Cooperative

- Top down

- Participation

Is China an Outlier?

Didn't NYC grow as fast in late 19th century?

Chinese Going to Town

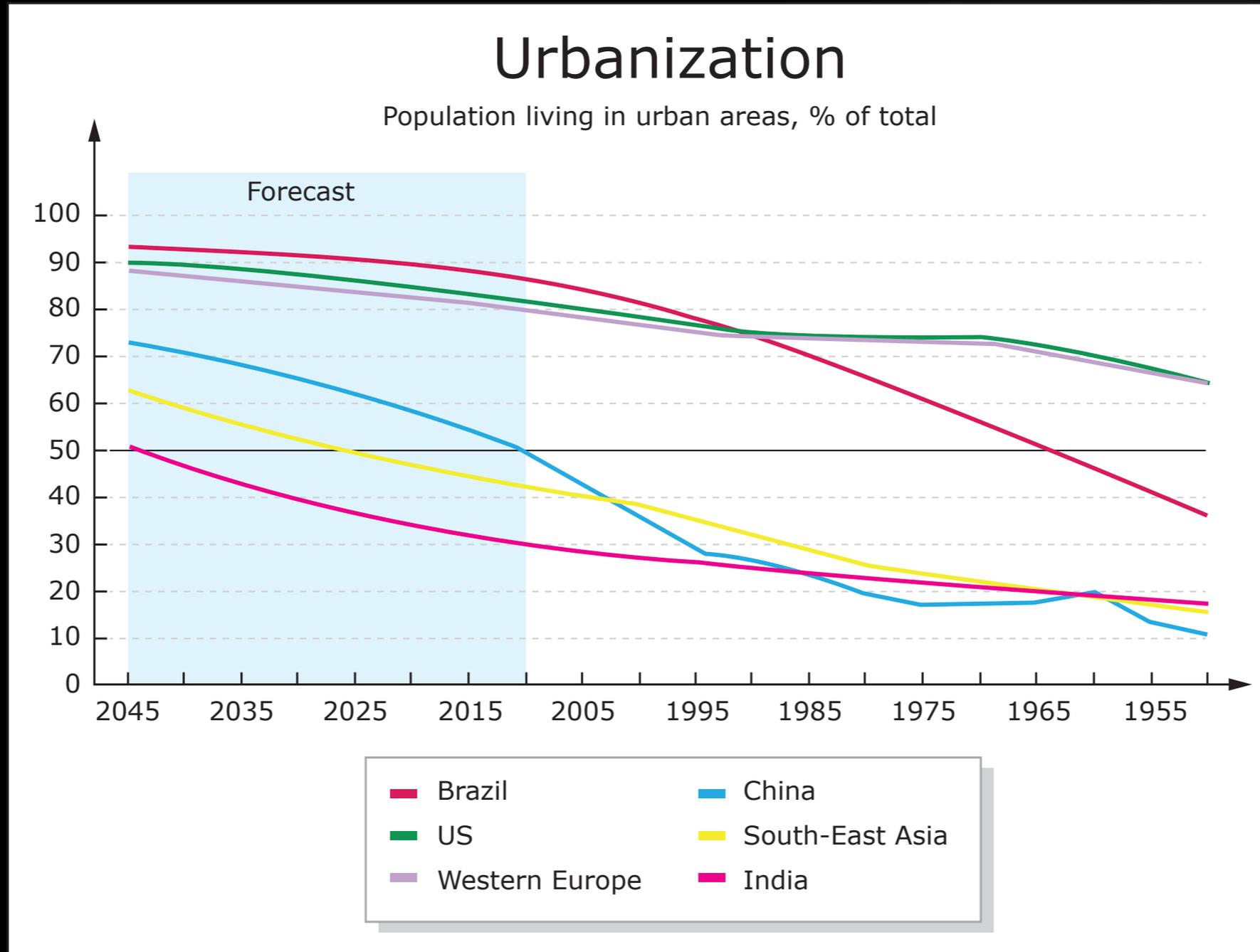


Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.

Source: "Daily Chart: Going to Town," *The Economist*, Jan. 18, 2012, online edition.

2011: 1.35 billion; 51.3% in urban areas

Beijing Smog

Urban vs. Region

Land Reform

Real Estate Development

Urban Finance Energy Efficiency

Housing market

Affordable housing

Urban Agglomeration

Cultural Heritage

Topics

Car Love Affair

Infrastructure

Spatial Equity

High Speed Rail

Big Data

Aging Society

Migrant workers

Urban Form

Governance

Connections

CNY 2 trillion high speed rail ... urban agglomeration ...
spatial structure transformation ... real estate
development ... urban and regional relationship ...
governance

Beijing Smog

Urban vs. Region

Land Reform

Real Estate Development

Urban Finance Energy Efficiency

Housing market

Affordable housing

Urban Agglomeration

Cultural Heritage

Discussion 6

Car Love Affair

Infrastructure

Spatial Equity

High Speed Rail

Big Data

Aging Society

Migrant workers

Urban Form

Governance

What difference does rapid urbanization make?

E.g. we need to discuss affordable housing with or without rapid urbanization?

Exacerbate, change the nature, provide opportunity, no difference?

Cases and Connections

1 Preface

- Urbanization Out of Sync
 - Is China an Outliner?
 - Fundamentals: Hukou and Migration
-

2 Land & Money

- Land Use and Public Finance Institutions
 - Quota Market in Chongqing: De-spatialize Land Transfer
 - Brownfield in Beijing: How Cities Recycle Industrial Land?
 - Public Finance Innovations in Nanchang
 - Real Estate Development Process
-

3 Hardware

- Managing Car Ownership
 - Urban Infrastructure
 - Dispersion of Urban Agglomeration through High Speed Rail
 - Costs of Air Pollution: Human Health Damage
 - Progress in Energy Efficiency: Technology, Policy and Market
 - Financing Urban Access: Transportation, Urban Form and Land Grabbing
 - Untangling Complex Urban Issues through Emerging Big Data
-

4 Software

- Drifting and getting stuck: Migrants in Chinese cities
- Urbanization vs. Citizenization: Migrants in Wangjingxi Market
- Spatial Justice in Affordable Housing Design in Ningbo
- Preserving Beijing's Spatial Tradition in Rapid Urban Development
- Aging Society: Offering Care to the Elderly in the Confucius Society
- Forging Greater Xi'an: New Regional Strategies

On Form

MIT as a Big Kindergarten

Mitchel Resnick

NPR's On Point with Tom Ashbrook

Future of Newspaper

Jeff Bezos buying Washington Post

A Reflective Dialogue

Programming of a Class

- Jinhua **opens** the topic (10 min)
- Guests present the **case** (15 min)
- **Dialogue** (30 min): Jinhua challenges the guests and students participate in the debates
- Guests **reflect** on the discussion (10 min)
- Jinhua **concludes** (5 min)
- Students write in-class **idea** notes (10 min, details below)

On the idea notes

- In class; email or paper
- What does the talk **inspire** you to think? Either as a practitioner, a researcher, or a citizen
- How does this particular talk **connect** to other topics?
- Any **personal** experience related to the discussion today?
- Did the dialogue today **change** any of your prior notions about China? How so?
- What if you were the **presenter** today? Anything you would do differently?
- On data, method and **research design**: anything you've learned?
- Ideas for your team project?

Liyan and I will synthesize and report back!

Speakers

15 guests from MIT, Tufts, Harvard, Columbia,
Stanford, Tongji and Tsinghua

Jinhua: critical commentator that provides a coherent
story line and 2~3 generic logic.

Students' Role

Options of class registration	12 Credits	6 Credits	Listener
Class participation 40% = 27% (in class idea notes) + 13% (discussion)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Literature synthesis 20%	Yes	Yes	
Team project 40% a) Idea: not graded b) Proposal: 10% c) Draft report: 10% d) Final report: 20%	Yes		

Listeners are welcome on one condition: to attend at least 70% of the classes and submit in-class idea notes.

Literature Synthesis

- Holes in the structure
 - Education
 - Law and rule of law
 - Property right
 - ...

Literature Synthesis

- Pairing of students
- Flip sides of the same issue

Full of contradictions

- E.g. Environment
 - Biggest renewable energy
 - Biggest polluter

China Hype and China Bashing

- GDP: 9.5% per year for 30 years
- Urbanize 370m people without slum
- Raise hundreds of millions of people from poor
- Million miles of road, billions of square feet of housing
- Biggest CO₂ emitter
- Severe pollutions
- Political reform
- Inequality
 - urban – rural; east – west; within city
 - from one extreme to another extreme

Team project

- Student Pairs
- Project idea and ppt (not graded)
- Project proposal and ppt (10%)
- Project draft report and ppt (10%)
- Project final report (20%)

Team project deliverables

Project Proposal	Project Report (Draft and Final)
<p>Project Title</p> <p>Highlights</p> <p>Abstract (250 words)</p> <p>Key words</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Context / Significance2. Objectives / Research questions2. Literature Review3. Methodology<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Data2. Models / theories / methods4. Expected results5. Expected impact and policy implications6. References	<p>Project Title</p> <p>Highlights</p> <p>Abstract (250 words)</p> <p>Key words</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Context / Significance2. Objectives / Research questions2. Literature Review3. Methodology<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Data2. Models / theories / methods4. Analysis results and interpretation5. Discussion<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Summary of research findings2. Impact and Policy Implications3. Limitation and future research6. References

Please use [mendeley](#) or [zotero](#) for references. Follow the [APA](#) style. I'll provide two examples papers for you to learn about the formatting.

Team project

Both draft and final reports are COMPLETE documentation of your projects.

- Draft: the best you can do **before** my comments
- Final: the best you can do **after** my comments

Recommended Books

- Weiping Wu and Piper Gaubatz (2013) *The Chinese Cities*
- Fulong Wu, Jiang Xu, and Anthony (2007) *Urban development in post-reform China: state, market, and space*
- Thomas Campanella (2011) *The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What It Means For The World*
- John R. Logan (2008) *Urban China in Transition*
- John Friedmann (2006) *China's Urban Transition*

Logistics

- MW 9:30-11:00;
- Videotaping of all classes

Next class

Is China an Outlier? China's Urbanization in the Historical
and International Contexts

Liyan Xu

Readings: Chen, M., Liu, W., & Tao, X. (2013). Evolution and assessment on
China's urbanization 1960–2010: Under-urbanization or over-urbanization?
Habitat International, 38(0)

In Class Idea Notes

- Please write ...

Concluding Remarks I

- Design of the course
 - Top-down and bottom up
 - Cases vs. theories
 - Content and format
 - Findings and research methods
 - Students, Guest, Liyan and Jinhua

Concluding Remarks II

- Urbanizing China vs. China's Urbanization
- Urbanizing China as a Conscious Action

Concluding Remarks III

- Typical pitfalls
 - Attribute everything to urbanization
 - Over generalize

Complex
Contradictory
Constantly-changing

Urbanizing China

A reflective dialogue

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

11.S945 Urbanizing China: A Reflective Dialogue
Fall 2013

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