

**Places
Worth
Caring
About:
Local
Democracy
In
America**

DEMOGRAPHIA

City Hall, Rome, NY

DEMOGRAPHIA

☆☆☆ AMTRAK REFORM COUNCIL ☆☆☆

Presentation to the
National Association of
Towns & Townships
Washington
10 September 2004

By
Wendell Cox, Principal
Wendell Cox Consultancy

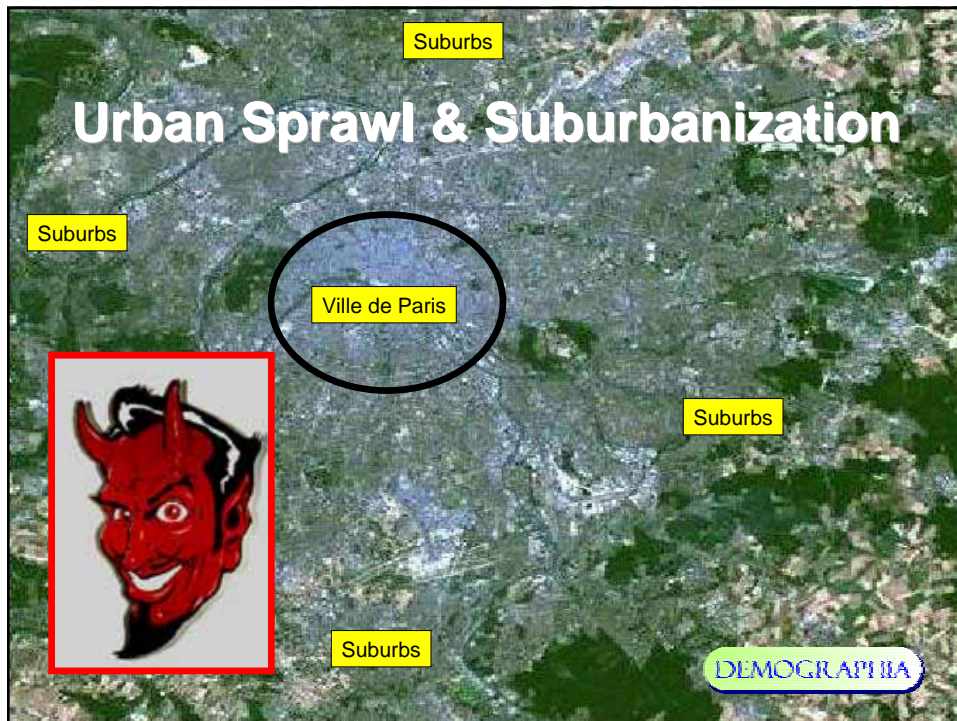
Porto, Portugal

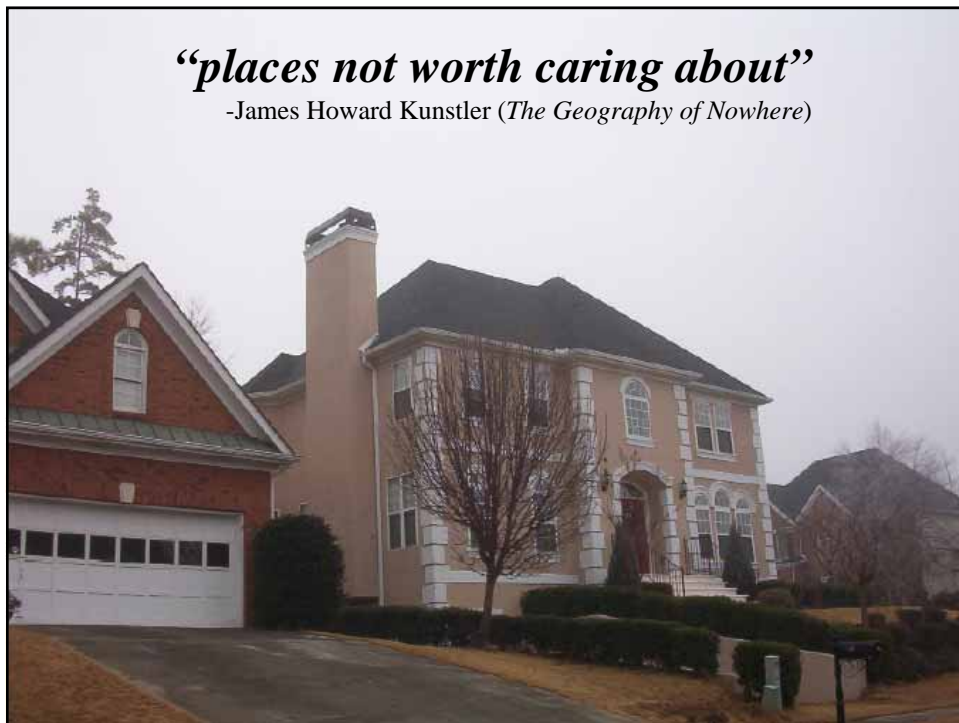
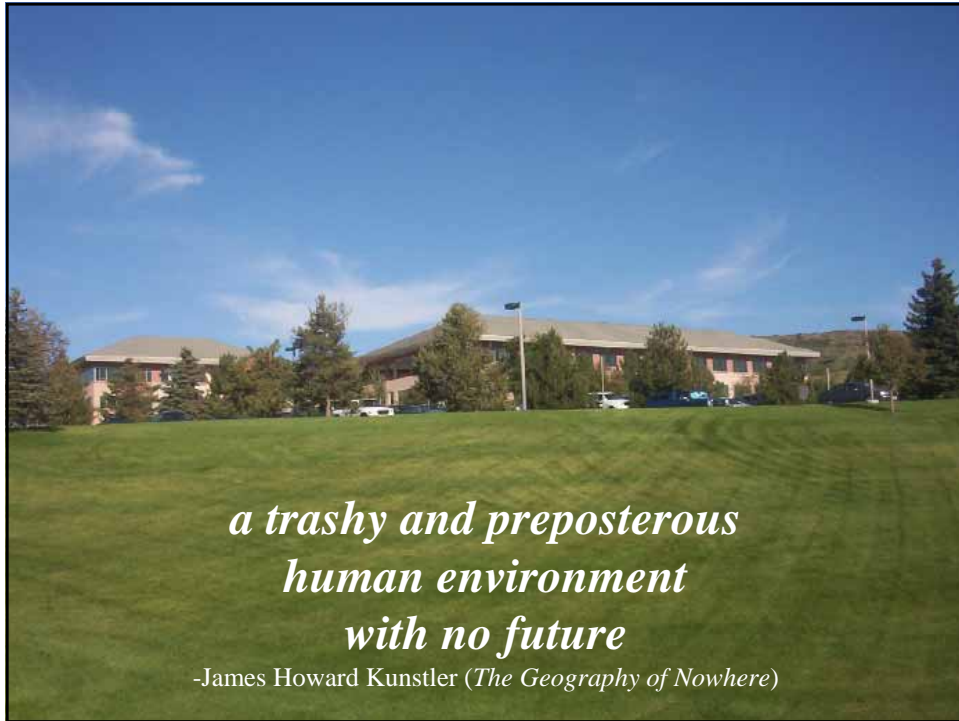
LACTC

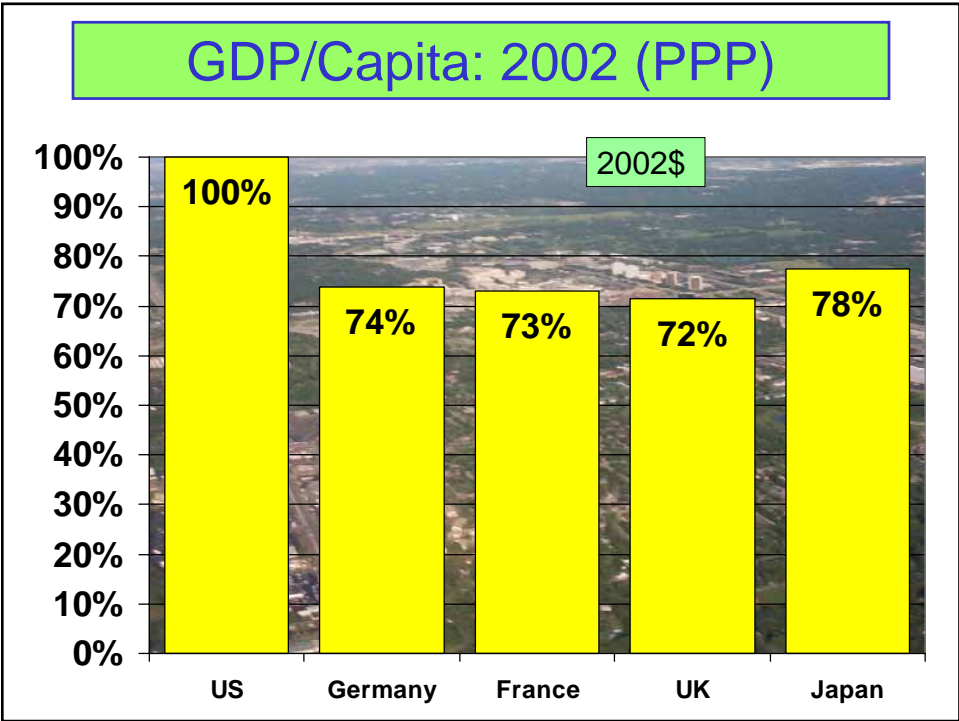
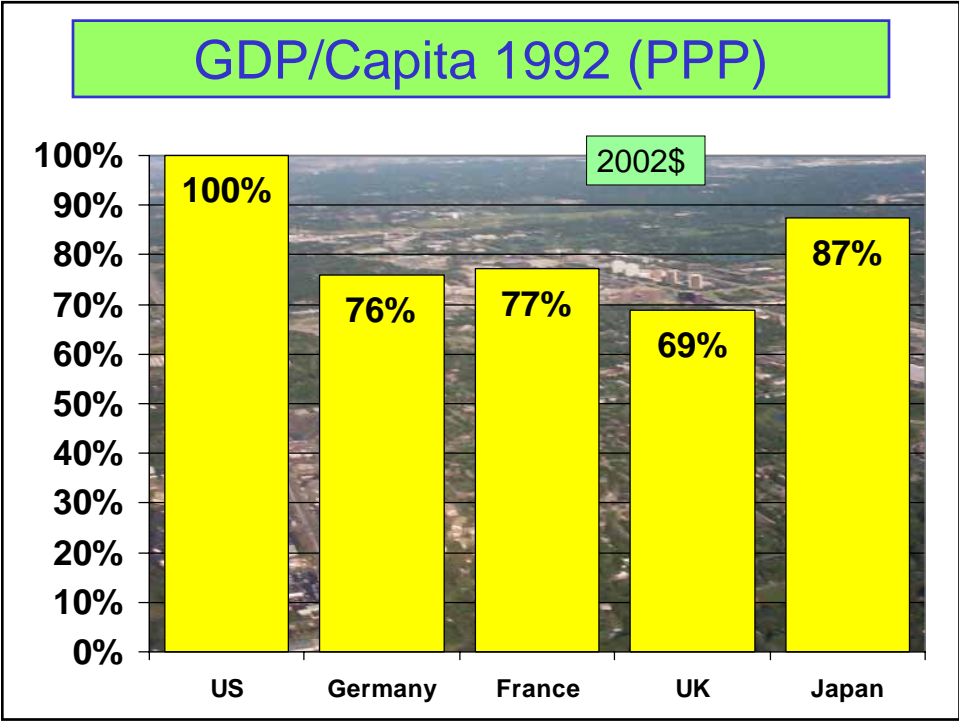
AMERICAN
PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION
ASSOCIATION

Outline

1. Urban Sprawl & Suburbanization
2. Local Democracy
3. Rusk “City Elasticity Theory”
4. Concluding Thoughts





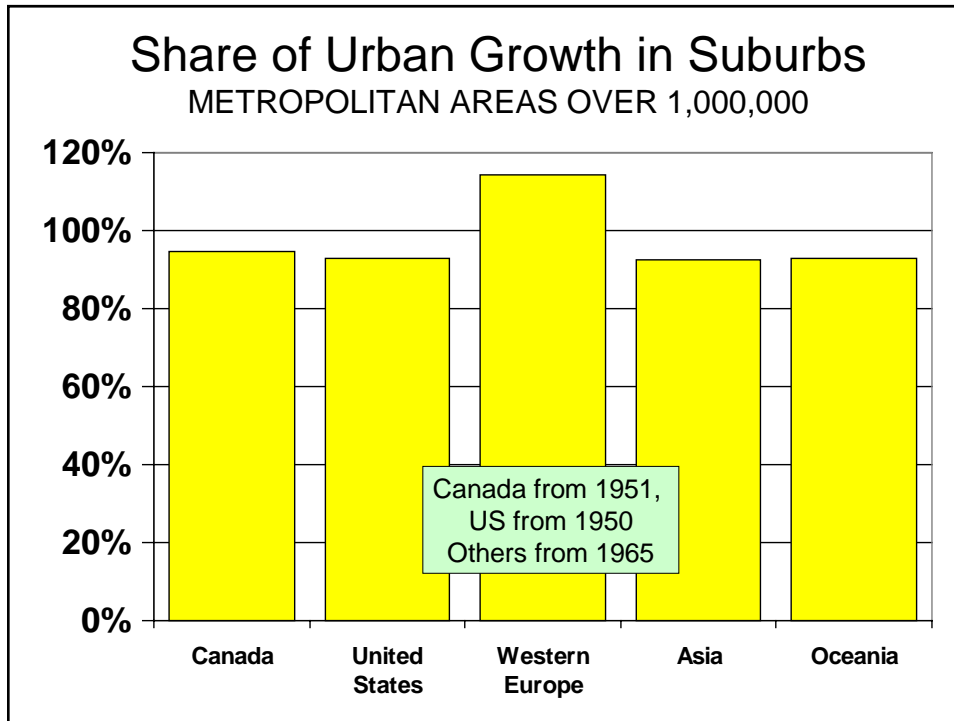


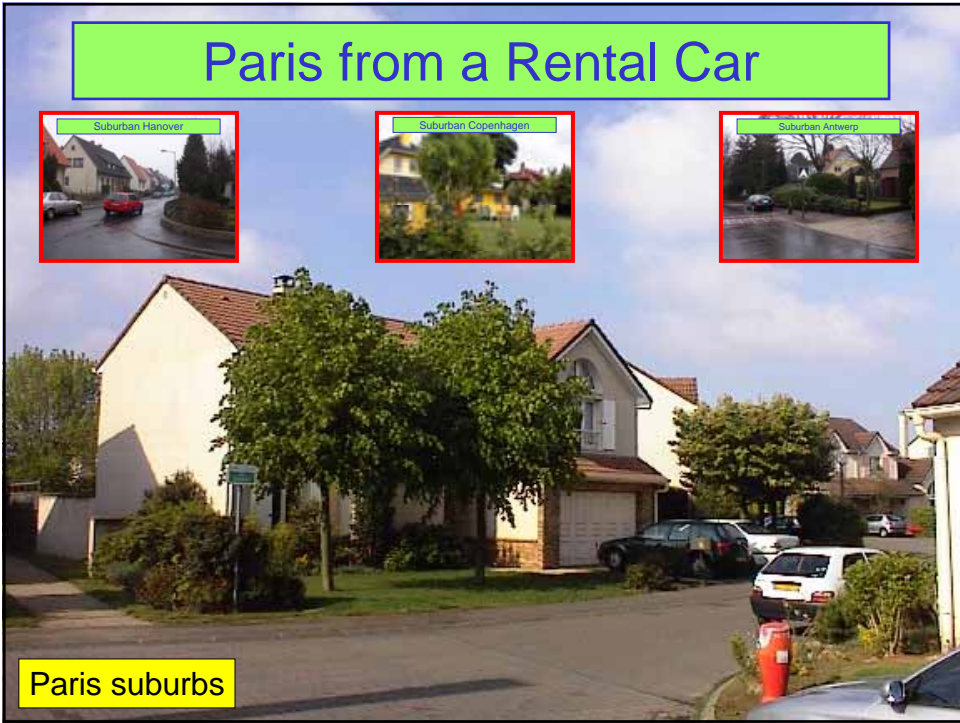
Let People Do What They Want

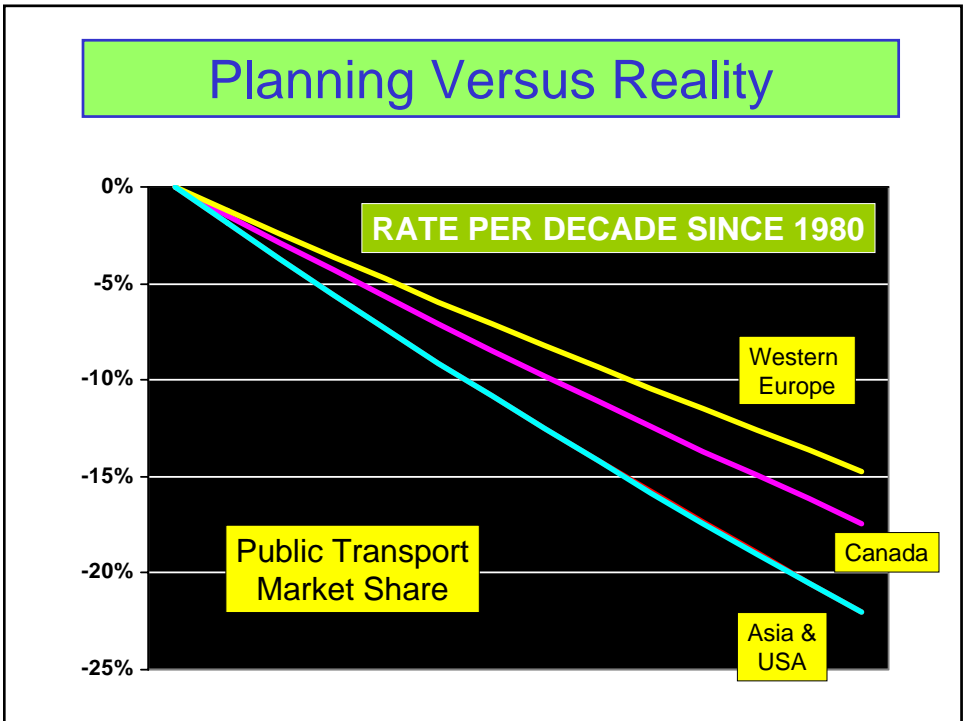
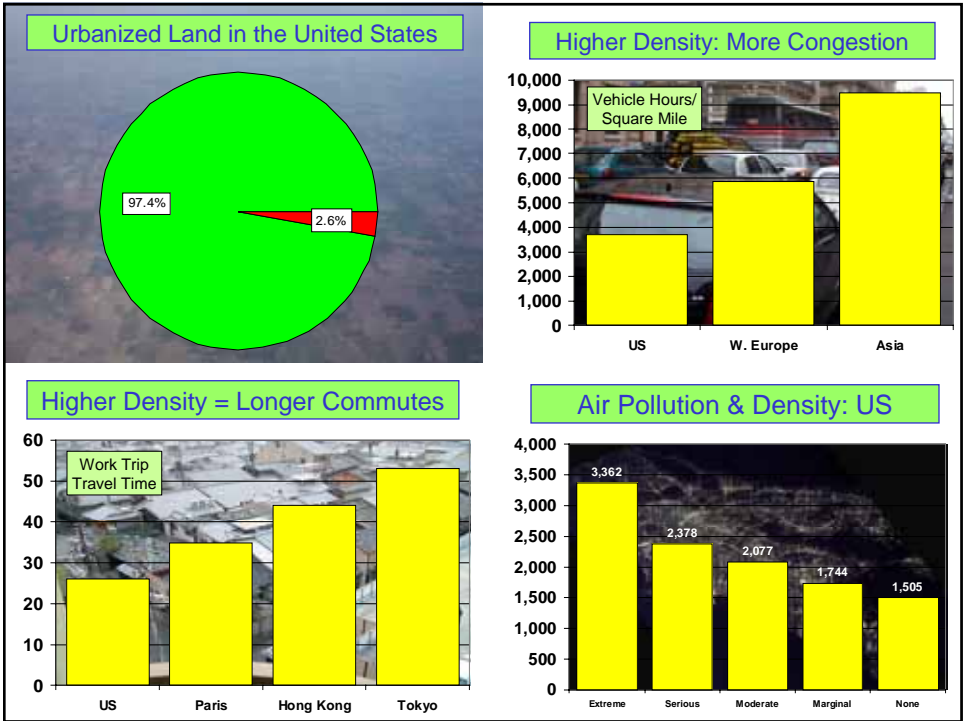
Lone Mountain Compact

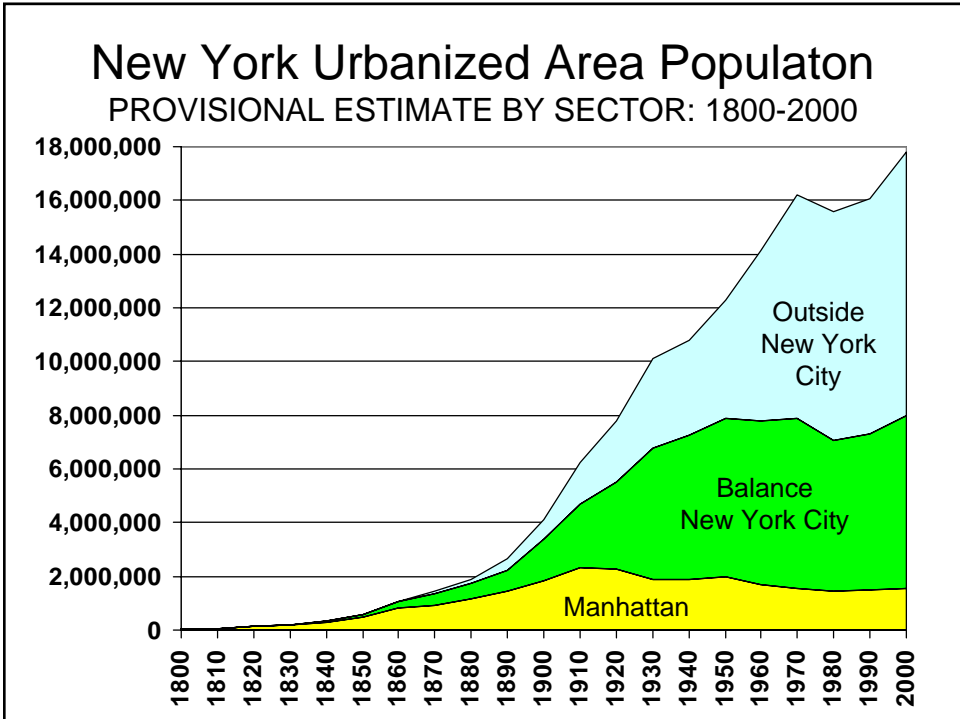
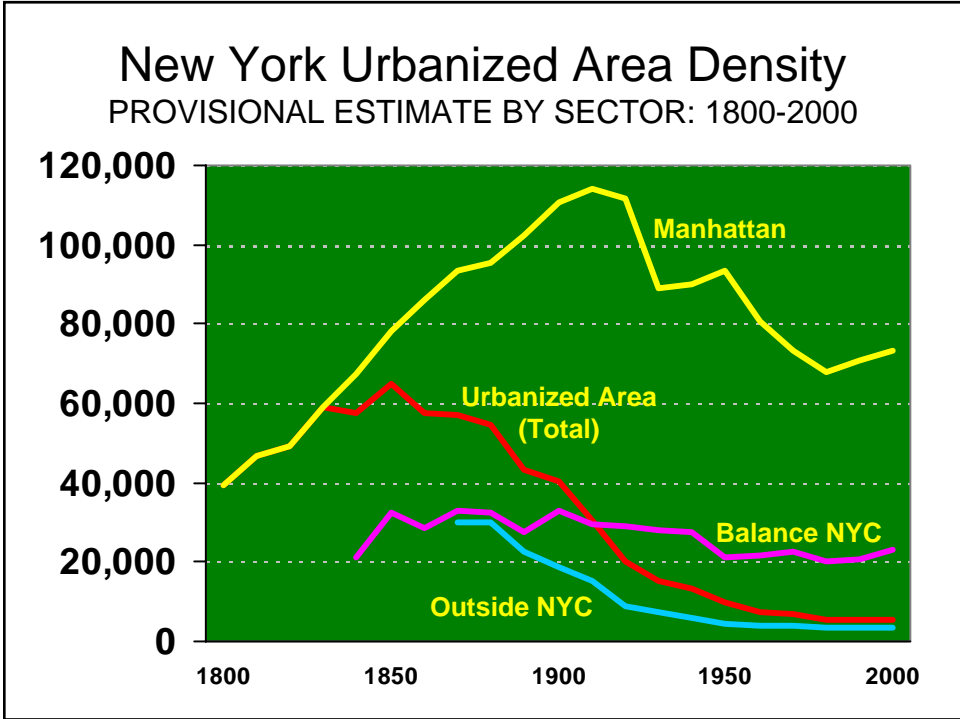
absent a material threat to other individuals or the community, people should be allowed to live and work where and how they like.

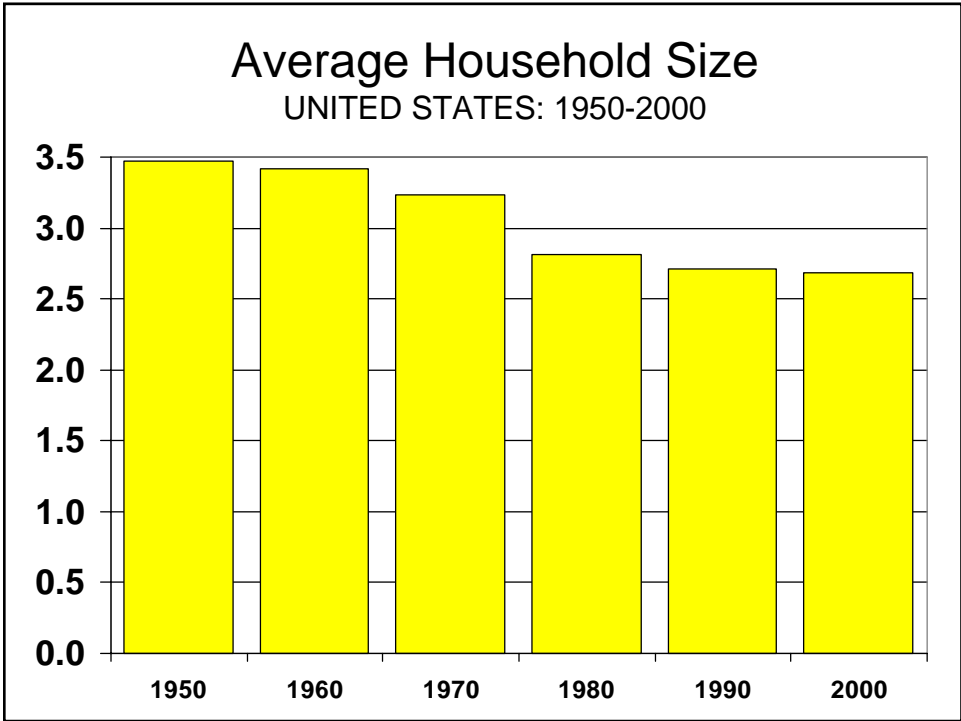
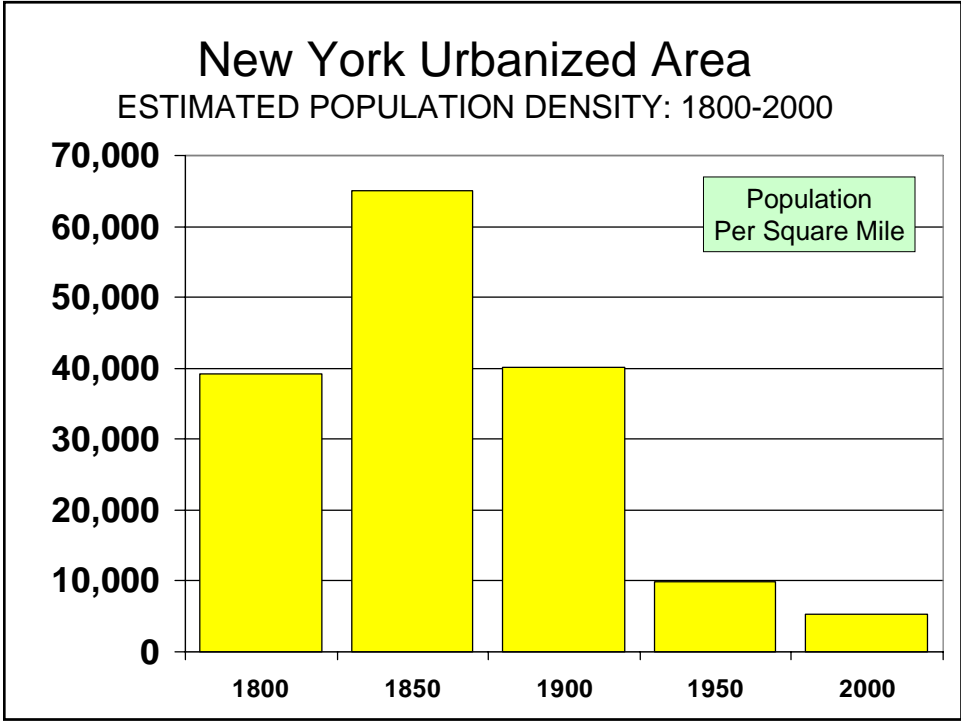






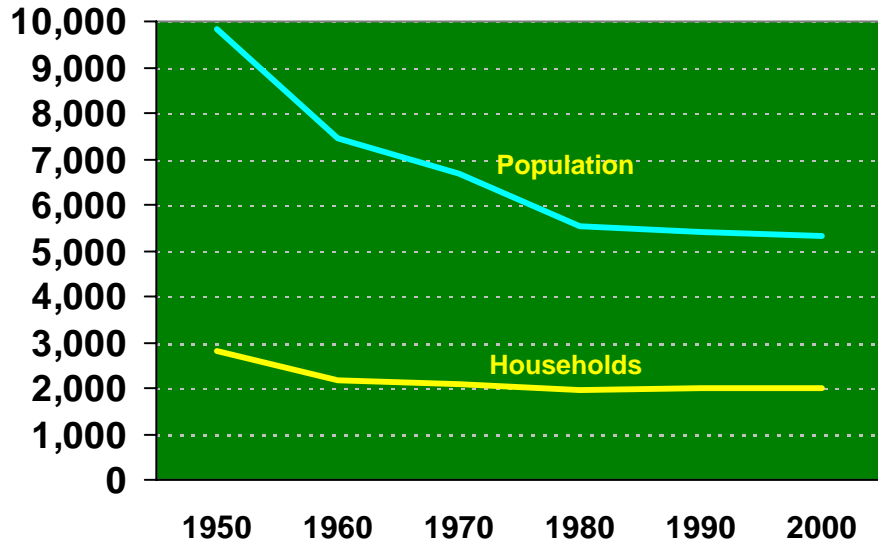




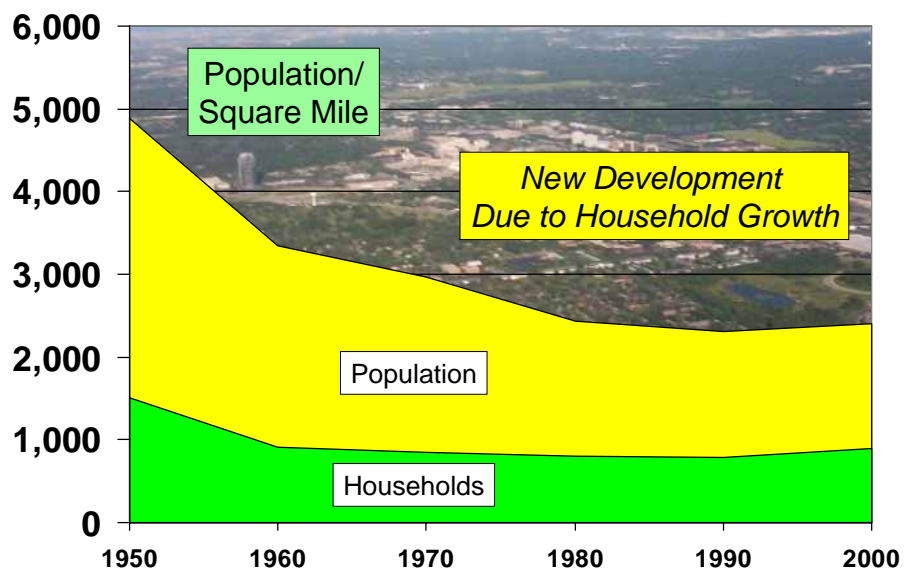


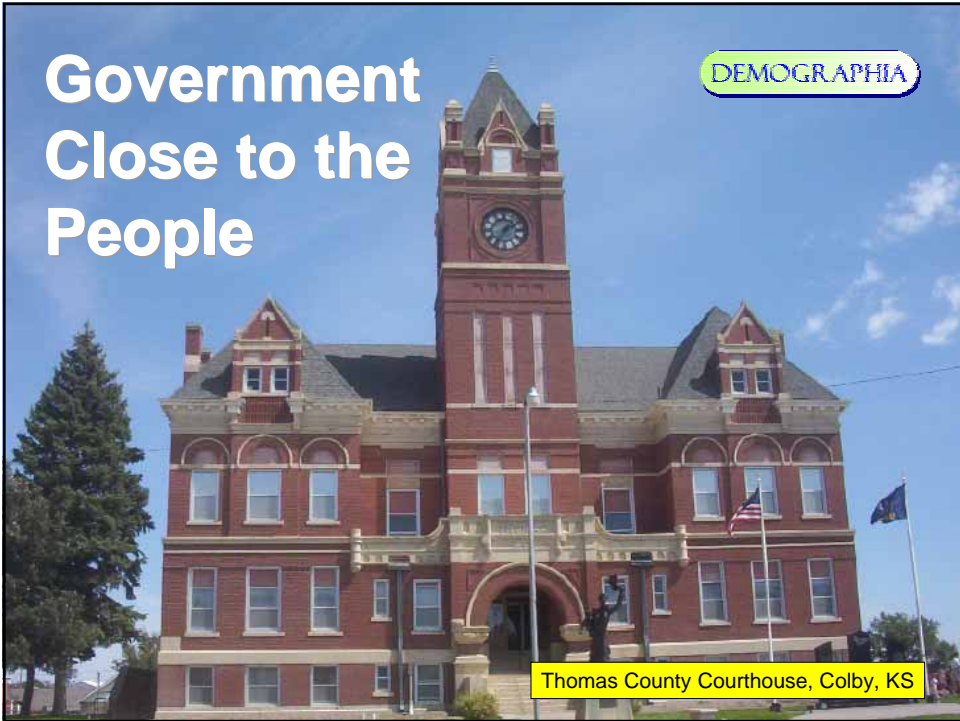
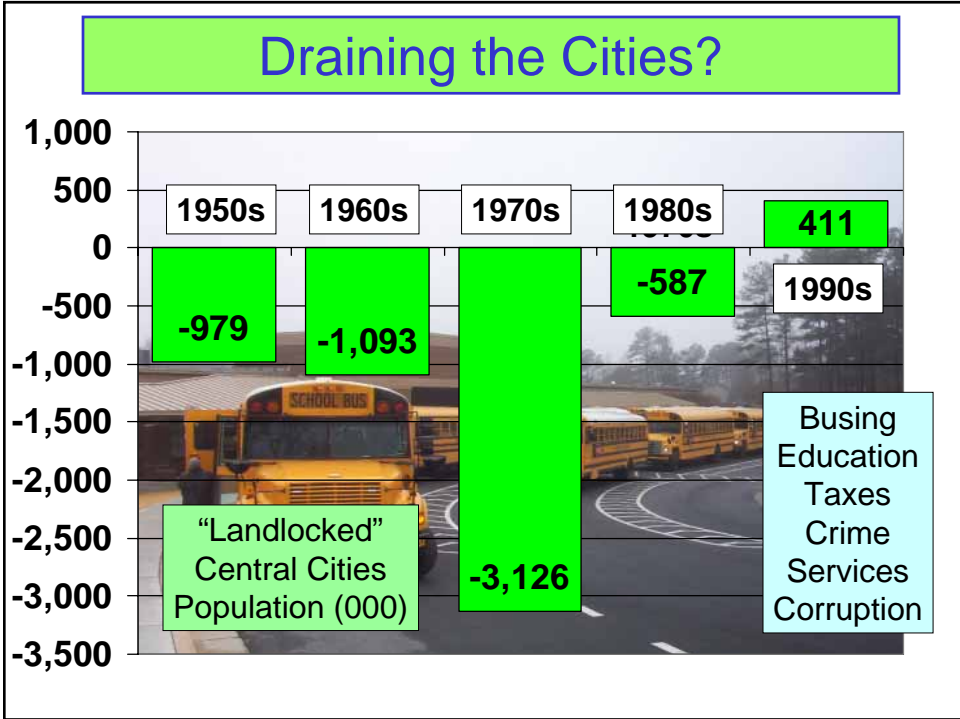
New York Urbanized Area Density

POPULATION & HOUSEHOLDS: 1950-2000



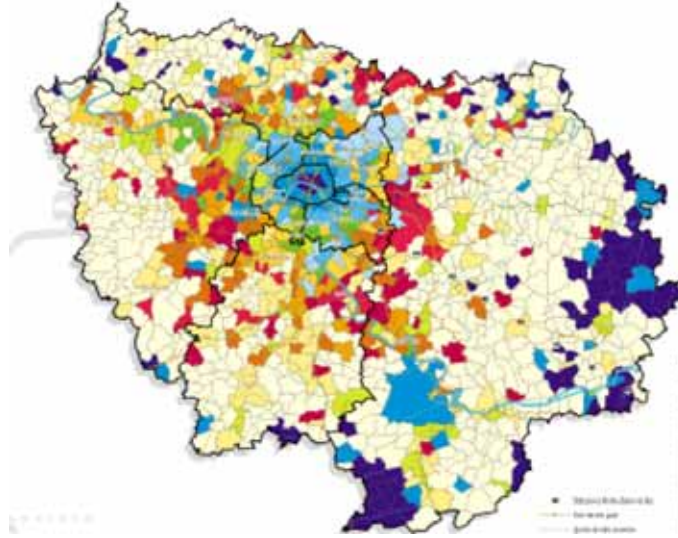
US Sprawl Stopped in 1960s







Local Democracy in Metropolitan Paris 1,300 GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNITS



The Importance of Local Democracy

Paraphrasing Lincoln

... government of the people by the people and for the people

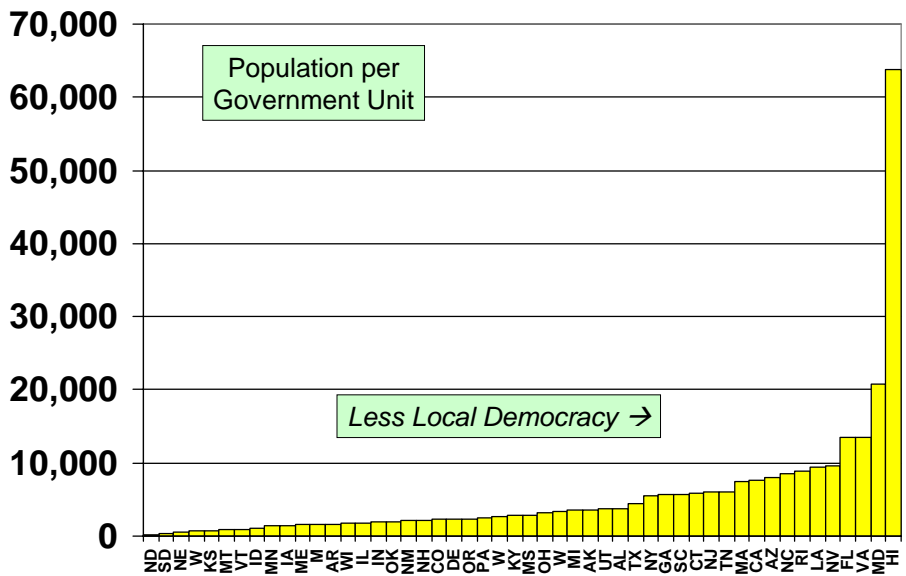
... is government that is closest to the people

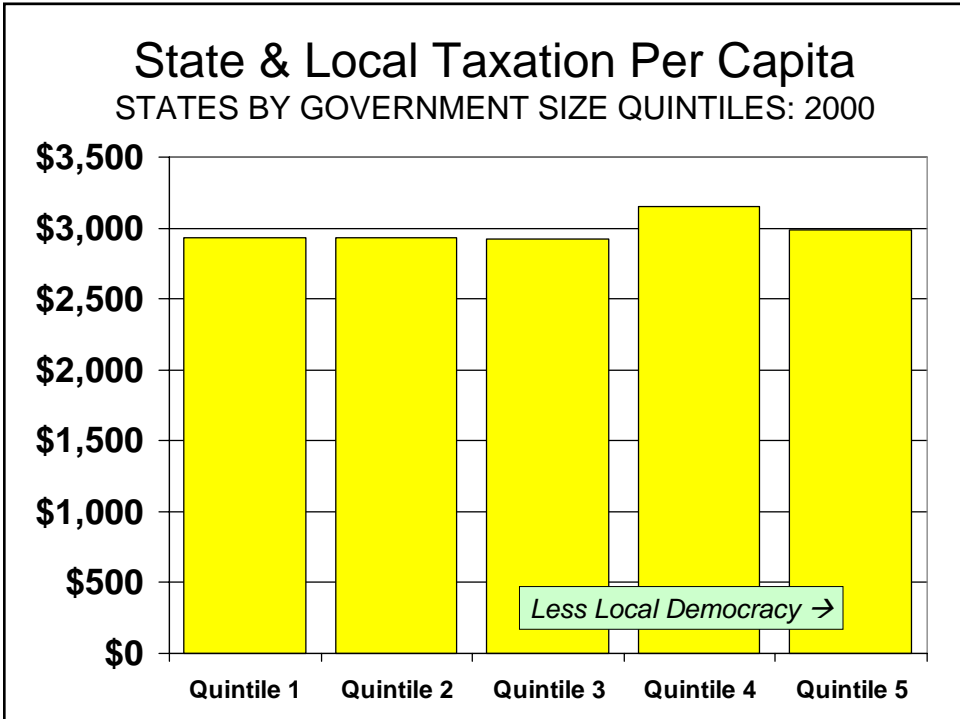
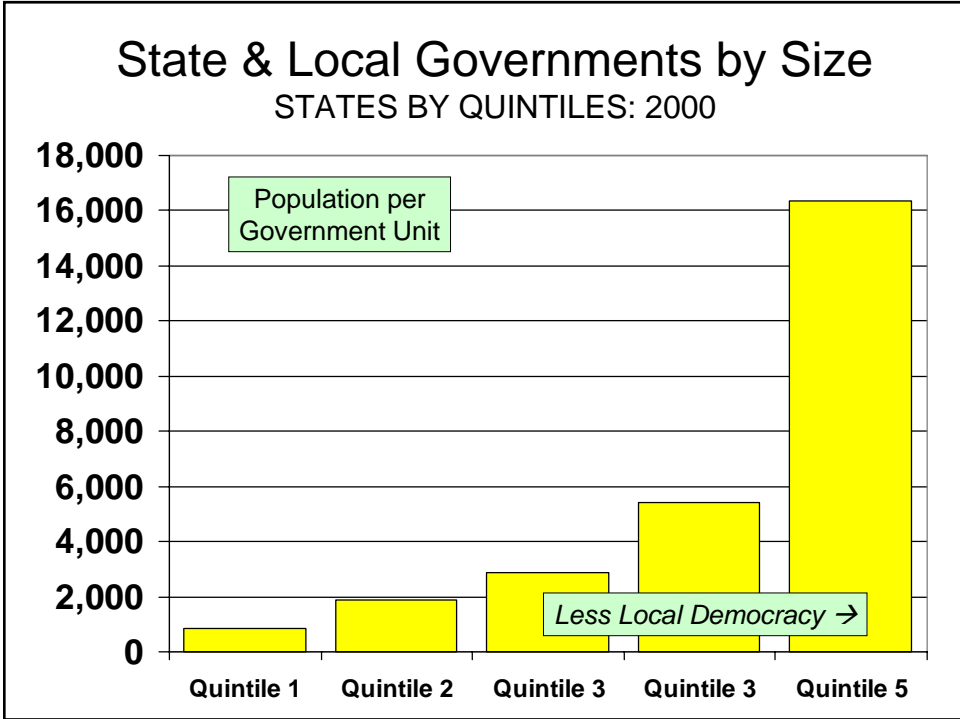
**State & Local
Costs &
Government
Size**

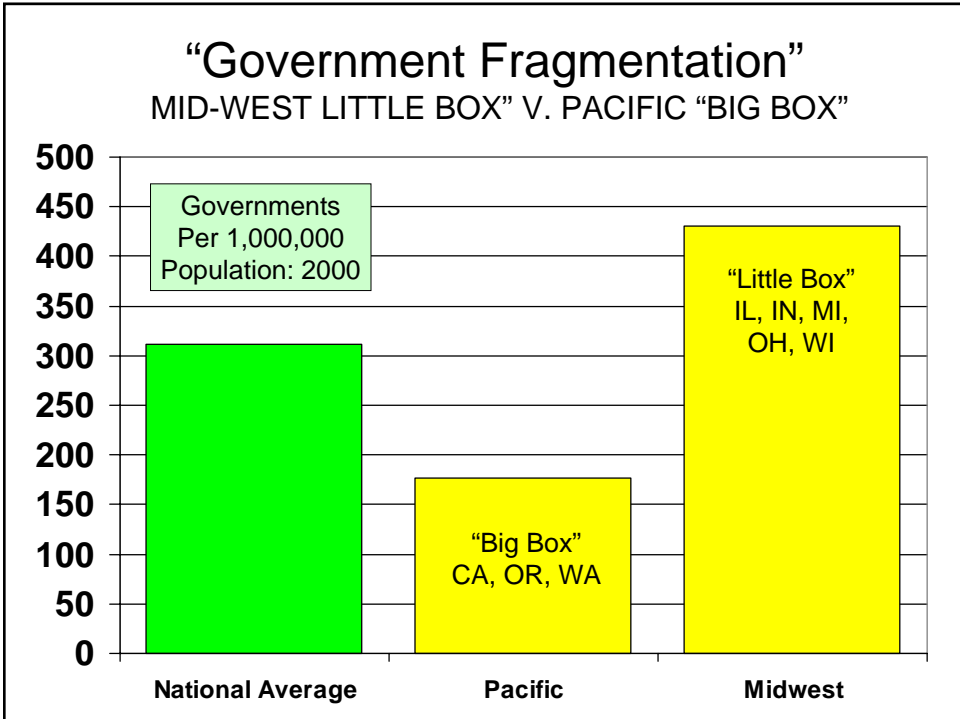
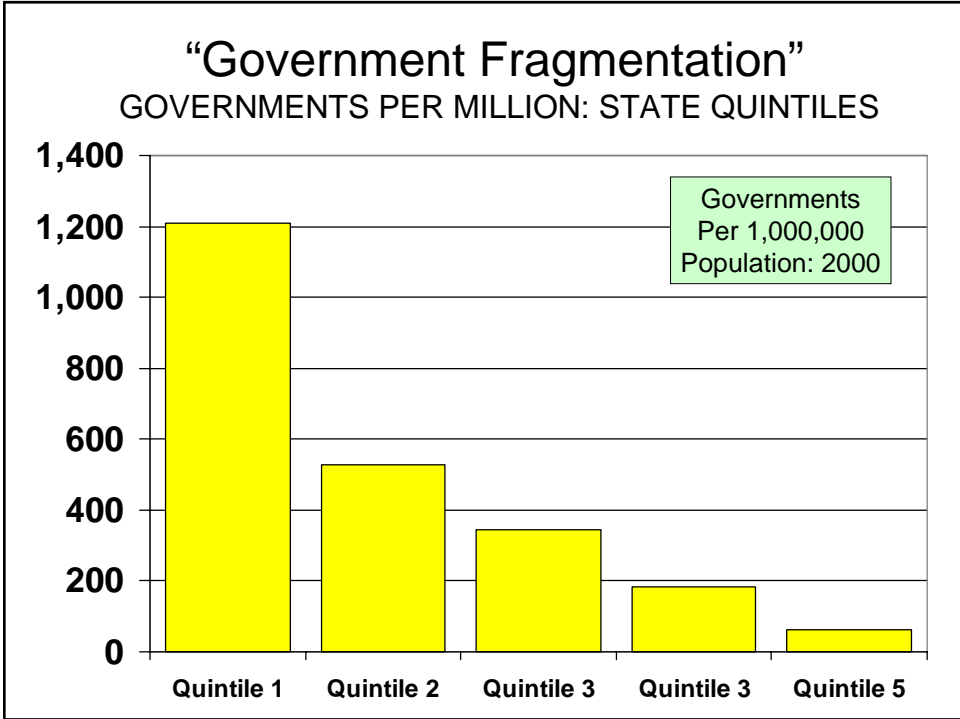


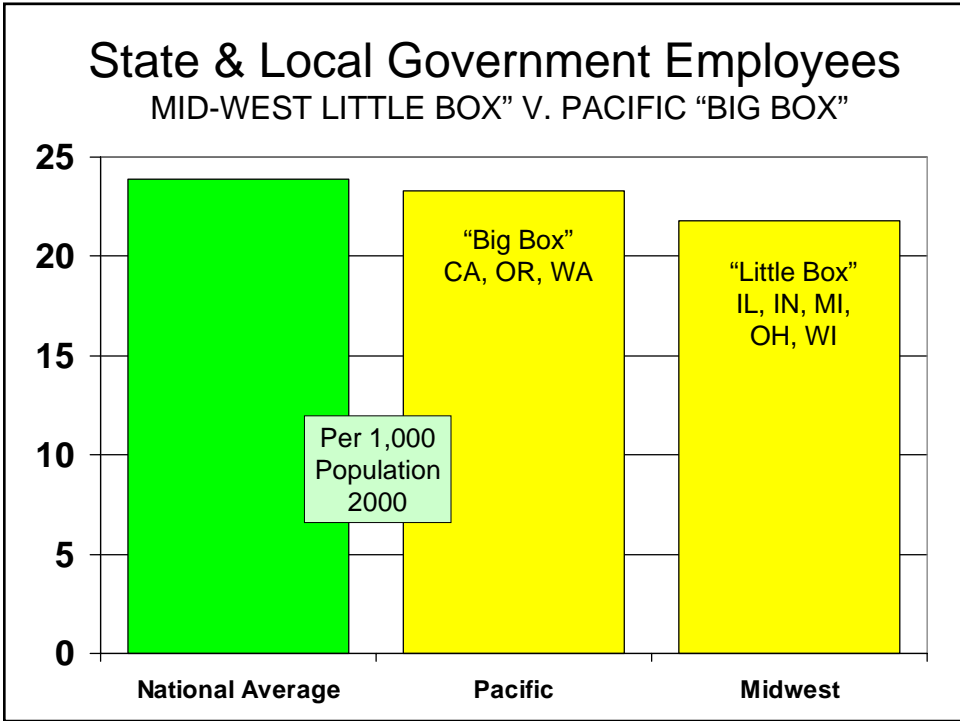
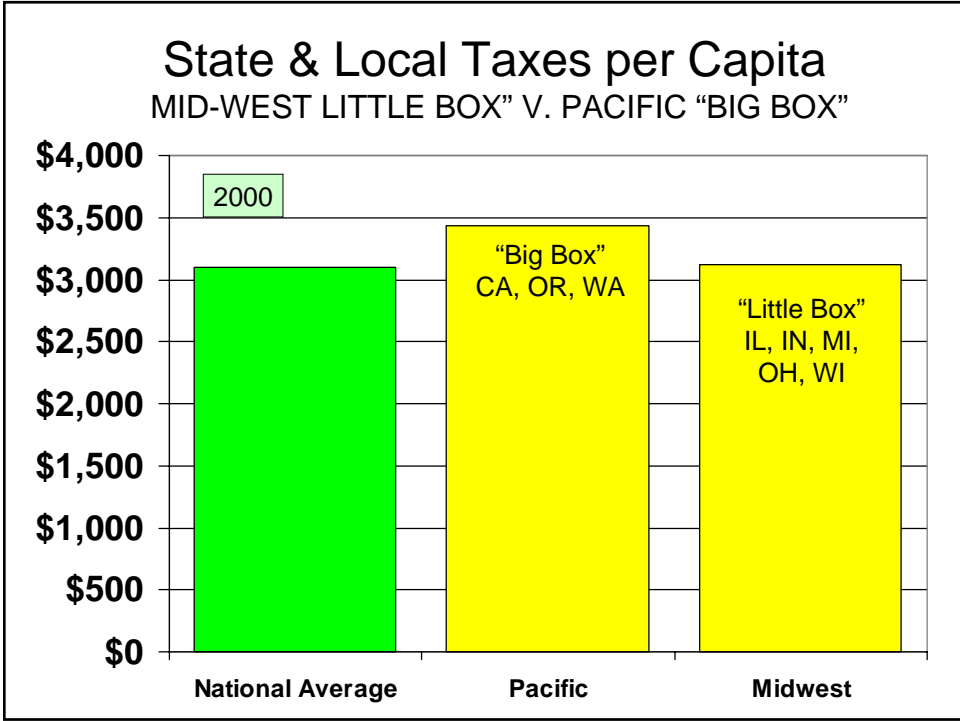
Population per Local Government Unit

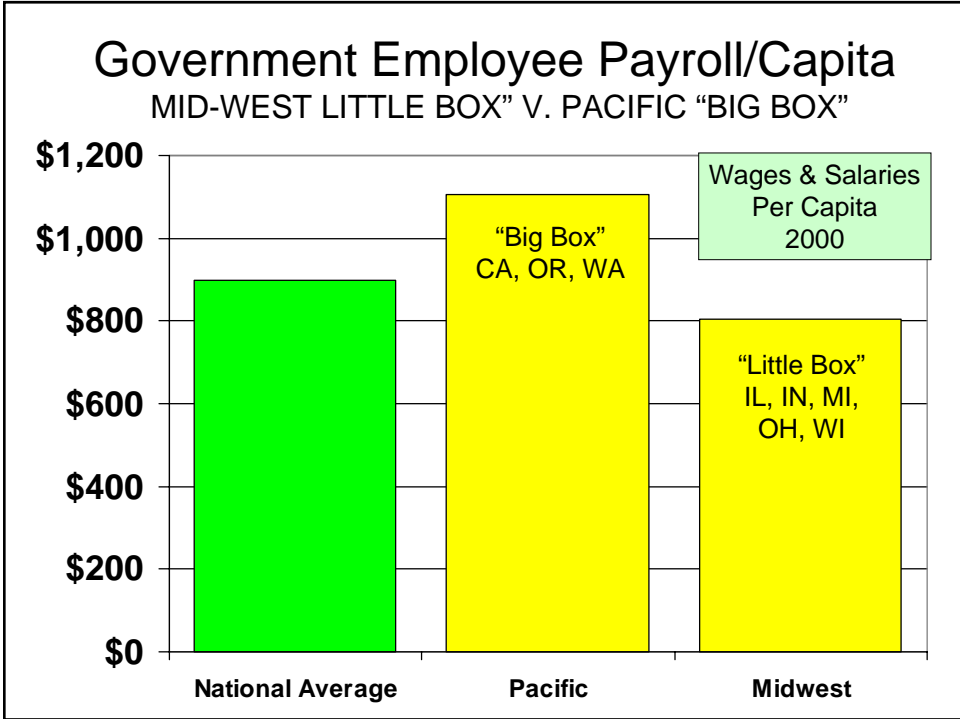
STATES: 2000

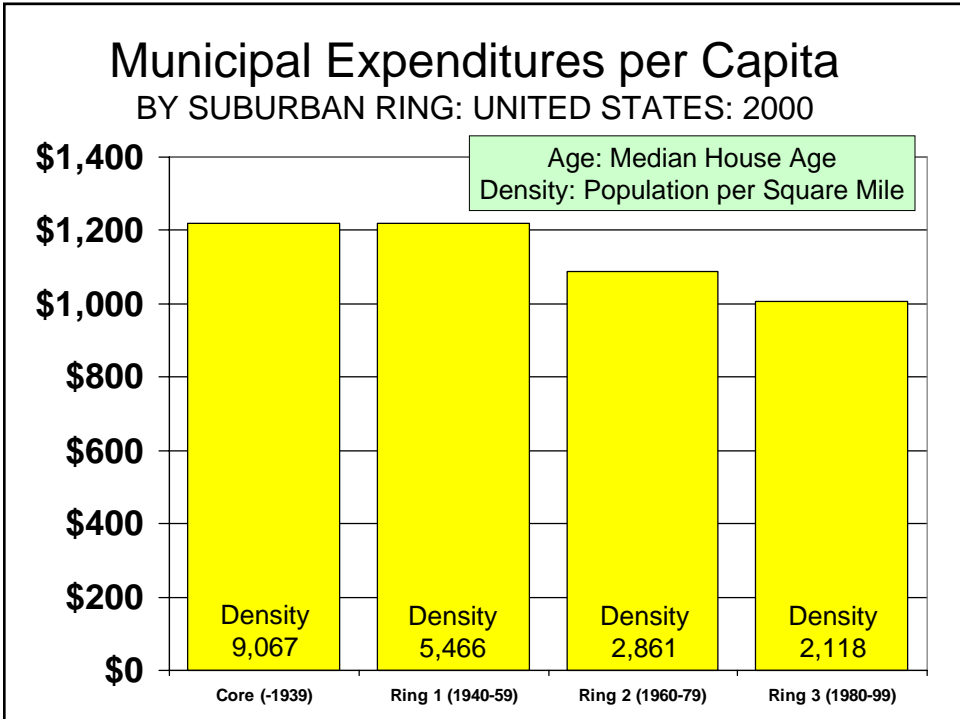
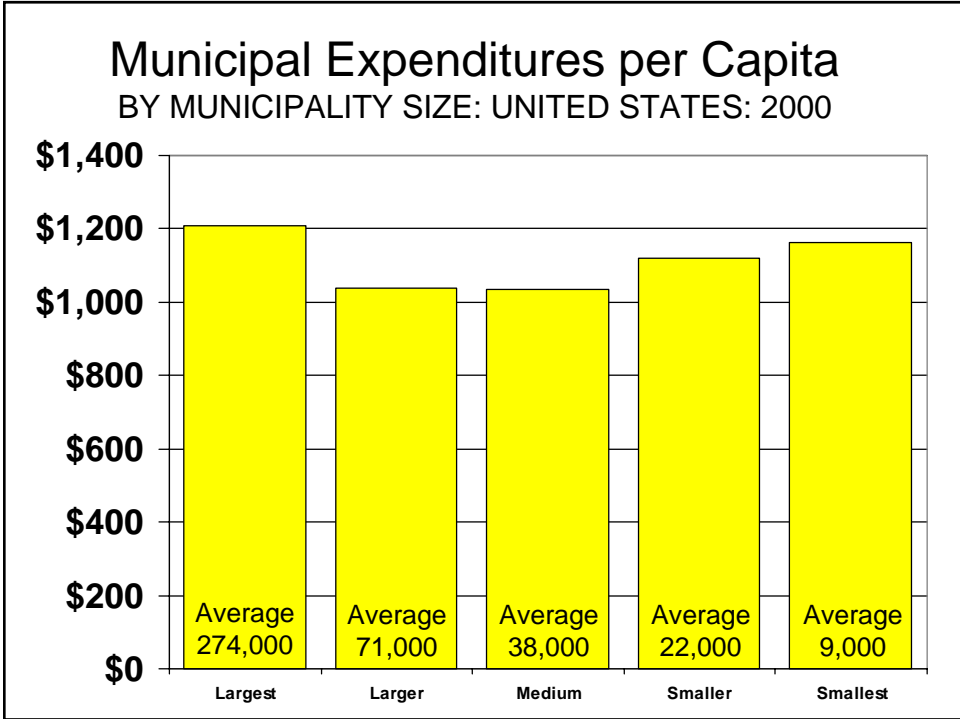


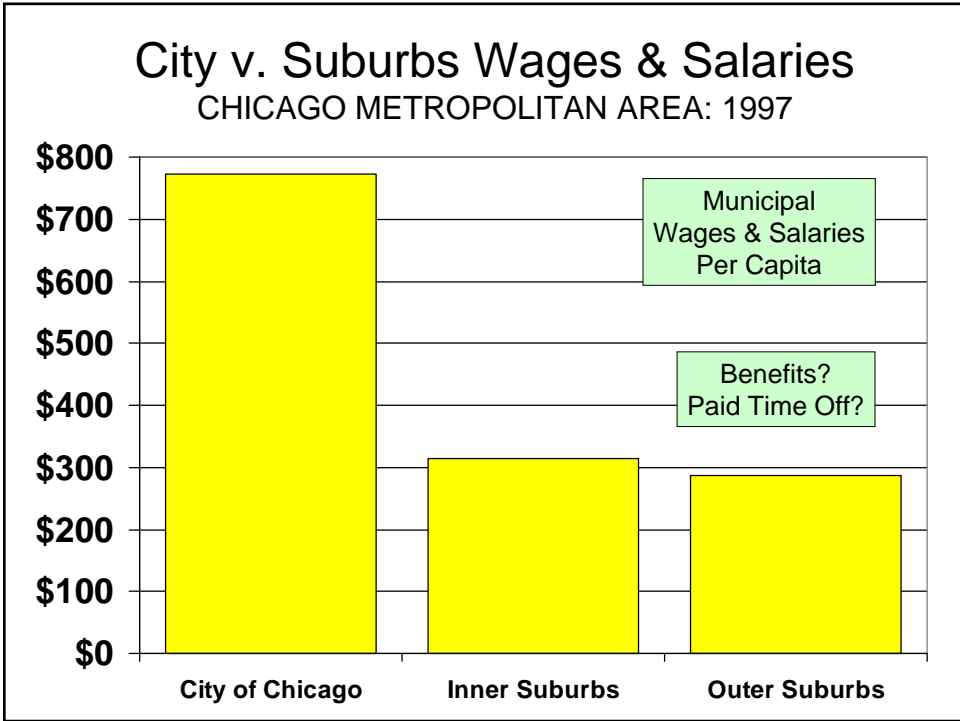
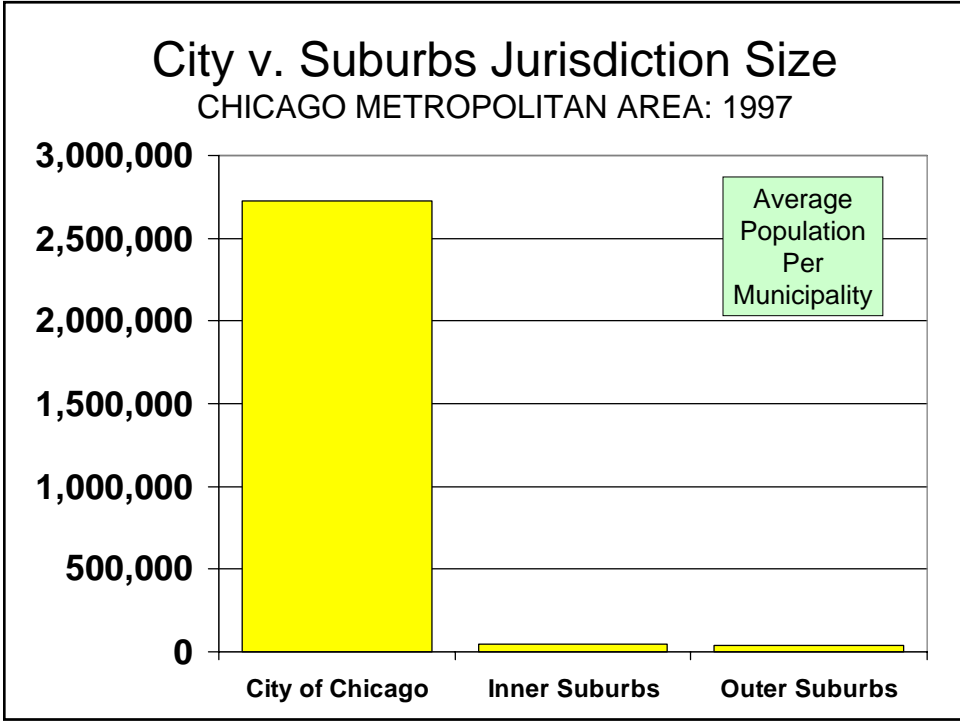








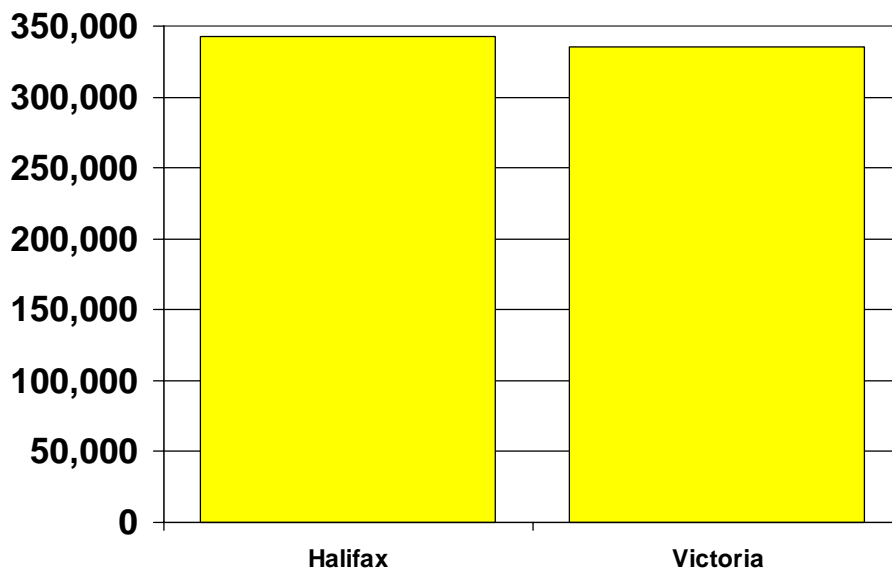


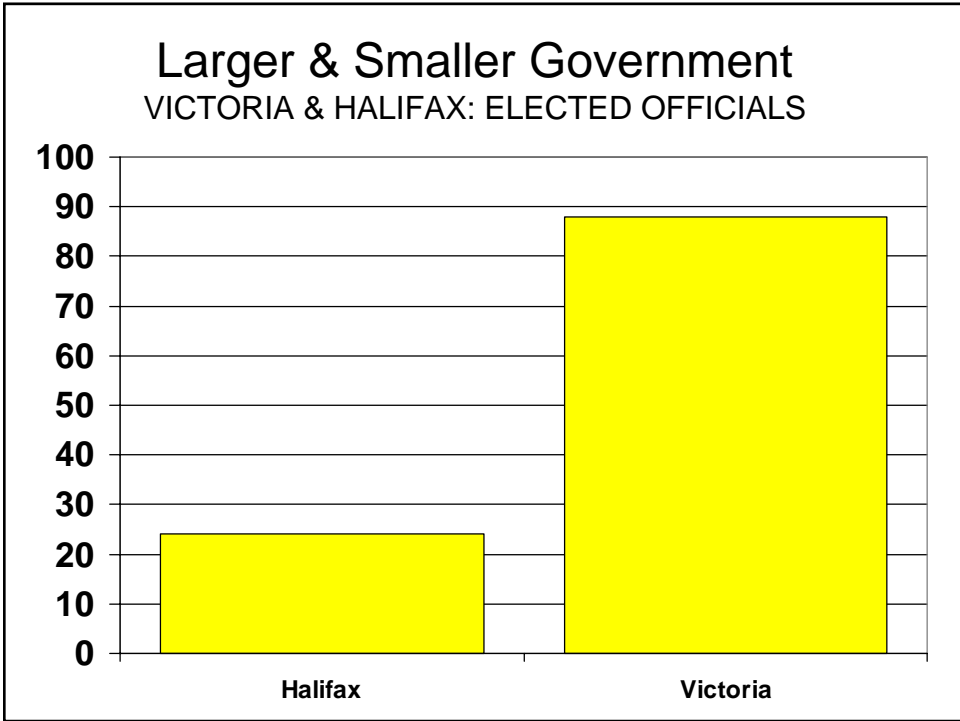
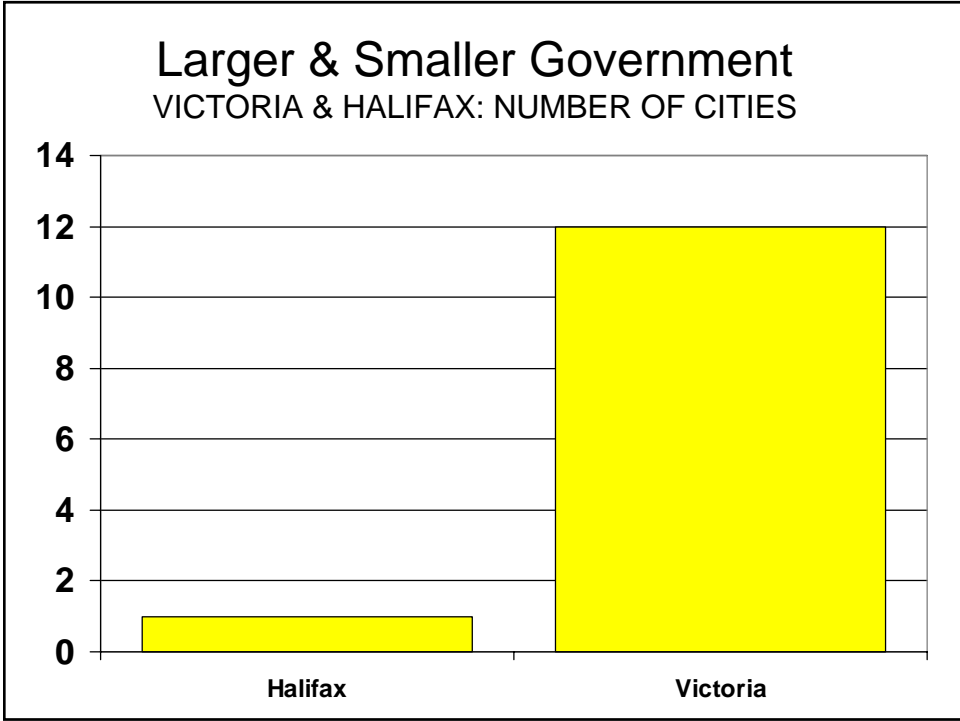


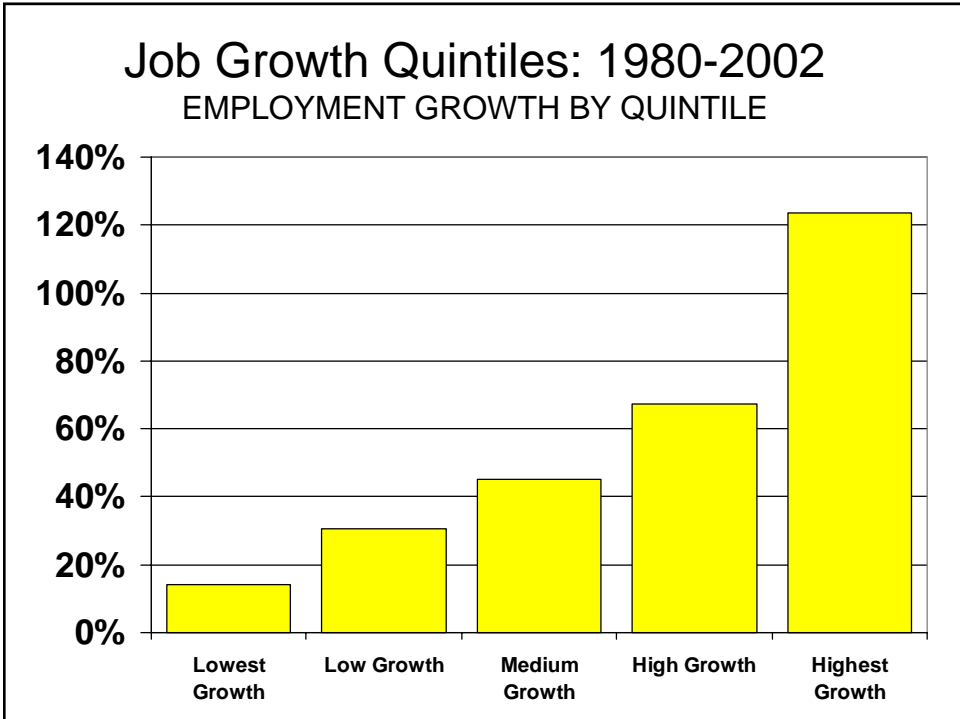
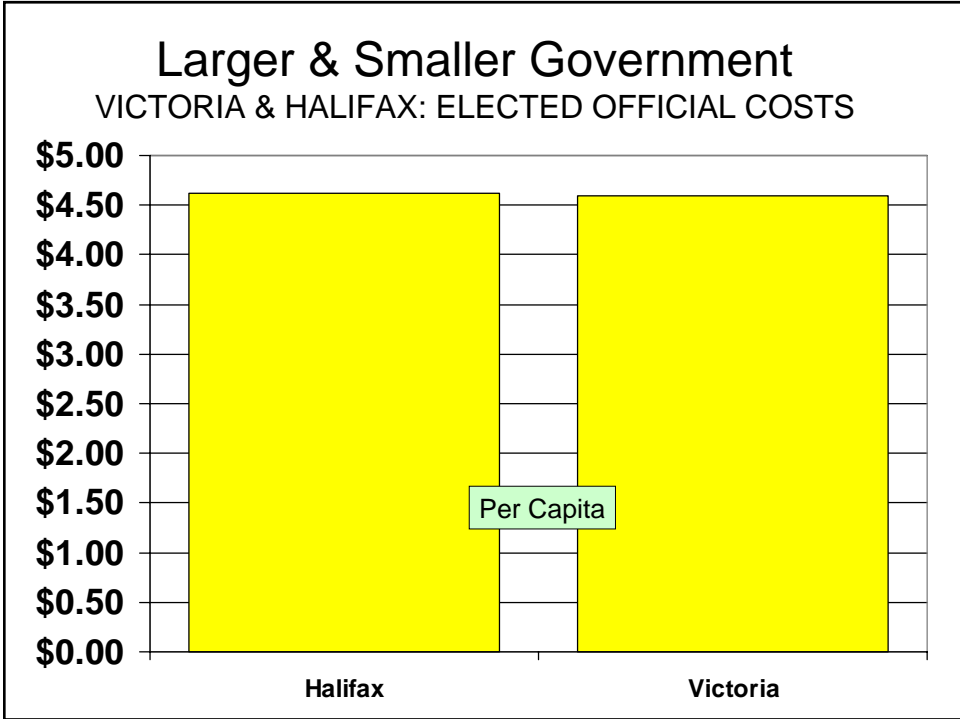
**Consolidation:
False
Economies**

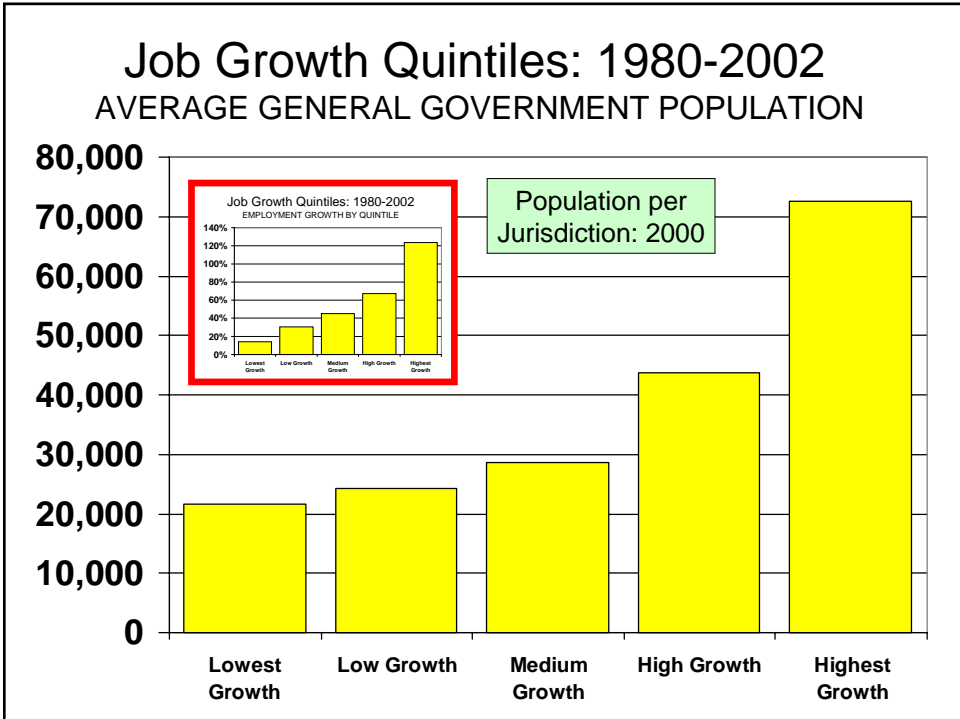
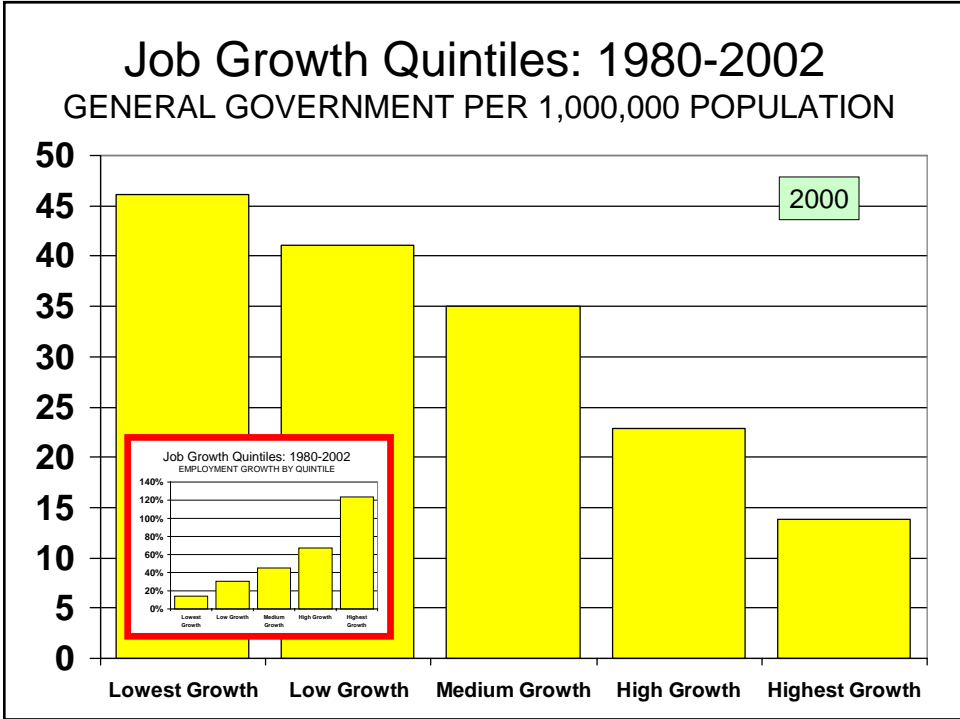


Larger & Smaller Government VICTORIA & HALIFAX: POPULATION



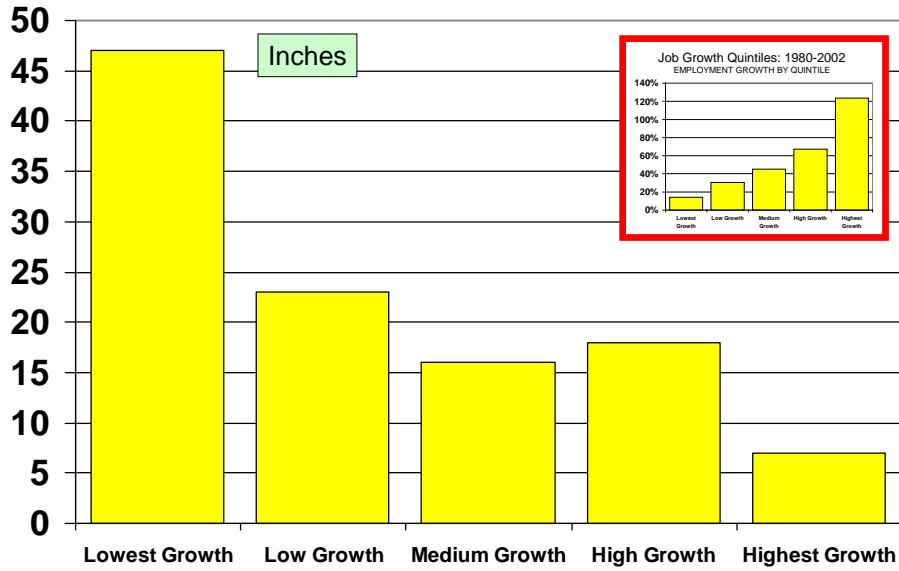






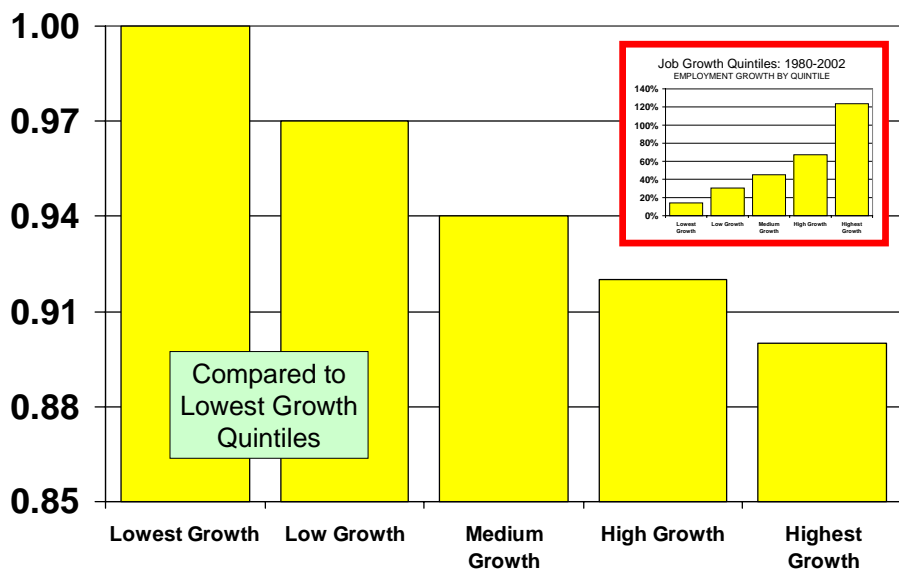
Job Growth Quintiles: 1980-2002

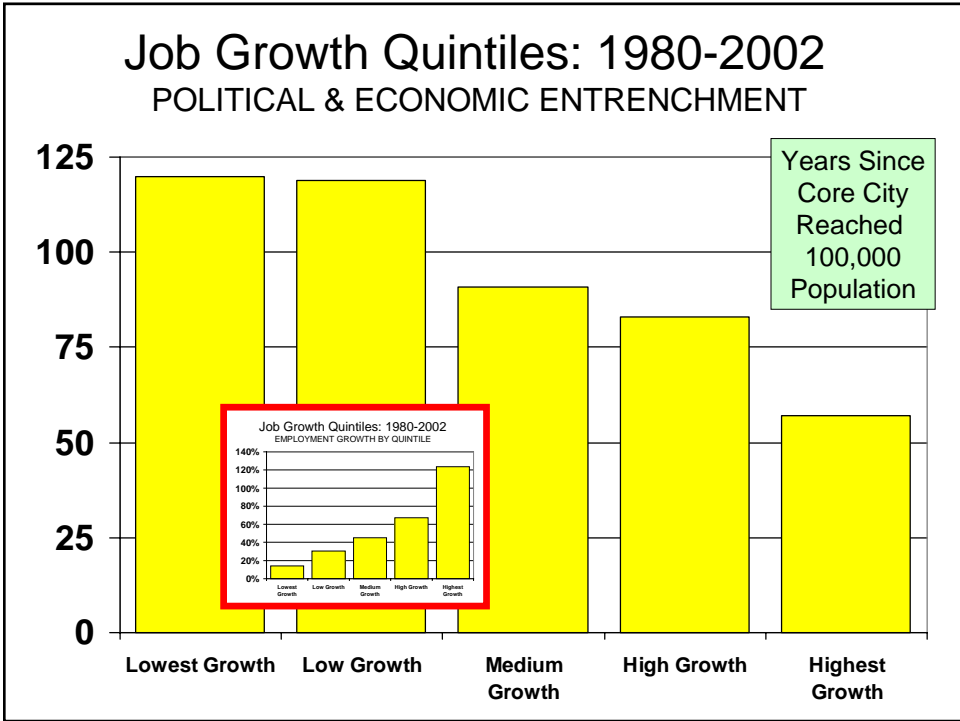
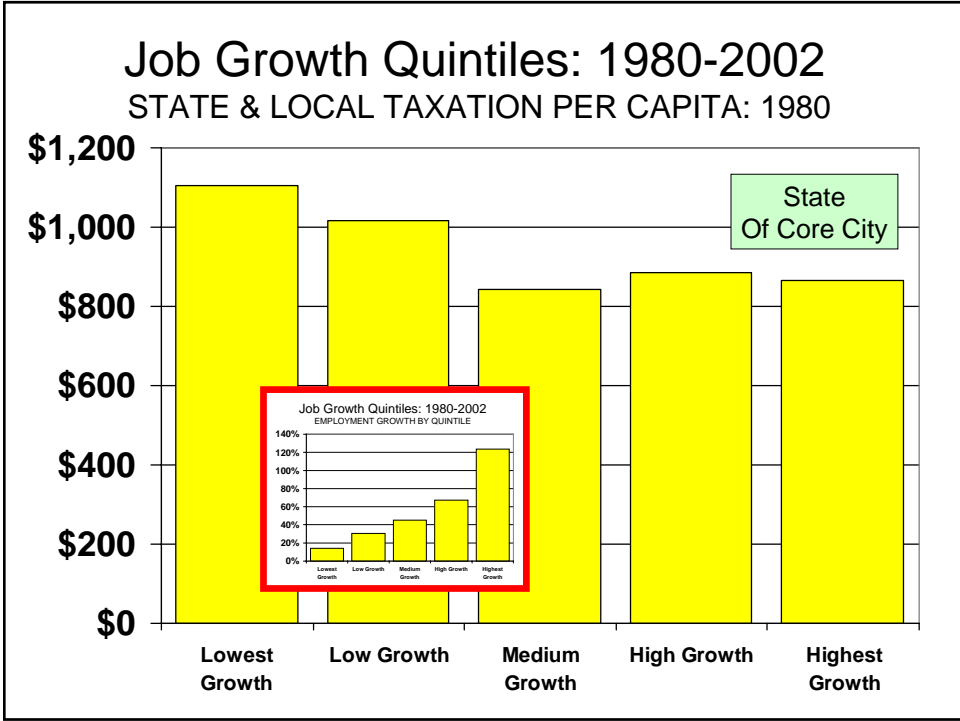
AVERAGE ANNUAL SNOWFALL



Job Growth Quintiles: 1980-2002

AVERAGE 1980 WAGES





Distinctive Competences (Subsidiarity)

Paraphrasing Lincoln

... government of the people by the people and for the people

... is government that is closest to the people

Competitiveness, Cautions & Fads

3 Competitiveness Lists

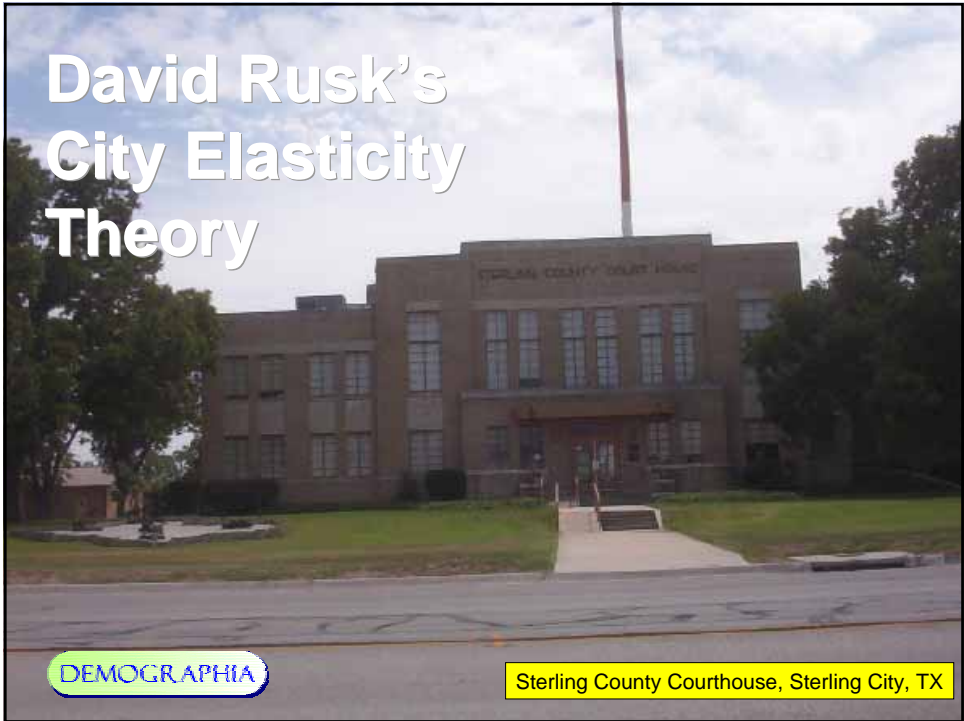
5 of 10 areas with greatest job growth (1980-2002) not listed, including #1 & #2

Rise of the Creative Class

1999 List: Portland #30

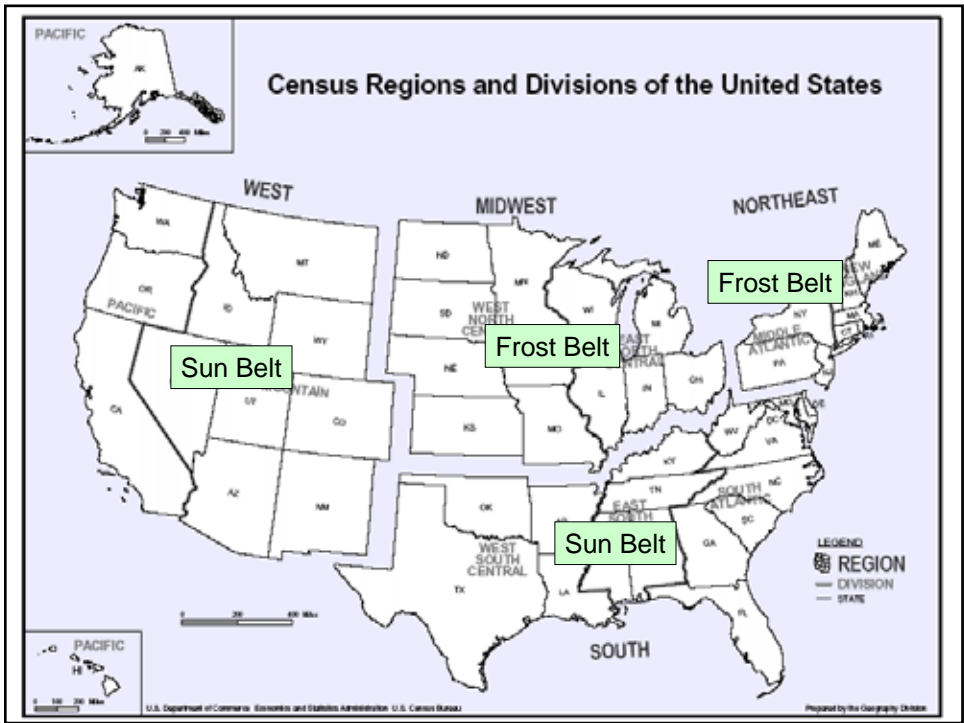
2004 List: Portland #6

David Rusk's City Elasticity Theory



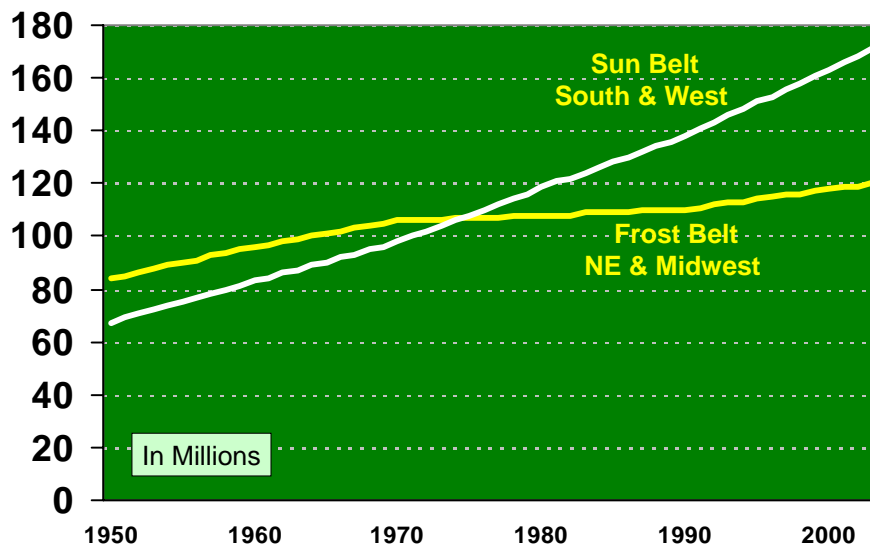
DEMOGRAPHIA

Sterling County Courthouse, Sterling City, TX



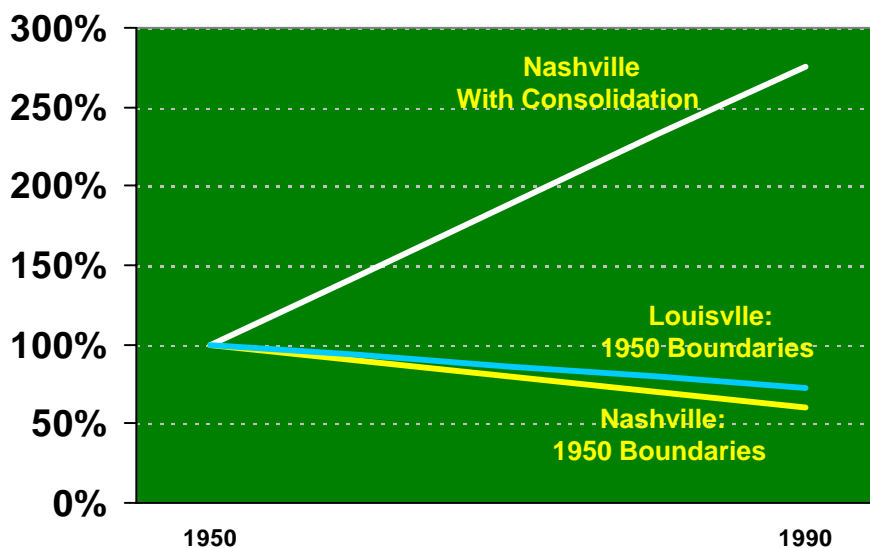
National Population Trend: 1950-2003

FROST BELT AND SUN BELT



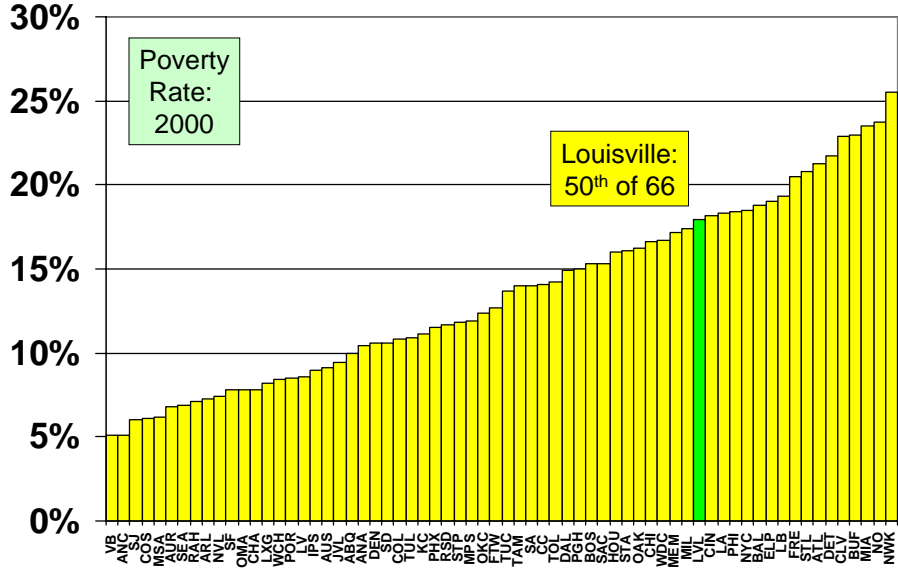
Nashville & Louisville

ELASTICITY THEORY PHANTOMS



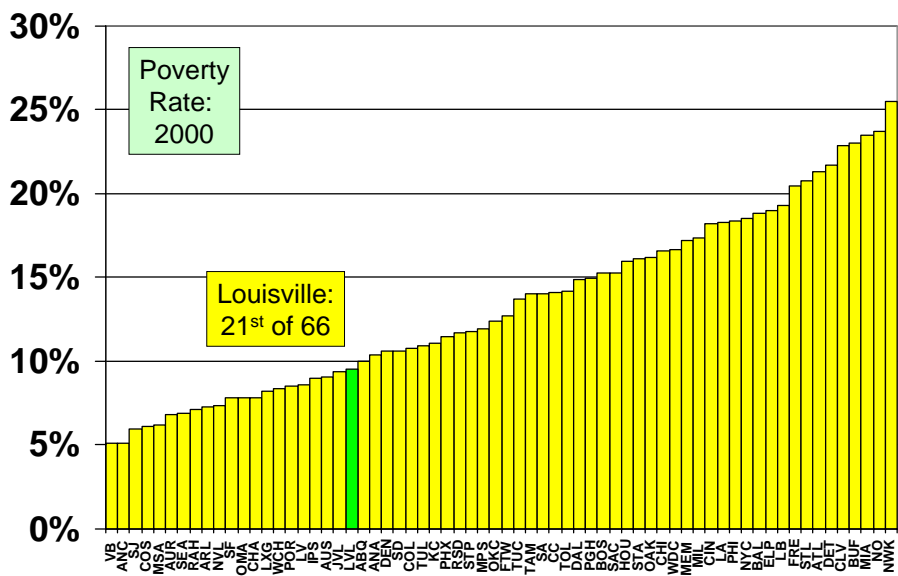
City Elasticity Theory: Poverty Rate

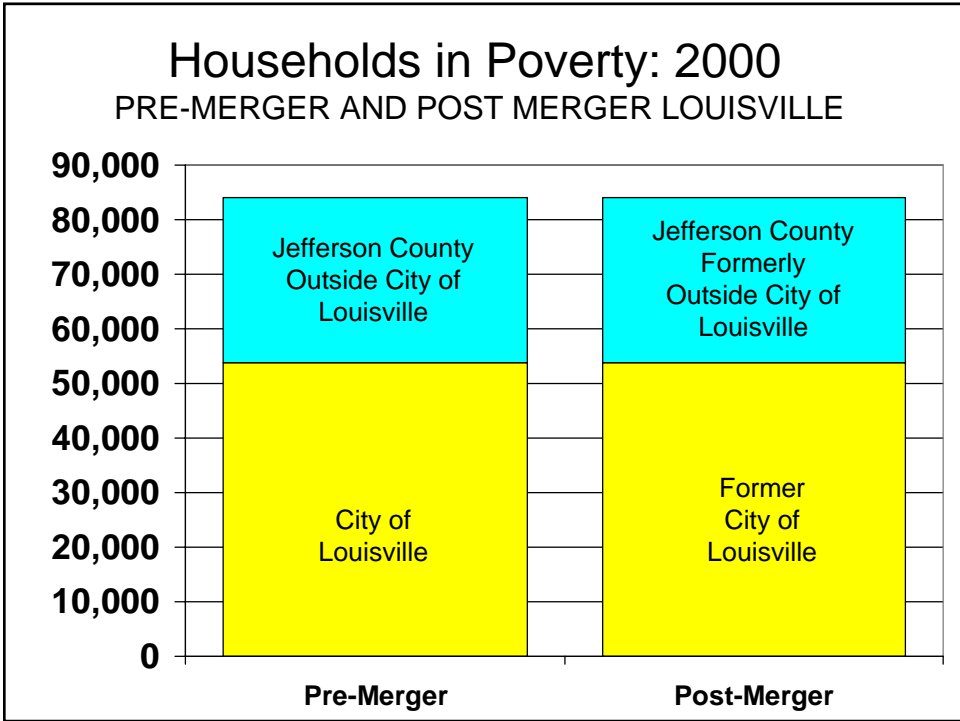
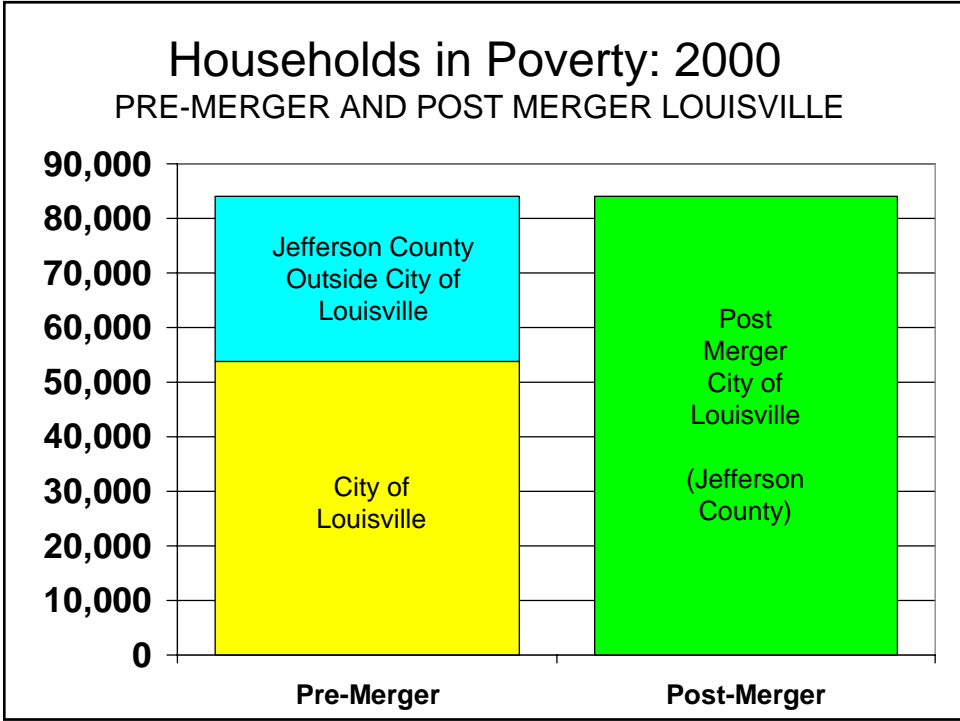
LARGEST CITIES: LOUISVILLE BEFORE MERGER

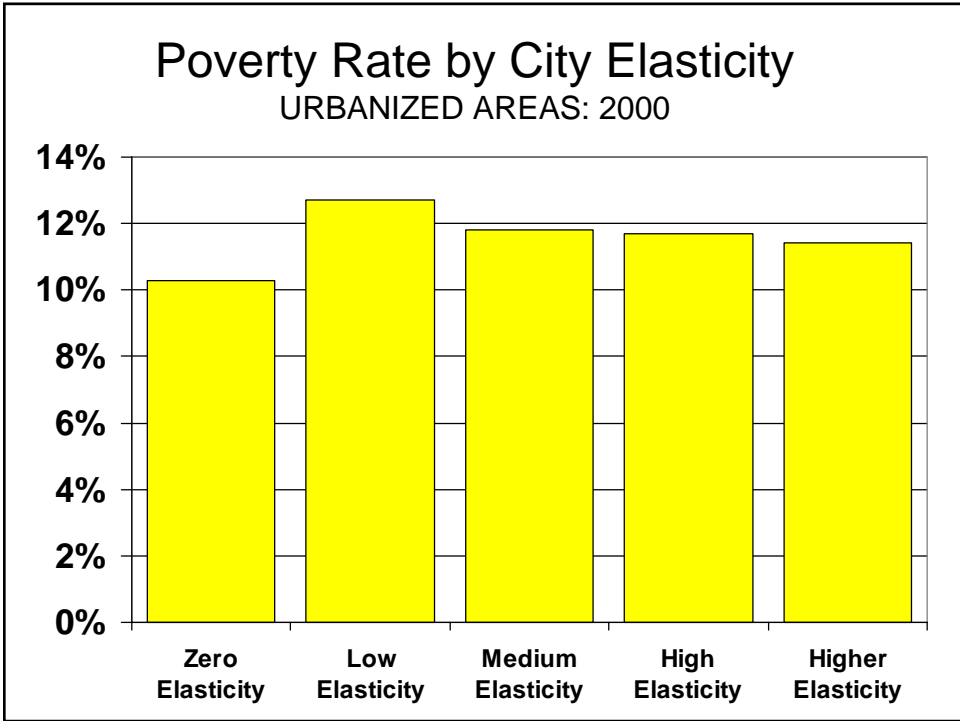
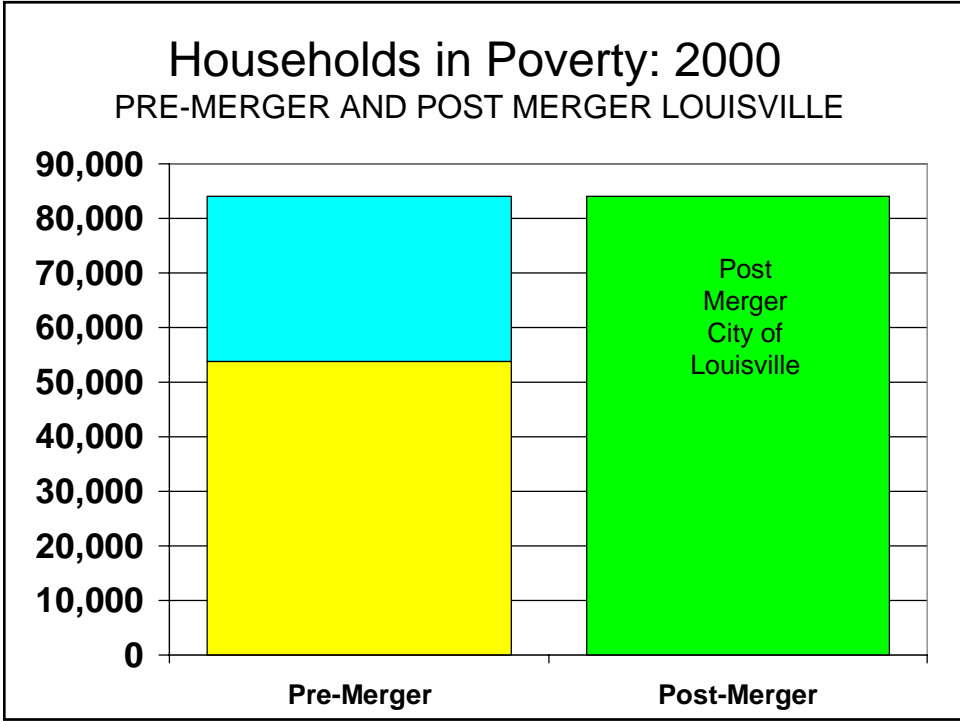


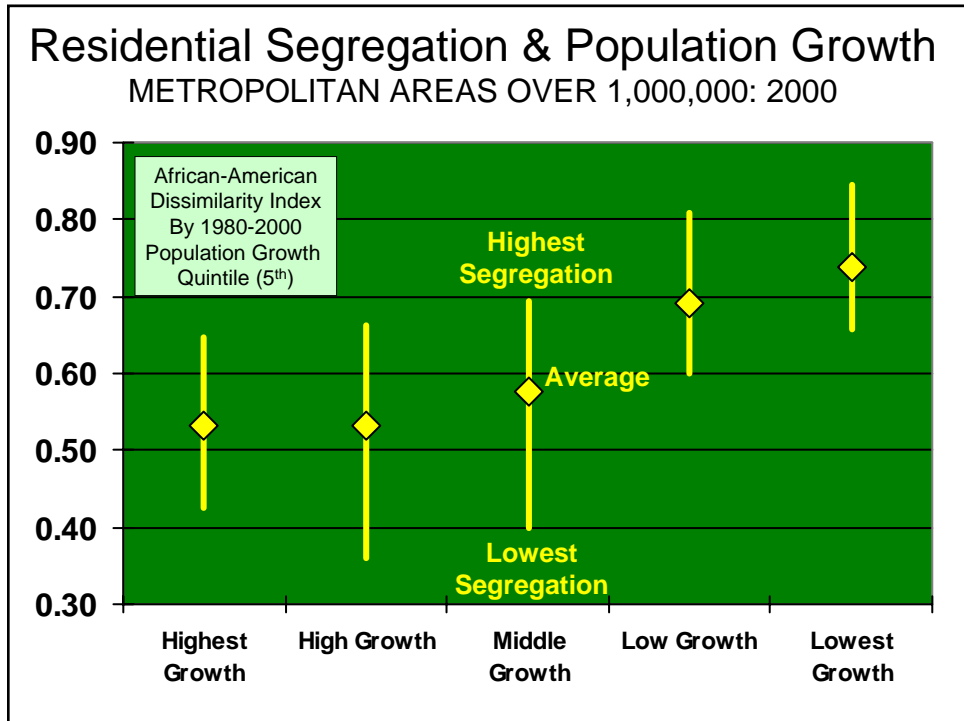
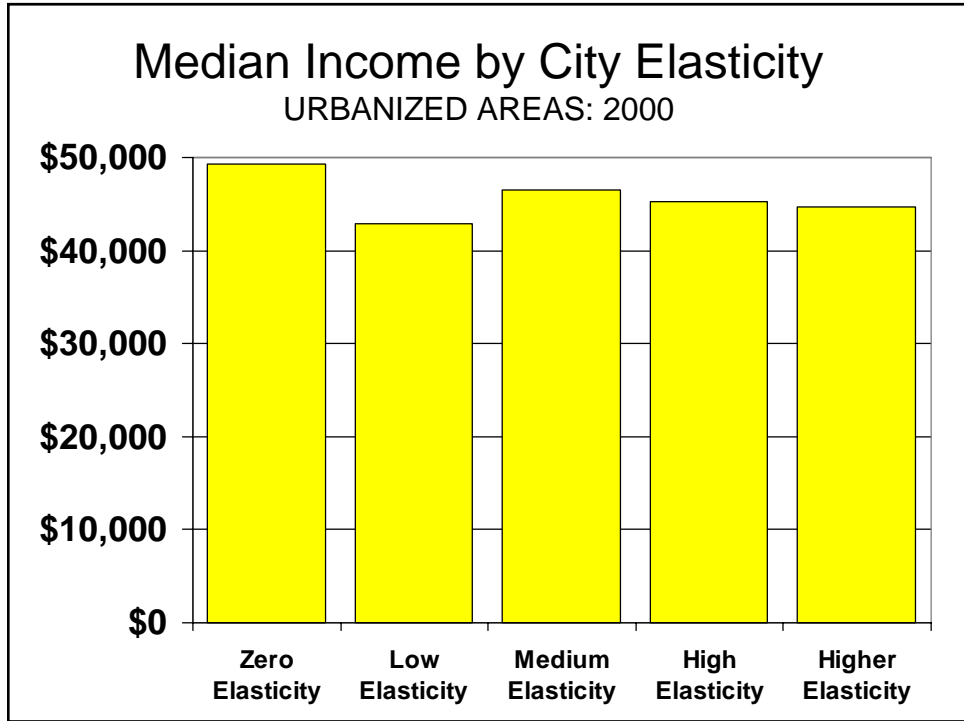
City Elasticity Theory: Poverty Rate

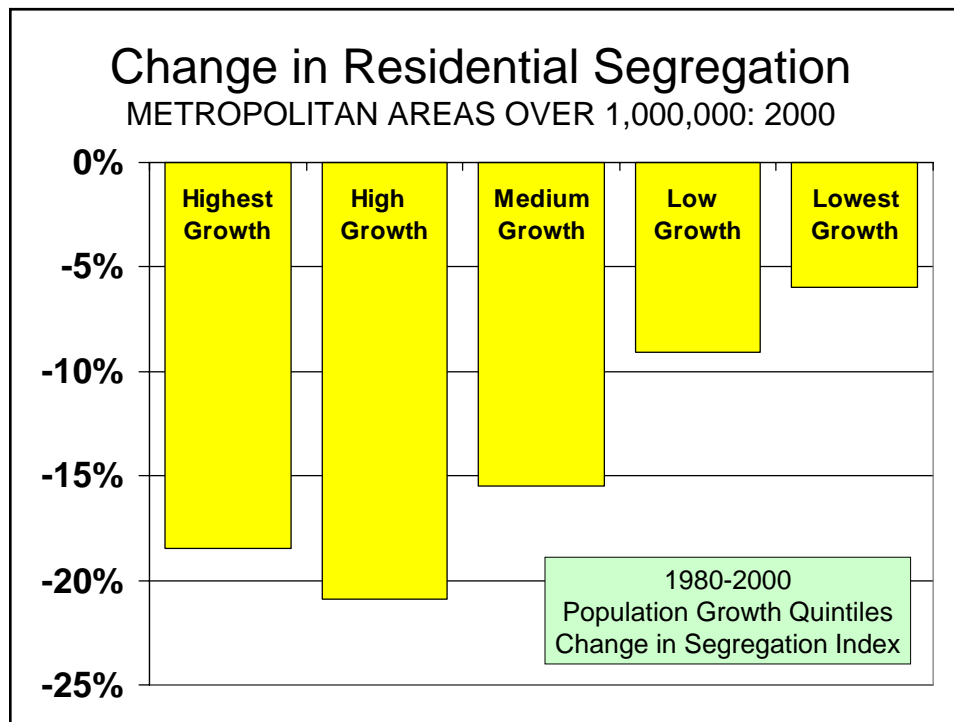
LARGEST CITIES: LOUISVILLE AFTER MERGER











Genuine Consolidation Justifications?

New York: Fear of Losing #1 to Chicago

Indianapolis: Retaining Political Control

Toronto: Settling a Political Score

Louisville: Reclaim #1 State Rank from Lexington



Why Local Democracy is Superior

- **People have more control**
- **Less anonymity**
 - People know their elected officials**
 - Not other people's money**
- **Not dependent upon a fickle, limited attention span press**
- **Special interests have less control**
- **Less bureaucracy**

Conclusions

1. **“Urban Sprawl” is urban growth**
2. **Local democracy is more efficient and effective.**
3. **Large cities may be too large**