TOPIC: URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Description

General assignment rules:

Answer two out of the following three questions.

Each answer should contain up to 300 words (not including tables, bibliography, footnotes or appendices).

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All assignments must be written in English. Other languages will not be accepted.

Make sure to use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Your submission will be graded anonymously - there is no need to write your name on your paper.

Use at least two academic sources (academic journals and books) and two general sources (websites, newspapers, magazines etc.) for each question.

Make sure to use resources that are as up-to-date as possible.

You are also encouraged to use data from official government and municipal sources, as well as from international organizations (UN, World Bank, etc.).

Remember to cite the sources for all data, and any images, graphs or other visual materials.

You must follow formal academic reference guidelines! (Make sure to read the academic references guidelines on the course’s Moodle website)

Do not copy-paste, plagiarize, or use materials from other students or previous versions of this course. We will immediately disqualify papers on such grounds.

How will you be graded for this assignment?

Accuracy and clarity of information presented: 30%

Coherent and logical analysis and narrative: 50%

Use of sufficient, up-to-date, relevant sources (academic & general): 10%

Clear and accurate references (in-text citations and bibliography): 10%

You will be studying one megacity throughout the course’s assignments (except for the photo essay). Do not change cities between assignments!

Choose one megacity from the following list:

Tokyo

Beijing

Mumbai

Kinshasa

Buenos Aires

Los Angeles

A. Present the following information in two concise tables (not counted towards the 300-word limit):

Carbon footprint:

What is the estimated carbon footprint (total and per capita) for the city?

Compare these numbers to other cities in the same country.

Compare these numbers with two other similarly sized cities, one in the Global North and one in the Global South.

Use this website as a resource: http://citycarbonfootprints.info/

Air pollution:

What are the outdoor air pollution levels in your city (cite specific figures)?

Compare these pollution levels with two other similarly sized cities, one in the Global North and one in the Global South.

What are the estimated annual fatalities and estimated health impacts as a result of air pollution in these cities?

Use these websites to find data on air pollution:

Real-time data: https://waqi.info/, https://www.iqair.com/, https://breezometer.com/

Historical data: https://www.who.int/airpollution/data/cities/en/, https://whoairquality.shinyapps.io/AmbientAirQualityDatabase/

B. Based on an analysis of the data in part A, and additional sources (including academic), answer the following questions:

How does your city compare in terms of carbon footprint and air pollution to the other cities in your table, and/or to overall world averages?

What are the biggest sources of carbon emissions and air pollution in your city?

Have the carbon footprint and air pollution levels in your city improved or worsened over the past 10 years. What might explain this?

3. Smart and Just Cities (refers to Unit 9)

Briefly describe the main political and governance issues facing your megacity. Address at least three of the following aspects, as may be relevant to your city:

Does the city have a “smart city” strategy in place? What are its main goals?

Is the city attracting people from the “creative class”? Does it face gentrification pressures as a result?

Are there any popular struggles taking place in your city under the banner of “the right to the city” (or otherwise making claims to the city and its resources)?

Is the city government promoting public participation in municipal decision-making, planning or budgeting?

In your evaluation, is the city government taking effective measures to make the city more just and equitable?