

## IR-32: Significant Cities

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Identify the population, economic, social, and political influence of the following cities.

### New York City

- Population Influence:
- Economic Influence:
- Social Influence:
- Political Influence:



### London

- Population Influence:
- Economic Influence:
- Social Influence:
- Political Influence:



### Tokyo

- Population Influence:
- Economic Influence:
- Social Influence:
- Political Influence:



**IR-33: Centers of the World—Reading to Learn**

<b>City</b>	<b>Population Influence</b>	<b>Economic Influence</b>	<b>Social Influence</b>	<b>Political Influence</b>
<b>Mexico City</b>				
<b>Paris</b>				
<b>Mumbai</b>				
<b>Karachi</b>				
<b>Shanghai</b>				
<b>Beijing</b>				

### Urban Centers of the World

Up to this point, the discussion about significant cities has focused primarily on the United States, where nearly 80% of the people live in urban areas. There are significant cities in other cultural regions of the world, too. As you read about the following significant cities, consider ranking them as to which one might be considered the most significant city in the world.

There are several cities in Latin America that have large populations and have significant economic, social, and political influence on a regional basis. Caracas and Bogotá are both national capitals and are centers of great importance in northern South America. São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are the second and fourth most populous cities in Latin America, respectively, and undoubtedly the most important cities in Brazil. Buenos Aires is the third most populous city in Latin America and sometimes is called the “Paris of South America” because of how rich the culture is and how passionate the people can be.

Mexico City, however, is the most significant city in Latin America. It has the largest number of people, more than 20 million in the combined statistical area (CSA), and is the focal point both politically and economically within the region. Because the origin of Mexico City dates back to the Maya and Aztec empires, it has been the focal point of regional politics for centuries. Because of its participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexico is a part of the largest economic organization in the world. The economic impact of NAFTA makes Mexico City that much more important politically. The Mexican government must continue to work to affirm positive political and economic relationships with both the United States and Canada.

Mexico’s two largest industries are oil and tourism. The oil is concentrated along the coast of Tampico in the Gulf of Mexico, whereas the international tourism industry is focused primarily in the Yucatán Peninsula and the coastal communities near the northern Caribbean Sea. The cultural influences date back to about 2000 BC with the Maya civilization. Mexico City is on the northern edge of where the Maya civilization was centered, but Maya music, food, and traditions continue to influence people in the region.

Western Europe has seen the rise and fall of different governments that have represented nations or empires. Athens, Rome, Moscow, and Berlin are capitals of their respective countries. Each city has played a significant economic, social, or political role when their respective country or empire ruled a large part of Europe. Paris and London, however, are the two most significant cities in Europe.

Paris is the cultural capital of Europe. Paris has many well-known cultural landscapes, including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, the Palace of Versailles, and Notre Dame Cathedral. Paris is home to more than 2 million people, with more than 11 million people living in the CSA. This is the second most populous urban center in the European Union and the destination of more than 44 million tourists each year. Paris is one of the world’s major centers of high fashion. There is an

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abundance of shopping from some of the world's top designers, including Chanel, Dior, Louis Vuitton, and Yves Saint Laurent.

London is the most populous city (7.5 million) and urban area (12.2 million) in Europe. By 2020, London is projected to have the fourth largest city economy in the world, behind Tokyo, New York City, and Los Angeles. In London, only about 8% of the population is employed in manufacturing jobs, whereas almost one in three jobs are associated with financial services. Leading industries include chemical, aerospace, military, and pharmaceutical. Inner London has the highest per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of any European city, and it is home to the world's largest financial center.

London is an international city. Nearly one-quarter of its residents were born in other countries, and more than 300 languages are spoken in the greater London area. Popular tourist destinations include Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, and the Tower of London. Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest royal residence in the world that is still in use today. The world's first subway was built in London. Called "the Tube" by locals, it is the largest underground transportation system in the world. It is also one of the most expensive to ride, however, and it is one of the least reliable for maintaining a punctual schedule.

Southwest Asia is a region that carries with it both social and economic significance. There is not one city, however, that can be identified clearly as the most significant city within the region. Damascus is the capital of Syria and is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and is significant because of the religious and historical events that have occurred in and around the city. Tehran (Iran) and Baghdad (Iraq) are capital cities and are significant regionally, but neither city has a significant economic impact globally. Cities throughout the Arabian Peninsula that have regional economic significance, primarily because of oil, include Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuwait City, and Umm Qasr.

Mumbai, India, is referred to as the "New York City of India." Like its American counterpart, Mumbai is not the capital of the country, but it is the most populous and economically important city in South Asia. Mumbai has almost 14 million residents in the city proper and more than 21 million in the CSA. The city was founded as a fishing village, but as the Europeans began interacting with the people of South Asia in the 17th century, they found Mumbai to have an advantageous location. Mumbai has one of the deepest natural ports in the world, which allows for easy international trade. Today 70% of the imports and exports go through the port of Mumbai. Multinational companies are interested in investing in Mumbai because of a strong domestic demand for goods and services and an expanding infrastructure. During the first decade of the 21st century, India's economy averaged a growth rate of about 6.5%. Moving into the next decade, economic projections have the Indian economy growing by about 8.75% annually.

Mumbai also is the center of Bollywood, the Hindi language film industry, which produces the largest number of movies in the world each year. With a name that is coined after Hollywood, this fast-growing industry in the middle of a cosmopolitan

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city is a source of pride for the Indian people. Mumbai's coastal location is the site of many festive outdoor activities, complete with food, music, and cultural events. The number of shopping malls and the variety of goods to be purchased demonstrate the diversity of this metropolitan area, which is home to Hindus, Muslims, and Zoroastrians.

Like New York City, Mumbai's economic and social characteristics cause politicians to pay attention. Even though India's capital is New Delhi, Mumbai has so many people, and so much money and cultural influence, that the city drives political policies for the country.

Karachi, Pakistan, is South Asia's second largest combined statistical area (CSA), with about 18 million people, and it has Pakistan's largest and only major port. It is the financial center of the country and accounts for about 25% of Pakistan's total GDP. Most of the country's multinational corporations have their headquarters in Karachi. The city's economy is diverse but is based primarily on the textile, pharmaceutical, heavy machinery, and automobile industries. A variety of automakers have plants in Karachi, including but not limited to BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Ferrari, Hyundai, Toyota, Nissan, Honda, and General Motors. Karachi is home to some of the leading universities in Pakistan. There also is a vibrant cultural sense about the city, which is teeming with recreational clubs, cinemas, restaurants, and hotels.

Karachi has always been the center of activity in Pakistan. Starting as a small fishing village and evolving into an important trading post with Britain in the 17th century, Karachi has been the focal point for economic and political activities in Pakistan. When Pakistan became independent from Britain in 1947, Karachi was the capital city. In 1960, the capital was moved to the northern city of Islamabad, but the political, economic, and social significance of Karachi has never waned.

The economy in many East Asian countries has been growing rapidly over the past 40 years. Along with that growth, several cities have emerged as they vie for economic, social, and political dominance. Tokyo, with more than 31 million people in the CSA, is the most significant city in East Asia. Not only does Tokyo have more people than any urban area in the world, but it also has been the clear economic leader of East Asia for decades. Tokyo is the capital of Japan, and it is a financial hub for the world. The Nikkei Index is a collection of Japanese stock market activities and has been operational since 1950. New York City, London, and Tokyo are the three most important financial centers in the world. More people in Tokyo are employed in the tertiary sector than in any other sector, but the Japanese have been leaders in research and development in the field of electronics. Their specialty has been to maximize the strength and efficiency of electronics while continually reducing the size of products. Manufactured products that are exported around the world include electronics, automobiles, and cameras. There also is a large and productive printing and publishing industry in Tokyo.

Shanghai and Beijing are the two most dominant cities in China. Beijing is the second most populous city and CSA in China, with 11.1 million people. Beijing's



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history dates back thousands of years, and it has been called different names. In 1421, Beijing was officially established as the capital of China, a distinction it has held ever since. Like Washington, DC, Beijing captures attention because of its status as a capital city. There also are several cultural sites integral to Chinese history. The Forbidden City is located in Beijing. As the seat of government from 1420 to 1911, the Forbidden City now operates as China's most famous museum. In almost 10,000 rooms spanning more than 70 halls, there are thousands of treasures, including pottery, portraits, and artifacts. The museum opened to the public in 1925. The Temple of Heaven was a place that Chinese emperors went to worship. Construction of the Temple of Heaven started in 1406, and the area was renovated in 1530. Today it is home to the Imperial Gardens. It was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Cultural Heritage Site in 1998. China developed a communist economic system and has been ruled by an authoritarian government since 1949. The central planners are located in the capital city, which therefore commands attention.

From a pure social and economic lens, Shanghai is the more dominant city. Shanghai is the largest city (14.9 million) and the largest CSA (19.2 million) in China. Shanghai was the first Chinese port open to trade with Western countries in 1848. Throughout the 20th century, Shanghai has been one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities and still boasts some of the best retail shops and restaurants in the country. It also is an important city in the fashion industry. Shanghai continues to be China's largest port facility. Consequently, the majority of Chinese imports and exports go through Shanghai. Secondary and tertiary jobs are the most prevalent types of jobs in Shanghai. Of 166 different industries throughout China, 157 have plants in the greater Shanghai area. In Shanghai, as in most industrial port cities in the world, industries include steel, oil, chemicals, automobiles, and shipbuilding. Modern technology such as fiber optics, satellite communications, and items used in the biomedical field has experienced significant production increases recently.

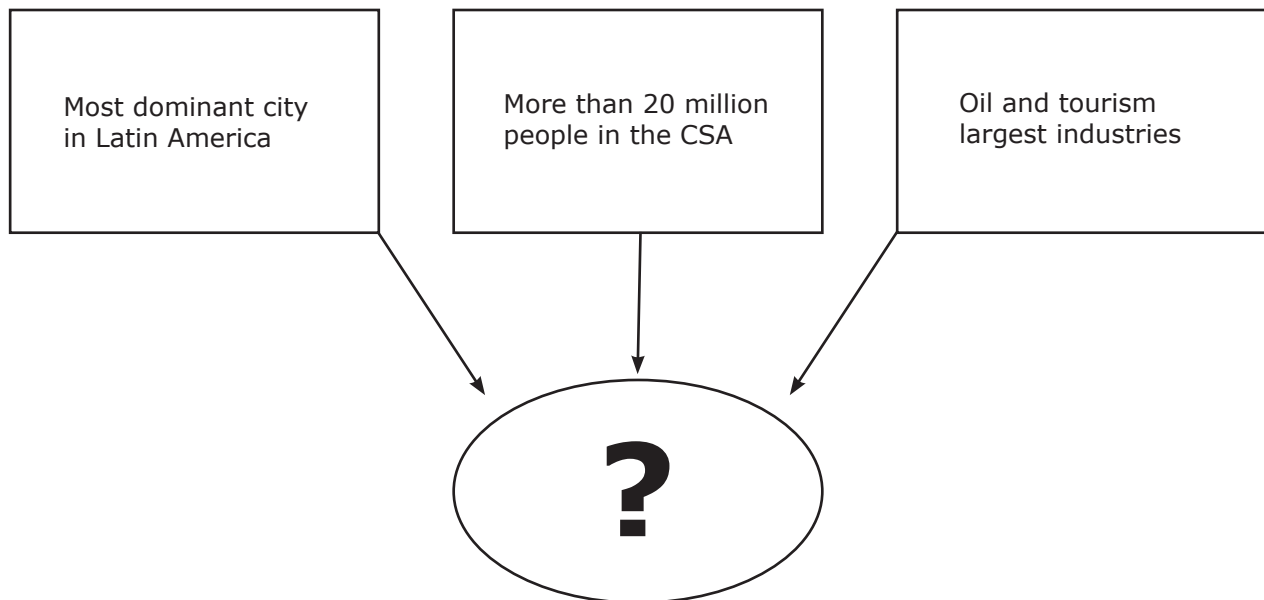
Singapore is a small country measuring just over 269 square miles (697 square kilometers). The government has a decidedly pro-foreign investment mentality and encourages foreign investment. It is strategically located at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula and has the world's best natural port facility. Singapore has more tonnage of shipments going through its port than any other port in the world. Singapore is the third largest oil refining site in the world, and it also is the world's leader in shipbuilding and ship repairing. With its unique location, Singapore can be considered to be in the middle of a global trade network because 600 ports in more than 120 countries are linked to Singapore.

Despite the economic and social characteristics of Shanghai and Singapore, Tokyo is the dominant city because its global influence is greater. Tokyo also has been working under a more stable government and economic system for a longer period of time.

## IR-35: Urban Centers of the World Assessment Items

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Use the diagram below and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following questions.



1. Which of these best completes the diagram?
  - A. Lima, Peru
  - B. Mexico City, Mexico
  - C. Buenos Aires, Argentina
  - D. Bogotá, Colombia
  
2. Which of these cities is correctly matched to its description?
  - A. Paris—cultural capital of Europe
  - B. London—manufacturing capital of Europe
  - C. Athens—most populous city in Europe
  - D. Rome—fourth largest city economy in the world
  
3. Part of the character of Mumbai is that it is the —
  - A. primate city of West Asia
  - B. financial center of East Asia
  - C. largest terrorist center per capita in Asia
  - D. home of Bollywood, South Asia’s movie industry