

REVIEW

LISTS

Educated Americans have heard of Lahore, Dacca, Riyadh and Abidjan. But dollars to donuts, Kano, Omdurman, Surabaya and Bekasi – all of which have populations larger than Hamburg, Budapest or Philadelphia – never showed up on your 7th-grade geography class homework.

So, what's going on here? Blame urbanization (rather than population growth), if you

must blame something.

Most of these cities are not fun places to live or work. But they generally beat the alternative – bare subsistence (or worse) in rural villages. And they reflect two positive trends in the third world: rapid productivity growth in agriculture that reduces the demand for labor, and greater opportunities for economic mobility in cities. **M**

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VERY BIG CITIES OFF OUR RADAR SCREEN

CITY	COUNTRY	POPULATION (MILLIONS IN 2005)	CLAIM TO FAME
Shenyang	China	4.1	Capital of Liaoning province
Pune	India	3.1	Called the Oxford of India
Kano	Nigeria	3.0	Country's Islamic capital
Omdurman	Sudan	3.0	Sudan's economic center
Surat	India	2.9	World's diamond-polishing capital
Xian	China	2.9	Industrial heart of northwest China
Kanpur	India	2.8	Site of Indian rebellion of 1857
Surabaya	Indonesia	2.7	Main seaport of eastern Indonesia
Bekasi	Indonesia	2.6	Commuter city for Jakarta
Karaj	Iran	2.6	Spillover from Tehran
Faisalabad	Pakistan	2.5	Economic capital of Pakistani Punjab
Quezon City	Philippines	2.5	Former capital of Philippines
Changchun	China	2.4	Hosted 2007 Asian Winter Games
Fortaleza	Brazil	2.3	Second city of Brazil's northeast
Mashhad	Iran	2.3	Holy city for Shiites
Jinan	China	2.2	Capital of Shandong province
Medan	Indonesia	2.1	Capital of North Sumatra province
Ecatepec de Morelos	Mexico	2.0	Spillover from Mexico City

SOURCE: Mongobay.com

(Yup, this is Kano.)

