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# Urbanization in Australia

## *THE POST-WAR EXPERIENCE*

EDITED BY  
I. H. BURNLEY

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## *Preface*

The purpose of this book has been to bring together in an integrated form new research being undertaken on urbanization in contemporary Australia. This topic has not been treated in a unitary volume before and until now had to be perused through consultation of various papers and monographs on specialized aspects of urban development, more especially those dealing with economics and city planning. Secondly, areas particularly neglected have been those connected with the *demographic* and ecological aspects of the urbanization *process* in post-war Australia.<sup>1</sup> In particular, the time dimension and intercensal change have not been reviewed; even specialized papers in the geographic and sociological literature take cities or towns at particular points in time rather than follow approaches in which time series analyses are important.<sup>2</sup> The particular emphases of the book will not suit everybody's taste; no book on such a multi-disciplinary field possibly could – but attention has been given to economic and city planning elements in the urbanization process. The politics of cities has not been covered, partly due to space limitations, but also because monographs and papers already exist on particular aspects of the politics of cities, some of which consist of volumes of papers at various conferences dealing broadly with the politics of urban growth in Australia. The emphasis is on *metropolitan growth* and change which has absorbed so much of population increase in post-war Australia.

The book is divided into three sections: (i) the growth of cities; (ii) the impact and consequences of urbanization – urban residential and social structure and differentiation; and (iii) the regularity and developmental role of planning of various types in handling the impact of urbanization on Australian society. Although the authors' intentions are an analysis of the basic (but neglected) elements of urban growth, form and character of the recent Australian urbanization experience, they have in places criticized or made suggestions as to the changing or improvement of government and public policy towards cities.

The first, and largest section of the work treats the economic demographic and social aspects of the evolution of Australia's cities in the



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post-war period. Dr Stilwell puts forward interesting and original ideas on the reasons for the evolution of the striking pattern of metropolitan primacy as do Messrs Rowland and Hugo in their discussions of internal migration in the States of Victoria and South Australia respectively, ideas which complement those of Stilwell and also earlier writers such as A. J. Rose and K. Robinson. Drs Burnley and Choi analyse the demographic components – natural increase, internal and international migration in metropolitan growth – and stress in particular the importance of migration. Burnley also discusses the general urbanization trend post-war of the Australian population, stressing population centralization and the impact of immigration, not only on city growth, but also on population changes within the large metropolitan areas. Finally Burnley and Choi undertake a simple set of population projections of the metropolitan centres based on post-war trends and assuming little or no decentralization.

In Part II, dealing in particular with social and residential differentiation in the large metropolitan centres which have become World Cities in the post-war period, Mr Stimson discusses rapidly growing Adelaide, in particular using the social area analysis schemata, while Burnley discusses the implications of social segregation in the large metropolises of Sydney and Melbourne and the role of the heavy, heterogeneous post-war immigration in social differentiation and segregation of areas. Dr Helen Ware reviews some of the findings of the survey of fertility and family formation in Melbourne, discussing the extent of family limitation in an industrialized metropolitan setting and socio-economic and cultural differences in fertility, some of which are connected with the rural–urban transition with international migration.

In Part III, also dealing with the impact and consequences of urbanization, the role of planning is studied, particularly its impact on city morphology and land use structure by Peter Harrison, and on urban renewal and the urban environment by Elzo Vandermark.

A few points about sources. In most of the demographic analyses, metropolitan statistical divisions have been used rather than metropolitan area boundaries because of the relative ease in standardization of boundaries backwards through time. For certain tabulations, however, data are only available at the *metropolitan area* level rather than the larger metropolitan division, particularly with immigrant group and economic characteristics of populations, and these in some instances have had to be used interchangeably. Whenever this has been done, acknowledgement is made. Wherever possible, 1971 population data have been used but as only simple numbers by sex by L.G.A. were available in October 1972, much of the analysis is based on 1947–66 trends and on the 1966 census in particular. In some instances, 1961 boundaries have had to be used as in part of Elzo Vandermark's study, and in accompanying illustrations. In the

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illustrations accompanying the immigrant contribution to metropolitan growth chapter, metropolitan *area* boundaries are utilized as at 1966. These differences may account for some variation between figures quoted by various authors although the differences are mostly relatively small.

Perhaps the ultimate justification of the study along with the paucity of research on the urbanization theme in Australia is that with 85 per cent of its population in urban centres, and with a rapid rate of growth post-war, Australia ranks as one of the three most urbanized countries on earth. With the rapid growth of population between 1947 and 1971 from 7.56 to 12.71 million, Australia, gaining population at 2.2 per cent per annum, started on an unprecedented expansion of mineral exploitation, manufacturing and tertiary industry with associated metropolitan expansion. It is the social parameters and aspects of this growth and some of the implications for Australian society that are the main theme of this volume.

1973

I. H. Burnley

## NOTES

- 1 With the notable exception of F. Lancaster Jones's study of the social areas of Melbourne (*Dimensions of Urban Social Structure*, A. N. U. Press, 1969).
- 2 Once again, the important exception here is Bernard Barrett's study of the inner suburbs of Melbourne (*The Inner Suburbs, the Evolution of an Industrial Area*, Melbourne University Press, 1971).

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