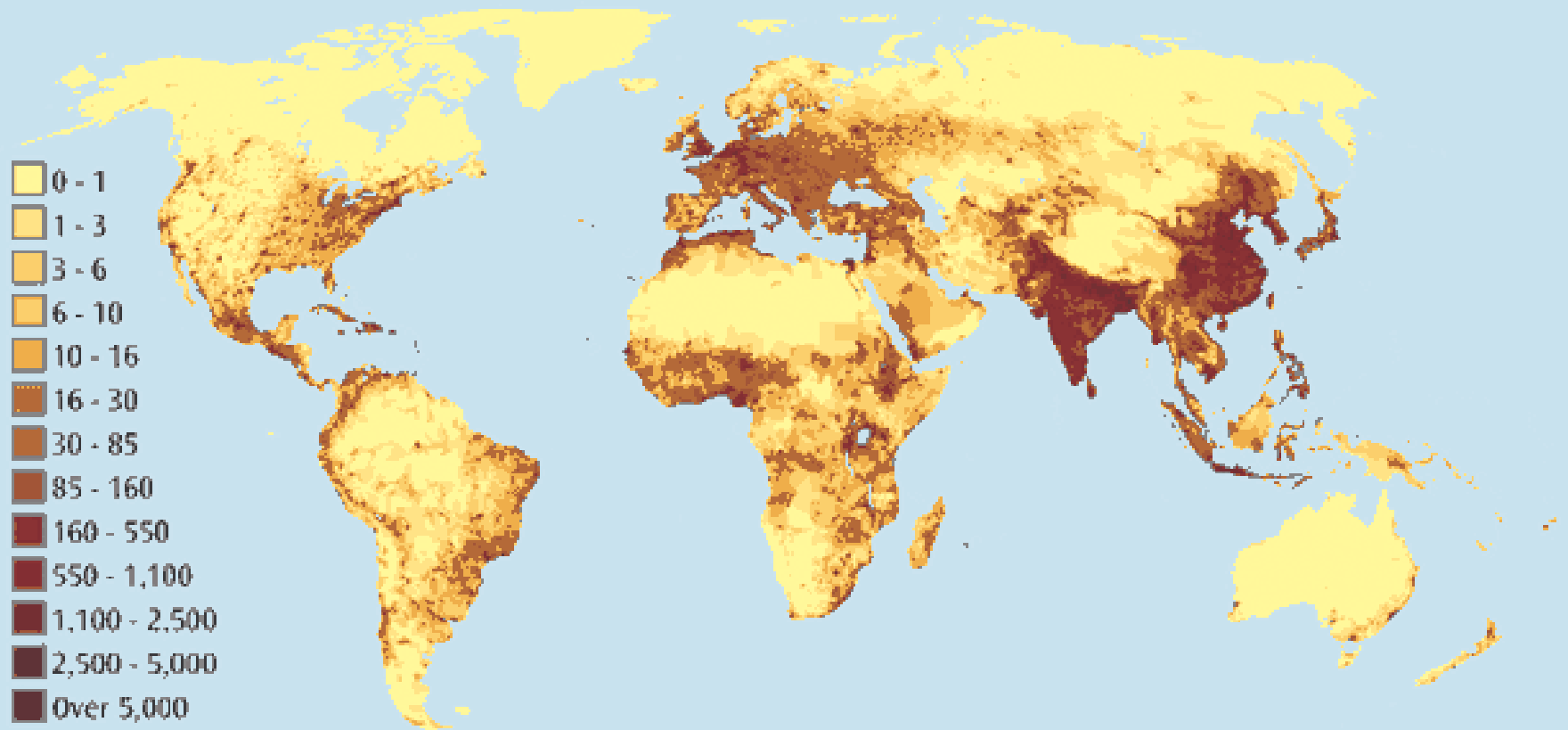


URBANIZATION

A Global Perspective



World Population Density – Socioeconomic Data & Applications Center

Urban Population Distribution (%)

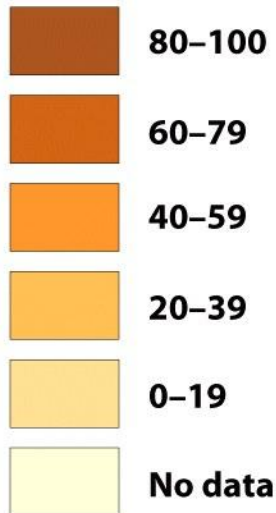


Figure 10.1a
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Global Patterns of Urbanization

- Europe, N America, S America, Caribbean: high urbanization (between 50-75%)
- Asia & Africa: low urbanization (<50%)
- Example:
 - China currently has about 45% living in urban areas
 - China has over 40 cities with population greater than 1 million
- Definitions of “urban area” vary between countries

Global Patterns of Urbanization

- Highly industrialized countries have higher rates of urbanization
- Developing countries are quickly becoming more urban
- Reasons for patterns
 - Cities are centers of economic industry
 - Large families help cast a wide opportunity for economic support

TABLE 10.1 The World's 20 Largest Metropolitan Areas

Rank	Metropolitan Area	Country	Population (thousands)
1	Tokyo/Yokohama	Japan	33,600
2	Seoul	South Korea	23,400
3	Mexico City	Mexico	22,400
4	New York	USA	21,900
5	Mumbai (Bombay)	India	21,600
6	Delhi	India	21,500
7	São Paulo	Brazil	20,600
8	Los Angeles	USA	18,000
9	Shanghai	China	17,500
10	Osaka/Kobe/Kyoto	Japan	16,700
11	Cairo	Egypt	16,100
12	Kolkata (Calcutta)	India	15,700
13	Manila	Philippines	15,600
14	Jakarta	Indonesia	15,100
15	Karachi	Pakistan	15,100
16	Guangzhou	China	14,700
17	Buenos Aires	Argentina	13,600
18	Moscow	Russia	13,500
19	Beijing	China	12,800
20	Dhaka	Bangladesh	12,600

(Source: Th. Brinkhoff: *The Principal Agglomerations of the World*, <http://www.citypopulation.de>, 2007-09-30)

Functions of Urban Areas

- Human support systems
- Retailing
- Wholesaling
- Manufacturing
- Business services
- Entertainment
- Political & Official administration
- Military defense needs
- Social & religious services
- Public services including sanitation & police
- Education services
- Transportation & communication
- Meeting place activities
- Recreation

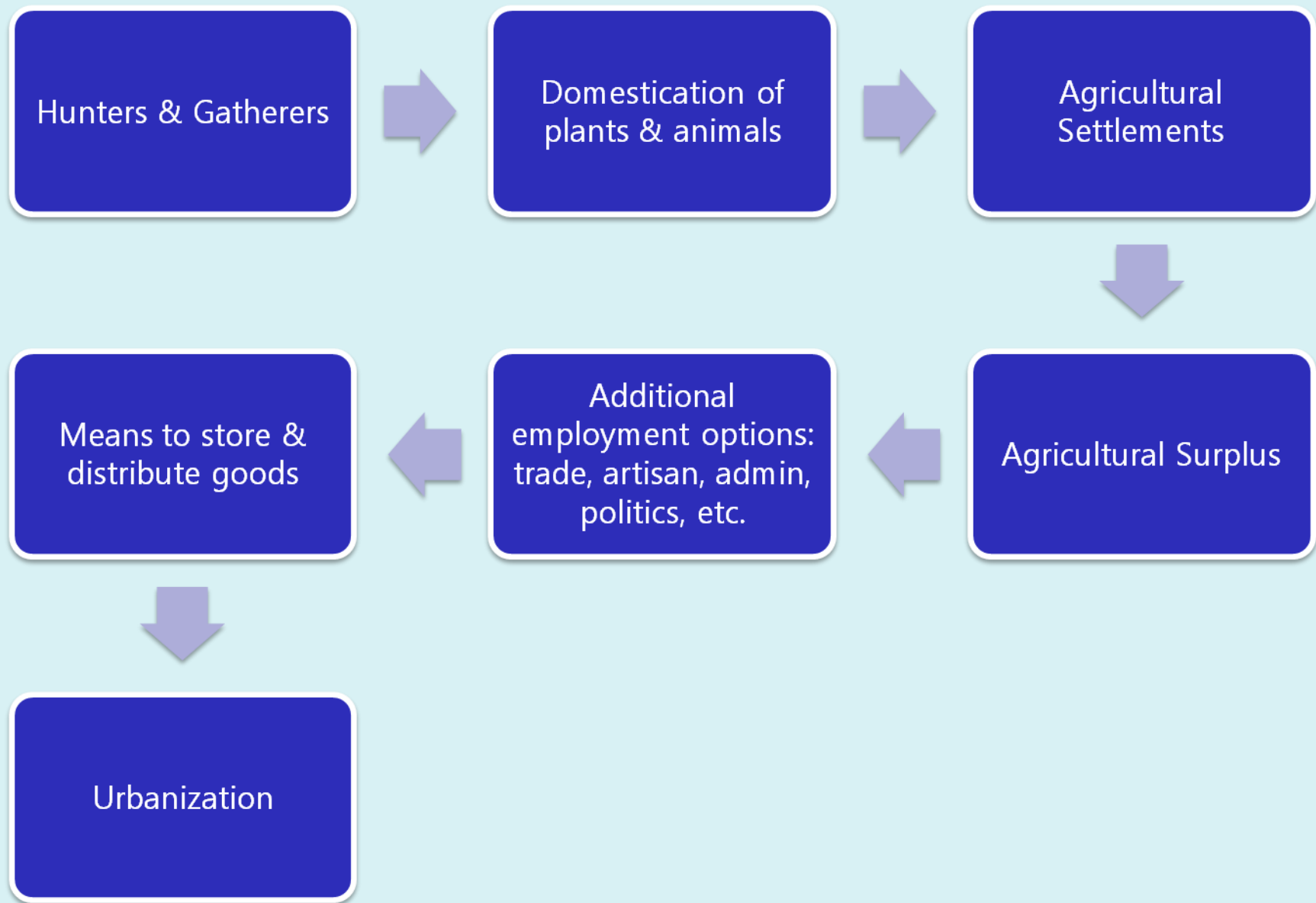
Urban Terminology

- City
 - Nucleated settlement, multifunctional including central business district, residential & non-residential land uses
- Town
 - Smaller than cities and usually less complex
- Suburb
 - A specialized (residential, industrial, or commercial) segment of a large urban complex
- Urban area
 - Continuously built up landscape defined by building & population density

Urban Terminology

- Metropolitan area
 - Large-scale, containing multiple urban areas, discontinuous but integrated by economic activity
- Global City
 - Control centers of the global economy – NYC, Tokyo, London
- Globalizing Cities
 - Cities affected and being shaped by the emerging global economy – all cities to some degree

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF URBANIZATION



Why Urbanize?

“What activity could be so important to an agricultural society that its people would be willing to give some of their surplus to support a social class that specializes in that activity?”

Factors Influencing Urbanization

- Technical
 - Hydraulic Civilization stemming from development of large scale irrigation systems (Karl Wittfogel)
- Religious
 - Religious leaders could interpret heavenly bodies (meteorology & climate) leading to successful harvests (Paul Wheatley)
- Political
 - Centralizing a civilization around religious, social, and economic aspects around a powerful figure (King) providing leadership, organization, and the demand for crafts, trading, and other specializations (Lewis Mumford)

Urban Hearth Areas

- Areas where first cities emerged

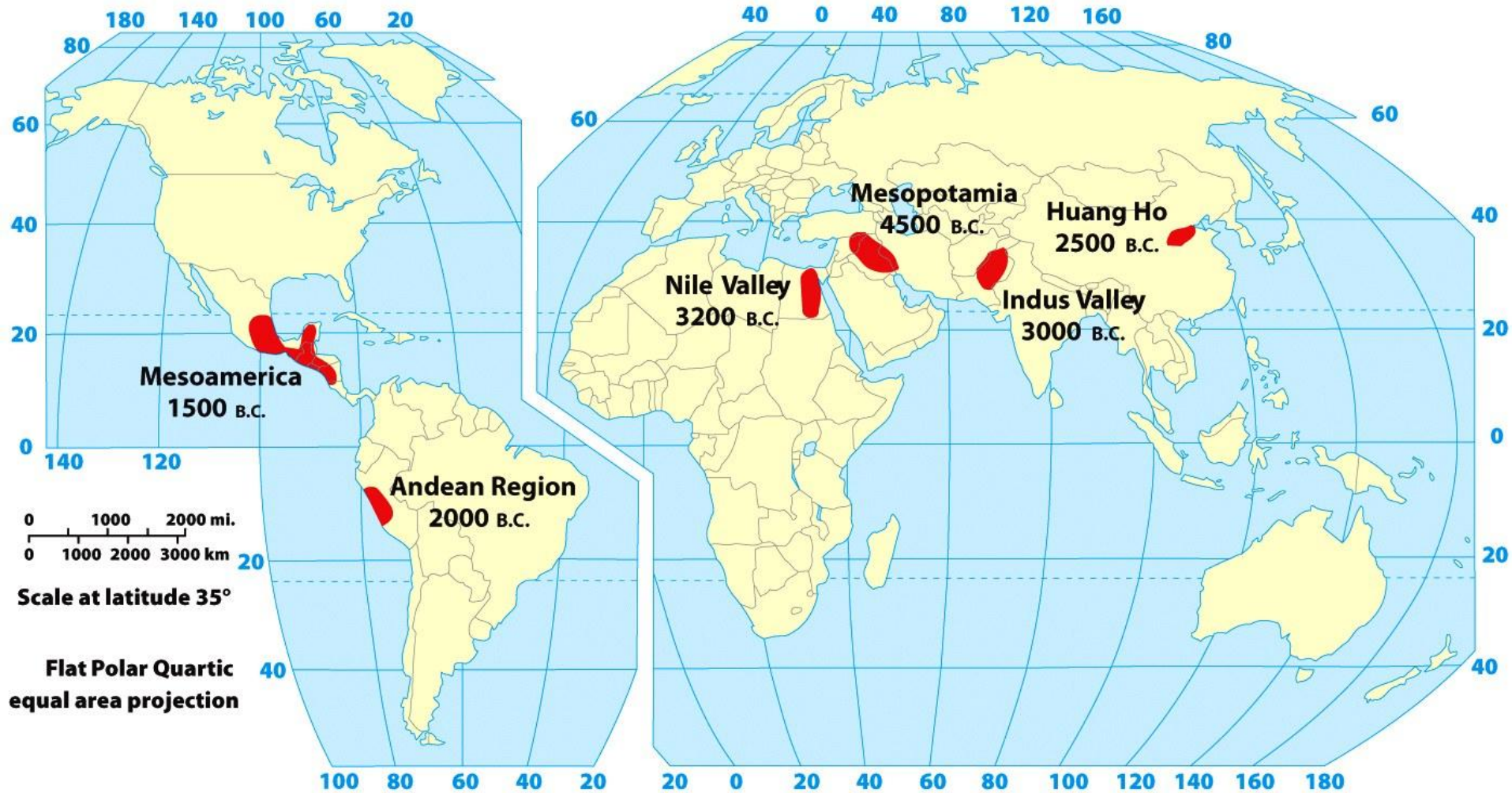


Figure 10.5
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Urban Hearth Areas

- Areas where first cities emerged
- Generally agreed first cities arose in Mesopotamia
 - River Valley of the Tigris & Euphrates (Iraq)
 - Cities covered $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 square miles
 - Populations rarely exceeded 30,000
 - Densities could reach 10,000 per square mile — comparable to today's cities

Urban Hearth Areas

- Early cities (*cosmomagical cities*) had three general spatial characteristics
 - Symbolic city center with religious and/or political significant landscapes
 - Oriented toward 4 cardinal directions: N, E, S, W
 - Shape city according to the shape of the universe (star constellations, mythical conceptions of the world's Gods)

Urban Diffusion – how did it happen?

Spontaneous Evolution

- New technologies & innovations
- Trading occurred after cities were developed

Diffusion through Contact

- Similarities between cities are too consistent
- Evidence of trading between urban hearths
- Imperial expansion and conquered lands forcing transition to urban

Book Recommendation: **Guns, Germs & Steel** – by Jared Diamond