POWER OF BIG CITIES

Luca DIACONESCU *
University of Oradea, Doctoral School of Geography, 1st, Universităţii St., 410087,
Oradea, Romania, e-mail: diaconesculuca@yahoo.ro

Mădălin-Sebastian LUNG
Babeş-Bolyai University, Doctoral School of Geography, Faculty of Geography, 400006,
Cluj-Napoca, Romania, e-mail: lungmadalin@yahoo.com

Abstract: The organization of people in increasing groups has increased their power and influence, providing the first professions, administration ideas, complex economic activities and trade. The tribe first appeared, then the village followed by the city, the metropolis, and the urban agglomeration that surpasses the population of a country. These are giants, with populations of a size that can not be imagined for the human mind, more and more megalomania, now dominating the decisional power of some extended regions, the states they belong to or the continents in their entirety, representing a new era in the evolution of civilization, era urban colossus.

Key words: power, big cities, population, domination, influence

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INTRODUCTION

The port city of Drobeta Turnu Severin, recognized as a city of historical flowers and monuments, developed in an area where man's existence is attested from 3500-2800 BC. (Vlăsceanu & Ianoş, 1998, pp. 79-80) dominates the economic, political, decisional, financial or cultural life of Mehedinţi County.

There is no major change in the county that does not start with Drobeta Turnu Severin first, or a decision that does not have the approval of the city's elite. Nothing passes to the territory of the county unfiltered by the city. Fashion and new trends, before conquering the county, first have to convince the city.

The influence of the town of Piteşti on Argeş County or the city of Oradea over Bihor County is also dominant, examples being able to continue in all counties of Romania. As the local centers, which generally have 100 thousand inhabitants, have a major influence on the life and future of the smaller administrative units, such as the counties. For the regions of Romania that groups more than 4 counties on average, developed regional centers such as:

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* Corresponding Author

Timisoara for the West Region, Cluj-Napoca for the North-West region, or Iasi for the North-East region, all with populations over 3 to 6 times larger than county centers, often reaching over 400,000 population along with the outskirts (Erdeli & Cucu, 2007, pp. 239-249). For the entire Romanian territory, an average representative of over 7 to 10 times the population of regional centers has developed. The city of Bucharest, which has evolved from 1.3 million inhabitants in 1996 to 2 million inhabitants in 1995 (Vlăsceanu & Ianoş, 1998, p. 9), currently having over 2 million inhabitants and almost 3 million the metropolitan area, representing the colossus, the dominant power of the country. The capital is for Romania what Rome was for the Roman Empire, all the roads lead to Bucharest, here are the decisions of the country, the bases of the foreign relations are established, the axes are traced, the business ends up to the level of governments, half of the investments made by the agencies International in Romania, here is everything. Is it a rhetorical question if, from a geopolitical point of view, does Romania have Bucharest or Bucharest as peripheral space, Romania?

The same situation also occurs in Bulgaria where the city of Sofia, Serbia, the city of Belgrade or the Republic of Moldova with the city of Chişinau dominate, with examples being able to continue with another 25 states only in Europe, where only one city has captured the country's geopolitical life through its power. The city of Bucharest holds between 10 and 15 % of the population of 20 million inhabitants of Romania. But the city of Budapest, with its 2.7 million inhabitants, reaches 27 % of Hungary's population of 10 million, Athens with its 4.5 million holding 40 % of Greece's population of 11 million, Seoul with 26 million more than 50 % Of the total population of South Korea of 50 million, and the city of Singapore with over 5 million inhabitants, represents the entire population of Singapore. There is no doubt that the city has come to dominate the region it belongs to, or the country or even an entire continent. For these reasons, cities can be treated as geopolitical and geostrategic subjects, being able to create their own future, often parallel to the region they are part of. A trend is becoming increasingly clear in the new laws of globalization, in which capital migrates as it pleases, targeting the most prosperous centers. The growth of the urban population, the emergence of enlargement mega-cities and the increasing demography show a tendency to emphasize the current situation, cities becoming more and more influential.

POWER BY INFLUENCE
The emergence of cities as centers of power

The first centers of power were represented by the capitals of the empires and the fairs on the commercial routes, continuously evolving from the villages to the real jewels that adorned the Earth, which continues to fascinate us today with the ruins that prove the pre-eminence (Nedejda, 2008). They dominated Africa and Asia, and after the year 1000 they will be more and more present in the Americas.

Europe held the long domination of periods, both during the Greek and Roman empires, and later during the colonial empires, reaching 1900, the first 10 centers worldwide according to the number of inhabitants to number 6 while the newly industrialized US holds 3. Between the first positions in the 1900s are cities that are big cultural centers nowadays like Vienna or Berlin but now they do not even get a place on the list of the top 100 cities at World level. On the top of the largest urban conurbations on Earth in 2017, Europe is barely ranked first in

position 29 with London and 32 with Moscow while the US ranks first with number 15 with New York and Los Angeles at position 23. Currently, the top 9 positions are dominated by Asia, showing the economic trends that will follow.

And the city of Bucharest has been promising in the last century, reaching from a population that today is comparable to the population of Timisoara, to reach after 100 years with a demographic size similar to the cities of Timişoara, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iaşi, Galaţi, Constanţa And Braşov together.

Table 1. List of cities by the number of inhabitants in the year 1900
(Source: Rosenberg, 2017)

Rank	City	1900	Country	Continent
1	London	6,5	United Kingdom	Europe
2	New York	4,0	USA	North America
3	Paris	3,0	France	Europe
4	Berlin	2,7	Germany	Europe
5	Chicago	1,7	USA	North America
6	Vienna	1,7	Austria	Europe
7	Tokyo	1,5	Japan	Asia
8	St. Petersburg	1,4	Russia	Europe
9	Manchester	1,4	United Kingdom	Europe
10	Philadelphia	1,4	USA	North America
-	Bucharest	0,35 (in 1912); 0,6 (in 1930).	Romania	Europe

If the city of Lagos in Nigeria had a less numerous population than the city of Bucharest in the 1970s, in 2017 Lagos reached about 7 to 10 times higher, exceeding the population of the entire country of Romania. In 2050 an 80% increase for Lagos is expected and a drop of up to a quarter of the population of Romania, so the African city will be two and a half times more populated, and in the year 2100 it will be 8 times higher demographically than Romania and maybe 40 to 80 times more populous than the city of Bucharest.

Table 2. Evolution of the population of the fastest growing cities compared to the population of Bucharest and Romania
(Source: Peahă, 1974, pp. 161-162; Eremia, 2008; Mureşan, 1999, pp. 71, 90, 104-105, 211-213)

Nr	City	1970	2017	2050	2100	Country	Continent
1	Lagos	1,5	22	37	80	Nigeria	Africa
2	Lilongwe	0,02	1	4	58	Malawi	Africa
3	Blantyre	0,15	1	4	56	Malawi	Africa
4	Bagdad	1,9	12	18	35	Irak	Asia
5	Kampala	0,3	3	10	35	Uganda	Africa
6	Dakar	0,5	3	8	22	Senegal	Africa
7	Kigali	0,02	1	5	20	Rwanda	Africa
8	Bucharest (Romania)	1,6 (20,7)	2,3 (3) (19,2)	- (15,2)	- (10,7)	Romania	Europe

Worldwide centers by region

The center consists of a large metropolis that has reached a high level of attractiveness, economically, financially, commercially and culturally, taking the capital of extensive areas. These, itself by the definition of the metropolis, meaning the mother city, is the city developed enough to take care of the other

cities and territories (Bonnet, 2000, pp. 9-13). There are two major cultural centers on Earth, Paris for the Old World and London for the New World. Two other financial, economic and influential centers developed in the second half of the 20th century are Tokyo and New York.

Another series of centers awaits their turn for a dominant Planetary role, but they need time and modernization for centers in developing countries or have limited human resources for centers in developed countries.

Currently, most of the world's second-largest power and influence centers, are small cities but with a high financial and decision-making power being the seat of several companies and organizations. In Europe, besides Paris and London, the cities of Brussels, Madrid, Rome, Milan, Vienna, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Berlin dominate the western side, while Moscow and Warsaw dominate the Central Eastern European. In North America, Toronto is the center of Canada, and Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago, Boston and San Francisco share their influence with New York in the US. Japan holds the second center next to Tokyo in the city of Osaka, Australia in Sydney, the south-eastern cone of Asia to Singapore and Hong Kong, Africa to Cape Town and Johannesburg and South America to Buenos Aires (Cocean et al., 2001, p. 107).

If the world's dominant centers until the beginning of the 21st century were small, low-lying cities, especially in Europe, North America, Japan and Western affiliated states such as Australia, South Africa, Argentina or Singapore, in the 21st century will dominate large centers, especially those in Latin America, East Asia and South East Asia, followed by the centers in South Asia and Africa.

Sao Paulo, with more than 30 million inhabitants, already dominates Portuguese America, and in the near future will have unmistakable influence throughout South America.

Mexico, with 36 million inhabitants, under the current development will be able to compete with cities like New York and Los Angeles in North America. South Korea's Seoul City is getting closer to taking over from Japan's Tokyo capital, and the cities of Jakarta and Manila will capture Southeast Asia and even Oceania. If the cities of Karachi and Tehran they share their influence in the west of Asia, Lagos will dominate Africa, and Cairo and Istanbul will put great pressure on the old centers of the Mediterranean Sea to southern and eastern Europe.

Giants are in China, where Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou will dominate the world's first positions by the middle of the 21st century, and the Indian centers: Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata will follow.

POWER BY NUMBER OF POPULATION
Urban agglomerations

The shize of the cities varies from a few thousand to tens of millions of inhabitants, having the higher values of the staircase, the metropolises (Bonnet, 2000) representing a superior level of the urban hierarchy, which have become the centers of the modern economy in the meantime (Neguț, 2011, p. 348).

The demographic size list of cities was calculated by adding the city's own population and adjacent areas within its area of influence, which also includes other large cities (urban agglomeration), the administrative unit of the city, and the surrounding administrative subdivisions with dense and dependent population economically and commercially by the central city, depending also on the visual findings of the satellite imagery, the city including the peripheries up to a reasonable limit.

Collosal cities of the world

Table 3. List of mega-towns with more than 30 million inhabitants
(Source: proccesed after: 3D World Map 2.1.; Matei et al., 2005;
Instituto Geografico DeAgostini, 2008)

Rank	Megacity	Large population	Urban agglomeration	Includes - population milion; - (urban agglomeration).	Country	Continent
1	Shanghai	104	35	Nanjing 8 m. (27 m., includes: Taizhou 3 m., Yangzhou 3 m., Zhenjiang 3 m., Wuhu 3 m., Chuzhou 3 m., Mansan 2 m.); Hangzhou 10 m. (23 m., includes: Ningbo 8 m.); Suzhou 10 m.; Nantong 2 m. (7 m.); Wuxi 6 m.; Changzhou 5 m.	China	Asia
2	Beijing	85	27	Tianjin 16 m.; Shijiazhuang 6 m. (11 m.); Baoding 3 m. (11 m.); Tangshan 8 m.; Changzhou 2 m. (5 m.); Langfang 1 m.	China	Asia
3	Guangzhou	65	27	(includes: Dongguan 10 m., Foshan 7 m.); Shenzen 13 m. (23 m., includes: Hong Kong 7 m., Huizhou 5 m.); Jiangmen (4 m.); Zhaoqing (4 m.); Zhongshan (3 m.); Qingyuan (3 m.); Macau.	China	Asia
4	Jakarta	50	33	Sarang; Bogor 1 m.; Bekasi 1 m.; Dekop 1m.	Indonesia	Asia
5	Chongqing	50	32	Nanchong 2 m. (6 m.); Luzhou 1 m. (4 m.); Yibin 1 m. (4 m.); Neijiang 1 m. (3 m.); Zigong 1 m. (2 m.); Hechuan 1 m.	China	Asia
6	Dacca	50	22	Gazipur (2 m.); Tangail (2 m.); Faridpur (1 m.).	Bangladesh	Asia
7	Delhi	46	27	Meerut (4 m.); Aligarh (4 m.); Ghaziabad (3 m.); Faridabad (2 m.); New Delhi.	India	Asia
8	Tokyo	43	40	Chiba (6 m).; Yokohama 4 m.; Saitama (5 m).; Kawasaki 2 m.; Maebashi 1 m.; Utsunomi 1 m.	Japan	Asia
9	Kolkata	38	18	Haora 3 m.; Baharampur (1 m.); Barddhaman.	India	Asia
10	Sao Paulo	37	30	Campinas 3 m.; Santos 2 m.; Sorocaba 1 m.; Sao Jose Dos Campos 1 m.	Brazil	South America
11	Mexico	36	32	Puebla 6 m.; Cuernavaca 2 m.; Toluca 2 m.; Tlaxcala 1 m.	Mexico	North America
12	Lagos	35	22	Ibadan 4 m.; Ogbomosho 2 m.; Osogbo 2 m.; Abeokuta 1 m.	Nigeria	Africa
13	Lahore	35	20	Faisalabad 4 m. (8 m.); Gujranwala 3 m. (5 m.); Sahiwal 1 m. (3 m.); Kasur 1 m. (2 m.); Sialkot 1 m.	Pakistan	Asia
14	Manila	34	27	Quezon City 2 m.; Angeles.	Philippine	Asia
15	New York	31	29	Philadelphia 7 m.	USA	North America
16	Wuhan	30	18	Huangang 1 m. (6 m.); Xiaogan 1 m. (5 m.); Huangshi (2 m.); Xianning 1 m.; Xiantao 1; Ezhou 1 m.; Tiamen 1 m.; Jianli 1 m.	China	Asia

There are already 16 cities in the world that together with the outskirts reach more than 30 million inhabitants. Performance if we think there are only

45 countries out of a total of more than 200, over 30 million inhabitants. Asia holds 12 positions, North America 2, Africa and South America one. These cities are colossal, they will dominate the world's economic, commercial and financial life in the future, and the large number of cities in Asia are still showing upward trends. With more than 750 million in the top 16 cities on Earth, they have a population that exceeds the demographic size of the continent Europe with 10 million inhabitants

Mega II Centers

Table 4. Urban agglomerations with population between 20 and 30 million inhabitants
(Source: proccesed after: 3D World Map 2.1.; Matei et al., 2005;
Instituto Geografico DeAgostini, 2008)

Rank	Megacity	Large population	Urban agglomeration	Includes - population milion; - (urban agglomeration).	Country	Continent
17	Karachi	-	28	-	Pakistan	Asia
18	Cairo	28	21	Al Jizah 4 m.; Banha; Zagazig; Shibin el Kom.	Egypt	Africa
19	Chengdu	28	15	Mianyang 1 m. (4 m.); Deyang 1 m. (3 m.); Leshan 1 m. (3 m.); Guangyuan 1 m. (2 m.); Yaan 1 m.	China	Asia
20	Changsha	28	10	Hengyang 1 m. (5 m.); Yang 1 m. (4 m.); Changde 1 m. (4 m.); Zuzhou 1 m. (3 m.); Xiangtan 1 m. (2 m.);	China	Asia
21	Seul	-	26	Incheon 3 m.; Suwon 1 m.;	South Korea	Asia
22	Mumbai	-	25	Thane 3 m.; Navi Mumbai 2 m.; Kalyan 2 m.	India	Asia
23	Los Angeles	25	19	San Diego 3 m.; San Bernardino 2 m.; Riverside 2 m.; Tijuana 2 m.	USA Mexico	North America
24	Patna	25	10	Arwal; Bojpur; Saran; Vaishali; Nalanda.	India	Asia
25	Zhengzhou	25	10	Keifeng (5 m.); Luoyang 3 m.; Xinxiang 1 m. (3 m.); Xuchang 1 m. (2 m.); Pingdingshan (2 m.); Jiaozhou 1 m.	China	Asia
26	Nanchang	25	10	Jiujiang 1 m. (3 m.); Jian 1 m. (3 m.); Fuzhou 1 m.; Yiangtan 1 m.; Shangrao 1 m.; Jiangdezhen 1 m.; Fengceng 1 m.; Linchuan 1 m.	China	Asia
27	Chittagong	25	10	Kaptai; Coxs Bazar.	Bangladesh	Asia
28	Ha Noi	23	10	Thanh Hoa (3 m.); Hai Phong 2 m.; Nam Dinh (2 m.); Thai Nguyen 1 m.	Vietnam	Asia
29	London	22	15	-	United Kingdom	Europe
30	Osaka	-	20	Kobe 4 m.; Kyoto 2 m.; Nara 1 m.	Japan	Asia
31	Bangkok	-	20	Nonthaburi 1 m.; Ayutthaya.	Tailand	Asia
32	Moscow	20	14	-	Russia	Europe
33	Ho Chi Minh	20	10	Bien Hao 2 m.; Long Xuyen 2 m.; Cao Lanh 1 m.; Vinh Lang 1 m.; Tan An 1 m.; My Tho 1 m.; Ben Tre 1 m.	Vietnam	Asia
34	Xuzhou	20	10	Suqian 1 m. (3 m.); Suzhou 1 m. (3 m.); Huaibei 1 m.	China	Asia
35	Bangalore	20	10	Kolar; Sira.	India	Asia
36	Xian	20	10	Xianyang 1 m. (4 m.); Weinan 1 m. (4 m.); Baoji 1 m.	China	Asia
37	Jinan	20	10	Taian 3 m. (5 m.); Dezhou 1 m. (3 m.); Liacheng 1 m. (3 m.); Zibo 2 m.; Binzhou 1 m.	China	Asia
38	Cochin	20	10	Calicut 2 m.; Trivandrum 2 m.; Thrissur 1 m.; Alappuzha 1 m.; Kollam 1 m.	India	Asia

There are 22 mega-towns with a population agglomeration of between 20 and 30 million inhabitants and they represent the world's growing centers with a strong population growth and development potential. With more than 500 million inhabitants, the 22 cities are mostly located in Asia with 18 cities, Africa and North America one each, and Europe is the first to be in the top with the cities of London And Moscow. All 38 cities outnumber the population of Romania, estimated at mid-2017 to less than 20 million inhabitants.

Other urban agglomerations with over 10 million inhabitants
Another 35 mega-cities have a population of between 10 and 20 million. A figure not to be neglected if we consider that countries such as Greece, Portugal, Belgium, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Belarus, Cuba, Tunisia or Israel have populations of around 10 million inhabitants. Most of these are regional centers or occupy the second position in their own country, but together they have 450 million people with significant demographic growth, at least 15 of which will pass the threshold of 20 million inhabitants in -a near future. The first place in the number of hosted cities is the continent of Asia with 20 centers, followed by Africa with 6 cities, South America with 4 cities, North America with 3 cities and Europe with 2 centers.

Besides the 73 mega-towns with over 10 million inhabitants each, there are 24 other centers, which together with the outskirts reach over 10 million.

They are still at the outset of development, as is the case with African agglomerations, or they do not have a well-defined center like the agglomerations in Europe.

 With more than 260 million inhabitants, it is a budding force. In total, 97 cities with suburbs and satellite cities reach more than 10 million inhabitants. Cumulatively, they have a population of 2 billion inhabitants out of the 7.5 billion existing on Earth. Of four people worldwide, one lives in one of these urban colossus.

CONCLUSIONS
The cities since their emergence have been a magnet for merchants and elites, becoming, in the meantime, the image of well-being. With a higher living standard than rural areas, cities tend to attract more and more people becoming more numerous and more populated. Their evolution has been steadily rising, so that there are now over 100 cities on Terra that together with its outskirts exceed 10 million people, reaching a total of 2 billion people. The strength of their economic, financial, cultural, administrative, and especially decision-making, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and skyscrapers tends to de-nationalize their own territories by building their own strategies and axes, becoming more and more present in the geopolitical textbooks . With populations that go beyond even countries such as Germany, France, Canada, or Australia, these cities can be considered the new empires of the world, dividing their areas of influence, depending on their rank, as regional, national, continental or world centers.

Taking the factories and headquarters of the multinationals that are the industry and service representatives, as well as the headquarters of some organizations with an administrative role that tend to replace the capitals of the states, leaving little towns and rural areas only agricultural activities and too little of transport and leisure. These are the great centers of the world, the colossus resulting from the evolution of civilization on the highest peaks.

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