

C. Dickens' Great Stink and Today's World

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List of Content

- Pollution during the Industrial Revolution
- C. Dickens' Coketown from Hard Times
- Today's Coketown
- Defence against pollution
- The birth of slums
- London's slums
- Today's slums

Effects of the Industrial Revolution

Amazing technological advances



the Industrial Revolution

new sources of air and water pollution.

Coal came into large-scale
use



had serious health impact on
growing urban centres.



C. Dickens' *Hard Times*
the symbolic representation of Coketown

"It was a town of machinery and tall chimneys, out of which interminable serpents of smoke trailed themselves for ever and ever, and never got uncoiled. It had a black canal in it, and a river that ran purple with ill-smelling dye..."



Beijing: “airpocalypse”



- Beijing is roughly to the 21st century what London was to the 19th century
- In 19th-century London, coal was the main source of smog: today China consumes close to half the world's coal

The only defence: leave



- Wealthy Londoners escaped from city pollution by going to their homes in the countryside
- Wealthy Chinese and expatriates simply leave Beijing
- Pollution exacerbates social inequality as it causes greater suffering amongst the poor: they do not have the choice to leave

The birth of slums

- Between 1800 and 1850 the population of England doubled
- The prosperous moved out of town centres to the new suburbs
- There was a high demand for cheap housing
- Poor and working people started to live in slums



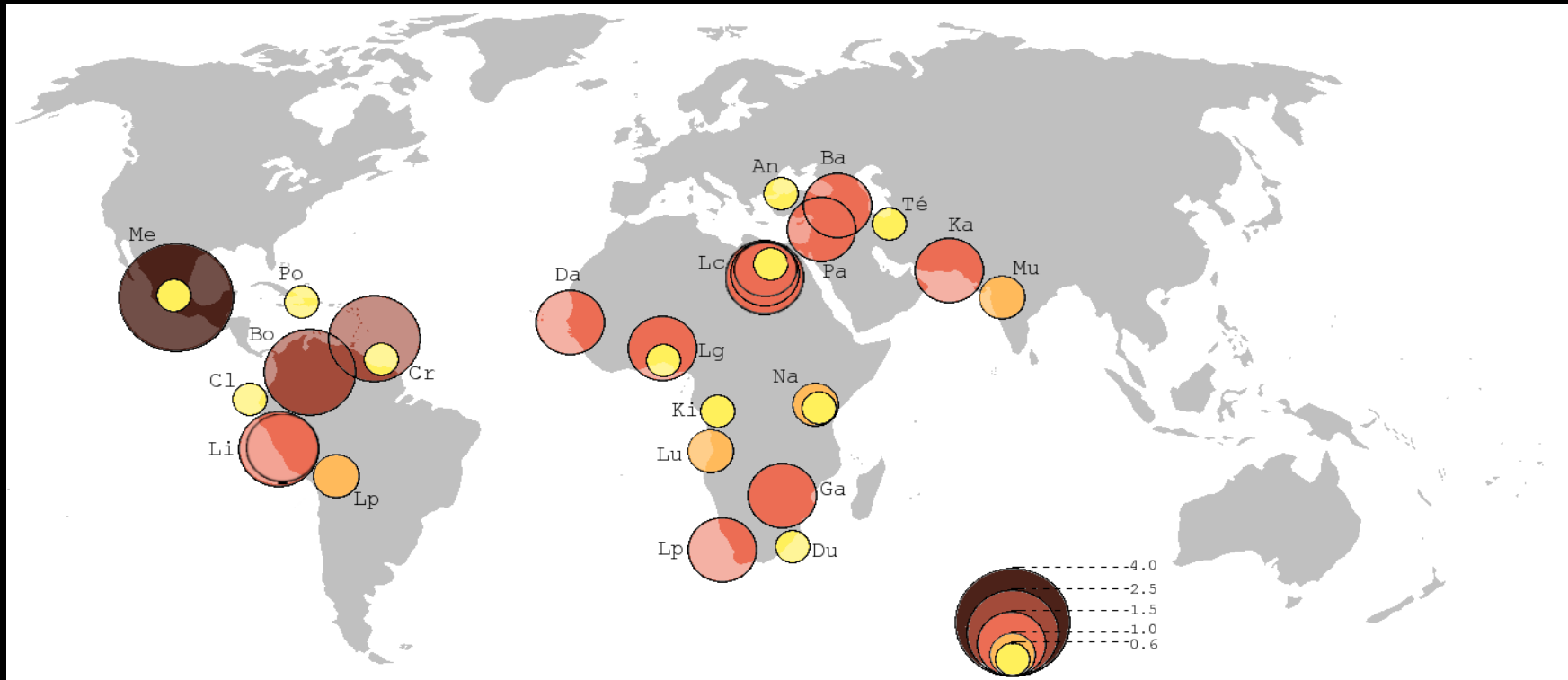
London's slums

- The most notorious slum areas were situated in East London, also called "darkest London"



- They were notorious for overcrowding, unsanitary and squalid living conditions

Today's slums



The largest slums of the world are in areas of political and social conflicts or extreme poverty.

- Some of the slums in today's world are a product of urbanization brought by colonialism (Lagos in Nigeria)



- Others were created because of imposed segregation (Apartheid in South Africa)



Sources:

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