

GEOG 27500 Sub-Saharan Africa

Name -----

Spring 2024

Dr. Mohamed Babiker Ibrahim

### **Q3. Final Exam.**

**Write an essay about the history and the main challenge of the African urbanization. Give at least 4 examples from peer reviewed articles.**

- Africa has a long history of Urbanization. It started with the old Nubian and Egyptian civilization. Cities in Africa passed through three stages. These are indigenous, Islamic and the European-style city.
- **Indigenous cities** were the oldest and they were small village –like settlements. The place and the shrine were found the center.
- **Islamic cities** grew in west and north east Africa during Islamic kingdoms between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They have been characterized by the location of the mosque and the market in the center.
- Most cities of this era were protected by walls.
- **The European style cities** were established by the European since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They became administrative and economic centers.
- Many of these cities grew after the improvement of transportation mainly building of railways which help the growth of African ports.
- Plantation and mining enhanced the growth African cities.
- Today, African cities are mixture of European and indigenous cities.
- **The main challenge** of the African urbanization is African rapid urbanization.
- African rapid urbanization means increase of the city's population because of the rural-urban migration.
- By 2035, half of Africa's population will be urban, compared to just one third in 1990.
- Urban growth does not keep pace with economic growth
- Most African cities expanded beyond the ability of cities to provide social services,
- Such as drinking water, education and health services.
- Also, these cities suffer from unemployment, lack of infrastructure (mainly roads) and food security,
- The problem of rapid urbanization could be solved through enhancement of economic growth through industrialization.

### **References**

Ibrahim, M. B., and Omer, O. A. 2014. Evolution and Changes in the Morphologies of the Sudanese Cities. *Urban Geography* 35(5): 735-756.