**Urbanization in Yangon, Myanmar Case Study:**

**Red- Political**

**Green- Economic**

**Purple- Social**

**Blue- Environmental**

Early 1960s to the late 1980s, Myanmar was controlled by a military gov. that adopted a policy known as the ‘Burmese Way to Socialism’. (Mix of nationalism, isolationism, Buddhism, and socialism).

-Caused the economy to become stagnated.

- The bad economy led to decreases in income, and decreases in the standard of living for the population.

- Govt. had to reintervene & reduce economic restrictions. This included allowing foreign investment to occur from Singapore, Thailand & Japan

- Led to changes in the urban processes within Yangon.

During the period of economic stagnation, many people moved to Yangon from the countryside in search of work or new opportunities that weren’t available in the rural areas. (Rural-Urban migration!)

* Lack of housing leads to people moving into old dilapidated building in the city centre, others are forced to settle in new suburbs in the outskirts of Yangon to the north of the city centre.
  + Many of these make shift homes lack basic services like running water or reliable electricity, or even plumbing and waste disposal. This can lead to sanitation issues. It also places a big strain on the resources of the city like the water supply.

Prior to the early 1990s streams had contained the city’s urban sprawl.

* The increase in people has been so great that urban sprawl has now crossed these locations. Since the size of the metropolitan area has increased so much transport problems have arisen.
  + A programme of road widening and new construction was undertaken during the 1990s.
    - Public transportation is overburdened by all the people. However, the government has to keep it cost effective in order to make it affordable for all. Unfortunately, this means that they don’t have the funds to improve or maintain the vehicles.

In the 1990, many people squatting in downtown colonial buildings were rehoused in the new suburbs.

This enabled many of the old building to be renovated as offices or more expensive apartments. ( Urban renewal/ gentrification)

* + Typically is the wealthy who can afford to pay for the new houses that are being built.
    - The city administration has decided to demolish most of the colonial buildings in the years ahead and replace them with higher, more modern ‘international-style’ buildings.
      * They’re trying to maximize every square inch of land. So high-rise buildings are being built. ( Urban consolidation and intensification.)
      * More economic activities are being seen in the suburban areas.

There are some examples of spatial exclusion. There are minority groups such as Karen people in the north.

* The economic gap has increased significantly. In the late 1990s the first walled housing estate for wealthy residents opened.
  + The number of beggars and poor people seems to be increasing.

**Air Pollution in Beijing, China Case Study:**

**Red- Political**

**Green- Economic**

**Purple- Social**

**Blue- Environmental**

Beijing relies heavily on coal as their source of energy. It is their main fuel used for heating, cooking and for industry.

Coal contains large quantities of sulphur dioxide. When released into the environment this harms plants, animals and humans.

* + The quality of life for people decreases as they face problems with respiration due to the pollution.

Government officials have placed restrictions in order to try and fix the problem. For instance, heating is highly regulated. In addition, the government is proposing the use of higher quality of coal.

-Despite these regulations, only 15% of homes have replaced coal with gas for heating.

- Changing machinery is expensive, so change may be slow, especially in the poorer regions.

In many inland areas of china, the soil is composed of very fine clay particles called loess that are easily eroded by the wind.

* Overgrazing and deforestation has only worsened the situation.
  + In order to put up with the large quantities of dust that get blown into the cities people have resorted to wearing scarves for protection.
    - The government has resorted to planting trees on the outskirts of Beijing. They are supposed to serve as wind breaks. It has lessened, but not eradicated the problem.

Another problem has been the increase in numbers of motor vehicles in Beijing.

* The exhaust produces nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.
  + Carbon monoxide is poisonous and leads to cancers such as Leukemia.
    - The government has responded by constructing several air pollution monitoring stations with public displays in Beijing.

In the past the government has not had enough pollution control on the industries.

* This has led to a high concentration of BaP, or Benzo(a)-pyrene. This leads to increases in lunch cancer.
  + This has lead to an increase in the death rate in the city. Therefore, it has decreased the living standard for those in the city.
    - Some entrepreneurs have responded by building oxygen bars for people to enjoy fresh air in.

All of the pollutants combined have lead to the creation of an urban heat island. This means that temperature in the city is up to 2 degrees celcius higher.

* The air rises in the center, bringing in pollutants from outer industrial suburbs.
  + The government has had to devote itself to clearing up the atmosphere over the city.

**Social Stresses in London Case Study:**

**Red- Political**

**Green- Economic**

**Purple- Social**

**Blue- Environmental**

London is the wealthiest region of Britain and one of the four wealthiest regions of Europe.

* There are still large areas of poverty and unemployment, with three quarters of a million people living below the poverty line of 125 euros per week.
  + Government policy made the gap worse under prime ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major by emphasizing private sector investment and personal self-reliance.
    - The areas that have the most problems now face economic problems such as the closing of factories, shops, and offices.
      * This has led to unemployment in the inner areas of London to be very high.
        + High unemployment leads people to resort to crime, vandalism, and violence.

These areas have the lowest environmental standards.

Richer areas are able to afford better schooling for kids.

* This worsens the gap because now only the wealthy will be educated and ready to go into the workforce.
  + Those who are poorer have homes with inadequate facilities such as no bath, toilet, heating or insulation.
    - There are about 250,000 applications from families waiting for low-cost council housing in London.
      * They often are located in high rise buildings where it is common for upper-floor residents to throw their rubbish over their balconies or through their windows into the gardens.
        + Leads to frustration and discontent. Many times, it is hostility between different ethnic groups. Racial riots have resulted.

**Sustainable Strategies to Manage Housing in Sydney, Australia:**

**Red- Political**

**Green- Economic**

**Purple- Social**

**Blue- Environmental**

Originally developed to provide housing for the participants in the 2000 Olympic Games.

-Built on a Brownfield site (Abandoned, derelict or under‑used industrial buildings and land that may be contaminated but have potential for redevelopment.)

- Used new technologies to minimize the urban ecological footprint.

- This means using alternative energy such as solar panels.

Other strategies undertaken by the government have been the planting of native species of vegetation which are drought resistant; this means they use less moisture than exotic species.

* Produce very few allergens, which is better for those in the surrounding area.

- The increased use of plant cover ensures that 40% of runoff infiltrated into the groundwater supply, reducing the risk of flooding.

- Storm water is diverted and used to create natural wildlife habitats.

- The location of the habitats makes it so that houses have to be more spread out. This makes it harder to establish a sense of community.

- The problem is being fixed through the introduction of public transportation for people to be able to move around the area easily.

- They still have not made enough housing designs to accommodate the poor, low income earners.

**Sustainable Strategies to Manage Pollution in Graz, Australia:**

**Red- Political**

**Green- Economic**

**Purple- Social**

**Blue- Environmental**

The government started an Ecoprofit program.

* Intended to educate local businesses and help them identify ways in which they can improve their production processes to reduce waste and resource consumption, and this increase profitability.
  + As an incentive to join the program, companies that complete the program are awarded the Ecoprofit logo.
    - Allows companies to use it for promotional purposes for marketing as an ‘ecological market leader’.

The city has a long history as an industrial centre, and therefore long-term problems with environmental pollution.

* Seen as a way to improve environmental quality beyond the reductions in pollution required by government legislation.

The system involves a series of steps. First, workshops are conducted to educate managers in closed loop production techniques that maximize recycling and minimize waste.

* The logo may only be used by companies that have demonstrated a significant reduction in pollution and waste.
  + The companies have also noticed other advantages such as reductions in their processing costs.
    - Has led to other cities who want to try to implement similar strategies.

\*More case studies are in the book if you want more.