

Governing Megacities in Emerging Countries - Dominique Lorrain - 9781317125617 - 314 pages - Routledge, 2016 - 2016

A megacity is a very large city, typically with a population of more than 10 million people. Precise definitions vary: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its 2018 "World Urbanization Prospects" report counted urban agglomerations having over 10 million inhabitants. A University of Bonn report held that they are "usually defined as metropolitan areas with a total population of 10 million or more people". Others list cities satisfying criteria of either 5 or 8 million and But Chicago, the only emerging megacity in the developed world, will have the greatest economic influence. Its total GDP is set to be double that of the other five megacities combined. Snapshot of six new megacities (2017-2030). Image: Euromonitor. Alongside the new opportunities megacities bring, there are also major challenges. Luanda is expected to undergo a 60% increase in its population between 2017 and 2030, placing further strain on housing, transport, public utilities and sanitation. The Lagos neighbourhood of Makoko, the world's largest floating slum, has seen a huge influx of migrant Megacities are a new phenomenon in history. The fact that many of them are in emerging countries deepens the challenges of governing these spaces. Can these vast, complex entities, rife with inequalities and divisions, be governed effectively? For researchers, the answer has often been no. Three findings emerge from this book. Infrastructure networks help to structure cities and function as mechanisms of cohesion. Megacities become more governable if there is a legitimate authority capable of making choices. Finally, anarchic urbanisation has its roots in systems of land ownership, in inadequate urban planning and in the practices of developers and local actors.