

Law of Primate Cities/Rank-Size Rule

Unit 6 - Day 3

Quiz - 13.2, 13.3, and 13.4

Objectives

Content: I can explain how the rank-size rule and the law of primate cities explain the relative size of cities around the world.

Language: I can participate in quick discussions using evidence.

Note-Taking Guide:

*Law of Primate Cities and
Rank Size Rule*

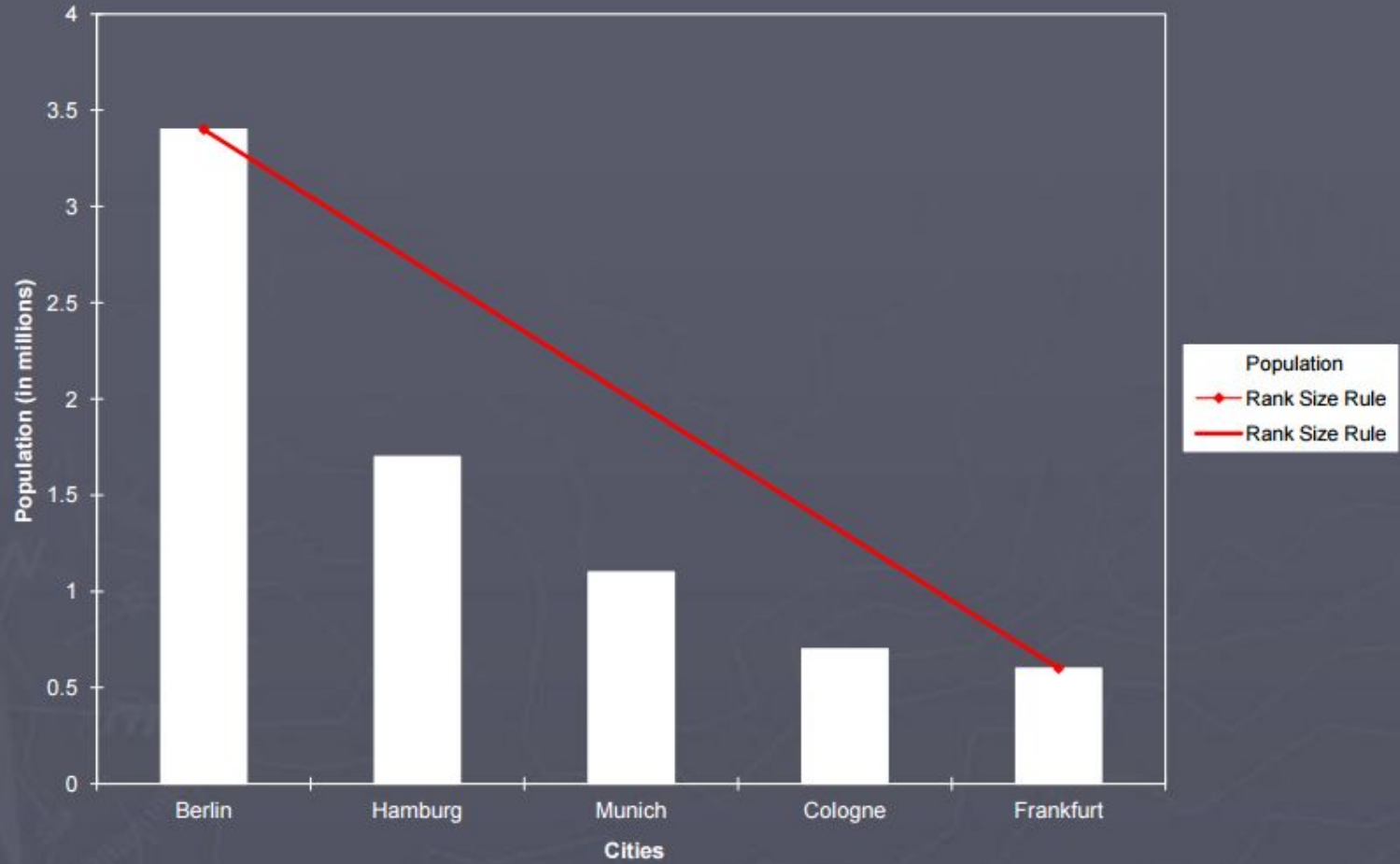
Rank-Size Rule (1935)



Cities in a country are ranked according to their size in relation to the population of the country's largest city.

- **Rank 1** - Largest City
- **Rank 2** - $\frac{1}{2}$ the number of people as Rank 1 city
- **Rank 3** - $\frac{1}{3}$ the number of people as Rank 1 city
- **Rank 4** - $\frac{1}{4}$ the number of people as Rank 1 city
- **Rank n** - $\frac{1}{n}$ the number of people as Rank 1 city

Rank Size Rule Correlation in Germany



Problems with Rank-Size Rule



- In some countries the difference between a **First Ranked** and a **Second Ranked** city was much less than expected.
 - Example: **New York City** is only **1.3 times larger** than **Los Angeles**
- Some countries are dominated by **PRIMATE CITIES** so the changes are larger than expected.
 - Example: **Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo** is **8 times larger** than the next largest city **Lubumbashi**



Uses for Rank-Size Rule



- Sets a **general classification** for Ranking cities by **population in a country**
- **Measures degree of primacy** for a particular city in a country
- Helps **distinguish countries with special characteristics**
 - Area, Wealth, etc.

Primate City (1939)

- The largest city within a nation which dominates the country not solely in size - being more than twice as large as the second city - but also in terms of influence



Examples of Primate Cities




- **Paris**, at a population of **2.34 million** is definitely the focus of France, while **Marseilles** has a population of **855,000**
- In the **United Kingdom** the area of **London** has a population of **8.6 million** while the second largest city, **Birmingham** only has around **977, 087**.
- **Mexico City** has a population of **8.6 million** while **Guadalajara** is only about **1.6 million**

What are the advantages
and disadvantages of
living in a primate city?

ADVANTAGES

- Magnetic attraction for businesses, services, and people (cumulative effect)
- Can attract international trade and business
- Centralize transportation and communication
- Enhanced flow of ideas and information among larger populations
- Ability to offer high-end goods due to increased **threshold**

DISADVANTAGES

- 
- Urban-rural inequalities
 - Uneven development
 - Concentration of Power
 - Has a parasitic effect, sucking wealth, natural and human resources into the city
 - Becomes a center for unemployment, crime, and pollution

Bangkok: The Classic Primate City



- **Over 40 times larger** than any other city in Thailand
- **Political, Financial, Cultural, and Communication center** of Thailand
- Much of the **economy of rural Thailand is in support of Bangkok**



Thailand's Largest Cities

	Name	Population
1	Bangkok , Bangkok	5,104,476
2	Mueang Samut Prakan , Samut Prakan	388,920
3	Mueang Nonthaburi , Nonthaburi	291,555
4	Udon Thani , Changwat Udon Thani	247,231
5	Chon Buri , Chon Buri	219,164
6	Nakhon Ratchasima , Nakhon Ratchasima	208,781
7	Chiang Mai , Chiang Mai	200,952
8	Hat Yai , Songkhla	191,696
9	Pak Kret , Nonthaburi	182,926
10	Si Racha , Chon Buri	178,916



Problems of Bangkok



- Flooding
- Garbage/Human Waste
- Transportation
- Recreation Spaces
- Pollution
- Poor Planning
- Finance
- Conflicting demands
- Rapid urbanization/slums



Bangkok's Dominance



In Thailand...

- 80% of phones are registered to Bangkok
- Addresses
- 79% of all pharmacists are located in Bangkok
- 45% of doctors are located in Bangkok
- 72% of all registered cars are in Bangkok

Example of Country without a primate city:

Australia



Rank	Name	Population
1	Sydney (NSW)	4,627,345
2	Melbourne (VIC)	4,137,432
3	Brisbane (QLD)	2,074,222
4	Perth (WA)	1,738,807
5	Adelaide (SA)	1,212,982



Arguments for and against Primate Cities in LDCS



FOR

They attract **overseas investment** and benefits that will eventually benefit the whole country (trickle down effect).

AGAINST

They are **unstoppable monsters that create serious problems, shortages and escalating land prices** that make them less attractive places to live.

Regional Primate Cities

The ideas of primate cities can be applied to regions within a country and specific states/provinces.



Does the United States have a primate city? Explain your reasoning.



**Is Seattle a regional Primate City for the Northwest?
Explain your answer with evidence.**



“What are the World’s largest Cities”



Article Study

“How the rise of the megacity
is changing the way we live”

The Guardian