

Global core and periphery

World systems analysis (see page 37) is a way of looking at economic, social and political development, where any analysis of development is seen as part of the overall capitalist world economy. According to the model, the capitalist world system has three main characteristics:

- a global market
- many countries, which allow political and economic competition
- three tiers of countries, defined as **core**, largely MEDCs, the **periphery**, which can be identified with LEDCs, and the **semi-periphery** (see page 38).

World cities and the global economy

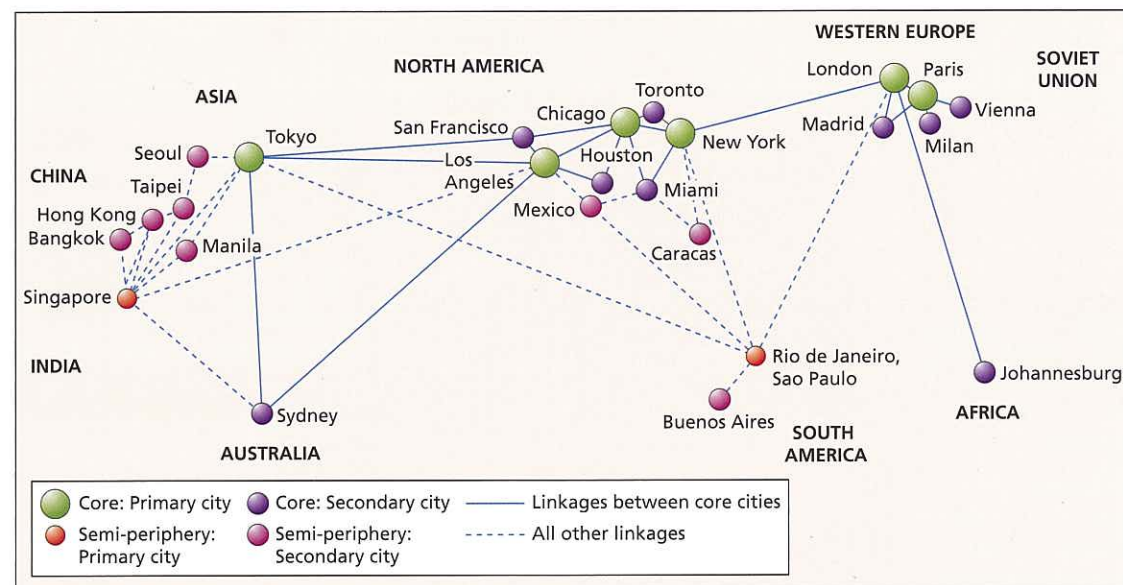


Figure 12.3 World cities

In 1986 John Friedmann developed the world cities hypothesis. It was an attempt to understand the major global cities of the world and their response to the shift from an international to a global economy. Friedmann defined world cities as:

- centres through which money, information and commodities flow
- large, urbanized regions defined by dense patterns of interaction
- hierarchical with respect to the economic power they command and their ability to attract global investment
- sites for the concentration and accumulation of capital.

World cities have been created by the shift from an international to a global economy. An **international economy** sees goods and services traded across national boundaries by individuals and firms from different countries under strict control of individual nations.

However, in the **global economy** goods and services are produced by large MNCs who largely dictate the industrial policy of the nation state. They usually orchestrate their operations from world cities. The concept of world cities has been developed by other geographers. Appadurai (1990) has developed a list that describes the variety of

functions which world cities offer, in terms of six cultural and economic landscapes:

- 1 **Ethnoscap**s are produced by flows of business personnel, guestworkers, tourists, immigrants and refugees.
- 2 **Technoscap**s are flows of machinery, technology and software from MNCs and government agencies.
- 3 **Finascap**s are flows of capital currency and securities.
- 4 **Mediascap**s are flows of images and information through newspapers, televisions and film.
- 5 **Ideoscap**s are flows of a western view of life, e.g. democracy, welfare rights and mass consumption.
- 6 **Commodityscap**s are flows of culture and style encompassing everything from architecture to interior design.

MNC Multinational corporation – an enterprise that has its headquarters in one country but operates in several other countries known as the host countries.

To research

Visit http://consultant-news.com/article_display.aspx?p=adp&id=5205 for the Kearney Index of Global Cities. Compare and contrast the five dimensions that the index measures: business activity, information exchange, cultural experience, political engagement and human capital.

Which city is the most globalized overall? Devise a ranking system (e.g. 10 points for being first, 9 for second, etc.) and work out the five most globalized countries in the world. Comment on your results.



a



b

Figure 12.4 Two world cities: New York (left) and Tokyo