African Urban Models
Sub-Saharan Africa Model

- Developed by geographer Harm De Blij
- World Bank estimates show growing urbanization
  - 2010 – 36%
  - 2030 – 50%
Features of Sub-Saharan Model

• Three CBDs
  – Traditional market, European colonial center, modern developing CBD

• Mining and industry on outskirts of city
  – Townships close to areas where they work

• Ethnic neighborhoods
  – Reflect tribal identities
Criticism of Model

• Does not account for informal economy
• Out of date
  – Reference to Ethnoburbs as areas that are not “white”
  – Cities changing quickly
  – Desire for informal settlements to be close to wealthy
• Lack of middle class and wealthy areas
Nairobi, Kenya
Durban, South Africa
Islamic City Model

• Model based on observations of Southwest Asian cities
  – City structure diffused to other Muslim areas
• Mostly found in Islamic parts of North Africa
  – Traits can also be found in West Africa and Eastern coast of Africa
Cairo, Egypt