

Humanities I

Unit III The Humanities in New York (16)Chapter 15. New York Ideal and Reality
The Geographic SettingAffective Objectives:

- A. To become aware of the problems and the advantages of living in a megalopolis.
- B. To begin considering whether living in a megalopolis is preferable to living elsewhere.
- C. To become committed to finding ways of dealing with the problems of megalopolis.

Knowledge Objectives:

- A. To know that the term "megalopolis" designates a huge concentration of people over a large area, resulting in a high average population density over many square miles, such as the concentration of people on the eastern seaboard, where forty million people live in a corridor six hundred miles long and one hundred miles wide.
- B. To know some problems of a megalopolis, such as those associated with transporting large numbers of people over long distances every day, the confused political organizations, air and water pollution, and the distribution of population that concentrates the poor in city cores, and the well-to-do on the fringes of suburbia.

Discussion questions:

1. What is a megalopolis? How is it different from cities? How is it different from rural areas or suburbia?
2. What are some of the unique problems created by this kind of environment?
- 3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a megalopolis as compared to the city-state such as Athens or Florence? Can a citizen live as good a life in a megalopolis as he could in such a city-state?
- 4. Would you want to live in such a megalopolis? How could it be made a better place to live in? Even if you don't choose to live there, what responsibility do you have, if any, to concern yourself with the problems of megalopolis?

This last question area is of the most significant importance to our times, it should be recognized that the survival of megalopolis is a national problem. The peace and order of the nation, the productivity of the economy, the advancement of culture, and the survival of democratic ideals all depend upon whether or not the people who live in megalopolis can find satisfying lives there.

It is essential to the particular needs of this question area that students gather all the information available on megalopolis in other nations and how the problems are being solved (or not) in other areas of the world. Through this comparative study you may view more encouraging possibilities for the eastern seaboard of America.