DUBAI

an evolving arab city
google earth map showing Dubai’s relationship to other cities within the Gulf
Abu Dhabi is 150 km away (2:15 hour drive)
google earth map showing Dubai’s relationship to its neighboring Emirates
Abu Dhabi borders to the south. Sharjah borders to the north.
the original development grew around Dubai creek, located to the north near the Sharjah border.
many poor people are forced to live in Sharjah and commute to Dubai due to rent prices.
U.A.E

population: 8.2 million
area: 83,600 sq km
nationalities:
16.5% Emirati
23% Other Arabs, Iranian
60.5% South Asian, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Westerners

DEMOGRAPHICS

area:
4,114 sq km (1,588.4 sq mi)
density:
408.18 / sq km (1,057/sq mi)
nationalities:
17.0% Emirati, 9.1% Other Arab nations
42.3% Indian, 13.3% Pakistani
7.5% Bangladeshi, 2.5% Filipino
1.5% Sri Lankan, 0.9% European
0.3% America, 5.7% other countries

population:
estimated
1822 1,200
1900 10,000
1930 20,000
1940 38,000
1954 20,000
1960 40,000
census
1968 58,971
1975 183,000
1985 370,800
1995 674,000
World Urbanization Prospects 2009
2005 1,264,000
2010 1,567,000
2015 1,772,000
2020 2,076,000

Rate of growth
164.287794
CLIMATE & GEOGRAPHY

-Persian Gulf Coast
  marine life: 300 species of fish, coral, dolphins, turtles, etc.

-Arabian Desert
  sandy desert patterns (most of UAE is gravel desert)
  supports wild grasses and date palms

-Dubai Creek
  natural inlet, dredged in 1965

-16 m above sea level

-3.2 sq km area before 1955
-3,900 sq km area before land reclamation projects
-4,114 sq km current area

-very hot, humid climate

-summer: windy and dry, 40C (106F) high, 30C (86F) low

-winter: increasing rains, 23C (73F) high, 14C (57F) low
  5.91 in / year

-Arabian Canal
  75 km man-made canal; 150m wide, 6m deep (currently postponed)
  excavation of 1.1 billion cubic meters of soil, $11 billion construction

-Ski Dubai
  22,500 sq m of indoor ski area, 2005
  -1C (31F) during day, -6C (21F) at night
ECONOMIC/POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS

Economy:
-service and tourism oriented
-revenues from oil account for less than 6%
-real estate and construction account for 26%
-trade accounts for 13%
-2009 economic downturn has left Dubai with an estimated debt of $80 billion

Government:
-constitutional monarchy
-rulled by Al Maktoum family since 1833
-current ruler is Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
-separate Dubai Muncipality to managae planning and facilities

Citizenship:
-”Temporary workers” label for expatriate population, rather than immigrant workers
-Citizenship is not attainable for any expatriates regardless of where they were born
-Foreign laborers must be sponsered by a local
-Restrictions placed on families moving with workers correlate with income

Religion:
-complex relationship with Muslim identity
-a Western-oriented city in the Muslim “East”
-”liberal” acceptance of “immoral activities”
-urban landscape does not express Muslim design

“neoliberal extravaganza vs model for muslim identity”
HISTORY

1800: earliest record of Dubai (Debai), area was part Historic Oman mainly fishing village with mud hut shelters 1,200 inhabitants

1820: sheikhs of Abu Dhabi and Dubai sign treaty with British, making them rulers of Historic Oman

1833: migration from Abu Dhabi, nearly 3,000 people

1870: migration from Persia due to political instability

1904: port of Dubai is made free

1922: treaty signed with British declaring any oil found to be a British entity

1925: migration from Persia due to increased taxes

1930: Baluchis migrated from present day Pakistan working as porters by mid 1900s Dubai’s population was made up of several classes and ethic groups

1950: no paved roads, no utilities, no port features, no water, few phones

1960: John Harris develops Dubai’s first master plan for Shiekh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum

1961: creek dredged by British firm

1966: oil in commercial quantities discovered in Dubai

1968: 50% immigrant labor force (cheap for oil extraction)

1971: Trucial Oman gains independence and becomes UAE
THE HARRIS MASTER PLAN - young, unknown British architect

1960: John Harris develops Dubai’s first master plan for Shiekh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum

MP 1.0
-guided Dubai’s modest early development until the discovery of oil
-road system that would weave the old town into Dubai’s future growth
-modest, modernist approach with respect to existing buildings

1966: oil in commercial quantities discovered in Dubai

MP 2.0
-enhanced zoning into land expansion: industry, commerce, residential quarters, health, education
-port rashid was envisioned
-creation of landmarks including the WTC
THE OTHER MASTER PLANS?
Is the plan responsible for the city’s current lack of urban form?

Dubai Structural Plan - 2015
-prepared in 1995 due to rapid development
-aim to be flexible to accommodate changes

“Dubai Urban Development Master Plan-2020
and will establish a ‘Supreme Urban Planning Council’ to streamline the urban and environmental planning process in the emirate, officials of the Dubai Municipality have said.”
- sustainable land use
- increased infrastructure projects
- economically viable projects
- real estate development NOT primary focus

from constructionweekonline.com, 10.4.2011:
TRANSIENT SITES - EXPATRIATES

SATWA, GHUBEIBA, BANIYAS & SABKHA

- located next to public transportation
- high level of commercial activity
- close proximity to poor areas
- high density of residents
- setting for expatriates
- central space for large crowd gatherings
WORKER CAMPS - CONSTRUCTION TEMPORARY LABORERS

SONAPUR and JEBEL ALI

-Human Rights Watch estimated 300,000 construction workers in 2006
-housed in labor camps by development firms
-camps located outside the city within the desert
-proposal for “luxury labor camps” with shopping and entertainment facilities
-Sonapur (city of gold) is located 15 km from the city along Emirates Road
SUBURBAN DESERT - LOCALS

- received free plots of land from the government plus interest-free loans or grants to build homes
- building 2-story villas nearing the desert
- move because they feel invaded by expatriates

AL MIZHER 1 & 2

- $70 million national identity marriage fund
TRANSPORTATION

the city is mired in the superblock/super highway transportation model despite the metro

SHEIKH ZAYED ROAD

-1980+
-347 miles long
-home to most of Dubai’s skyscrapers that ignore their context on the ground

DUBAI METRO

2009+
-operating 2 out of 5 lines, one of which runs along Sheikh Zayed Road

- 470,000 vehicles are registered in Dubai
  = 1 million vehicles on the road (two trips / day)

- metro estimates 1.85 million passengers / day
**SUPERLATIVES**

**Burj Khalifa**
*The Tallest Building*
Height: 2723 ft
Completed: 2010
Cost: US $1.5 billion

**Palm Jebel Ali**
The Largest man-made Island
Area: 5 sq km
Completed: 2006
Cost: US $12.3 billion

**Dubailand** (on hold)
*The Most Ambitious Leisure Development*
Area: 278 sq km
Announced: 2003
Cost: US $64.3 billion (est)

**Waterfront City**
Rem Koolhaas Master Plan
1310 sq meter island with nondescript towers

**Palm Deira** (8x)
**Palm Jumeirah** (2x)
**Burj Al Arab**
The (second) Tallest Hotel
Height: 1053 ft
Completed: 1999
Cost: US $650 million

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