



**Wanted: A Happy Future:  
Are we really pursuing sustainable urban development?**





# Chaotic Urbanization



## Today's Issues are Highly Technical

*“The climate system is an angry beast and we are poking it with sticks.”*

*Professor Wallace Broecker*



## Understanding the Issue/Opportunity



*What we  
don't  
know we  
don't  
know*

*Michael Tracy*

## Sustainability is a Political Choice



## Security vs. Risk

would you live next to an incinerator?

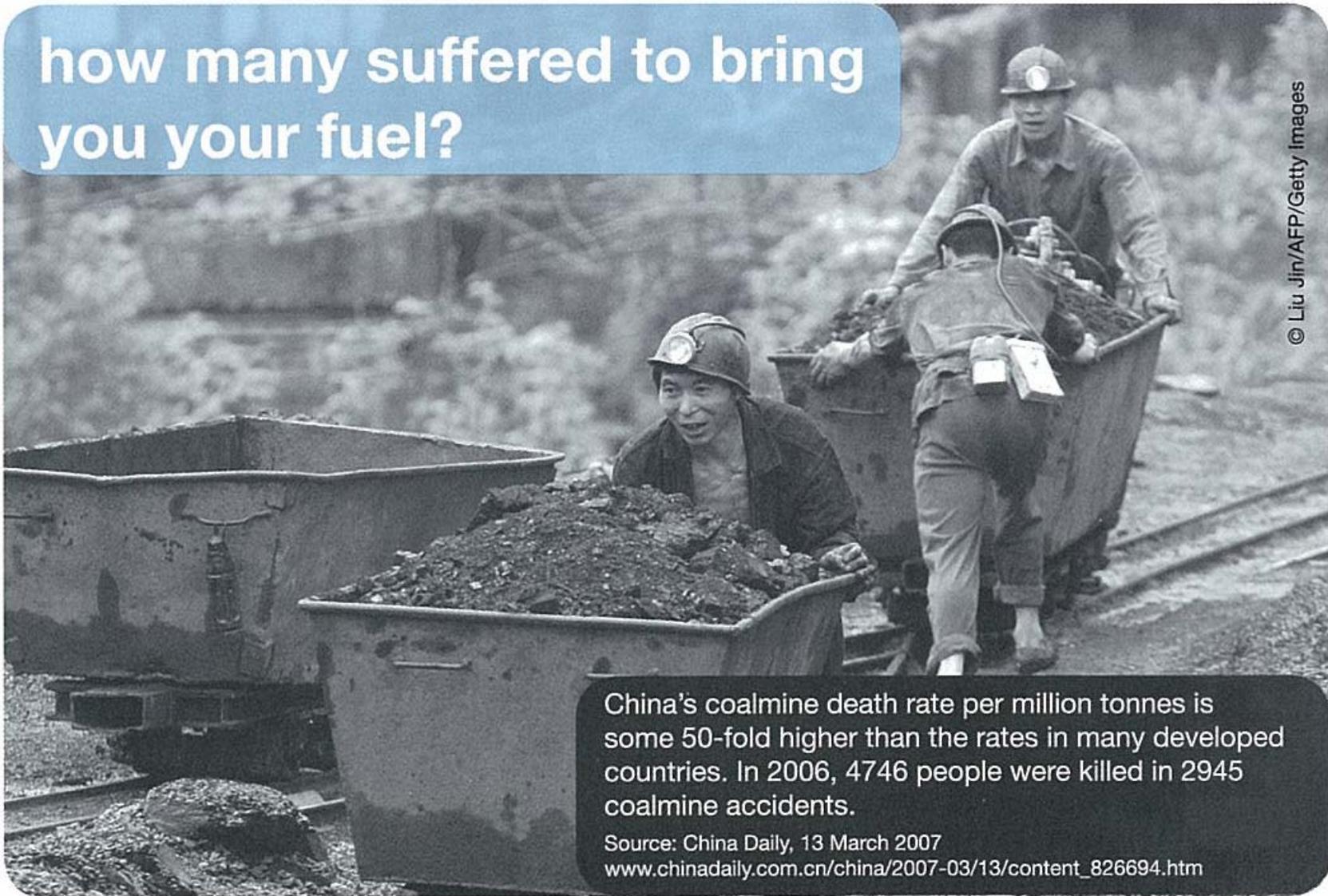


It would take at least 120 years for a standard waste incinerator to produce the amount of dioxins caused by London's millennium firework display.

Source: <http://www.reduceuse.co.uk/Page/Energy/Energy%20from%20waste.htm>

## Equality vs. Equity

how many suffered to bring you your fuel?



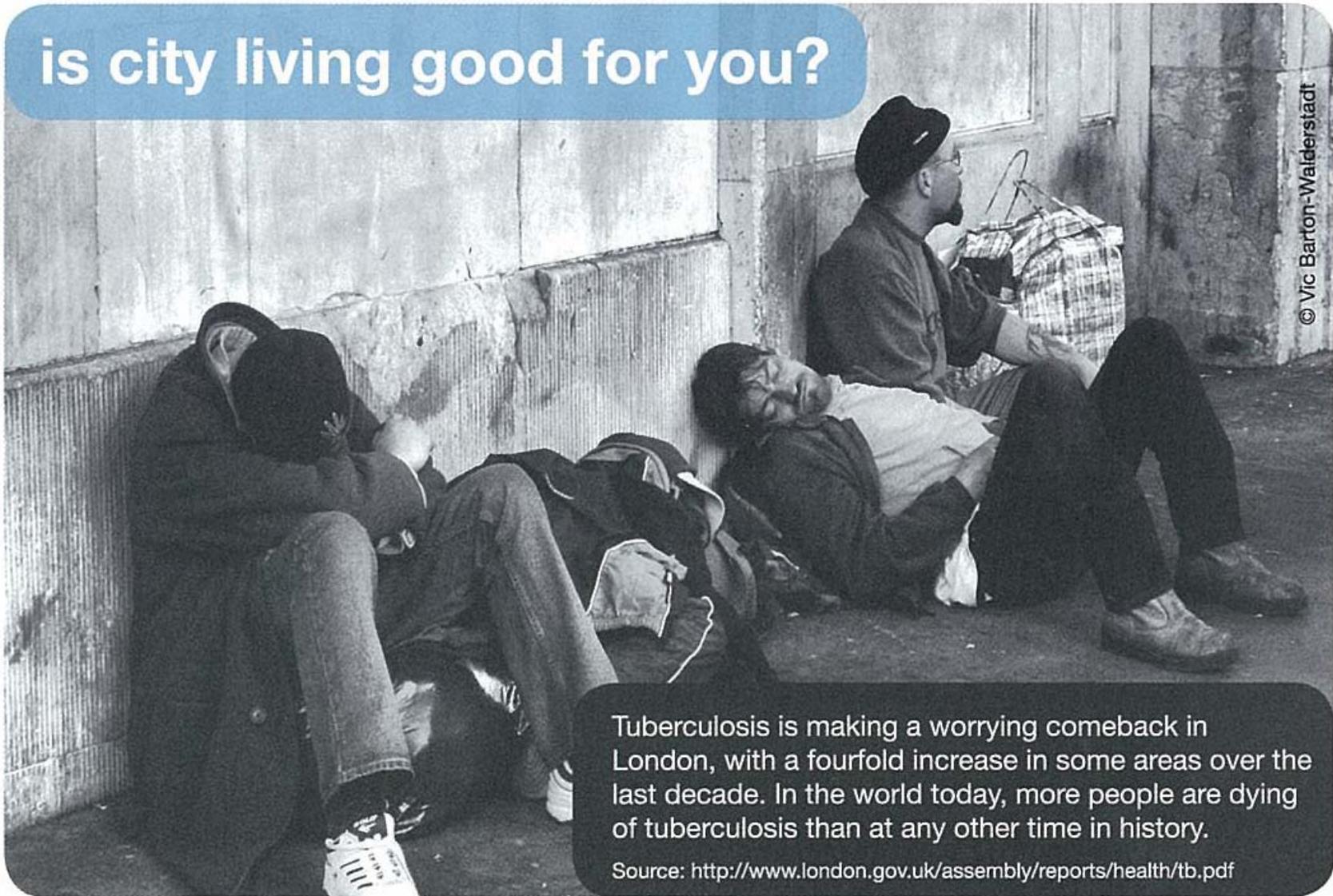
© Liu Jin/AFP/Getty Images

China's coalmine death rate per million tonnes is some 50-fold higher than the rates in many developed countries. In 2006, 4746 people were killed in 2945 coalmine accidents.

Source: China Daily, 13 March 2007  
[www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-03/13/content\\_826694.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-03/13/content_826694.htm)

## Optimism vs. Pessimism

is city living good for you?

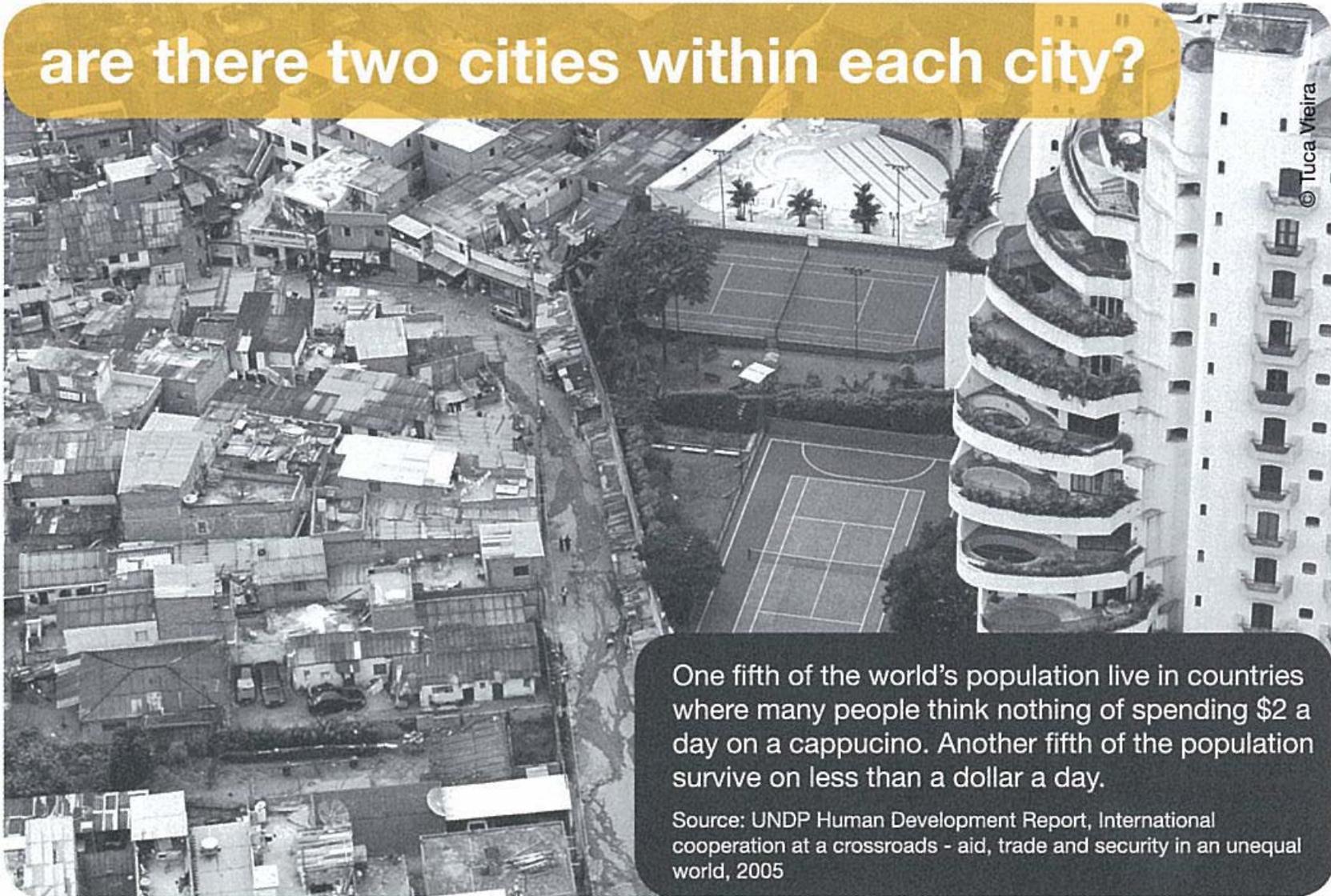


Tuberculosis is making a worrying comeback in London, with a fourfold increase in some areas over the last decade. In the world today, more people are dying of tuberculosis than at any other time in history.

Source: <http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/health/tb.pdf>

## Communities: Place vs. Interest

are there two cities within each city?

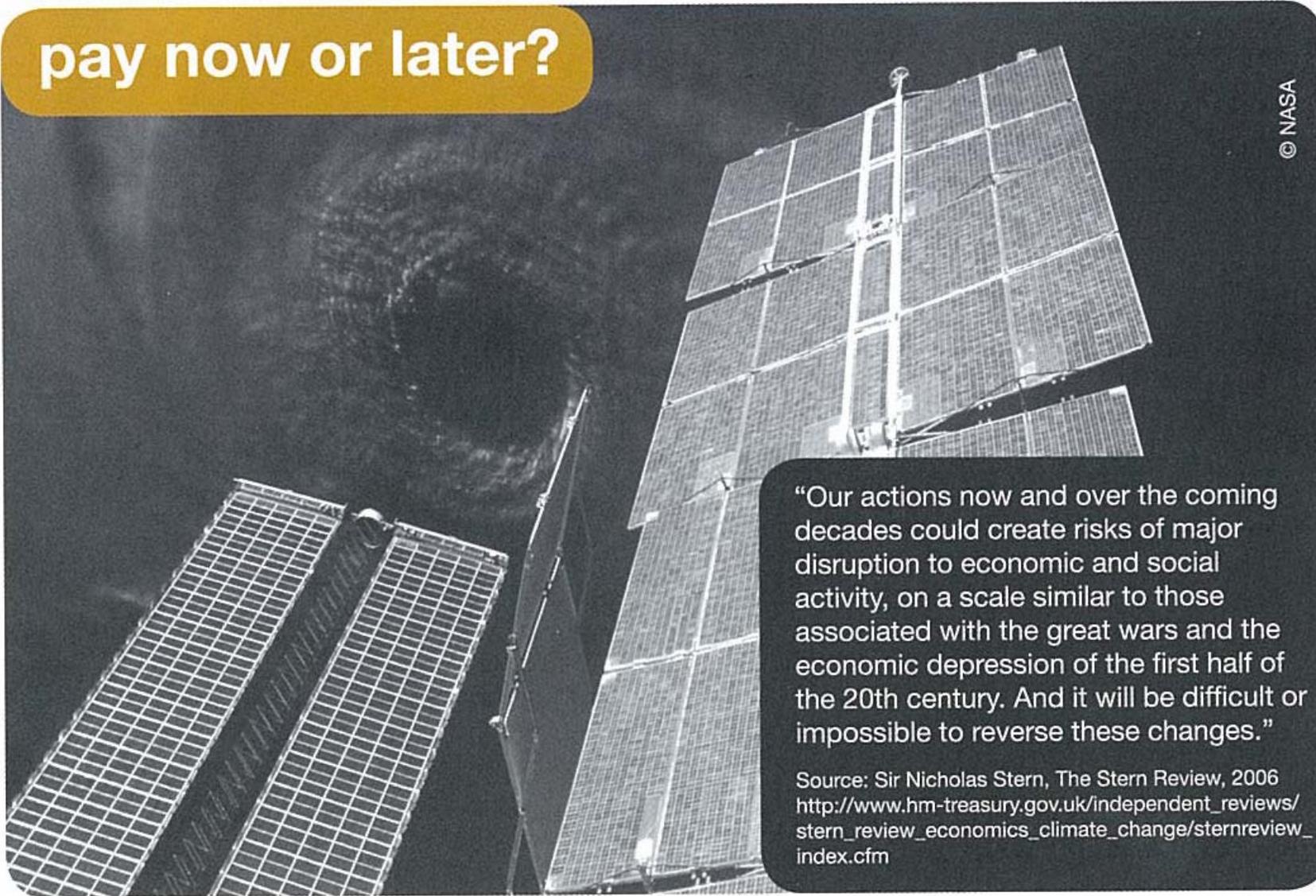


One fifth of the world's population live in countries where many people think nothing of spending \$2 a day on a cappuccino. Another fifth of the population survive on less than a dollar a day.

Source: UNDP Human Development Report, International cooperation at a crossroads - aid, trade and security in an unequal world, 2005

## Direct Costs vs. Externalities

pay now or later?



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“Our actions now and over the coming decades could create risks of major disruption to economic and social activity, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century. And it will be difficult or impossible to reverse these changes.”

Source: Sir Nicholas Stern, The Stern Review, 2006  
[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent\\_reviews/stern\\_review\\_economics\\_climate\\_change/sternreview\\_index.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm)

## Present vs. Future

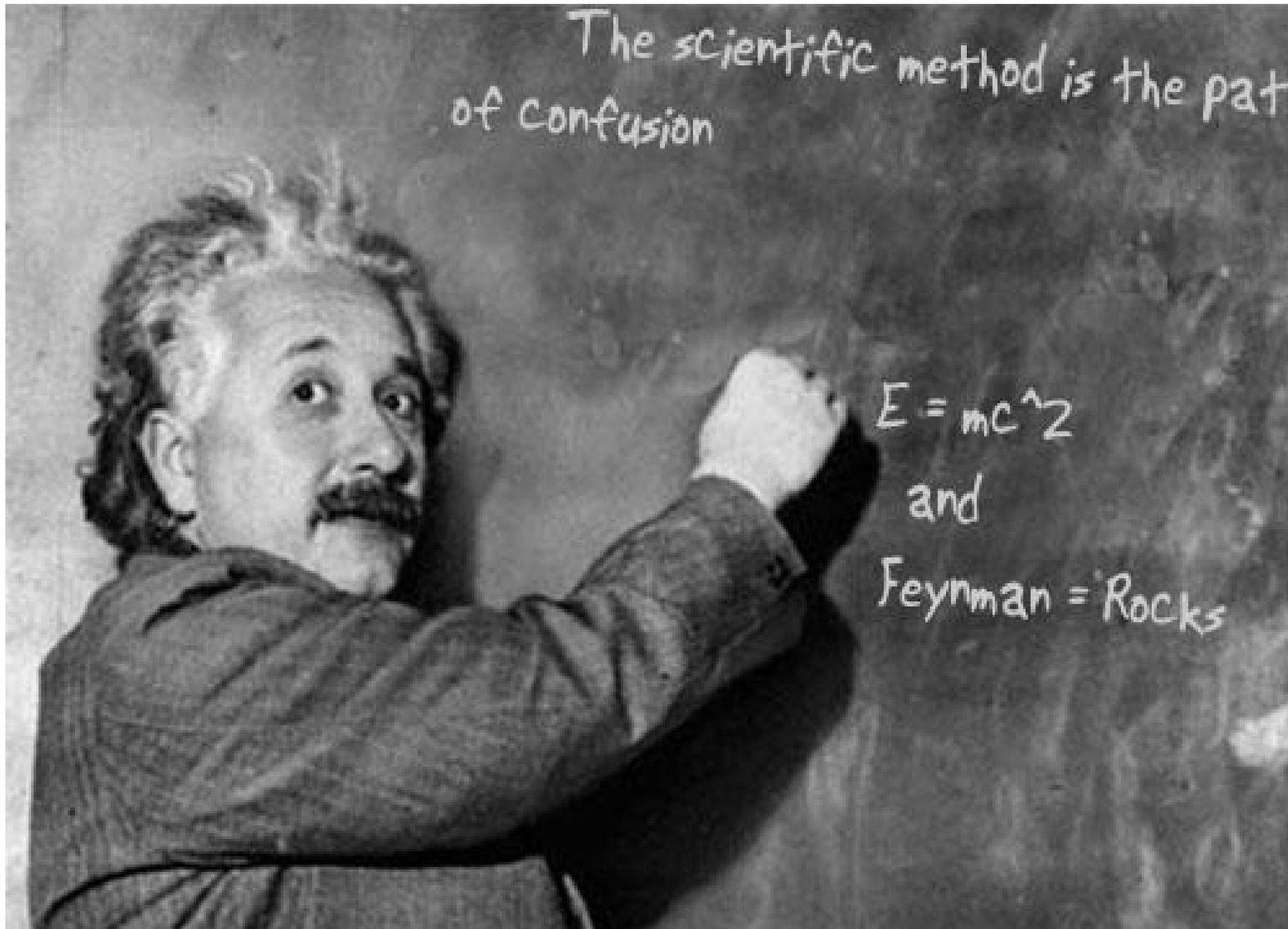
how many worlds will an urban future need?

© NASA

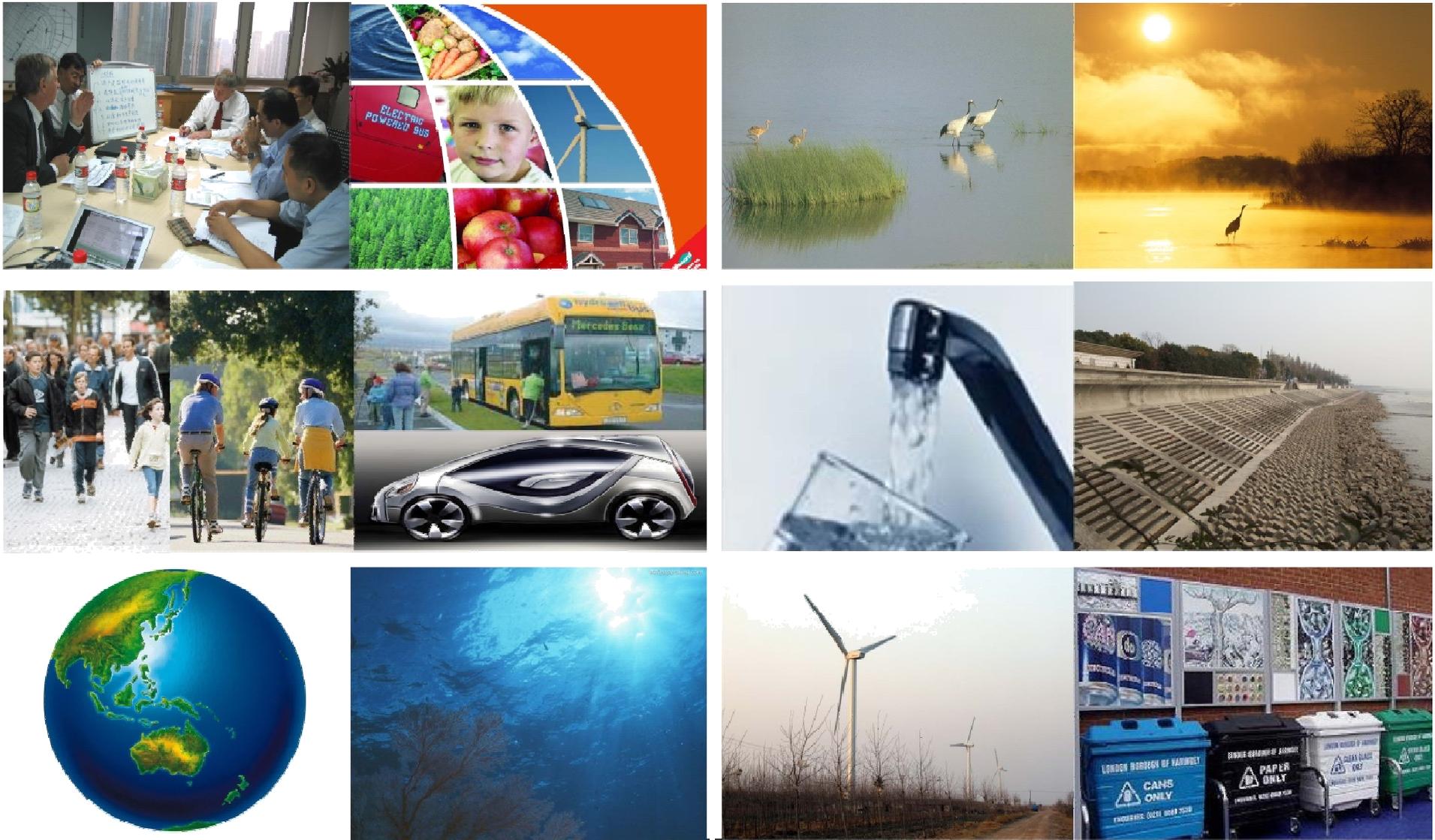
Cities house half the world's population but consume three-quarters of the world's resources and produce three-quarters of the world's pollution.

Source: H Girardet, Cities People Planet, 2004

## Faith vs. Doubt



# Choosing To Do What We Know How To Do Today



## The Moral Obligation to be Intelligent

“Intelligence finds its own balance by connecting circles of disparate ideas that appear, on the surface, to have no shared meaning with the core goal of making everything fit better together for community social advancement. Intelligence binds those ideas together and creates new connections for understanding.”

*John Boles*



*We Shape a Better World*

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