The city of Glasgow has undergone dramatic, and at times traumatic, processes of change and the physical, economic and social outcomes of these processes are imprinted in the urban landscape.

In this discussion we will examine the key dimensions of Glasgow’s urban transformation from the three perspectives of urban morphology and land use; urban economy; and urban society. In the first part we will employ a historical perspective to explain important changes in the physical environment of the city over the period of 1,500 years as the city grew from a small ecclesiastical settlement to an industrial powerhouse. In part two we will consider the forces of urban transformation from an economic perspective, explaining the transition from an industrial to post-industrial city. We will consider the policy response to the forces of economic change ranging from area regeneration initiatives to strategies of post-industrial urbanism. In part three we will examine social changes in the city from the key perspectives of housing, social class, and ethnicity. We will explain the changing nature of housing provision and policy, and identify the geographies of socio-spatial division based on class and ethnic identity.

While the focus of this discussion is on the city of Glasgow the processes underlying urban transformation and their consequences will also be apparent in cities elsewhere.

Michael Pacione
University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, UK)

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Michael Pacione is Professor and Chair of Geography at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK. The principal focus of his research is on understanding the processes and patterns of change in cities and urban regions in the contemporary world. He is an acknowledged authority in the field of urban quality of life research and has published both conceptual and empirical work on the identification, measurement and socio-spatial distribution and effects of differential life quality in contemporary cities. He also has a long-standing research interest in comparative urbanisation and has published a series of city case studies including Rome, Venice, Naples, Vienna, Dubai and Mumbai. His trans-national perspective on contemporary Urban Geography is demonstrated by publication of several books and research papers on the theme, including his internationally acclaimed book on Urban Geography: A Global Perspective. He is also the leading authority on the changing geography of the city of Glasgow.

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