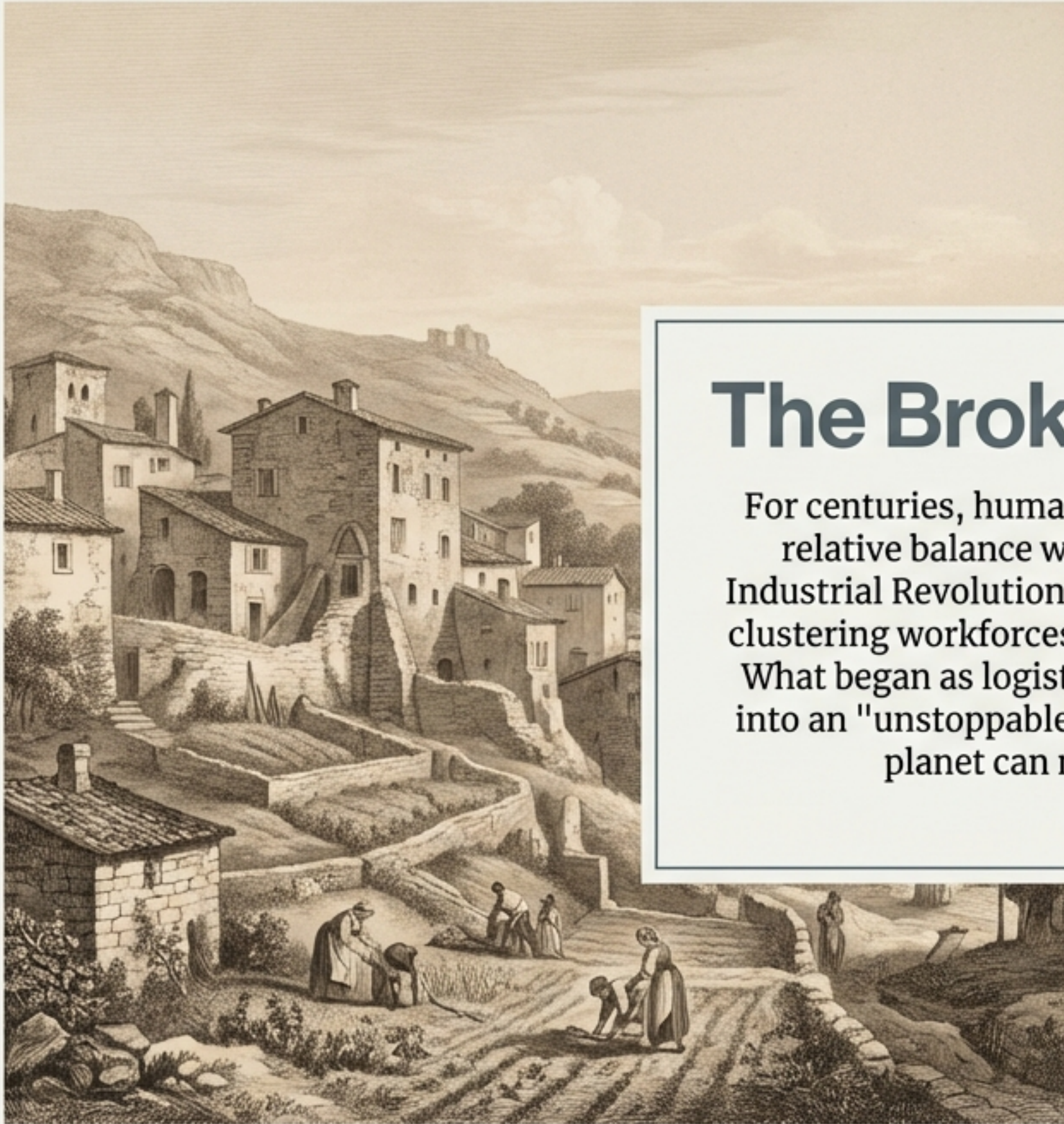




The Human Presidium: Mitigating Climate Change Through Settlement Strategy

Why the Post-Pandemic World Demands a Return to Minor Settlements



The Broken Balance

For centuries, human settlements coexisted in relative balance with their territories. The Industrial Revolution disrupted this equilibrium, clustering workforces around production plants. What began as logistical necessity has spiraled into an "unstoppable" urbanization process the planet can no longer sustain.

Past: Equilibrium

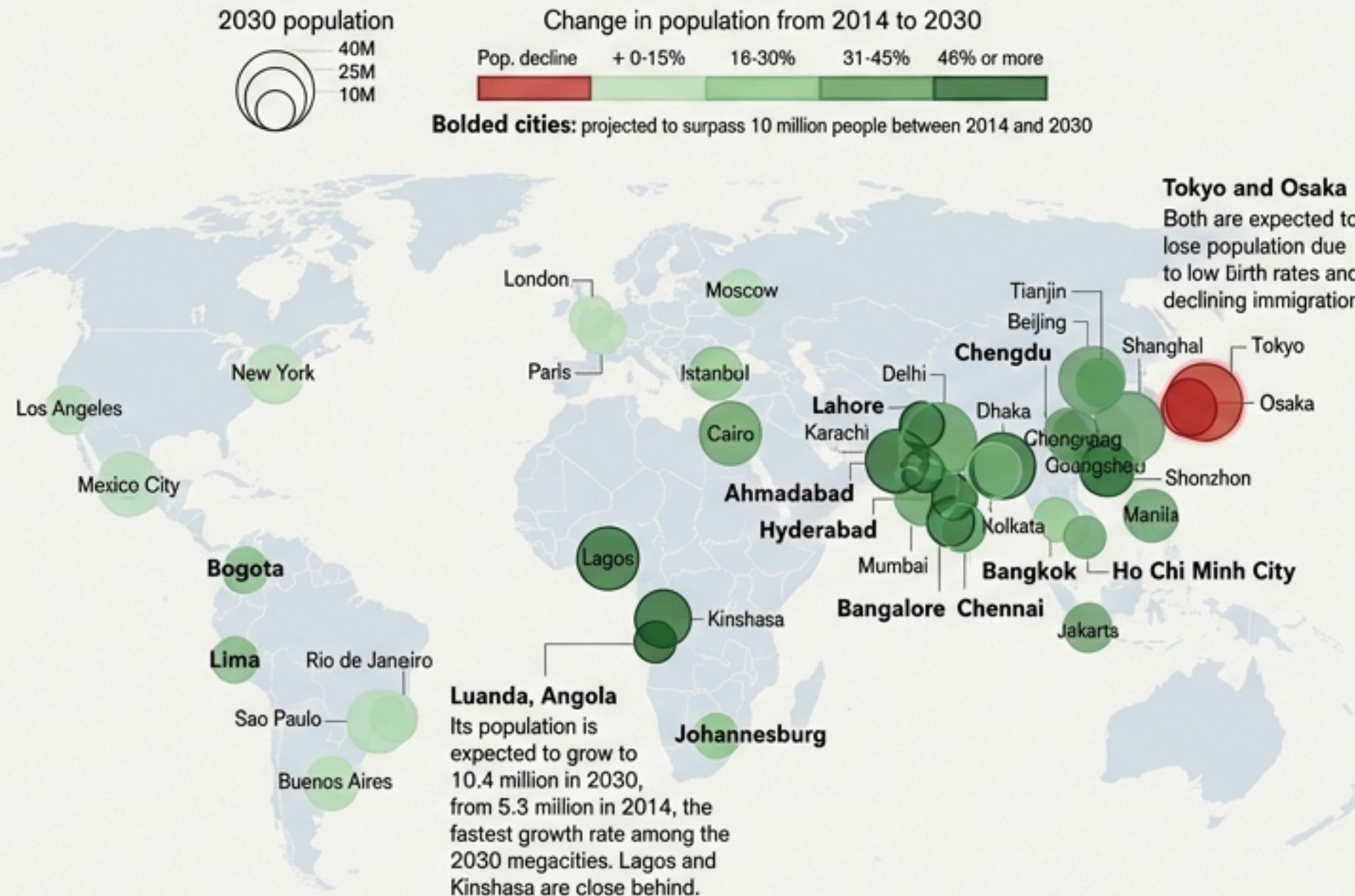
Neue Haas Grotesk Display

Present: Chaos

Neue Haas Grotesk Display

The Myth of the Megalopolis

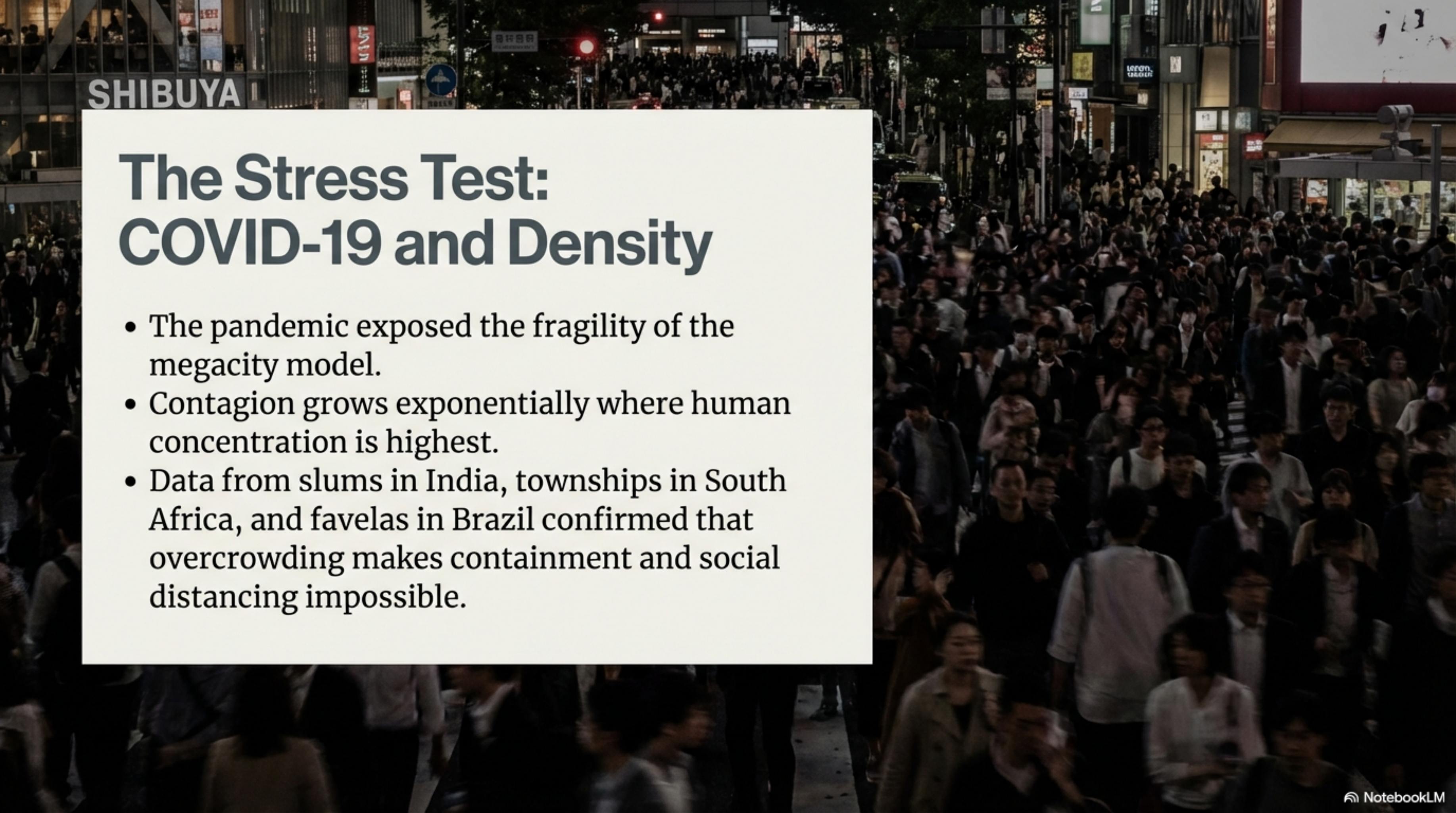
Cities with a projected 2030 population of more than 10 million



2%

Urban areas occupy only 2% of the planet's surface but drive the majority of climate change impact.

The exponential growth of metropolises has led to air, soil, and aquifer pollution that goes far beyond their physical footprint. Despite warnings, the “wild urbanization” process continues without real opposition.



SHIBUYA

The Stress Test: COVID-19 and Density

- The pandemic exposed the fragility of the megacity model.
- Contagion grows exponentially where human concentration is highest.
- Data from slums in India, townships in South Africa, and favelas in Brazil confirmed that overcrowding makes containment and social distancing impossible.



The Great Pause

The global lockdown provided empirical proof: Wild urbanization is the primary driver of environmental degradation.
When commuting stopped, the environment healed.

Smaller settlements demonstrated greater social cohesion and safety during the crisis compared to anonymous metropolitan sprawls.

The 'New Normality' Enablers



The model of maximum proximity between home and work is obsolete. Technology has removed the necessity of living in a metropolis.



**Smart Working
& E-Learning**
Decouples income
from location.



Telemedicine
Provides critical
care to remote
areas.



5G & Logistics
High-speed
connectivity bridges
the service gap.

5G

A New Strategy: The Human Presidium

We need people on the land to protect the land.



“**Presidium**” = A permanent human presence spread over territories acting as guardians.

- Cycle of Care



Ground Retention
(Preventing erosion)



Forest Care
(Reducing fire risk)



Water Regulation
(Maintaining aquifers)

Revamping Minor Settlements

The solution is not building new cities, but revitalizing a network of interconnected small towns and villages. This strategy targets territories suffering from emigration—restoring neglected areas to relieve pressure on megacities.



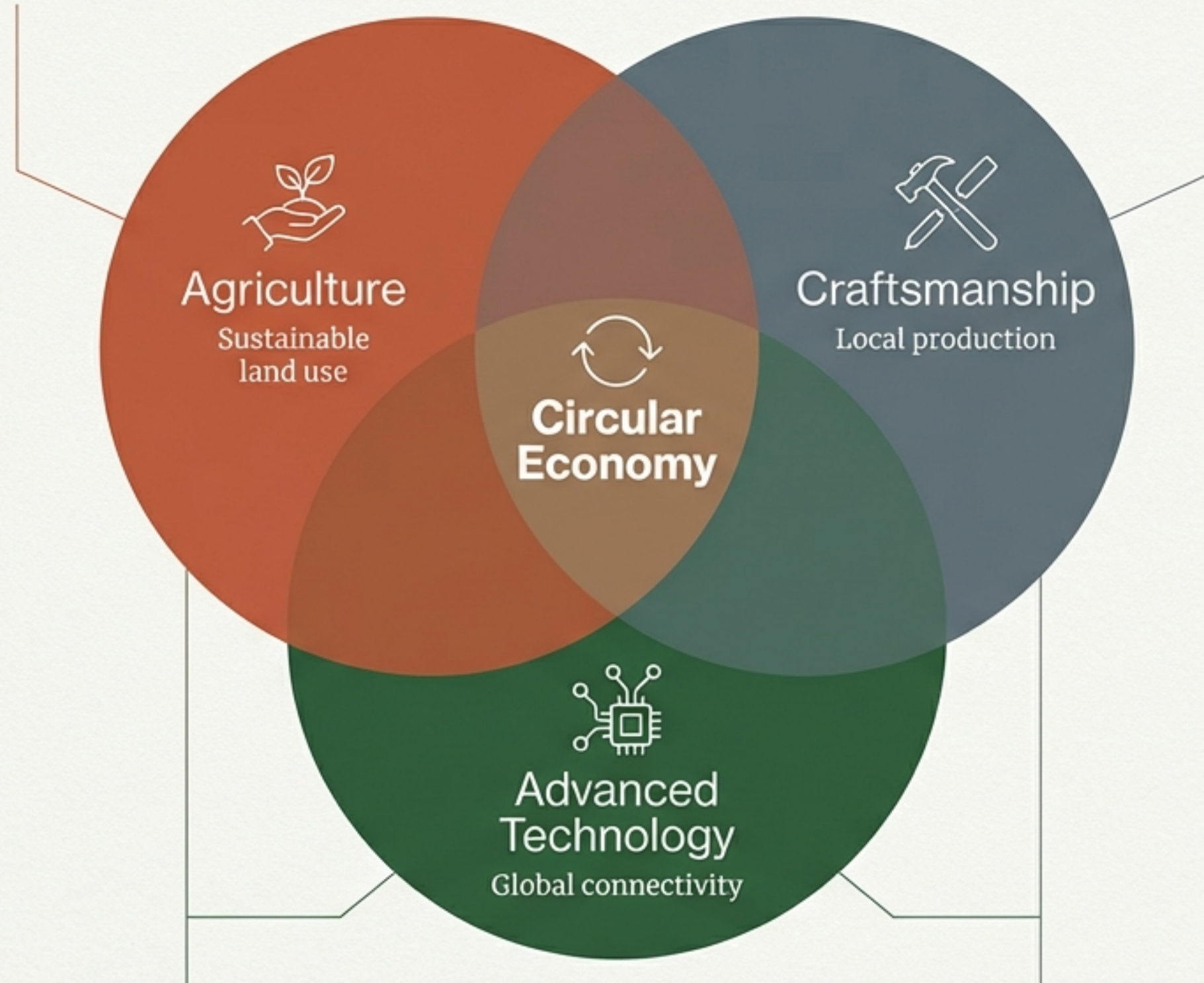
Heritage as a Driver for Sustainability



Urbanization erodes intangible heritage. When villages empty, traditions, skills, and cultural memory vanish.

The Synergy: Repopulating these areas preserves the 'Patrimony' (monuments and landscapes) and the 'Living Culture' (craftsmanship and traditions).

Economic & Social Returns



A holistic strategy of long-term growth that reduces inequalities between urban and rural areas.

The Policy Gap: Beyond Agenda 2030

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**NEEDS OPERATIVE
DETAILS**

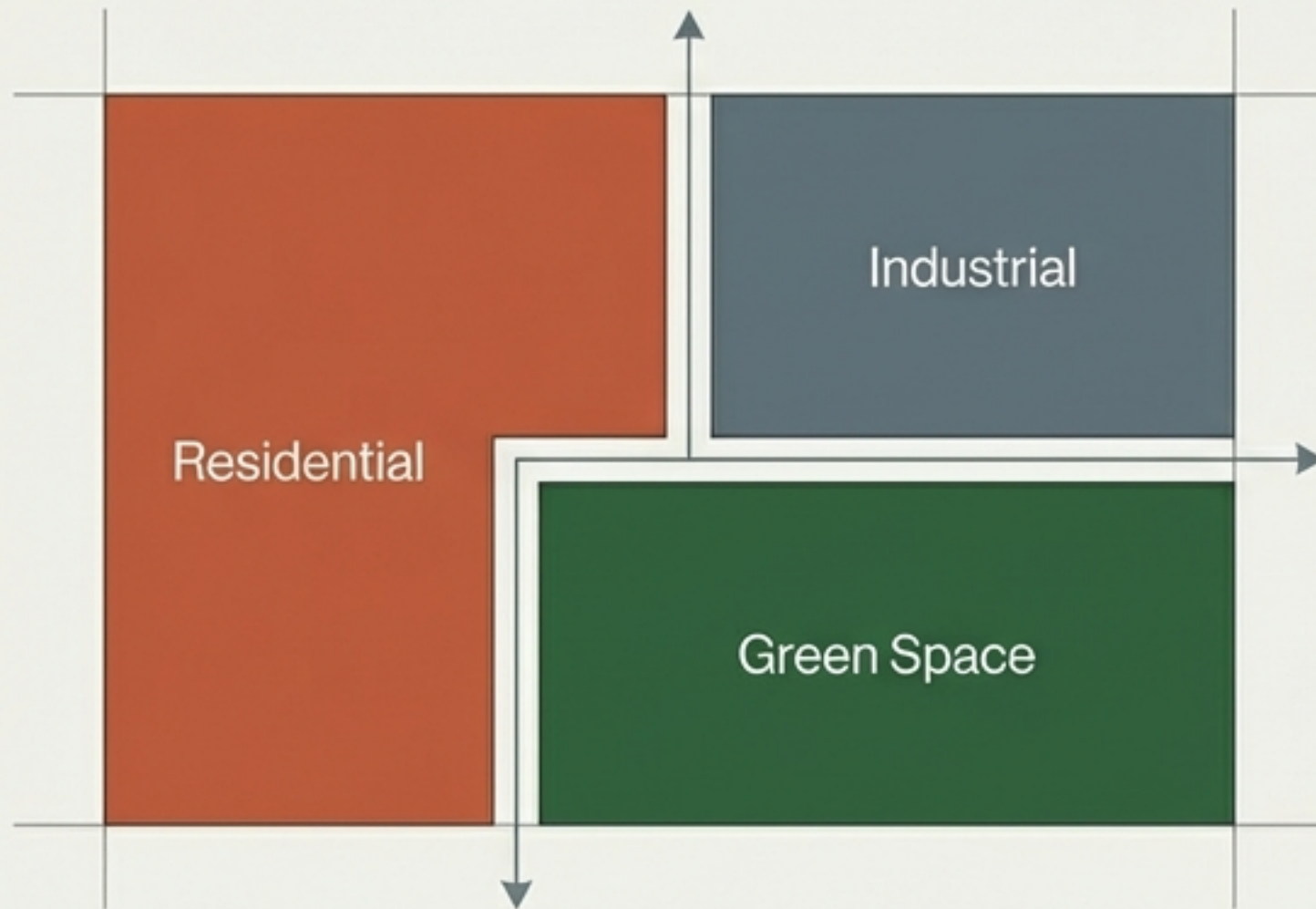


While the UN Sustainable Development Goals are a start, Goal 11 offers general guidelines without specific operative details on ecological quality. We need a strategy to reverse concentration, not just manage it.

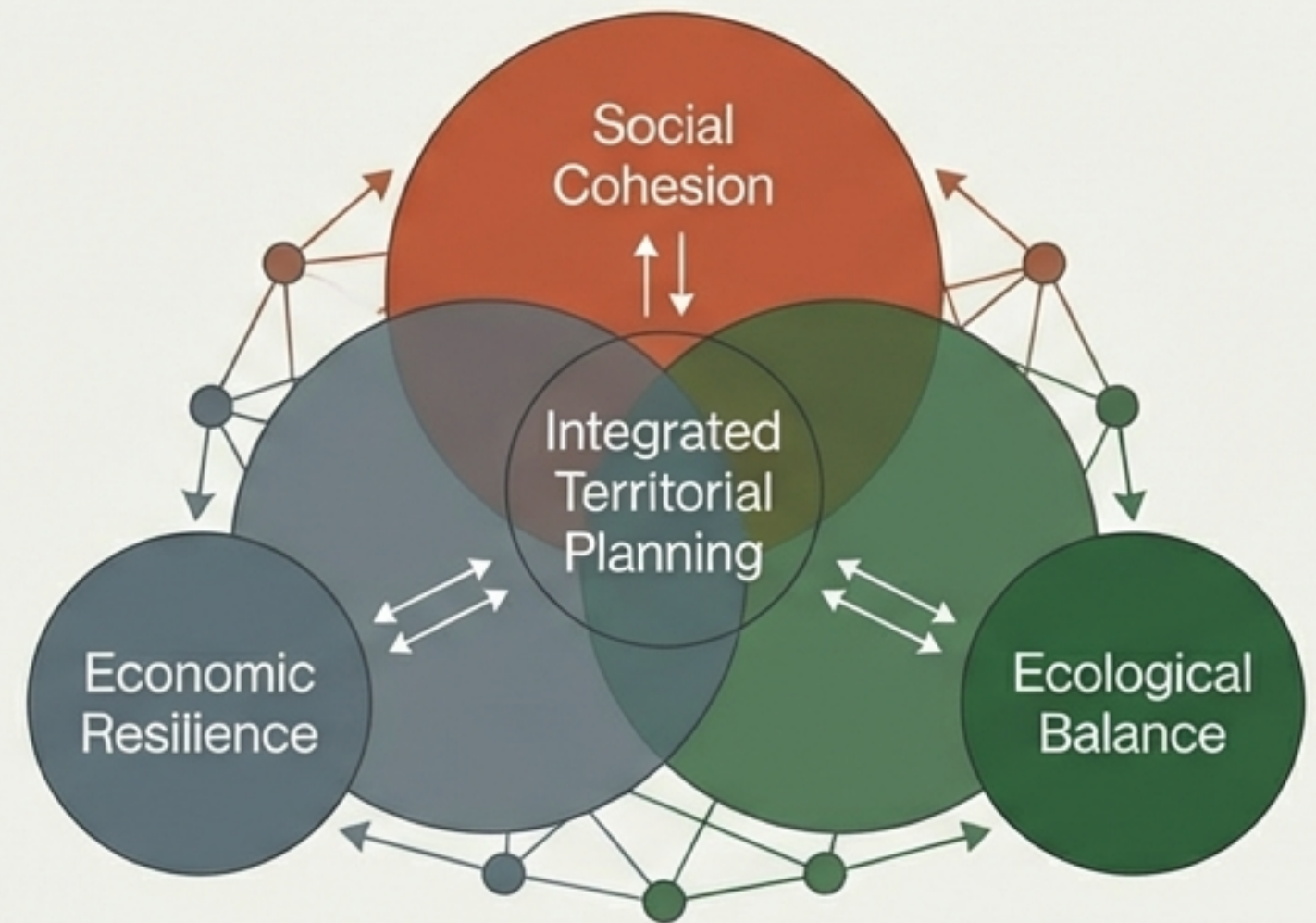


From 'Zoning' to Holistic Planning

Traditional Zoning



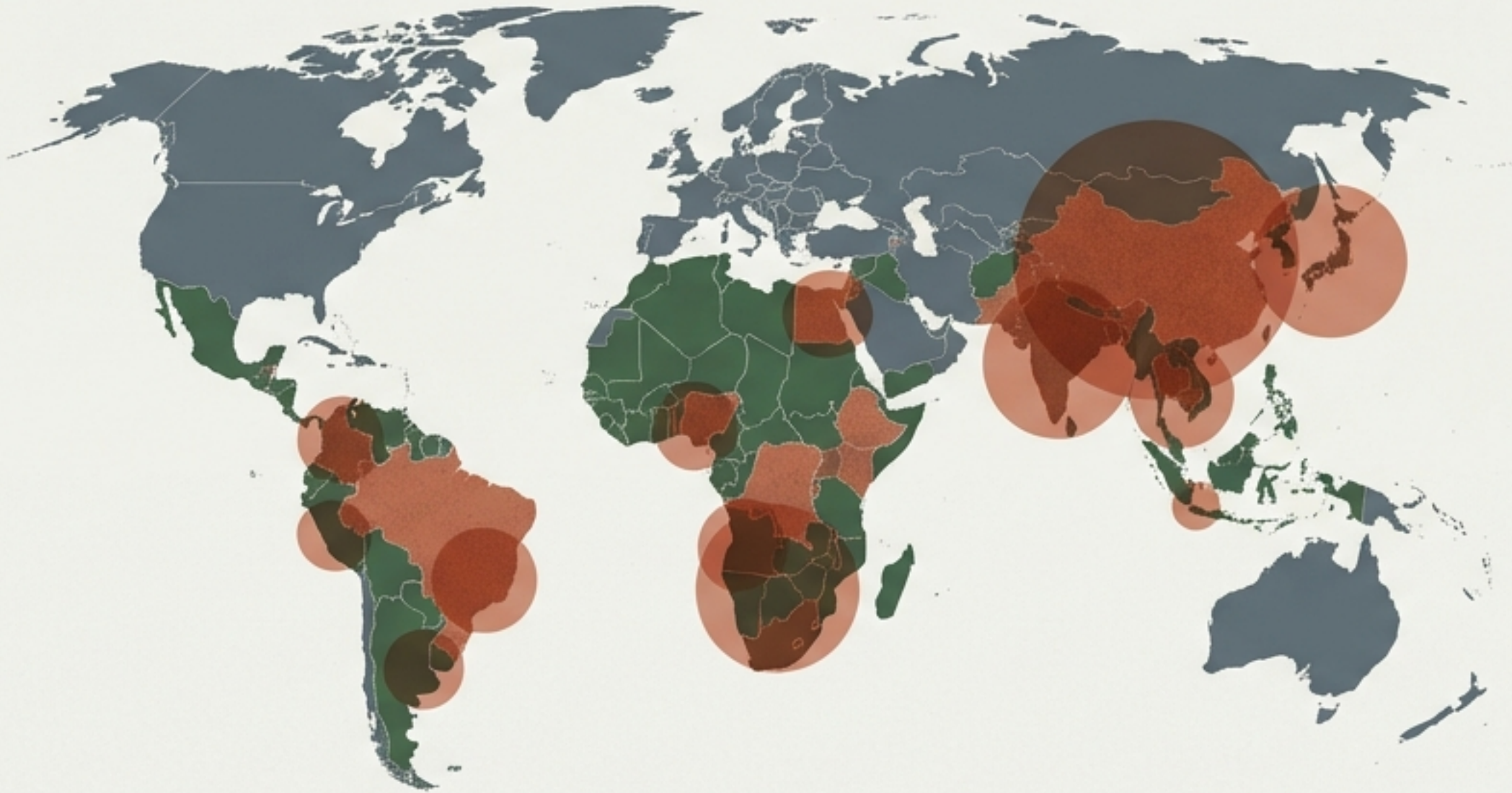
Social Quality Approach (SQA)



Planning must move beyond quantitative tools to the Social Quality Approach. The countryside is not 'empty space'—it is a complementary asset to the city.



A Global Imperative



This strategy is critical for emerging economies. We must avoid repeating the environmental mistakes of Western industrialization by implementing the 'Minor Settlement' model now, preventing the rise of new, unmanageable megalopolises.

The Mandate for ICOMOS

ICOMOS CAN LEAD THE INITIATIVE

Heritage professionals must lead this charge.
ICOMOS & ISCs must promote a global campaign
with UN-HABITAT to raise awareness.

Saving the village = Saving the climate.

Recovering the Lost Balance

Technology + Tradition = Climate Mitigation.

By revaluing traditional typologies and utilizing renewable energy, we secure a shared future.

