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**Angaben zum Ausgangstext**

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Zielgruppe: lecteurs du *Guardian*

Anzahl Wörter: 285 mots

**Angaben zum Zieltext**

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**Erlaubte Hilfsmittel:** Alle (Erlaubt sind elektronische und herkömmliche Wörterbücher sowie   
 Internet zu Recherchezwecken. Die Konsultation von Personen ist nicht   
 erlaubt und führt zum Ausschluss.)

**Übersetzungsauftrag:**

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| *En cette période de crise écologique, les médias du monde entier ont déversé, depuis quelques années, des centaines de compte-rendus polémiques. Cet article de John Vidal, spécialiste de l’environnement au Guardian, pose le problème de l’urbanisation massive et de ses dangers à venir.*  *Veuillez traduire cet extrait remanié pour un support français équivalant au site stwr.org, sur lequel il a paru tout récemment. Vous essaierez de rendre les traits de l’écriture tout en assurant un transfert adéquat des expressions économiques, politiques et environnementales dont le discours est émaillé.* |

**The endless city**

**((grau: nur zur Info, nicht übersetzen))** Get used to it. The future is urban and in 50 years’ it may be weird to find people living in the countryside. The UN planet-watchers have found not just that we are becoming an urban species but that the world’s cities are growing and merging with each other, forming vast “megaregions.” These giants are already sprawling across borders and becoming homes to 100 million or more people. Today just over one half of us live in urban areas. By 2050 it will be 7 in 10 and eventually the city will take over.

**((Ab hier übersetzen))** UN-Habitat’s biennial cities report says urbanization is now unstoppable and we should prepare to live in “the endless city.” Outwardly, the development of these megaregions makes economic and environmental sense. They cover just a fraction of the habitable surface of the earth but are home to nearly 20% of the world’s population. They account for 66% of all economic activity and about 85% of technological and scientific innovation. The top 25 account for more than half of the world’s wealth, and the five largest cities in India and China now account for 50% of those countries’ wealth. They lead development and provide work for the masses, and the money earned in them is sent back and supports the country areas. Cities, in short, are the cradles of culture and wealth and will allow earth to accommodate a further three billion people.

This view is backed by writers like British academic and author Owen Hatherley: “Super cities have always horrified environmentalists but they shouldn’t. With their relatively short distances easily served by public transport, they are in fact greener than the countryside; a recent academic report estimated that cities produce less than two-fifths of greenhouse gas emissions. What is worrying about the ‘endless city’ is that it may lack the public spaces and networks that make urban life superior.

Besides, urban living depends on enormous resource consumption. The characteristic of a truly sustainable city is, first and foremost, that it powers itself entirely by means of renewable energy systems. In nature, waste materials are absorbed beneficially back into the local environment as nutrients. Cities don’t do that. They work by way of taking resources from one place and dumping them somewhere else causing damage to nature.

**((grau: nur zur Info, nicht übersetzen))** Wouldn’t life be intolerable without contact with nature? Couldn’t the vast city disconnected from the natural world and impossible to leave, become a vast prison with potentially terrible consequences for both human society and the planet itself?

John Vidal is the Guardian’s environment editor.

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