The Sub-Saharan African City Model is also called the De Blij Model because De Blij, a famous geographer, created this. The tropics of Africa remain under forty percent urbanized and outside this area, the remaining regions are about fifty-seven percent urban. Africa has the world’s fastest growing cities, and the impact that European Colonialism has had is clearly evident. The Europeans created prominent urban centers including ports along the coast. Africa also has certain cities that are neither traditional nor colonial such as South Africa’s major urban centers that are mostly Western, with elements of European and American models, including high-rise central business districts and suburbs. Due to the diversity of its cities, it is complicated to develop an African City Model.

The central city is found to have three central business districts (CBDs): a remnant of the colonial CBD, an informal and periodic market zone, and a transitional business center where commerce happens from the curbside or storefronts. The former colonial CBD has vertical development, the traditional business center is usually a zone of single-story buildings with a touch of traditional architecture, and the market zone is open-air, informal (economically), and yet important. Sector
development is the encircling zone of ethnic and mixed neighborhoods, in which people have strong ethnic identities. Mining and manufacturing zones are found next to some parts of these ethnic neighborhoods. On the outermost part of many African cities, there are informal satellite townships, which are squatter settlements. These squatter settlements consist of poor neighborhoods, or shantytowns, in which people make home anywhere that is possible or open, no matter if it is public or private.

Note:
- this reflects the nature of Africa's development. Of the three CBDs, the colonial reflects the past
- the mining and manufacturing areas reflect the nature of the types of jobs found in African cities
- the lack of an mentioned areas of elite, middle-class and gentrification tells something as well
- the small colonial CBD reflects a lack of development since that is the area of the formal economy and TNCs (transnational corps)
- the ethnic hoods reflect the tribalism that exists
- the informal satellite townships means the poor who have moved in close to the city
- the lack of any other class getting mentioned reflects the poverty of the area