新冠“后遗症”：大城市里的穷人将被迫离开

2020.12.06

**Why the urban poor will be forced to leave big cities**

**大城市里的穷人为何将会被迫离开？**

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As the poor leave, some young people (though maybe not enough) will replace them, because the metropolis remains the ideal place to start a career and play the mating game. Underused central business districts and shops will eventually be converted into homes, which will make housing cheaper and cities even more fun.

Big cities will rebound. A decade from now, low-paid service workers will fill poorer urban neighbourhoods once more. Then cities will again have to choose their response. Make these people's lives bearable by instituting a local minimum wage? Automate poorly paid functions like cleaning, care and cappuccino-making? Build cheap housing for essential workers? Or exploit yet another generation of the urban precariat?

译文：

当人们猜测新冠大流行会给大城市带来怎样的改变时，他们大多谈论的是“Zoom群体”逃离大城市。然而，目前为止，却没有多少迹象说明他们正在逃离。相反，随着疫情进入“大规模致贫”阶段，另一种发展趋势看起来更有可能：那些新近沦为穷人的人将会离开大城市。这种人口撤离可能会在未来几年重塑城市生活。

随着穷人离开，一些年轻人将会取代他们（虽然可能人数不够），因为大城市仍然是开启职业生涯和择偶的理想之地。没得到充分利用的中心商业区和商店最终将会转化为住宅，房价会因此降低，城市也会有更多乐趣。

大城市势必复兴。十年后，低收入的服务业工作者将会再次填满那些较为贫穷的城市社区。那时，这些城市将不得不再度选择如何回应：它们会制定当地最低工资标准，好让这些人的生活能过得去吗？会使诸如清洁、护理和制作卡布奇诺这样的低收入工作实现自动化吗？会为从事必要工作的人建造廉价房吗？还是会再次剥削城市中又一波没有“铁饭碗”的穷人？

生词好句

1.the poor

穷人

拓展:

poor UK /pɔː/ US /pʊr/

adj. 贫穷的

the rich 富人

the privileged 特权阶层

the less privileged 弱势群体

2.speculate

英 [ˈspekjəleɪt] 美 [ˈspekjəleɪt]

v. 主观推测，臆测

拓展:

It is speculated that... 据推测......，据说......

3.the Zooming classes

通过远程在线沟通就能正常工作的群体

拓展:

zoom UK /zuːm/ US /zuːm/

vi. 快速移动

zoom in 拉近景；放大画面

zoom out 拉远景；缩小画面

zoom in on sth. 关注......（focus on sth.）

The article zoomed in on the life of a delivery man.

这篇文章把关注的焦点对准了一个快递员的生活。

文中的Zoom是指在疫情期间迅速火遍全球的一款视频会议工具，类似于腾讯会议。

4.flee

英 [fliː] 美 [fliː]

vt. 逃离（不好的事物）(run away from something or some place）

5.the Big Smoke

泛指大城市

6.modest signs of sth.

没有多少迹象表明......

拓展:

There are only modest signs of Chinese export shrinking.

没有多少迹象表明中国出口出现萎缩。

no sign of sth. 没有......的迹象

modest UK /ˈmɒdɪst/ US /ˈmɑːdɪst/

adj. 些许的，不太多的

7.mass-impoverishment

大规模致贫

拓展:

poverty UK /ˈpɒvəti/ US /ˈpɑːvərti/

n. 贫困

impoverishment

UK /ɪmˈpɒvərɪʃmənt/ US /ɪmˈpɑːvərɪʃmənt/

n. 致贫

impoverish vt. 使贫困，使枯竭

The pandemic has impoverished a large number of people.

疫情致使很多人陷入了贫困。

8.exodus

英 [ˈeksədəs] 美 [ˈeksədəs]

n. 大规模的人口迁移（a mass departure or emigration）

拓展:

Exodus是圣经中的一个篇章，即"出埃及记"，讲的是以色列人在先知摩西的带领下离开埃及、摆脱奴隶身份，前往上帝应许之地的故事。

9.reshape

英 [ˌriːˈʃeɪp] 美 [ˌriːˈʃeɪp]

vt. 重塑；重新改变……的形状

10.ideal place

理想之地

11.underused

英 [ˌʌndəˈjuːzd] 美 [ˌʌndərˈjuːzd]

adj. 没有充分利用的

拓展:

underestimate

UK /ˌʌndəˈestɪmeɪt/ US /ˌʌndərˈestəmeɪt/

v. 低估

estimate vt. 评估，评价

understatement

UK /ˌʌndəˈsteɪtmənt/ US /ˌʌndərˈsteɪtmənt/

n. 保守克制的表述，轻描淡写

statement n. 陈述，说法

\* under作为词缀时，表示"不充足，不充分的"

12.response

英 [rɪˈspɒns] 美 [rɪˈspɑːns]

n. 反应

拓展:

respond UK /rɪˈspɒnd/ US /rɪˈspɑːnd/

v. 反应

13.bearable

英 [ˈbeərəbəl] 美 [ˈberəbəl]

adj. 能够忍受的，差强人意的，过得去的

拓展:

bear vt. 忍受

14.institute

英 [ˈɪnstɪtʃuːt] 美 [ˈɪnstətuːt]

vt. 制定；实行；n. 承担某种特定职能的机构或组织

拓展:

institute a new payment policy 实行新的薪酬政策

institute an investigation into sth. 对某事进行调查

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) 麻省理工学院

15.minimum wage

最低工资标准

16.essential worker

必要工作者（key worker）

拓展:

essential UK /ɪˈsenʃəl/ US /ɪˈsenʃəl/

adj. 必不可少的，非常重要的

17.the precariat

岌岌可危阶级，朝不保夕族，不稳定无产者

拓展:

precarious

UK /prɪˈkeəriəs/ US /prɪˈkeriəs/

adj. 不稳定的，摇摇欲坠的

the proletariat 无产阶级，工人阶级

原文：

Why the urban poor will be forced to leave big cities

BY Simon Kuper

@Financial Times

Thankfully, the drummer in the flat above us has moved out. I'm guessing he couldn't afford central Paris once gigs melted away. Our corner café is boarded up and more will follow, given the city's new 9pm curfew. There are queues at the food bank opposite my office.

When people speculate about how the pandemic will change big cities, they mostly talk about the Zooming classes fleeing the Big Smoke. Yet there are only modest signs of this happening so far. Rather, as the pandemic enters its mass-impoverishment phase, another development looks more likely: the new poor will leave big cities. This is the exodus that could reshape urban life in the coming years. "We have entered a new epoch. We are not fully capable of seeing that," says Saskia Sassen of Columbia University, the urbanist who coined the term "global city".

Long before the pandemic struck, many poorer urbanites were just hanging on, not living even a downscale version of the Dick Whittington dream of coming to the city and making their fortunes. In New York City in 2018, 29 per cent of all households had incomes of $30,000 or less. Most renters in that category spent the bulk of their income on housing, calculates New York University's Furman Center. Similarly, millions of Londoners overpaid for cramped flats, long commutes and bad weather. London has Britain's highest incomes but lowest life satisfaction, reports the Office for National Statistics.

The working classes weren't the only ones suffering. So were "probably a majority of residents of most of our cities", says Sassen. "Half the middle classes are richer than they ever thought they would be, and half are poorer."

When urbanites first lost their jobs this spring, many sat it out hoping for a swift recovery. Now it's clear that low-wage industries like tourism, restaurants, bars, shopping and the arts (a big employer of the bohemian proletariat) won't revive anytime soon. If you lose your job in a small town you can probably afford to stay put, but not in premium cities. Falling demand in New York and San Francisco is already pushing down rents.

London's population will surely decline from this year's all-time peak of 9.3 million. Many immigrants will return to their native countries, predicts Ben Rogers, director of the Centre for London think-tank, who notes that half the city's workers in the accommodation and food-services sector last year were non-Britons. If you're unemployed, you want to be paying Romanian rather than London rents. Some younger people will rediscover their childhood bedrooms.

London's worst-hit area might be Hounslow: nearly a third of the borough's residents have jobs that depend directly or indirectly on now semi-abandoned Heathrow airport, warns Hounslow Council. Outer west London is generally vulnerable to economic damage from Covid-19, says the UK's Institute for Fiscal Studies. Next, Brexit takes effect.

One possible scenario for big cities is shrinkage. In the 1970s, New York City lost 800,000 residents and much of its tax base. Expect ballooning social problems and possibly crime.

Compared with the damage from the new poor leaving, working from home should hurt cities less. The metropolis is losing some of its workplace function, but after the pandemic it will regain its networking and playground functions. That means that living in Manhattan, central London or Paris will remain attractive. In fact, these places just keep getting nicer as they push out cars. No wonder that house prices — at or near record levels in London and Paris — have held up better than rents. A homebuyer has a 20- or 30-year horizon, whereas a renter typically plans for two or three years at most. It's hard to imagine London shrinking for decades, as it did from 1951 through 1991.

Most well-off urbanites will ride out the pandemic, paying rock-bottom interest rates to work from home (or "live at work", as Miranda Sharp, a trustee at the Centre for Cities, says). A minority of the middle class may have to sell — airline pilots, marketing and advertising executives, conference organisers and the like — but there's an almost endless supply of rich people around the world waiting to buy pads in top-tier cities.

As the poor leave, some young people (though maybe not enough) will replace them, because the metropolis remains the ideal place to start a career and play the mating game. Underused central business districts and shops will eventually be converted into homes, which will make housing cheaper and cities even more fun.

Big cities will rebound. Mining towns in northern England didn't, but they had only one industry whereas a big city has many. A decade from now, low-paid service workers will fill poorer urban neighbourhoods once more. Then cities will again have to choose their response. Make these people's lives bearable by instituting a local minimum wage, like the $15 an hour that New York City introduced for all employees on December 31, weeks before the pandemic struck? Automate poorly paid functions like cleaning, care and cappuccino-making? Build cheap housing for essential workers such as nurses and police officers? Or exploit yet another generation of the urban precariat?

2020Financial Times