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Problems of Shrinking Cities in the USA, on the Basis of Providence, RI - Social and Economic Effects

The world population is still growing and reached in 2011 a number of 7 billion people. Despite the growing process cities all over the world have to struggle with shrinking processes. The reasons for shrinking and the problems of shrinking cities differ around the world.

This bachelor thesis concentrates on the shrinking process in Providence, Rhode Island a city in the North East of the USA. Providence lost during the 20th century about 100,000 inhabitants. The main intention of this thesis is to define the shrinking process in Providence and to display the current effects of the shrinking process.

The first part is a definition of the shrinking phenomenon in the USA and an analysis of the historical development in the city Providence. These basic information are important to understand the shrinking process in Providence. The next step is an analysis of the current situation in Providence on the basis of data from The United States Census Bureau and from The Providence Plan.

The analysis shows that there occur several economic and social problems in Providence. The loss of population in the middle of the 20th century has a great influence on the current economic and social situation. This thesis names the several problems and helps to understand their origin.