# FROM NADAR TO SPOT - A REVIEW OF REMOTE SENSING OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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## ABSTRACT

The use of remote sensing for the analysis of human settlements dates back to 1858 when Nadar used a camera carried aloft in a balloon to study parts of the city of paris. With the launching of the SPOT satellite in 1986 the newest tool was added to an existing array of sophisticated sensors.

This paper traces the use of remote sensing in studies of human settlements from Nadar up to and including studies using SPOT data. Conventional black and white photographic sensors are treated initially, followed by advanced photographic techniques, including colour, colour infrared and multiband photographs, non-photographic sensors such as the side looking airborne radar, the Landsat series of satellites, and finally SPOT itself. The trend of the paper is from less sophisticated sensors at large image scales to more sophisticated at small scales, giving a selected analysis of many reported applications in the study of human settlements.