

# Light, shade



NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY/MICHALA GARRISON

■ **Earth's nights are getting brighter overall, but the changes vary dramatically by region. Rapid urban growth is lighting up countries like China and India, while parts of Europe are dimming due to energy-saving efforts and new lighting technologies. The most detailed analysis yet at Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany shows these shifts happening faster and more unevenly than expected. Even global trends can mask sharp local contrasts, from war-related blackouts or reductions in light pollution.**