

GEOG 220

Place, Space & Identity

Alan Nash

Shock City

Today's class

Welcome – today we are going to continue talking about cities – last time we thought about cities and their spaces – economic, social, gendered and even via the senses

Today I want to explore some broader ideas of what it is to be in a city.....

Lets start today with
some quotes from one
of the latest books on
the city ...

Ben Wilson: Metropolis: A History of the City, Humankind's Greatest Invention (Toronto: Anchor Canada 2021 paperback edition) the quotes are from Chapter 9, “The Gates of Hell? Manchester and Chicago, 1830-1914.pp215-219.

“In the Manchester of the 1840s over 500 chimneys exhaled a black blanket of coal smoke, powering new technologies of mass production ... such a city had never been seen before.”

“Like Manchester, Chicago’s cityscape ... was nineteenth-century industrialism made manifest.”

“Manchester and Chicago were the “shock cities” of the nineteenth century. They heralded, it appeared, not only the Industrial Revolution. As such, they were avidly studied to divine humanity’s future.”

“In 1800 barely 5% of the global population was urbanised, Between 1850 and 1950, while the global population expanded 2.5 times, the urban population grew 20 times. By 1950 30% of humans were city-dwellers; today the world’s cities are home to 4.2 billion.”

“Every hour, eighty-five people move to Lagos, and fifty-three to Shanghai. ... These places are claustrophobic ... but they offer hope.”

“Slum life might have been rough and unhealthy; but then as now, it offered a better standard of living opportunities than the countryside”.

“Shock cities”

I first came across the term “shock city” in the textbook that we once used for this course

the authors (Paul Knox and Sallie Marston) used the term “shock city” and it is one that I have found useful to start thinking about cities

Definition of “shock city”

- According to Knox and Marston (*Human Geography*, 2016 p 376) they define the term “shock city: as
 - “a city that is seen as the embodiment of surprising and disturbing changes in economic, social, and cultural lives”

Key to the definition

- The key, or core, of this definition is the idea of surprising and disturbing change
- We may like it, we might not – but the city has the potential to shock us
 - We never know what is around the next corner
- [recall idea of “sublime”= awe and wonder”
- [now lets add the idea of “frisson” ...

Some thoughts – and no answers!

- Are all cities “shock cities”?
 - Idea of urbanism in general as an important cultural force
- Would a city have to be large [in terms of population] to be a "shock city"??

I'd say no – it's not population size that makes a city "a shock city" – it is more than that. A city has to be an important site of cultural and economic change – and that doesn't necessarily mean it has to be big in population

Or – to put this another way – small cities {in population} CAN have a very big impact

Of course – not all
small cities will – but
then again not all big
cities do either

And we can all think of
big cities that are dull
and lifeless .

So – the point is that at any one time, there are a number of cities that are the driver of change.

For the 19thC, Knox and Marston suggest that there were two – Manchester, England and Chicago – and these were drivers at the heart of the world system

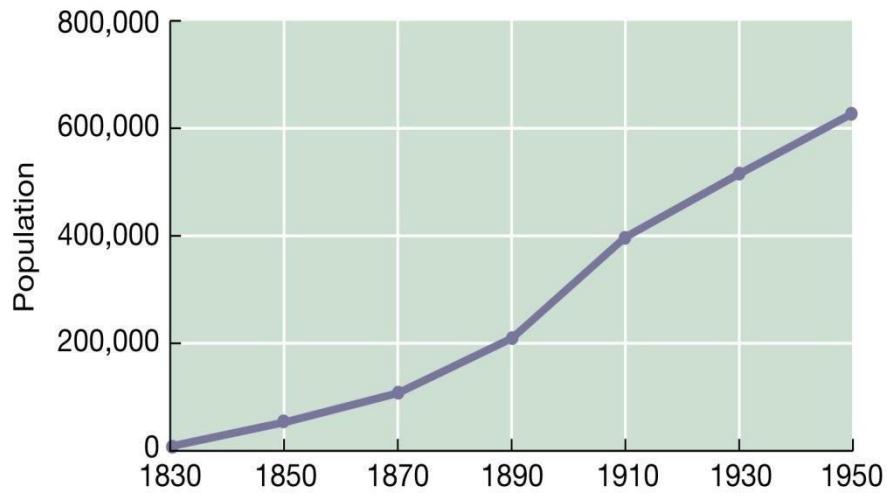
Shock City: Manchester



Working-class
Housing



Manchester Cotton Mill

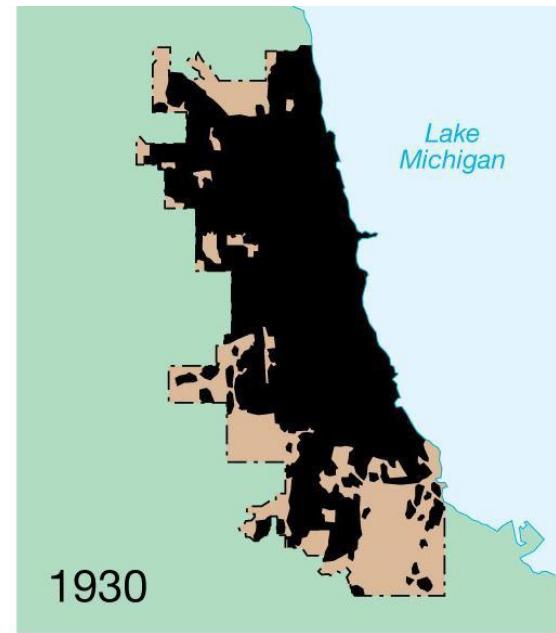
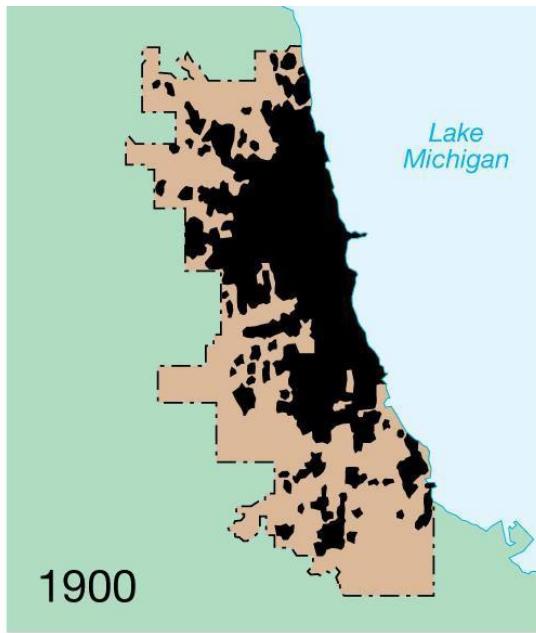


Manchester's Rapid Growth

Manchester

- “One day I walked with one of those middle-class gentlemen into Manchester. I spoke with him about the disgraceful unhealthy slums ... he remarked “And yet there is a great deal of money to be made here”.”
 - Friedrich Engels *The Condition of the Working Class in England 1844*

Shock City: Chicago



Chicago's population grew from under 30,000 in 1850 to 500,000 in 1880, 1.7 million in 1900, and 3.3 million in 1930.

Chicago

Chicago

Hog-butcher for the World,

Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat

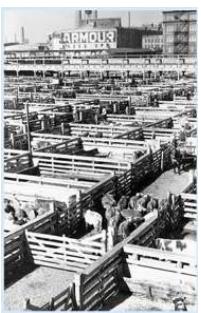
Player with Railroads and the Nation's

Freight Handler;

Stormy, husky, brawling,

City of the Big Shoulders ...

Carl Sandburg, 1916.



When Chicago was first incorporated as a city in 1837, its population was only 4200. Its growth followed the arrival of the railroads, which made the city a major transportation hub. By the 1860s, lake vessels were carrying iron ore from the Upper Michigan ranges to the city's blast furnaces, and railroads were hauling cattle, hogs, and sheep to the city for slaughtering and packing. The city's prime geographical situation also made it the nation's major lumber distributing centre by the 1880s.



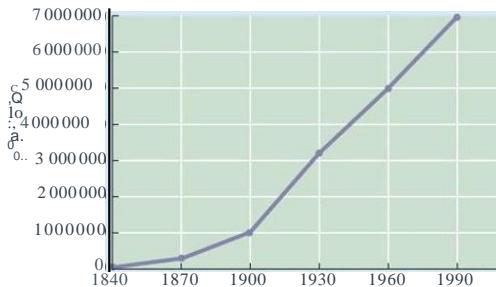
Chicago announced its prosperity through elaborate skyscrapers and towers. The Tribune Tower, shown here, was built in Gothic Revival style and based on the winning entry in an international design competition organized by the Chicago Tribune in 1922. The city has regarded itself ever since as a sponsor of landmark architecture.

Hog-butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat
Player with Railroads and the Nation's
Freight Handler;
Sorrows, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders.

Carl Sandburg, 1916

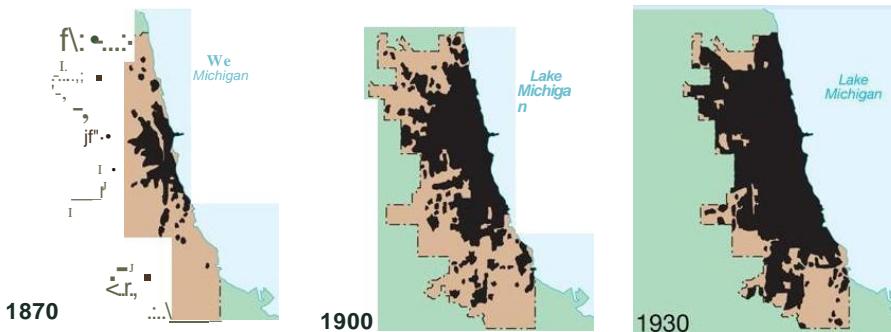


Chicago's immigrant and African-American neighbourhoods were an entirely new urban phenomenon—highly segregated and with very distinctive social and cultural attributes. The 1880 and 1890 censuses showed that more than three-quarters of Chicago's population was made up of foreign-born immigrants and their children. These photographs of ethnic neighbourhoods in Chicago's Southside were taken in 1941.



Immigrants from Europe fuelled Chicago's phenomenal early growth.

CHICAGO



In 1870, when Manchester was already a thriving metropolis, Chicago was at the beginning of a period of explosive growth. A year later, nine square kilometres (3.5 square miles) of the city, including the business district, were destroyed by fire. They were rebuilt rapidly, with prosperous industrialists taking the opportunity to build impressive new structures in the downtown area. The city's economic and social elite colonized the Lake Michigan shore, while heavy industry, warehouses, and railyards crowded the banks of the Chicago River, stretching northwestward from the city centre. To the south of the city centre were the Union Stockyards and a pocket of heavy industry where the Calumet River met Lake Michigan. All around were the homes of working families, in neighbourhoods that spread rapidly outward as wave after wave of immigrants arrived in the city.

Shock cities of today - Lagos

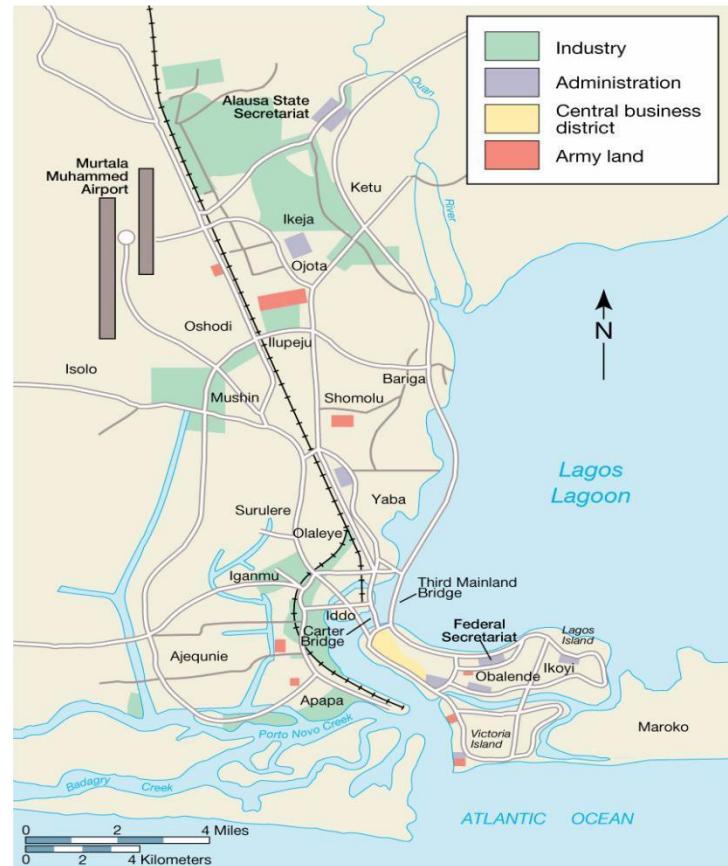
Knox and Marston suggest that Lagos in Nigeria is an example of today's shock city in the periphery of the world system

Shock City of Periphery: Lagos, Nigeria



^ Kate Adikiwe

Unplanned and irregular growth, with natural setting restricting efficient development. >



The Growth of the City: Lagos, Nigeria

By 2010 population of Lagos estimated at over 12 million



The cityscape on Lagos Island reflects both residential congestion and the postcolonial development of the city as a peripheral metropolis with important corporate functions.

Copyright © 2010 Pearson Education Canada

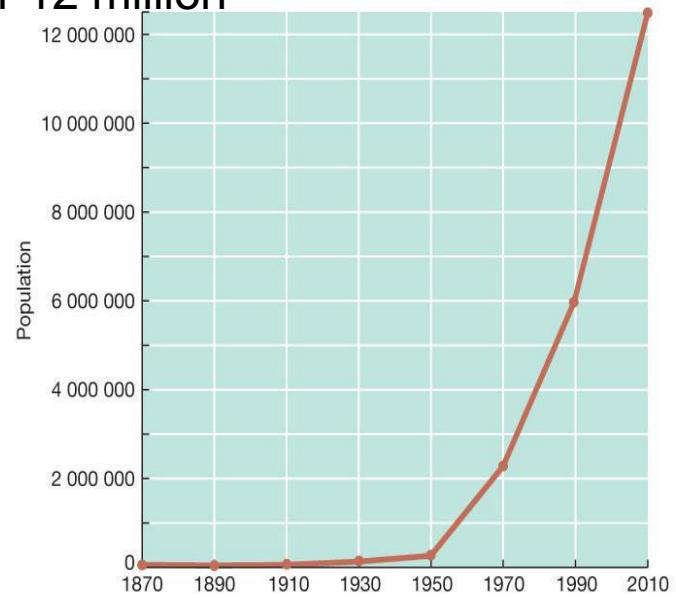


Figure 11.2.2 The growth of the city Population growth has far outstripped the city's capacity to deal with the daily movement of people, a problem that is worsened because the central city is trapped on an island site, with limited access by road bridges.

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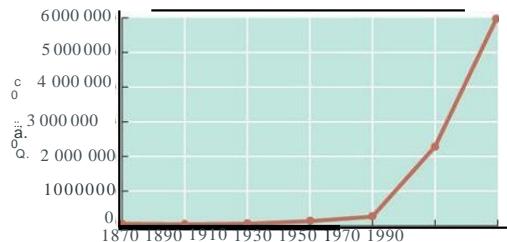
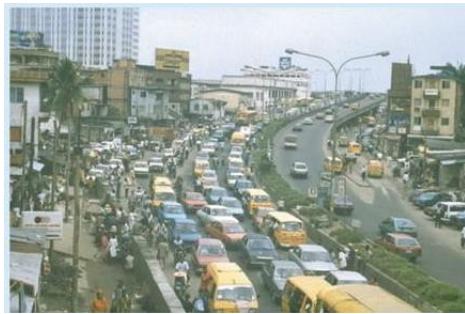


Figure 11.2.2 The growth of the city Lagos, like most metropolises in the world's periphery, grew relatively slowly until quite recently. The combination of the demographic transition, political independence, and an economic boom stimulated by the discovery of oil reserves in southeastern Nigeria triggered an explosive growth in population. Because of its difficult site on sand spits and lagoons, this growth has resulted in an irregular sprawl and, in the central area, a density of population that is higher than that of Manhattan Island in New York.



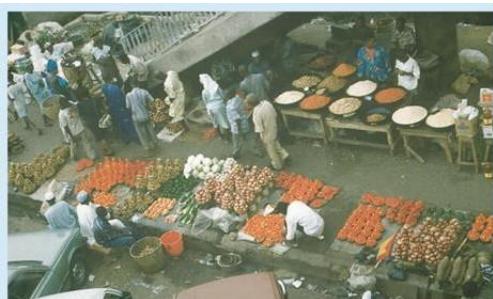
Population growth has far outstripped the city's capacity to deal with the daily movement of people, a problem that is worsened because the central city is trapped on an island site, with limited access by road bridges.



Overwhelmed by an unprecedented rate of urbanization, an economy that cannot provide regularly paid employment for a significant proportion of its residents, and a municipal government that has neither the financial resources nor the personnel to deal with the problems, Lagos has become emblematic of the problems of overurbanization. Shanty housing is a direct consequence of widespread poverty; open sewers are a consequence of limited or nonexistent municipal resources.



LAGOS



For many people, life in the unintended metropolis is a matter of survival. This leads to a tremendous variety of informal economic activities, from street vending to home-brewed beer, and from prostitution to drug peddling. The photograph on the left shows the most common form of informal activity: street trading, which takes place on almost every unoccupied sidewalk, street, or unclaimed space. The photograph on the right shows an outdoor laundry whose workers have temporarily invaded a lagoon shore boatyard.



Shock City: Lagos

- The city of Lagos (Nigeria) operates as a *shock city* of the present day. In many ways, it operates by
 - Creating new spaces for people to function
 - By people spotting new spaces to function
 - These spaces are not always obvious to us, or “very nice” spaces to be, but
- According to Rem Koolhaas, Lagos can create new places and spaces (his Harvard project on Lagos is reported in his 2007 book 'Lagos: How It works' and video documentary "Lagos – Wide and Close")

Lagos

- “The really disturbing thing about Lagos’s pickers and vendors is that their lives have essentially nothing to do with ours. They scavenge an existence beyond the margins of macroeconomics. They are, in the harsh terms of globalization, superfluous.” (George Packer 2006)
- Lagos is not “a kind of backward situation, but an announcement of the future.” (Rem Koolhaas 2007)

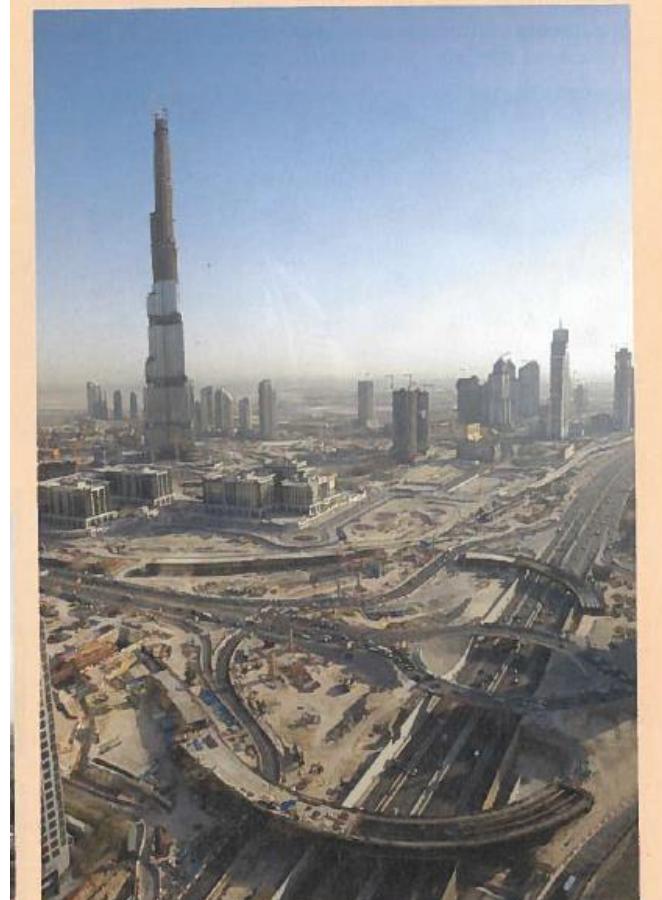
So just as Manchester and Chicago may have been shock cities, they were not nice places to live in if you were a poor worker- so Lagos is also an extremely challenging city, with large social and economic inequalities

Shock city of the 21stC: Dubai

- Dubai is described by Knox and Marston as the shock city of the 21st Century
- It has grown from 60,000 in 1968
- Now 2.1m
- “Dubai’s shock city” status derives as much from spectacular affluence as its phenomenal rate of growth” – it has a reputation for luxury shopping

Dubai

- “Dubai’s “shock city” status derives as much from its spectacular affluence as its phenomenal rate of growth...”



These case studies support the definition of “shock city”

- **Shock city**
 - a city that is seen as the embodiment of surprising and disturbing changes in economic, social, and cultural lives
 - So, what this means is that the city is full of surprises – it challenges us through disruptions in our lives – these disruptions may be good or bad, but they will happen.
 - And cities always have throughout history

Shock cities in the past

What is important here is to take the idea of shock city, and to realize that what is at the core here is the important notion that cities (and urbanism itself) are really important energizing places – that they are fundamentally different from the rural society that made up most of our history – and that they have been vital catalysts in driving social and economic change

The point here is that cities throughout history (and not just since the 19thc) have had the capacity to be “shock cities”

Early cities served as centres of trade and commercial activity, as places where non-agricultural activities (such as geography professors) could develop (writing, administration, banking) and so the beginnings of long-distance trade could emerge and slowly in this way cities started to integrate a country's economy

This is especially true – I think – for our earliest known cities.

Though very small, they had an enormous influence in the development of their wider societies

Let me now look at the city in history and take a few examples as illustrations

The city in history

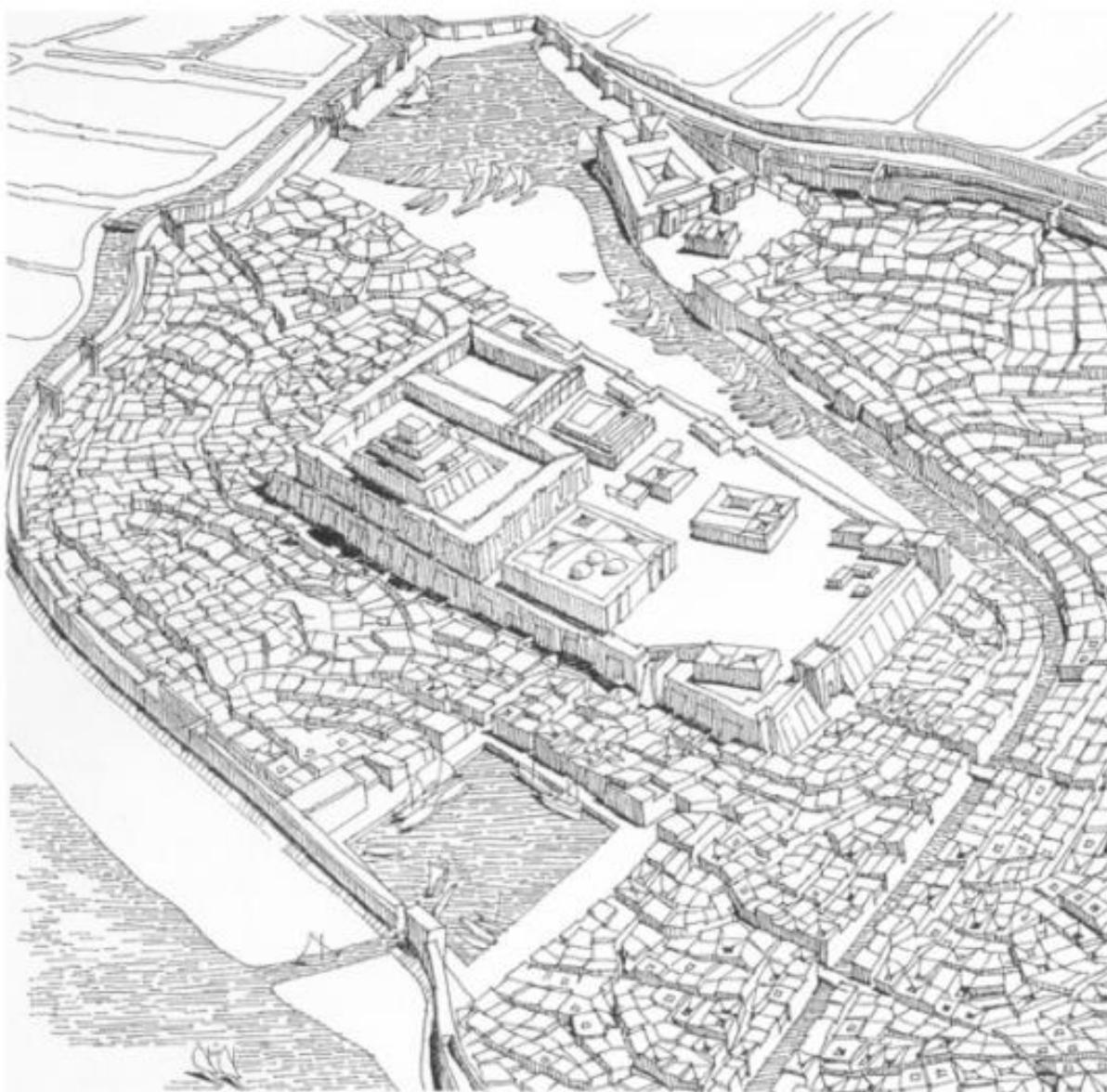


Figure 2 Reconstruction drawing of the Sumerian city of Ur, one of the earliest cities
Source: Barlow (2001, 51). Drawing by Claus Roloff, from the Cities and Modes of Production project. Reproduced by permission.

Ur
founded
3,800BC

Source:
Smith
2009



The ruins of Ur, with the [Ziggurat of Ur](#) visible in the background

Ur:

Source: Wikipedia



The classic work on urban origins

JOURNAL ARTICLE

V. Gordon Childe and the Urban Revolution: A Historical Perspective on a Revolution in Urban Studies



Michael E. Smith



The Town Planning Review
Vol. 80, No. 1 (2009), pp.
3-29 (27 pages)

Published by: Liverpool University Press

TPR, 80 (1) 2009

Michael E. Smith

Centenary Paper

*V. Gordon Childe and the Urban Revolution:
a historical perspective on a revolution in
urban studies*

Original paper is:

V. Gordon Childe, “The Urban Revolution”,
Town Planning Review 1950 vol.21 pp. 3-17

V. Gordon Childe's 10 signs of urbanization

- 1 'In point of size the first cities must have been more extensive and more densely populated than any previous settlements.' (p. 9)
- 2 'In composition and function the urban population already differed from that of any village ... full-time specialist craftsmen, transport workers, merchants, officials and priests.' (p. 11)
- 3 'Each primary producer paid over the tiny surplus he could wring from the soil with his still very limited technical equipment as tithe or tax to an imaginary deity or a divine king who thus concentrated the surplus.' (p. 11)
- 4 'Truly monumental public buildings not only distinguish each known city from any village but also symbolise the concentration of the social surplus.' (p. 12)
- 5 'But naturally priests, civil and military leaders and officials absorbed a major share of the concentrated surplus and thus formed a "ruling class".' (pp. 12–13)
- 6 'Writing.' (p. 14)
- 7 'The elaboration of exact and predictive sciences – arithmetic, geometry and astronomy.' (p. 14)
- 8 'Conceptualised and sophisticated styles [of art].' (p. 15)

9-10

9 'Regular "foreign" trade over quite long distances.' (p. 15)

10 'A State organisation based now on residence rather than kinship.' (p. 16)

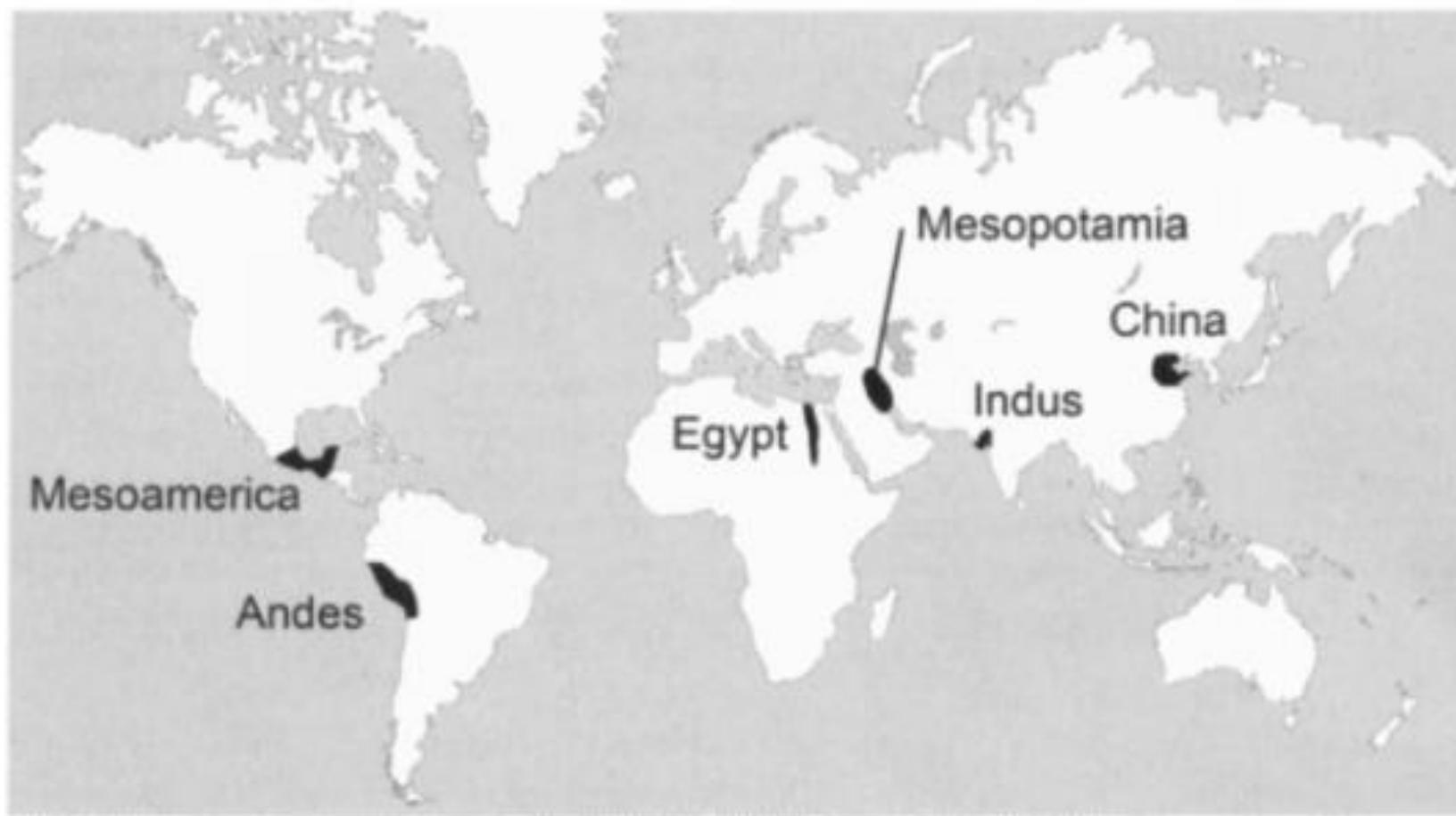


Figure 1 Locations of the six areas where the Urban Revolution happened independently

Source: Smith 2009

A new book claims to challenge these ideas



Against the grain : a deep history of the earliest states

by James C Scott



Print Book 2017 | Explore all editions & formats

An account of all the new and surprising evidence now available for the beginnings of the earliest civilizations that contradict the standard narrative. Why did humans abandon hunting and gathering for sedentary communities dependent on livestock and cereal grains, and governed by precursors of today's states? Most people believe that plant and animal domestication allowed humans, finally, to settle down and form agricultural villages, towns, and states, which made possible civilization, law, public order, and a presumably secure way of living. But archaeological and historical evidence challenges this narrative. The first agrarian states, says James C. Scott, were born of accumulations of domestications: first fire, then plants, livestock, subjects of the state, captives, and finally women in the patriarchal family-all of which can be viewed as a way of gaining control over reproduction. Scott explores why we avoided sedentism and plow agriculture, the advantages of mobile subsistence, the unforeseeable disease epidemics arising from crowding plants, animals, and grain, and why all early states are based on millets and cereal grains and unfree labor. He also discusses the "barbarians" who long evaded state control, as a way of understanding continuing tension between states and nonsubject peoples. [Read Less](#)

Some of his key ideas of relevance here are:

1. Sedentary life need not arise from the development of agriculture – i.e hunter-gathering could support urbanism– especially with the resources of the Euphrates-Tigris, and coastline (much further inland than today)
2. Cities may have existed as ways for the elites to generate tax revenues from their populations – city walls existed as much to keep people in as to protect them from outsiders

Cities in ancient history

- Cities such as **Troy** (Troy dates back to 3000BC; Trojan War c1154 BC; Homer describes it is around 700BC)
- Or **Babylon** (founded 1900BC; at its peak 700-600BC)
 - Urban places where settled sedentary life (once plants and animals domesticated and agriculture developed) encouraged the development of long-distance trade
 - By business people and by traders
 - And often allowed the first development of non-agricultural activities such as writing, art and administrative activities
 - By rulers, priests and scholars

The Shock city in history: Troy 3000BC – 1154BC

[source: Korfmann *Archaeology* April 2004]



Troy Projekt (3)

The Shock city in history: Troy

3000BC – 1154BC

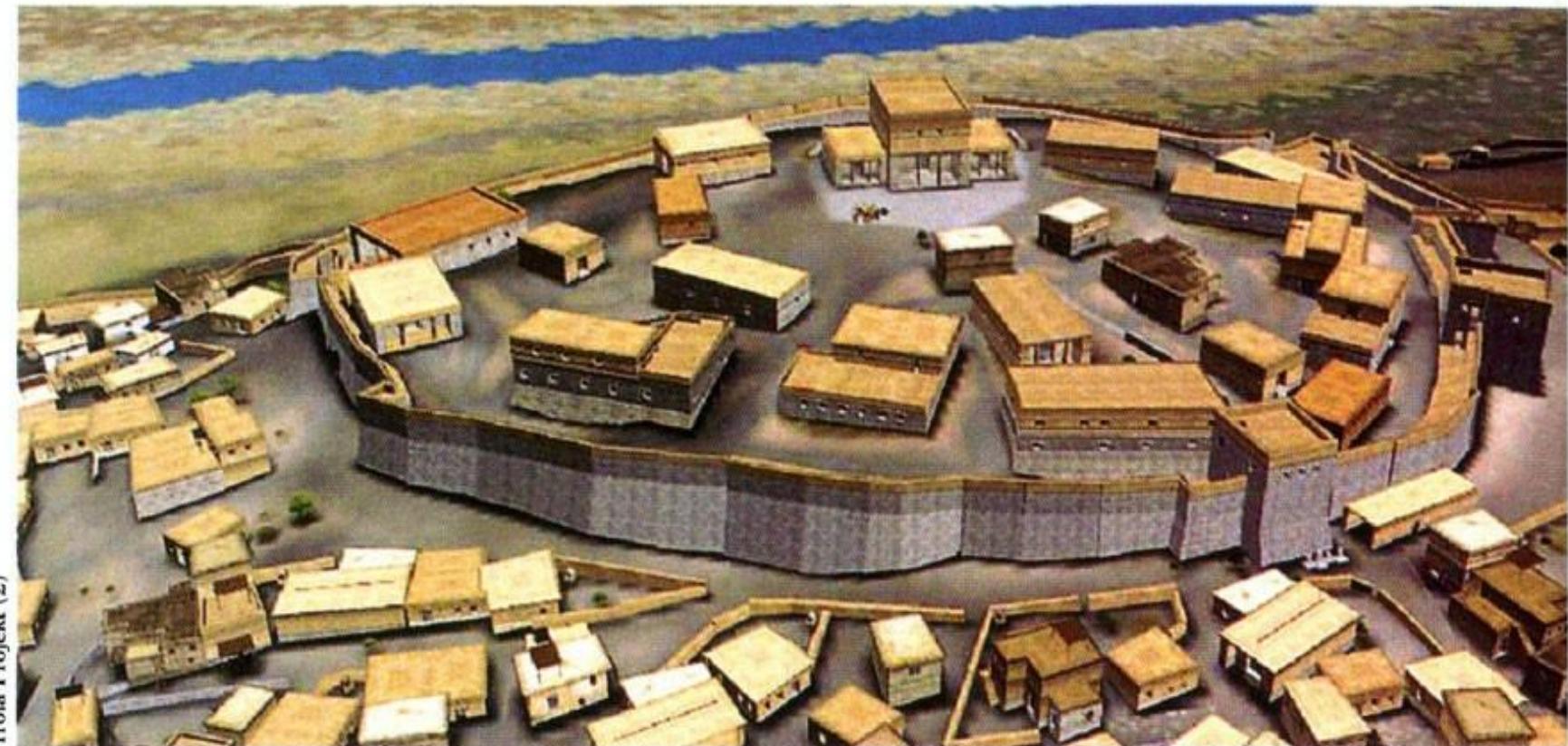


FIGURE 9.4 Ancient Troy This photo shows part of the legendary walls of the ancient city of Troy (situated in Turkey), the site of the Trojan War described by Homer in his *Iliad*. New excavations suggest that the city's origins date back to almost 3000 B.C.E. (Source: Courtesy of Alan E. Nash)

The Shock city in history: Troy

3000BC – 1154BC

[source: Korfmann Archaeology April 2004]



Troia Projekt (2)

Computer-modeling specialists have enabled the excavators of Troy to transform their raw data into a reconstruction of the citadel and lower city at the time of the Trojan War.

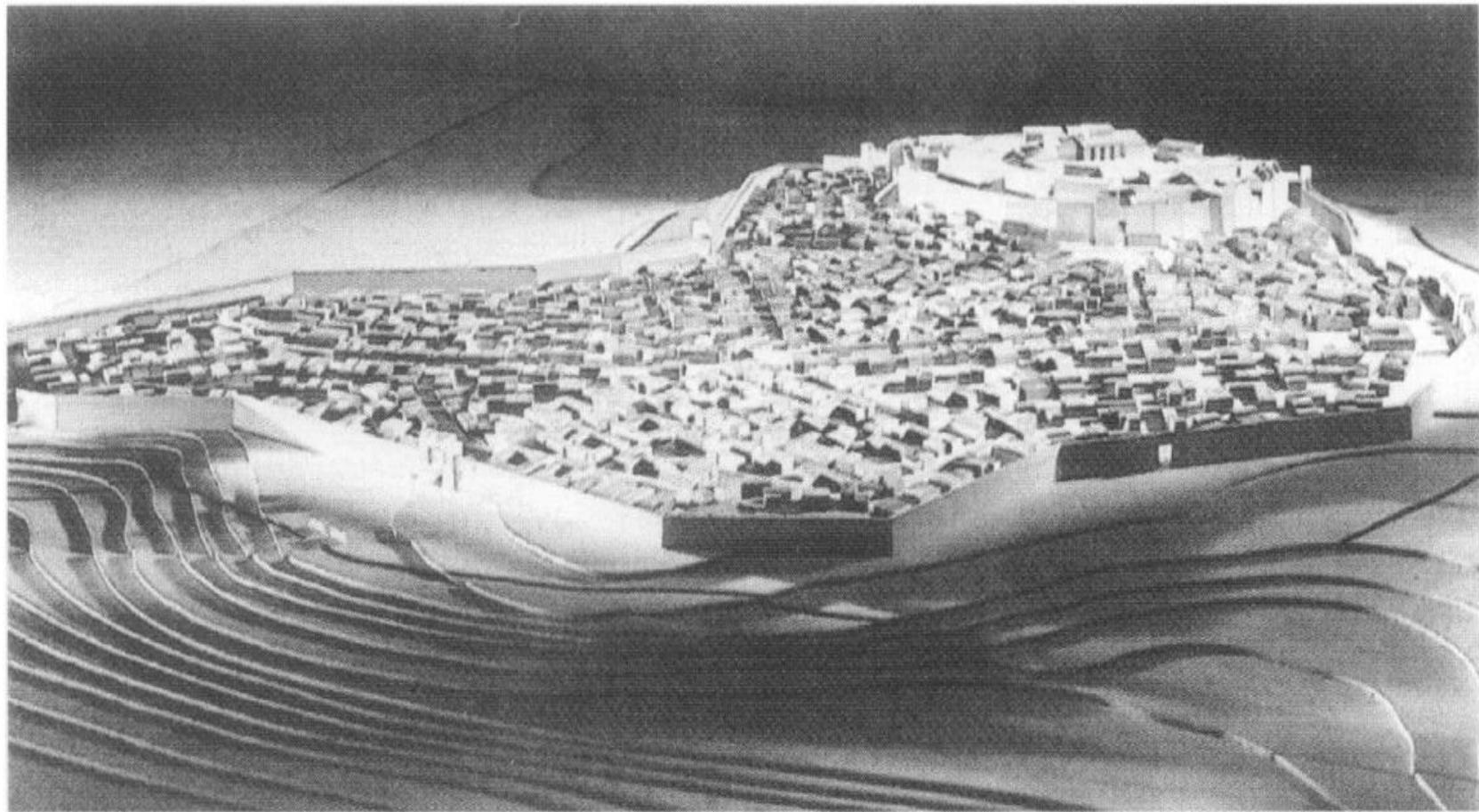


Fig. 1. Model of Troy VI presented as a reconstruction by M. Korfmann during the 2001/2002 Troy exhibit (Korfmann 2001c: 73, fig. 77)

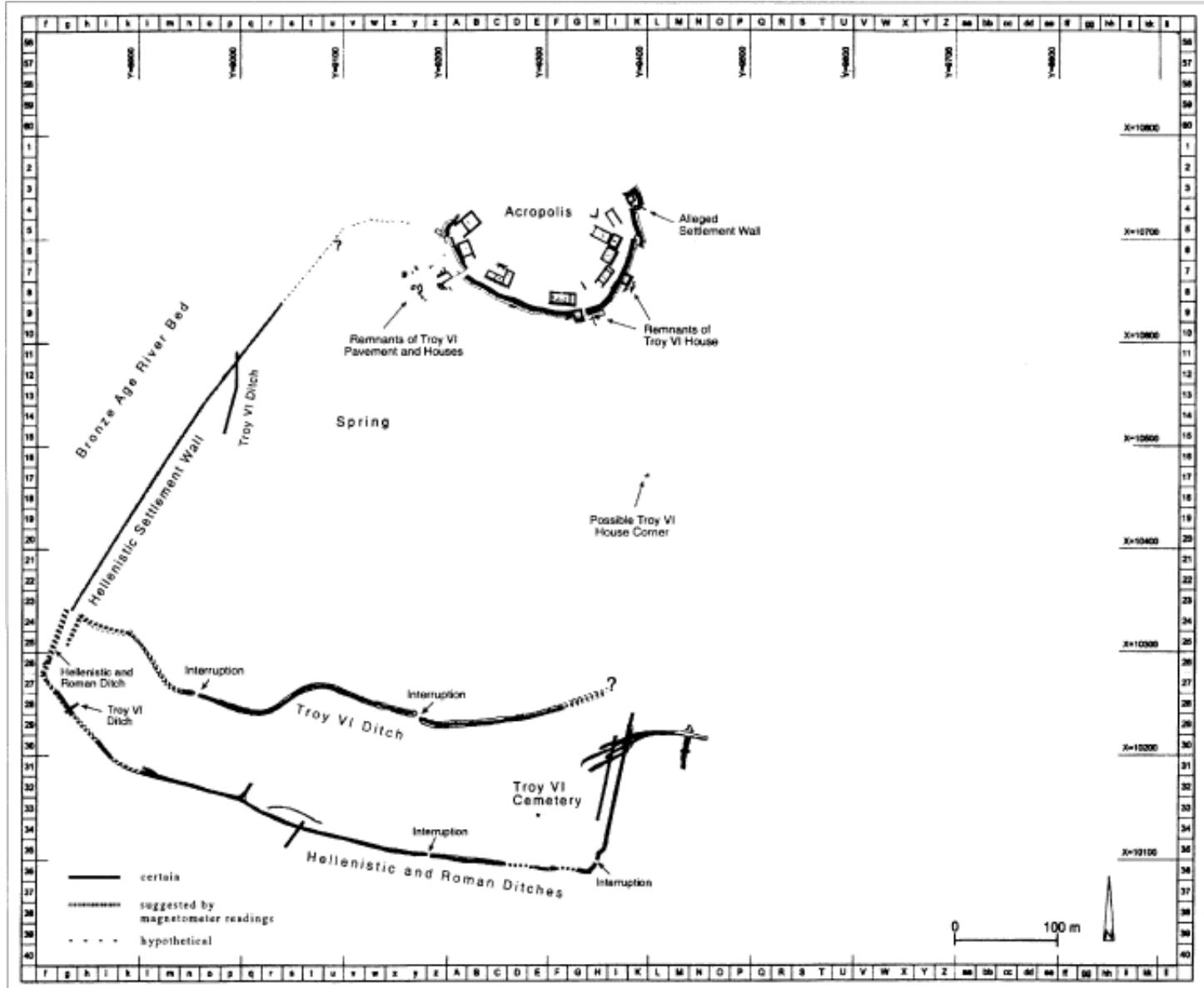
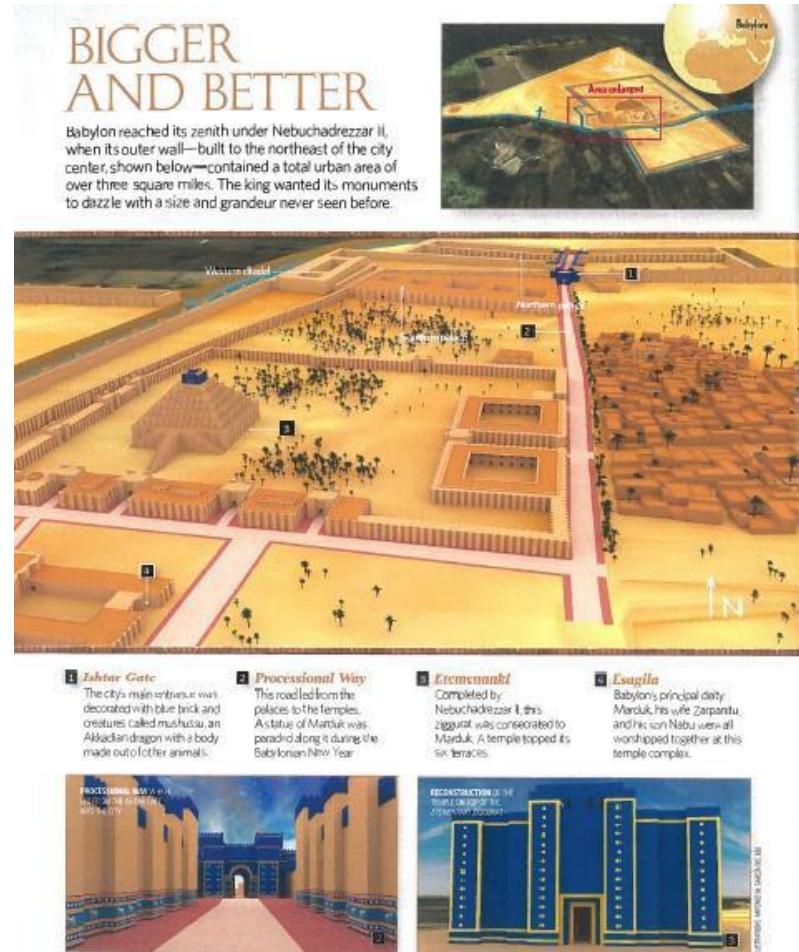
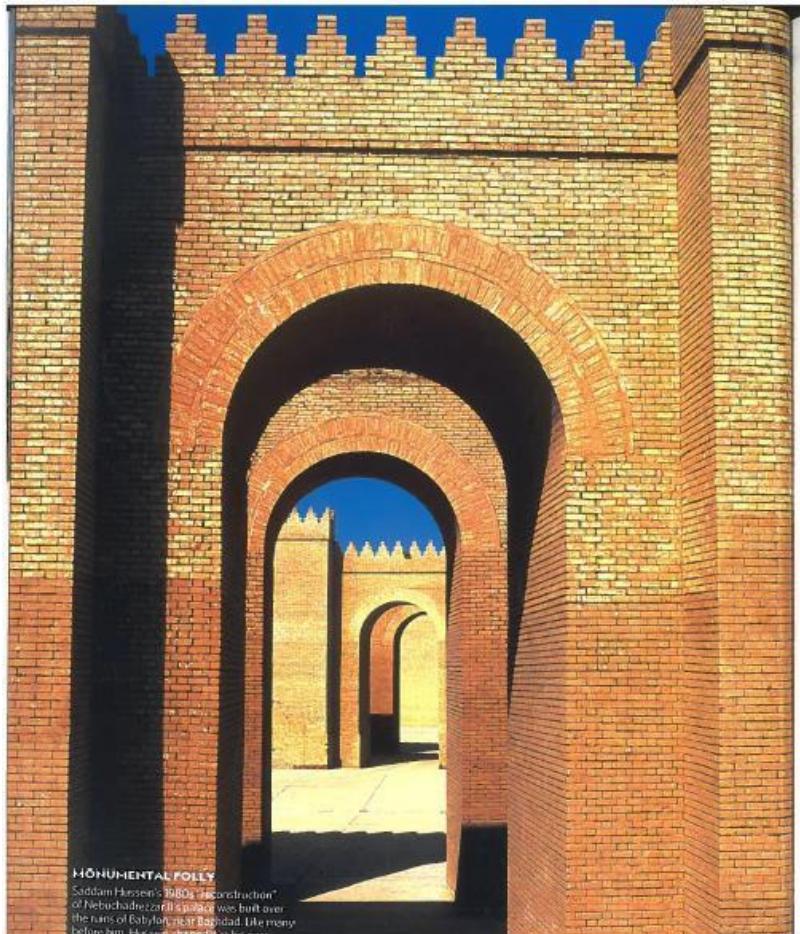


Fig.11. *Troy VI: schematic plan of actual remains discovered up to 2001, including the Hellenistic settlement wall and the Hellenistic/Roman series of ditches, as based on drawings of the Troy Project (drawn by F. Kolb, C. Drosihn, A. Thomsen)*

Source: Hertel & Kolb *Anatolian Studies* 2003

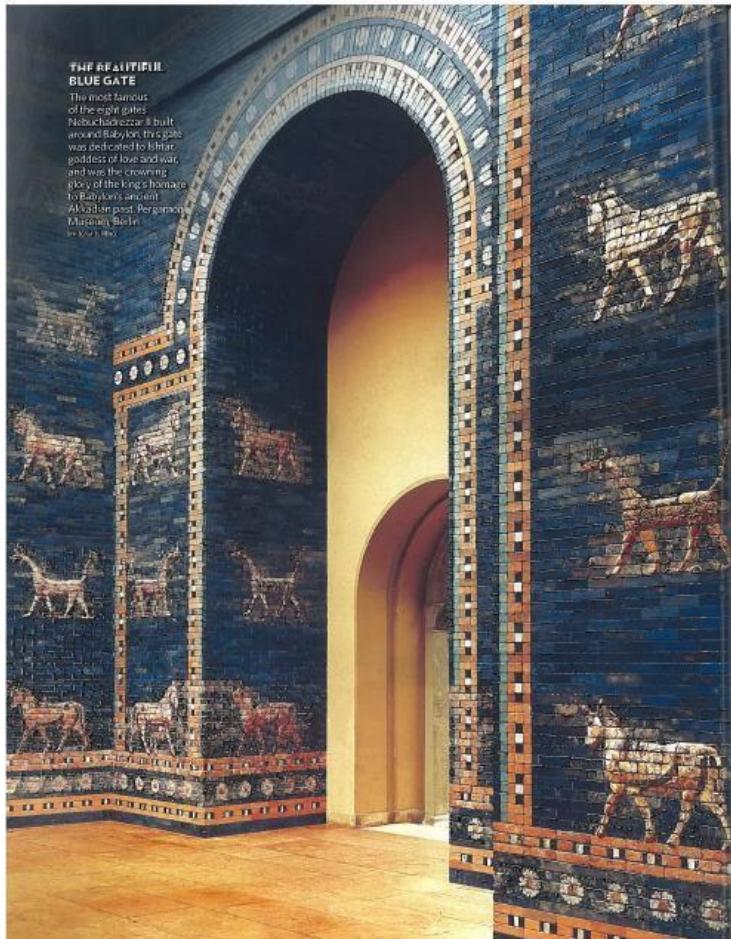
Babylon: “Golden Age” 600BC





HONORIFIC FOLLY

Saddam Hussein's 1980s "reconstruction" of Nebuchadnezzar's palace was built over the ruins of Babylon near Baghdad. Like many before him, Hussein added his name.



THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE GATE

The most famous of the eight gates Nebuchadnezzar II built around Babylon, the gate was dedicated to Ishtar, goddess of love and war, and was the crowning glory of the king's homage to Babylon's ancient Akkadian past. Pergamon Museum, Berlin.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARY STANLEY

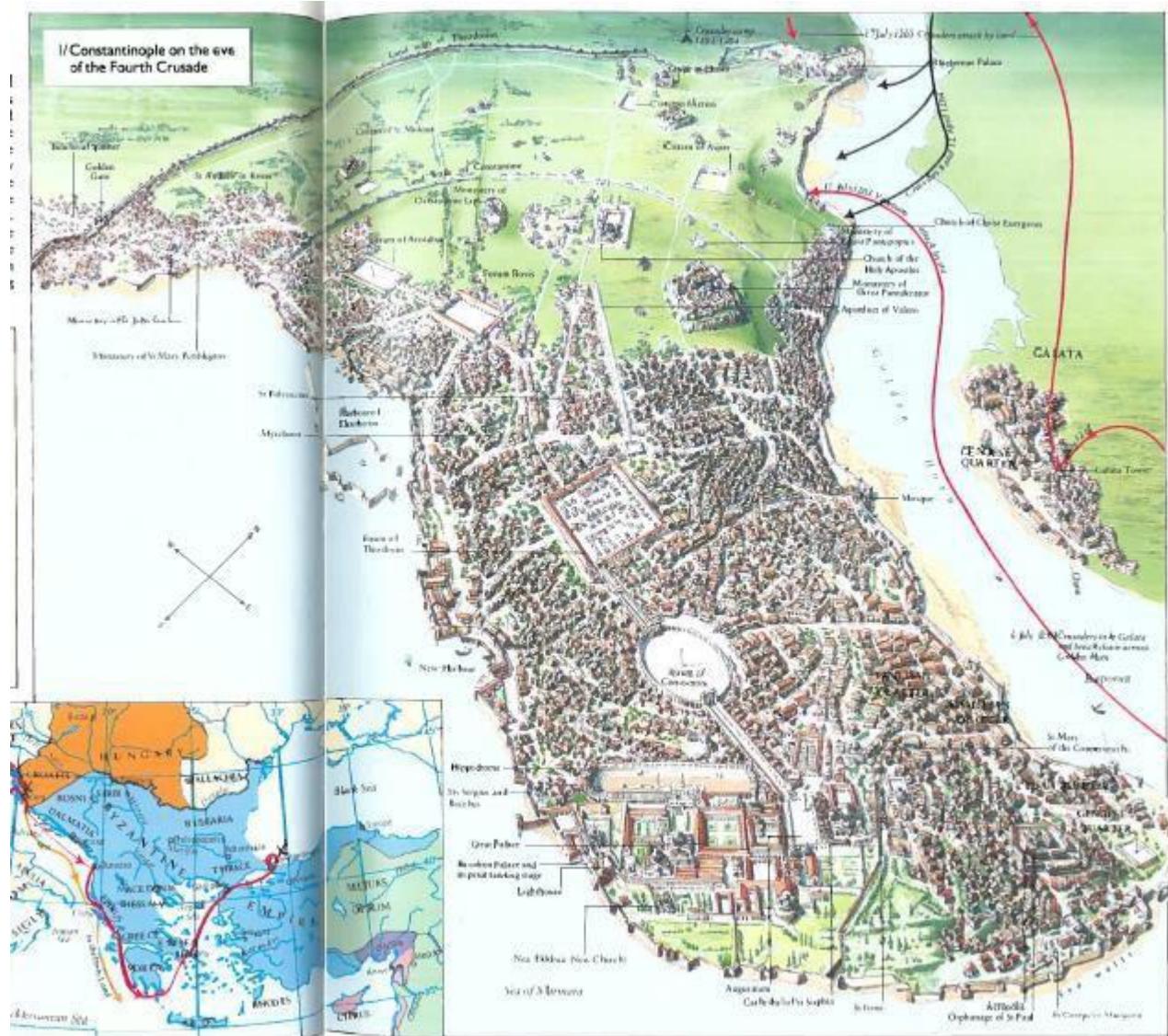
And the city in medieval Europe

There were a large number of these – described by one historian as “islands of capitalism in a sea of feudalism” - let me just take a peep at one of them ..

Byzantium/Constantinople/Istanbul

1202-

1204=
Approx
date



So – How is it that “The shock city” challenges us ..?

- A number of urban historians and theorists have noted that by as early as the late 19th Century, people were beginning to celebrate the excitement of the city –
 - 1. The thrill of never knowing what was around the next corner
 - [and recall that a *frisson* is often an indication we are moving between -- in the gap or *liminal* space between -- other types of spaces]
 - 2. the everyday drama of urban living as almost “performance art” –
 - city as stage;
 - -- 3. How the city could be “reformed” to focus change
 - City as a stage becomes a site of consumption (not production), and moves to postmodernism
 - The *flâneur*
 - *In a sense this is how we experience the city (the emphasis is on us)*

1.The thrill of never knowing what is around the next corner

This
involves
ideas of
Liminality

Or --

Frisson

Liminal spaces

- **Liminal** – in the sense of “boundary” or “transitional spaces” ..
 - Spaces in which we are not sure whether they are
 - “private” or “public”
- So, we are not sure what type of behaviour is allowed there
 - We don’t quite know ... We feel shock, unease, *frisson*

- Examples of “liminal spaces”
 - Shopping malls
 - Restaurants
 - Cemeteries
 - Suburban front gardens
- Can you think of others ????

Liminal times

- And – the concept of liminality applies not only to space – but also to time [and gender, of course]
 - We have already talked about how “safe places” in the city by day are not at night
 - In other cases, our greater use of the night has meant that if we are found out late (ie, going to a restaurant), our motives are not seen as bad !
 - in some cultures, midnight and noon are seen as liminal times

Evening's Empire

- An interesting aside: Craig Koslofsky, *Evening's Empire: A History of the Night in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge 2011)
 - Medieval Europeans went to bed when it got dark – even the wealthy
 - Early modern period sees the night becoming more utilised
 - Great illuminated parties at Versailles
 - Early lighting in theatres
 - Spread of early street lighting – from Amsterdam in the 1660s
 - Elites and urban folk begin to stay up later than rural folk

Other liminal times –

- In some cases, such as periods of drunkenness, we excuse bad behaviour as they needed a “time out” – a nice description of how liminality sanctions certain behaviours – for certain people! [i.e. it occurred during that late night hour when most people are asleep]

2. The city as a stage – Vienna and Paris

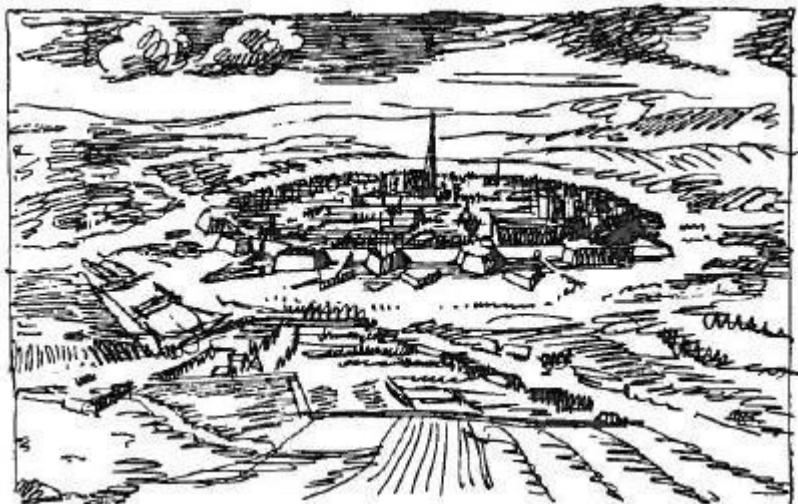
- The city has often been re-planned to become the stage, or setting, for our urban experiences, or performances:

Plenty of examples – take..

- i.e the rebuilding of Vienna's old city walls as a wonderful promenade around the old town: the *Ringstrasse* .
- rebuilding of Paris with its grand boulevards

Vienna: hemmed in by city walls – but then the walls are knocked down and the gap re-developed

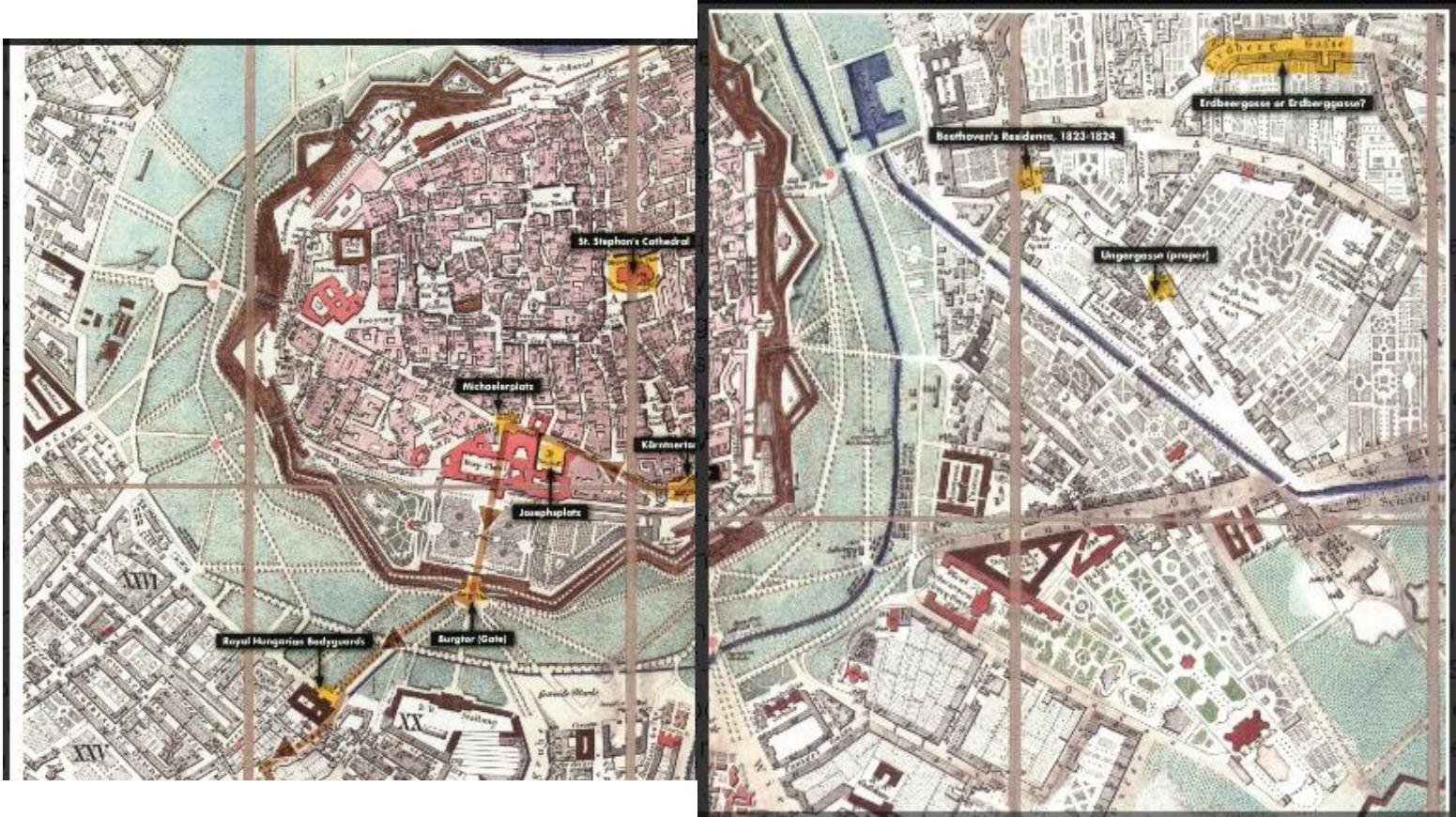
18thC view



18thC plan



A nicer map of the city – from a paper on Beethoven....



The map's source

Theodore Albrecht, "Time, Distance, Weather, Daily Routine and Wordplay as Factors in Interpreting Beethoven's Conversation Books", The Beethoven Journal Winter 2013 vol 28 (2).

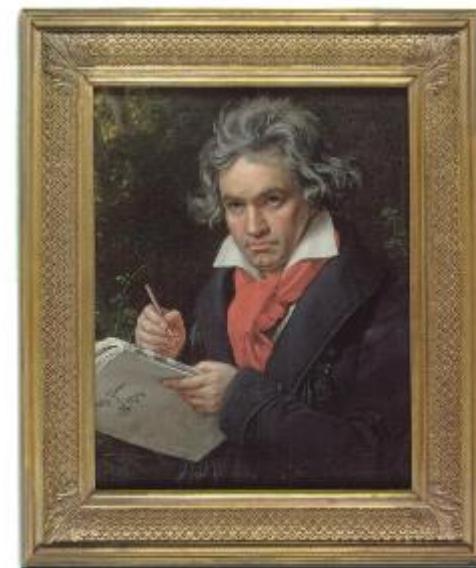


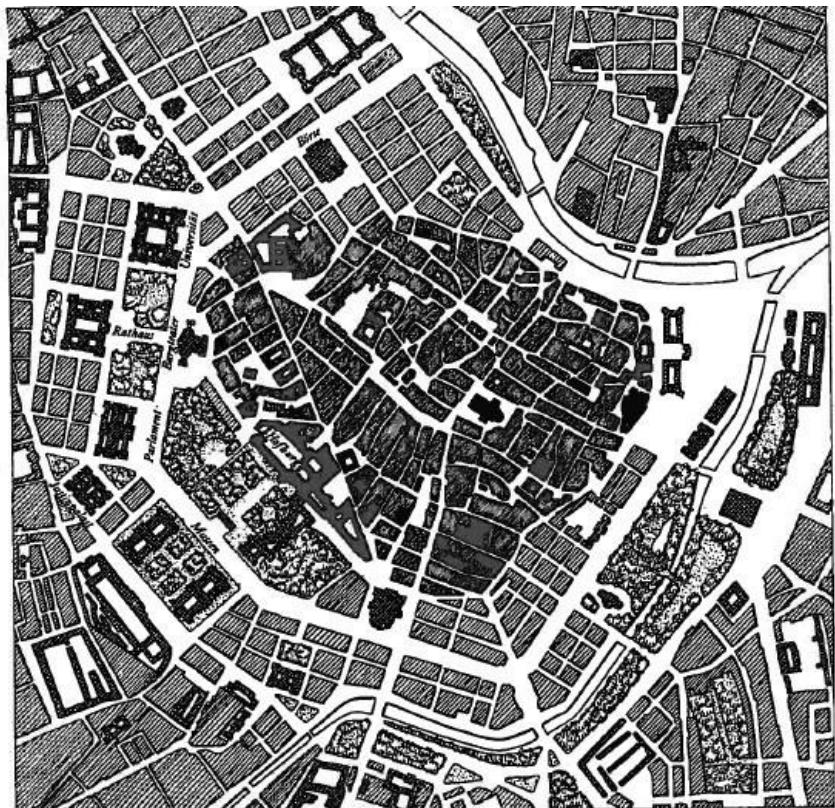
Figure 11: Oil painting by Joseph Stieler, 1819
From the collection of the Beethoven-Haus, Bonn

Vienna – The new *Ringstrasse* develops in that gap from 1857

18thC: city walls, open space (for defence)



Late 19thC: avenues and grand buildings & apts.



Carl E Schorske “Fin-de Siecle Vienna” (NY: Knopf 1980)

- Schorske discusses the politics and architectural debates about rebuilding in the space opened up by the demolition of the old city wall
- The Ringstrasse becomes a wide open boulevard around the old city
- It is lined by grand government buildings:
 - The Opera House:
 - Neo-classical design
 - The parliament building:
 - gothic to echo the “free speaking peasants” of distant past
 - The Post Office
 - Art Deco by Otto Wagner

Lets take a quick look at Vienna



Vienna: cramped space in old town



Vienna: a view into the old town



Vienna: Part of the Ringstrasse, with Otto Wagner's rail station



Vienna: the “open space” of the Ringstrasse is colonized by Hapsburg’s palace



Vienna: open space in Hapsburg palace grounds



Vienna: never forget the Sacher torte !



Our second example is Paris

- i.e. The grand boulevards of Paris, designed (1853-1870) by the Baron von Haussmann . These were bulldozed across the medieval city to create the wonderful vistas and avenues of a beautiful city (and ways to move an army quickly) while at the same time demolishing lots of poor people's housing that was in the way

The grand boulevards of Paris, designed (1853-1870) by the Baron von Haussmann

Not shown here – the work of Haussmann also included an extensive underground sewage system



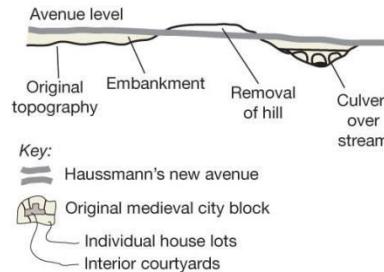
(a)



(b) The Champs-Élysées was laid out in the 1660s to provide a processional route appropriate to the king.



(c) A schematic plan of one of Haussmann's avenues



(d) A cross-sectional view of the avenue and its original topography

Figure 11.20 Haussmann's Paris Between 1853 and 1870, the city of Paris in France was extensively redesigned to include wide boulevards and spaces.

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New avenues carved through old city

This also meant that the road surfaces had to be level – so hills and valleys were flattened out

3. The city reforms itself: Urban reform movements

- We have seen how the thrill of city life, or the city as a stage, emphasize the importance of the look or experience of life in the city. Can we use these rather “soft skills” to improve the city?
- The general idea of improving the city so that it “looked good” was the basis of many urban reform movements
 - For example, the “*City Beautiful*” movement was based on the idea that if you included nice buildings, statues, parks etc, the sheer beauty would rub off on the inhabitants – and they would somehow become better people

Chicago 1909

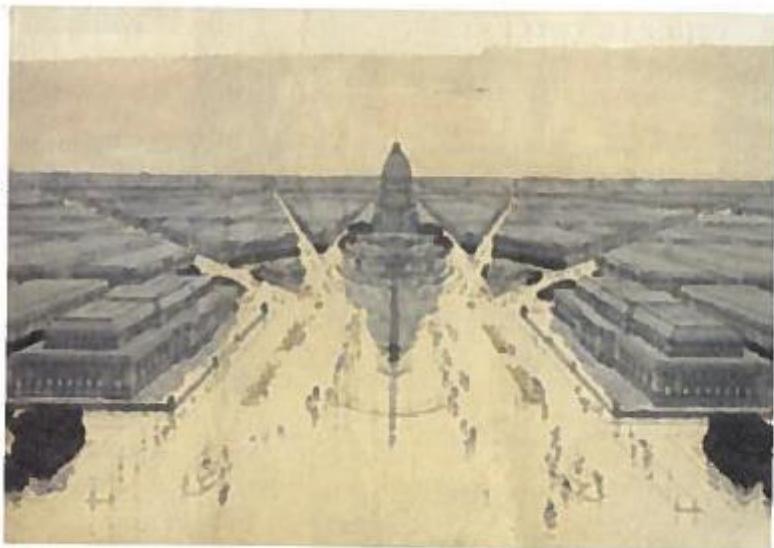


Figure 11.17 The Chicago Plan, 1909 Daniel Burnham's Chicago Plan of 1909 was based on aesthetic means toward social objectives. By giving the city a strong visual and aesthetic order, Burnham wanted to create the physical preconditions for the emergence of a harmonious social climate and strong moral order. These were popular sentiments in the Progressive Era, and much of Burnham's ambitious plan was actually carried out. (Source: R. Burnham and E. Bennett, *Plan of Chicago*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1993, plate CXIXII, p. 112. Jules Guerin [American, 1866–1946], pencil and watercolour on paper, 1908, 75.5 cm × 105.5 cm. On permanent loan to The Art Institute of Chicago, 28.148.1966.)

Urban reform

- Another example of this is the *Garden City Movement* of Sir Ebenezer Howard, whose ideas were brought to Canada (1914-1923) and still find expression in many more modern suburban housing developments (Don Mills, Toronto 1950s)
- The basic idea was to separate functions (work, home), (gardens from cars) and to incorporate as much green space as possible.
 - This could only be done if the whole city was in some sort of common ownership [so – contrast this with the basis of the Park-Burgess model of the city]

Sir Ebenezer Howard: “Garden Cities of Tomorrow” (1899)

First edition simply called “Tomorrow” – an anniversary ebook edited by Peter Hall in 2003 is available via the Concordia library

TO-MORROW:

A Peaceful Path to Real Reform

BY
E. HOWARD



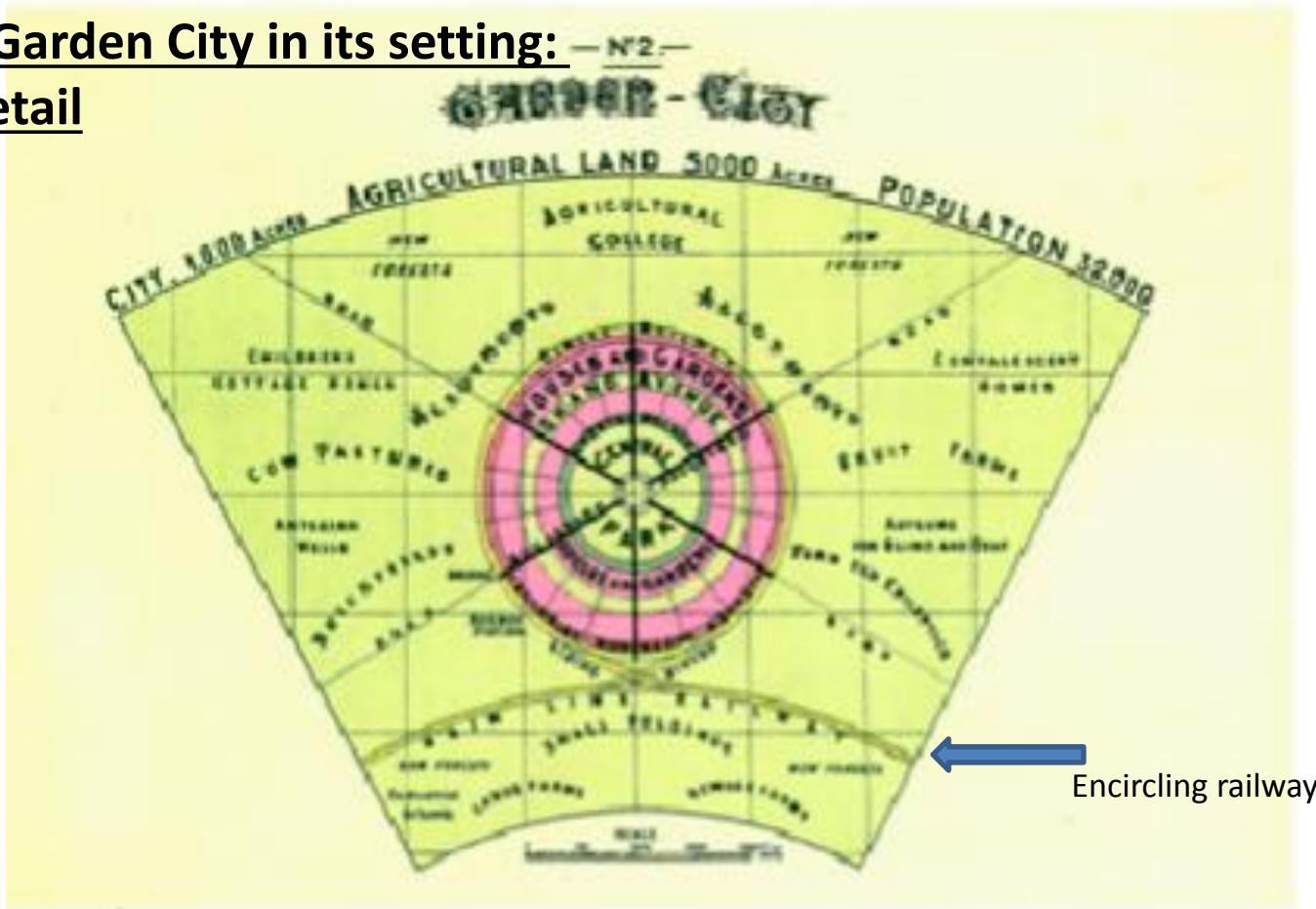
“ New occasions teach new duties;
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still, and onward,
Who would keep abreast of Truth.
Lo, before us, gleam her camp-fires!
We ourselves must Pilgrims be,
Launch our Mayflower, and steer boldly
Through the desperate winter sea,
Nor attempt the Future’s portal
With the Past’s blood-rusted key.”
—“The Present Crisis.”—J. R. Lowell.

LONDON
SWAN SONNENSCHEIN & CO., LTD.
PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1898

The Garden City in its setting: — N^o 2 —

A Detail



What did the garden city look like?

Central park of 5.5 acres

Surrounded by public buildings(museums, art galleries, swimming pools)

Surrounded in turn by a Crystal Palace – a glass enclosed space that is used for a covered market, and a “Winter Garden”

“The critical point is that ...Howard was free to put a park in the centre because he was not constrained by traditionally high urban land values” (Hall et al. 2003: 34)

6 broad avenues radiate outwards from that park

The Grand Avenue has sites for schools, churches

Housing in 55,000 lots of 20 x 130 feet on average

At least one sector has crescents

Factories around the city edge

An encircling railway – no one would be more than 660 yards from it.

Sewage and refuse to be utilized on surrounding farmland

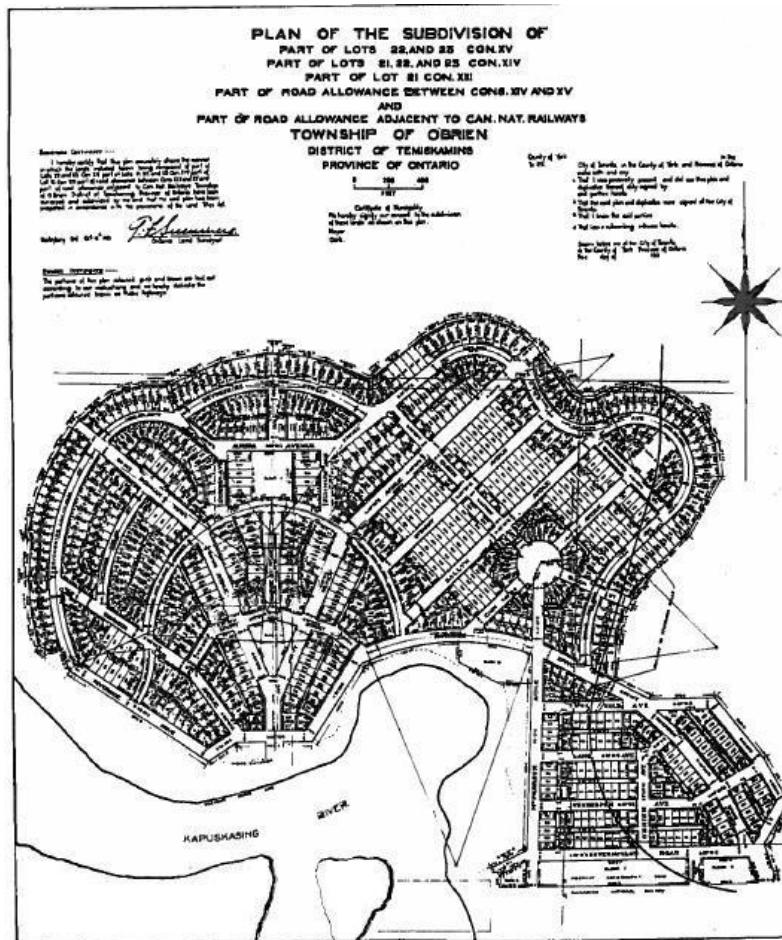
WARD AND CENTRE
GARDEN CITY

HT 3.



Kapuskasing, Ont (1922)

based on Howard's ideas



Urban reform – a question

- A general question
 - These urban reform movements all are based on the idea that a nice environment will create nice people (defined in terms of crime rates etc)
 - Do slums create bad people – or do bad people create slums??
 - Are we being environmental determinists...?
 - Recall the idea that geography is about spatial inequality
 - So we need to think about poverty as an underlying cause

Lastly, as a part of these changes - the city becomes “a stage” or “site of consumption”

- How does this happen??
- Why? Several forces to consider
 - Manufacturing has declined and left the city
 - Central government cutbacks have left cities with little option but to promote consumption (festivals/tourism) as a means of economic regeneration [“neo-liberalism”]: “the hospitable city” concept
 - Postmodernism promotes consumerism as a lifestyle

To put it briefly -- The city ...

- The 19th century city was a **site of production**
- The 21st century city has become a **site of consumption.**

The city becomes a stage

- The city becomes a site of consumption, and consumption is promoted by
 - Special times – festivals, fairs
 - Montreal's *Cirque de Soleil*
 - Promotion of “cultural industries”
 - Fashion, Montreal's Ubisoft
 - Special parts of the city where consumption or leisure is promoted
 - *Place de Spectacles*
 - “Little Italy”, “Chinatown”, “Little India” – areas that promote tourism and dining in ethnic restaurants

The city

- The 19th /early 20th century city reflected **Modernism**
 - a forward-looking view of the world that emphasizes reason, scientific rationality, creativity, novelty, and progress
- The 21st century city has come to reflect **Postmodernism**
 - a view of the world that emphasizes an openness to a range of perspectives in social inquiry, artistic expression, and political empowerment

Note: “postmodern architecture

- Note: “postmodern architecture” – a feature of the city =
 - “A style characterized by a diversity of architectural styles and elements, often combined in the same building or project”
 - [The key is diversity - or“difference” – because a distrust of grand overarching theories means there are no universal truths – in planning, or social science! – and so the placeless architecture of the “International School” has been replaced]

And lastly, the *flâneur*

- the *flâneur*
 - A person “who had the time to simply walk and observe crowds in nineteenth-century Paris”.

These were a feature of the late 19thC city, of its consumer society, its great department stores and cafés, and are celebrated by the writer Baudelaire, and the theorist Walter Benjamin

Modern human geography, with its interest in walking and affect, is interested in flâneurism

Or consider the people who now just sit and enjoy the city

- Georges Perec (1936-1982): *An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris* (1974)
 - Spends 3 days in a café in Place Saint-Sulpice recording everything to pass through his field of vision
 - Note: strictly speaking he is not a flâneur as he doesn't walk around!!

In many ways, I think that these people were on to something – at least that we need to take the time to be quiet and reflect on our surroundings

You could sit and watch – like Perec – or you could sit, & take the time to draw what you see.

You'll find that if you try this, you will see things that you hadn't noticed before – you will have the time to think about why the particular urban landscape is the way it is – it will “speak” to you [or, we could say, it will exercise its “affect” upon you].

And I don't think you need to be any sort of artist to do this.

Let me end this class with a couple of examples from my own sketch book

One way to reflect on a place is to draw it



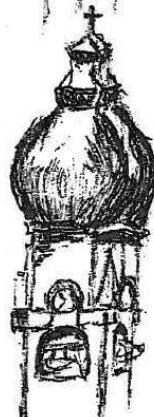
Northern
Italy

Menaggio - Church tower

9 July 2004

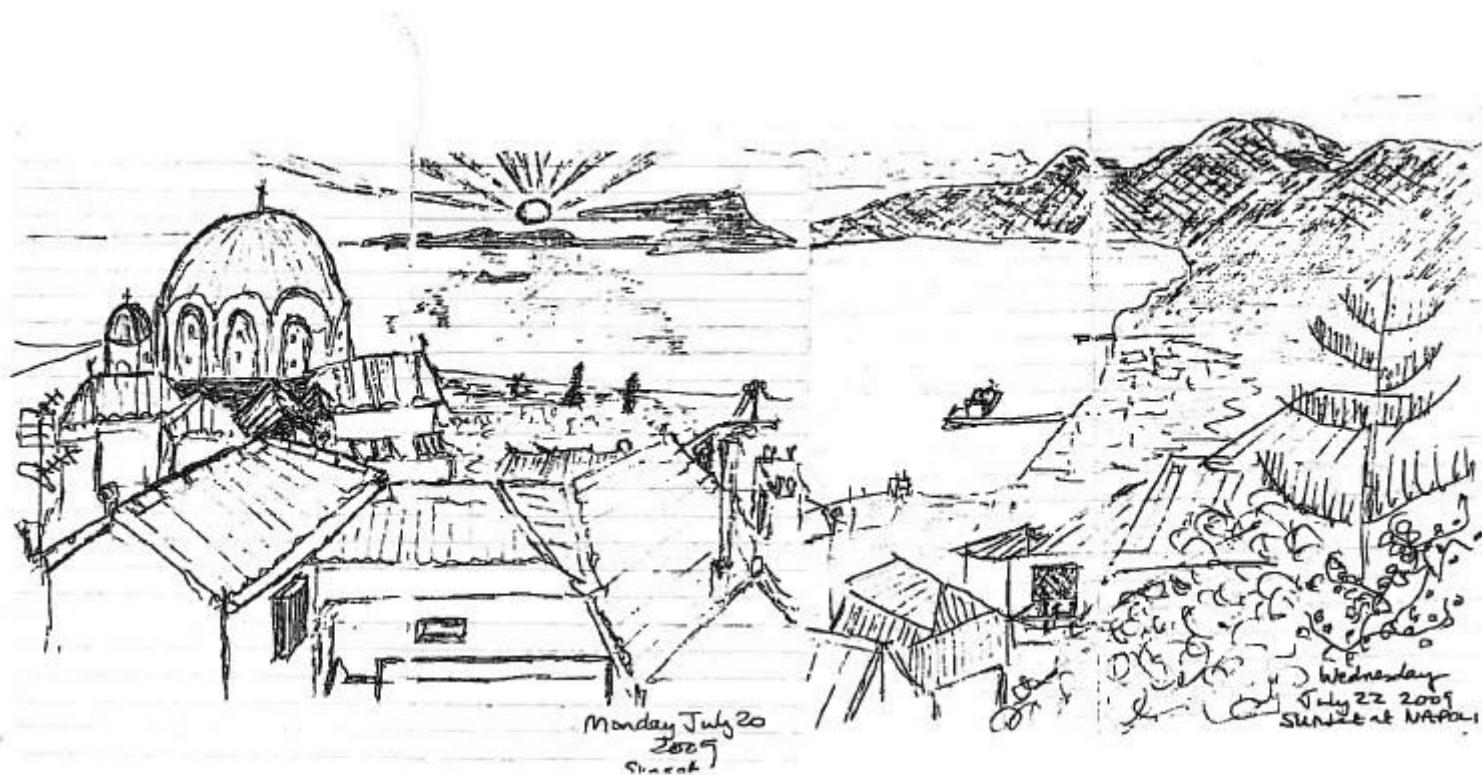


A little more
faithful to the
less rounded
shape of the
steeple



This steeple
is a little
too rounded &
onion-like.
But it does
show how the
hexagonal
top is
converted to
a square
shape &
shows the
bells
ringing (if
not the
correct
time!!)

Southern Peloponnese, Greece



Vernacular houses,
St Vincent and The Grenadines,
Caribbean.
February 2005

