HIST 3617: Popular Culture, Political Economy, and American Identity: The United States from 1900 to 1945

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What is History?

- ***History is the Study of Change Over Time***
  - Primary and secondary sources as the basis of historical research
  - Presentism---reading the values and perspectives of the present back into the past
  - Interpretation (How?, What?, When?, Why?) is not the same as condoning an event and or individual's action
  - Understanding how the Holocaust, Trans-Atlantic slavery or Indigenous dispossession worked is not the same as excusing and or condoning them
  - Historiography: How historians do history

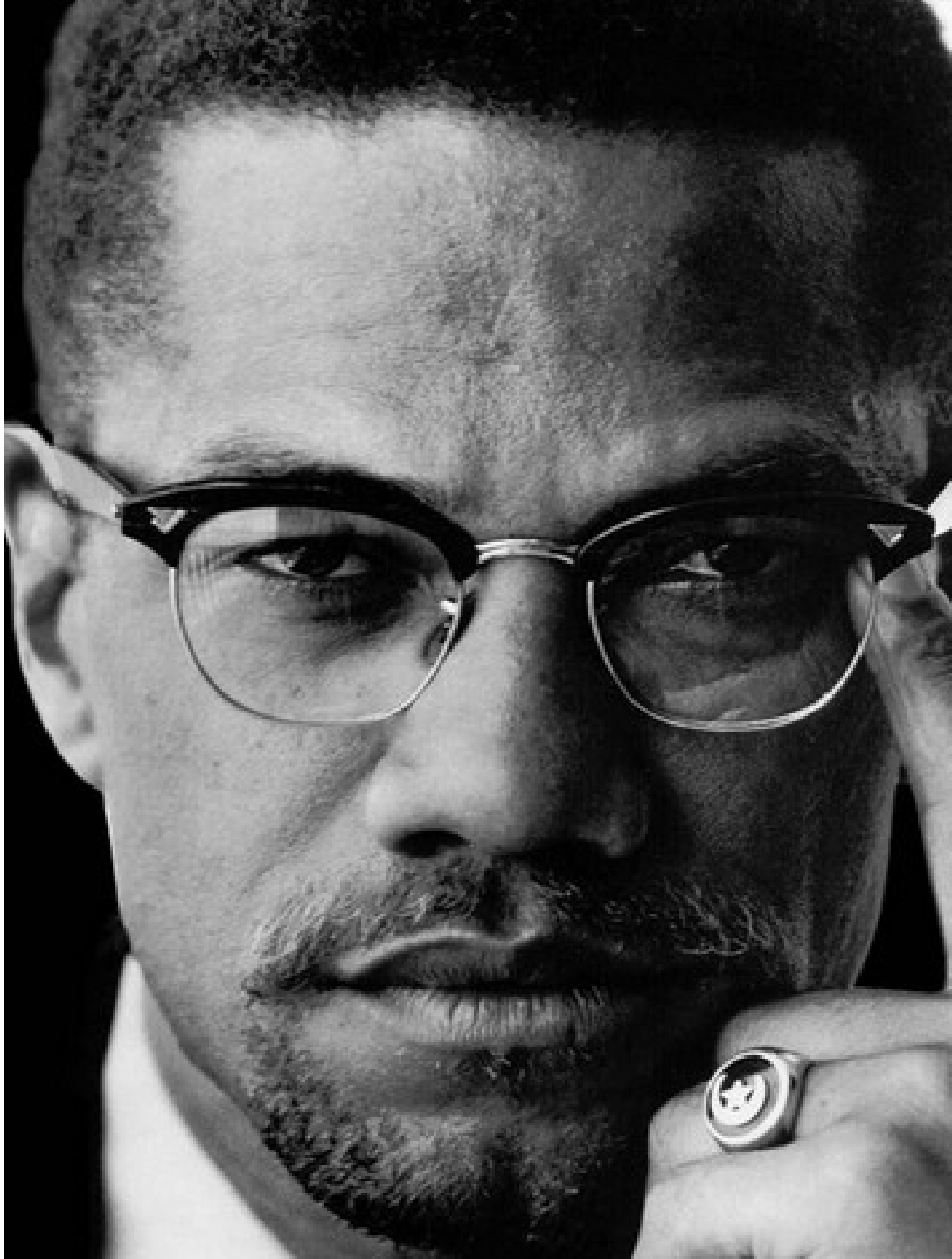
The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.

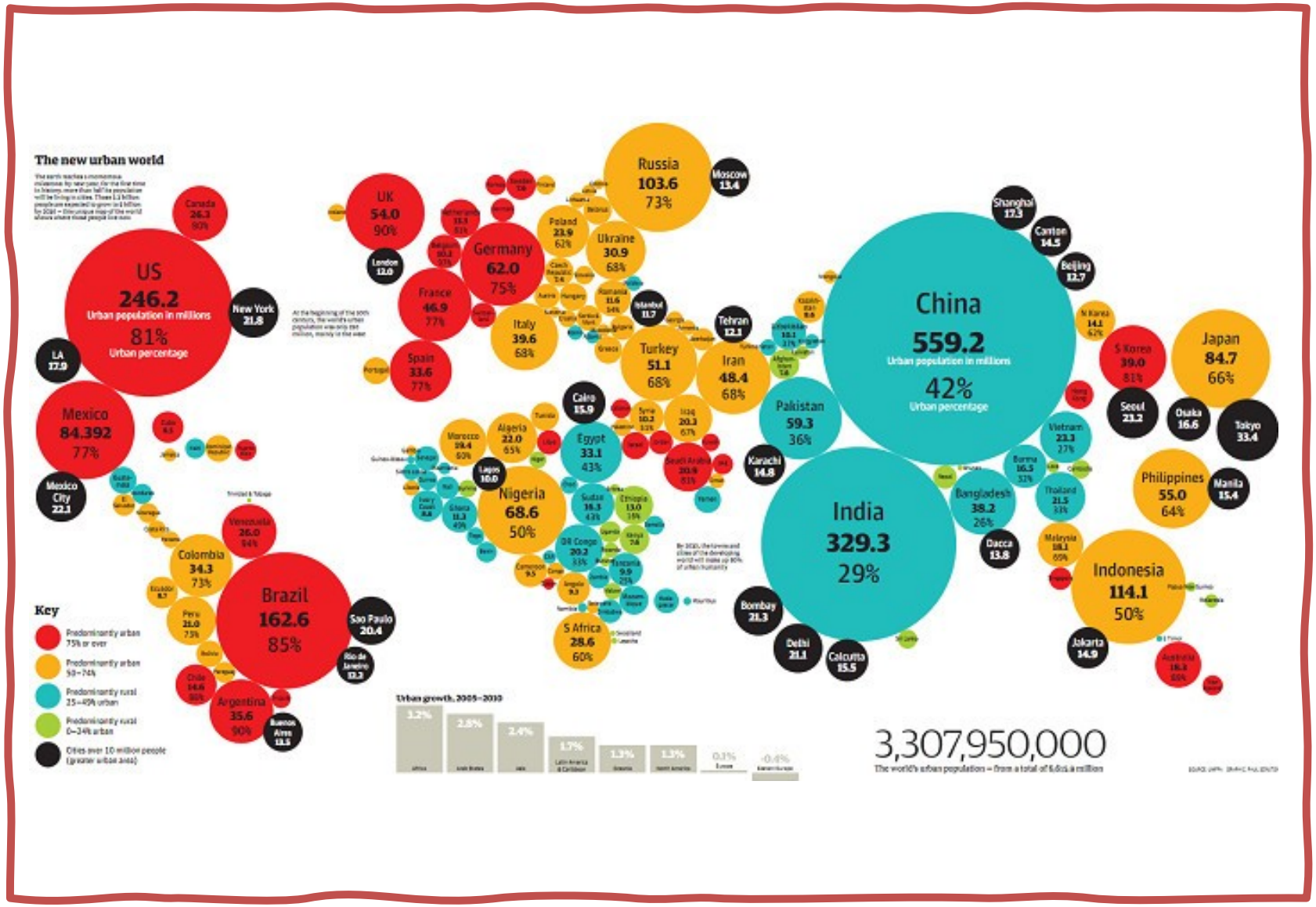
(L. P. Hartley)

izquotes.com

Historical Memory

- *"If we don't go into the past and find out how we got this way, we will think that we were always this way. And if you think that you were in the condition that you're in right now, it's impossible for you to have too much confidence in yourself, you become worthless, almost nothing."*
- Malcolm X




The new urban world
US
246.2
Urban population in millions
81%
Urban percentage
New York
21.8
LA
17.9
Mexico
84.392
77%
Mexico City
22.1
Canada
26.3
80%
Brazil
162.6
85%
Sao Paulo
20.4
Rio de Janeiro
13.3
Colombia
34.3
73%
Venezuela
26.0
94%
Peru
21.0
75%
Argentina
35.6
90%
Buenos Aires
13.5
Russia
103.6
73%
Moscow
13.4
UK
54.0
90%
London
12.0
Germany
62.0
75%
France
46.9
77%
Spain
33.6
77%
Italy
39.6
68%
Poland
23.9
62%
Ukraine
30.9
68%
Turkey
51.1
68%
Istanbul
11.7
Tehran
12.1
Iran
48.4
68%
Cairo
15.9
Egypt
33.1
43%
Algeria
22.0
65%
Morocco
19.4
60%
Lagos
10.0
Nigeria
68.6
50%
S Africa
28.6
60%
China
559.2
Urban population in millions
42%
Urban percentage
Shanghai
17.3
Canton
14.5
Beijing
12.7
Pakistan
59.3
36%
Karachi
14.8
India
329.3
29%
Bombay
21.3
Delhi
21.1
Calcutta
15.5
Bangladesh
38.2
26%
Dacca
13.8
Vietnam
23.3
27%
Thailand
21.5
33%
Japan
84.7
66%
Seoul
23.2
Osaka
16.6
Tokyo
33.4
Philippines
55.0
64%
Manila
15.4
Indonesia
114.1
50%
Jakarta
14.9
Key
Predominantly urban 75% or over
Predominantly urban 50–74%
Predominantly rural 25–49% urban
Predominantly rural 0–24% urban
Cities over 10 million people (greater urban area)
Urban growth, 2005–2010
3.2%
2.8%
2.4%
1.7%
1.3%
1.3%
0.1%
-0.4%
3,307,950,000
The world's urban population – from a total of 6.6[illegible] million

Lecture Outline

I. Imagining Cities: G. Simmel and the *Metropolis in Modern Life*

II Growth of American Cities

III. The First Urban Crisis

The Dangerous City in Popular Culture and the Rise of Slums

IV. Middle-class Responses

A. First Stages of Suburbanization

B. Urban Utopianism in the White City

<u>Keywords/Terms:</u>

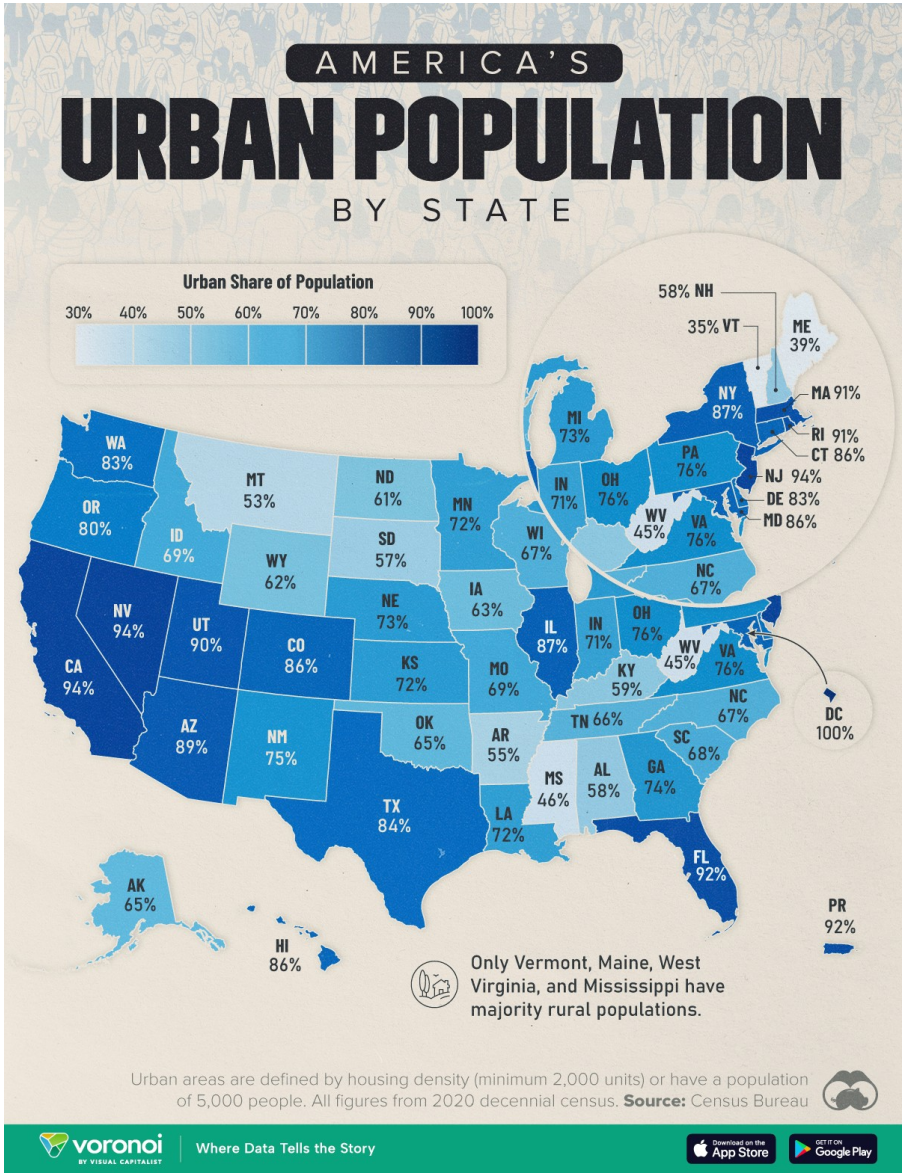
Urban Biography

Georg Simmel

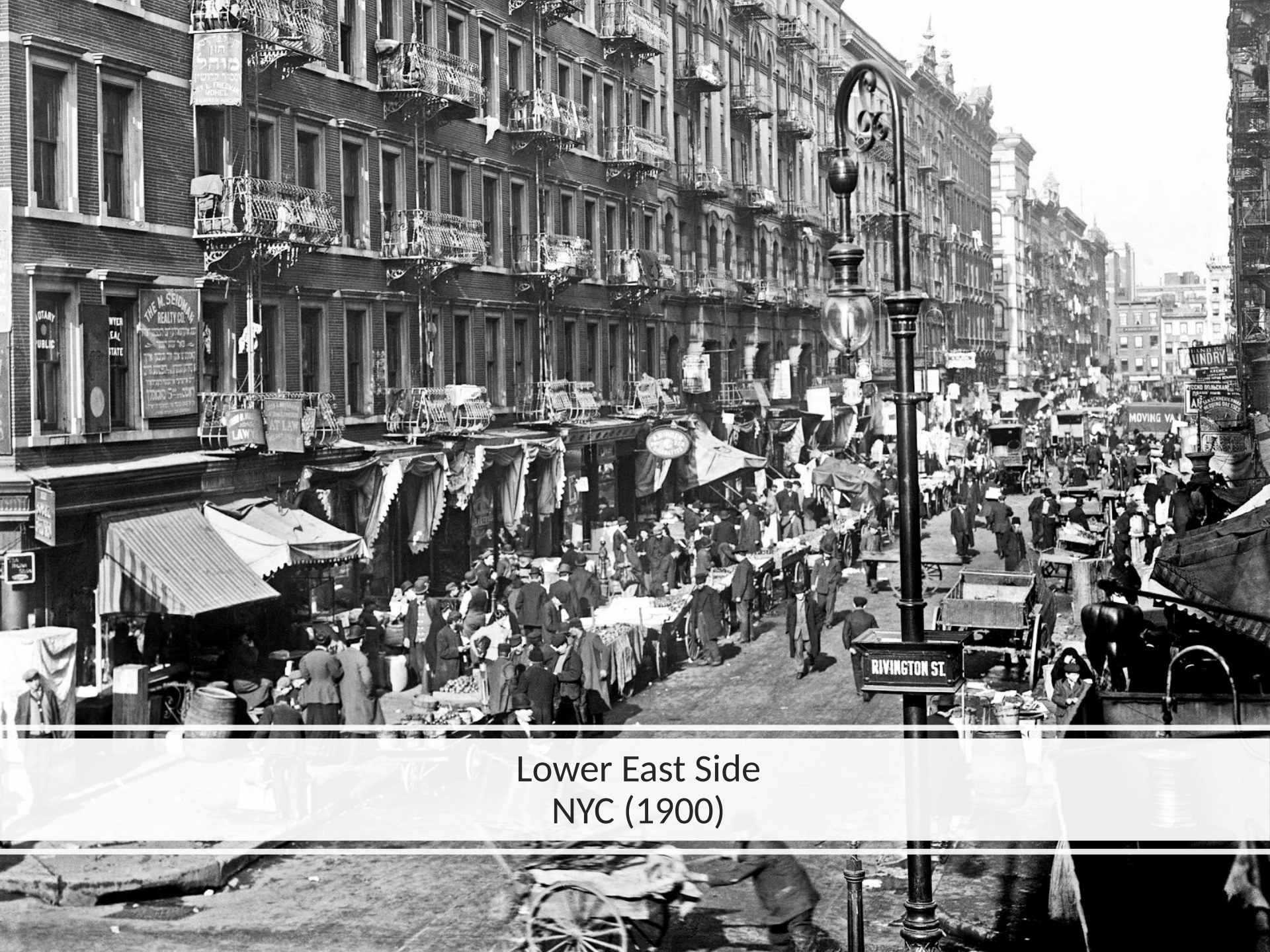
<u>How the Other Half Lives</u>

Suburbs

U.S. Urban Population 2020



‘Island Communities’ Grant Wood, “Stone City, Iowa” (1930)



Lower East Side
NYC (1900)

Chicago (1900)

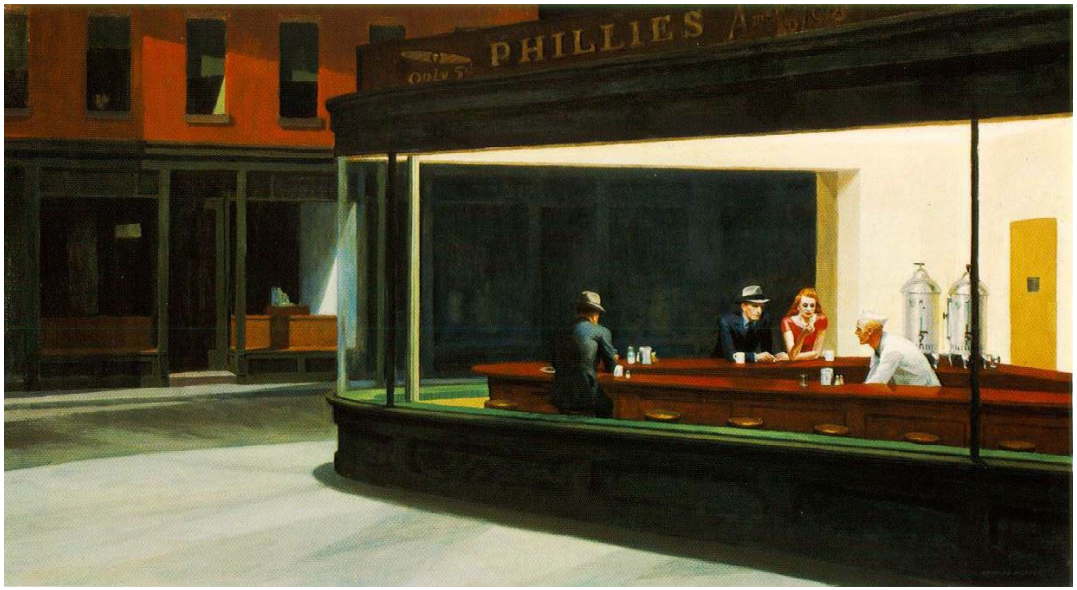
Chicago Historical Society

▲ *Traffic jams long predated the automobile. Here, trolleys, horse-drawn wagons, and a sea of pedestrians have created what seems a hopeless gridlock.*

The Metropolis and Modern Life Georg Simmel (1903)

- **"The psychological basis of the metropolitan type of individuality consists in the intensification of nervous stimulation which results from the swift and uninterrupted change of outer and inner stimuli."**
- Georg Simmel, *The Metropolis in Modern Life* (1903)

Nighthawks
Edward Hopper
(1942)



Urban Leisure Spheres

Philadelphia Athletics (1910)

Steve Brodie's Bowery Saloon
NYC, (1895)

14

Dance hall interior, 1889

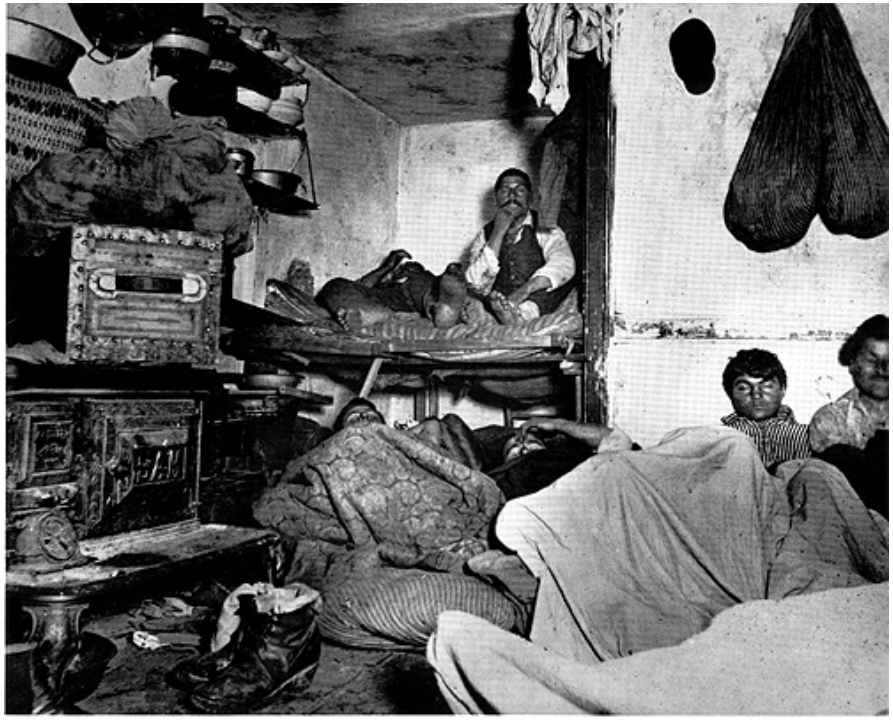
‘Nickelodeon’
John Sloan (1901)

Jacob Riis
How the Other Half Lives
(1890)

‘Black and Tan’

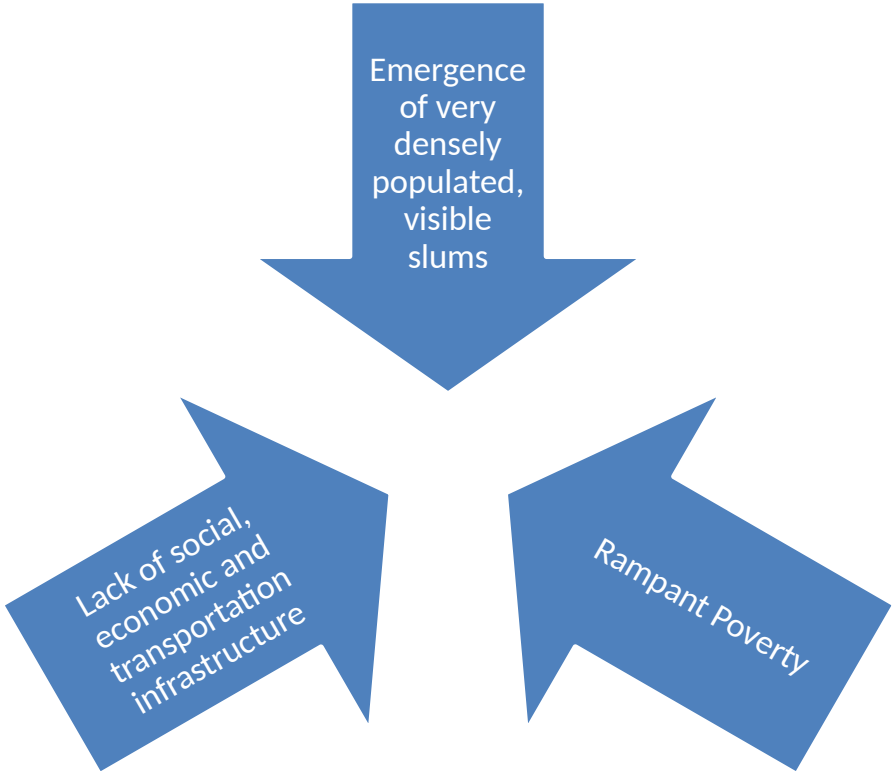
Riis, *How the Other Half Lives (1890)*

Squalor and Lost Childhoods in *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)

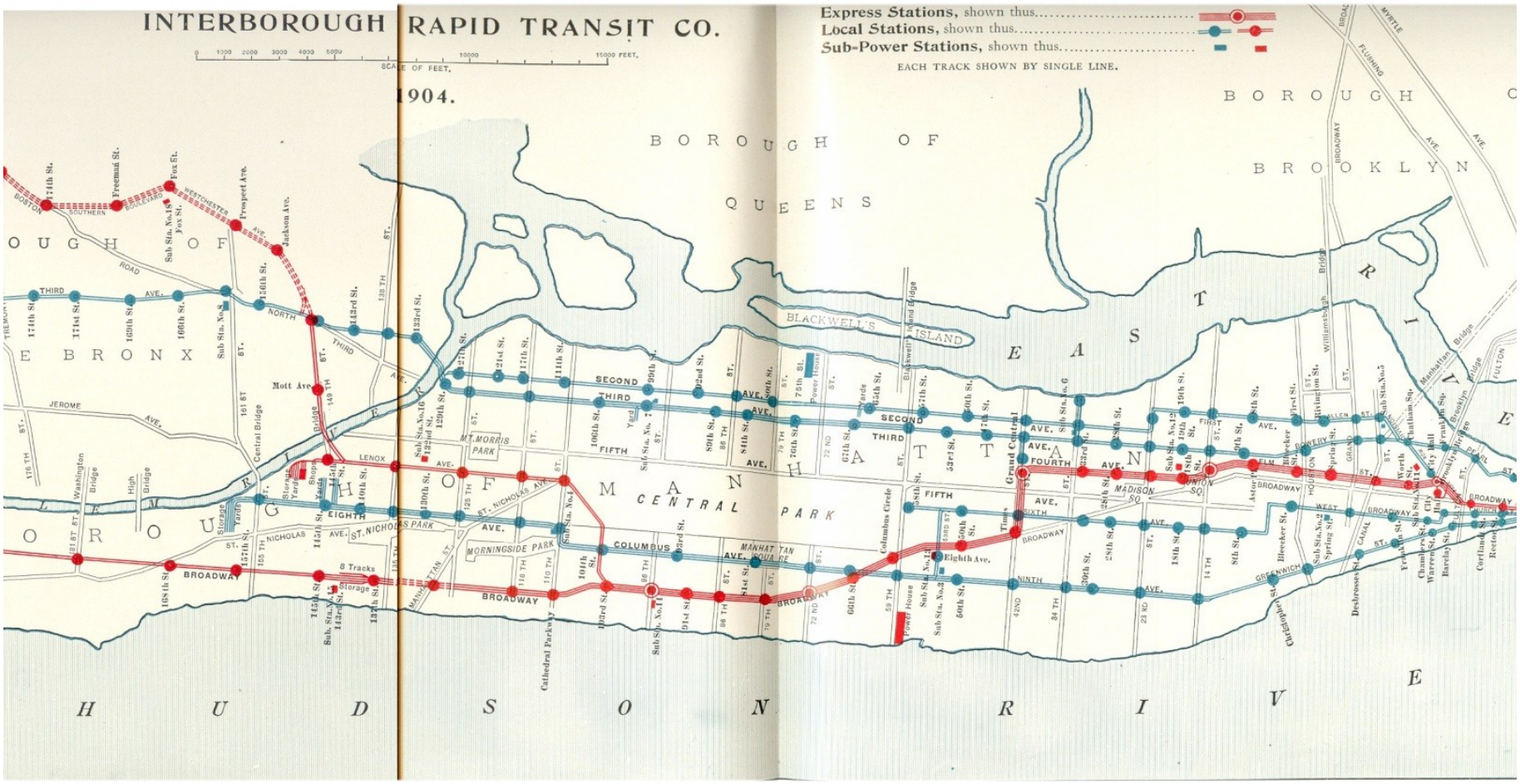


Aspects of the Urban Crisis

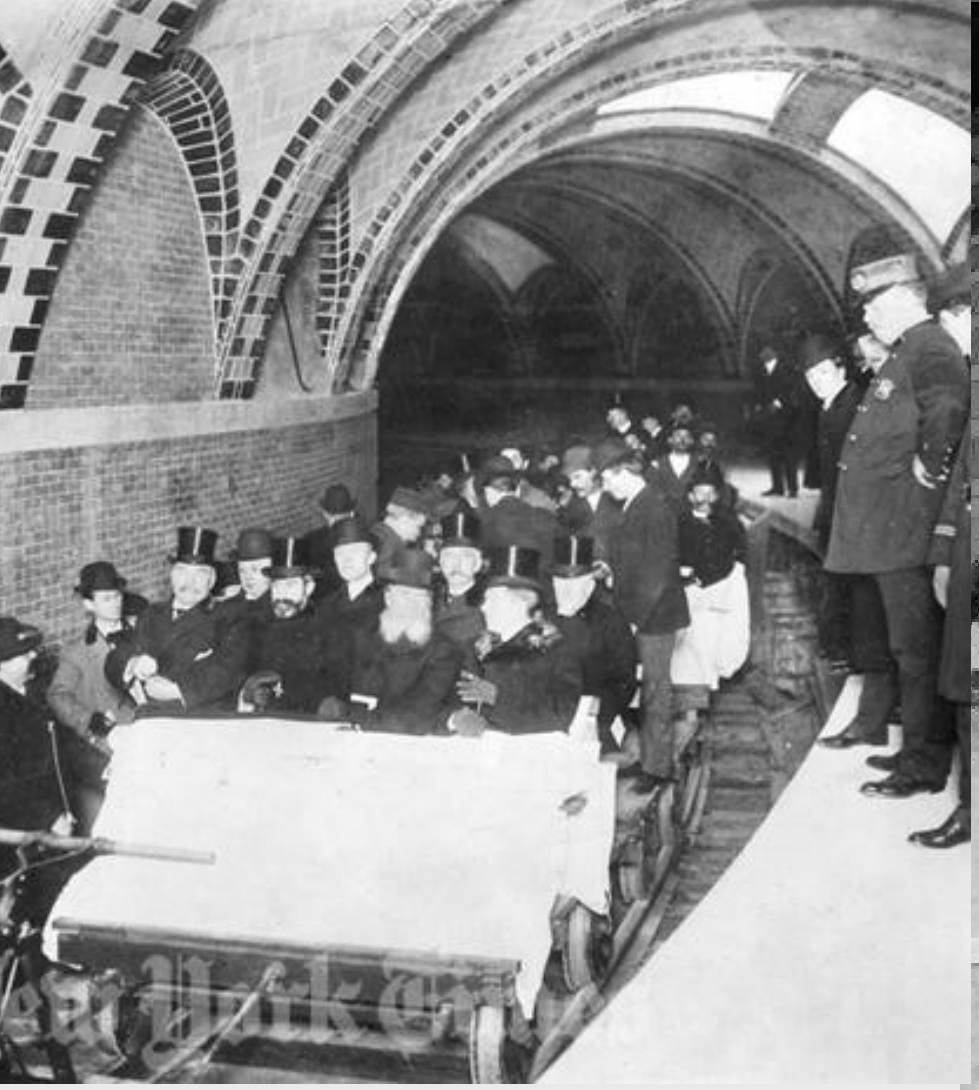
Factors



Detroit (1900)

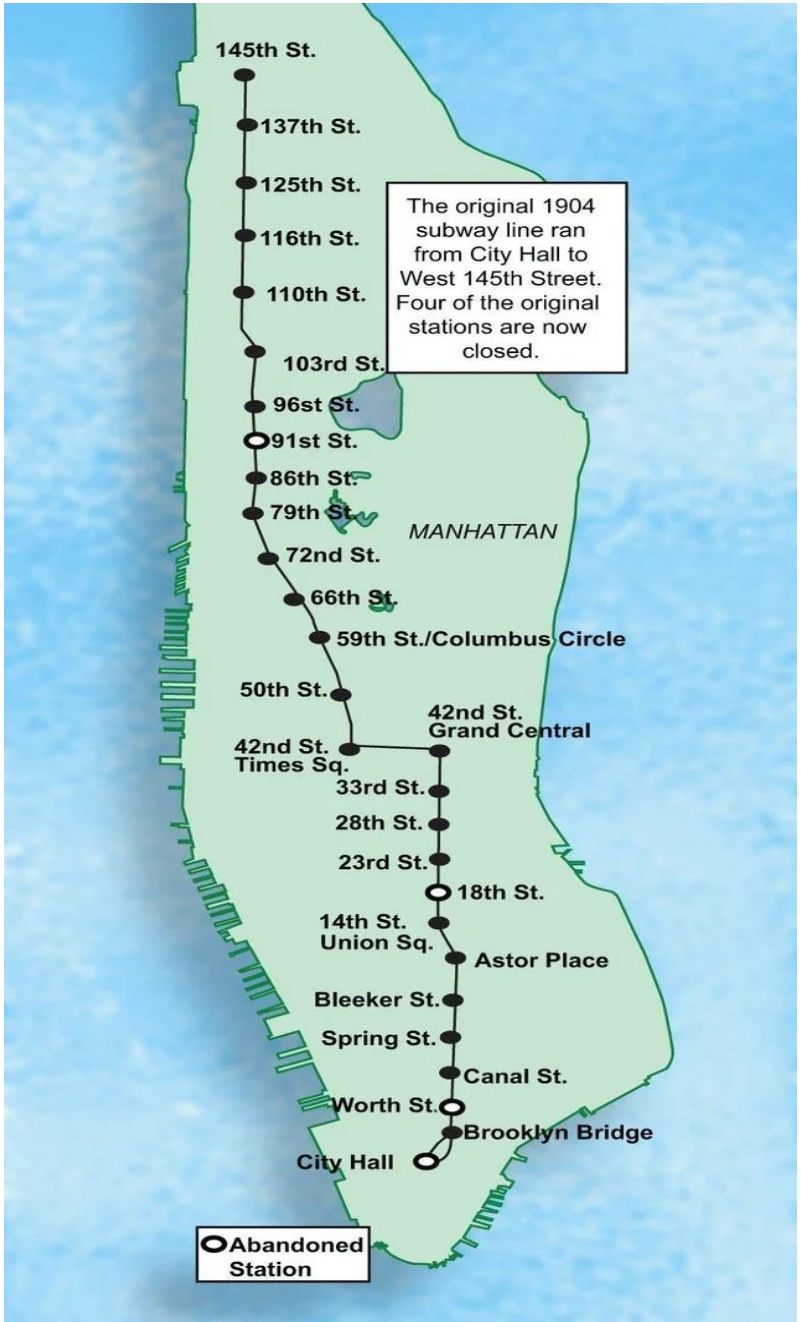


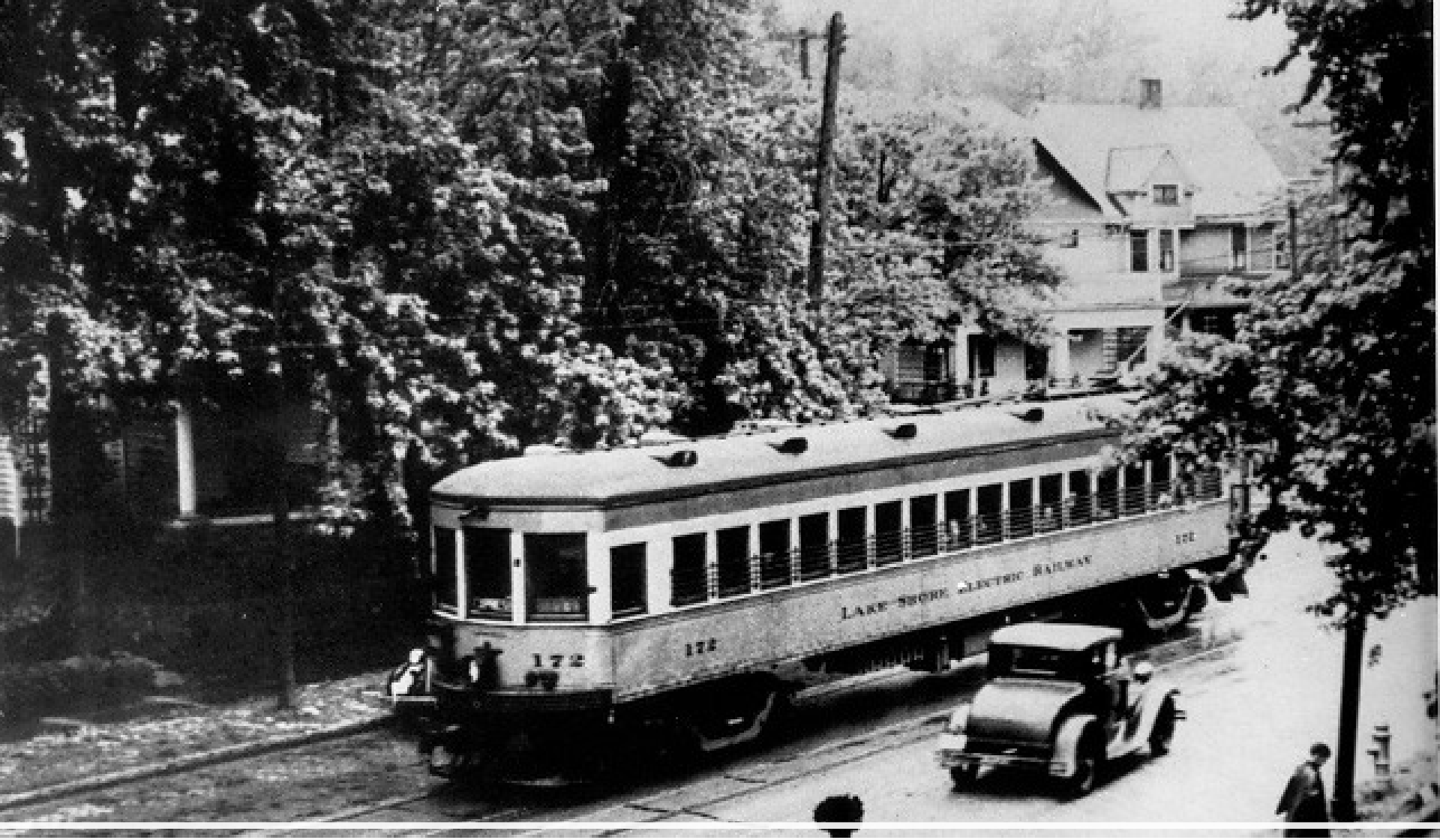
NYC Subway 1904



New York Subway (Opened 1904)

NYC Subway 1904



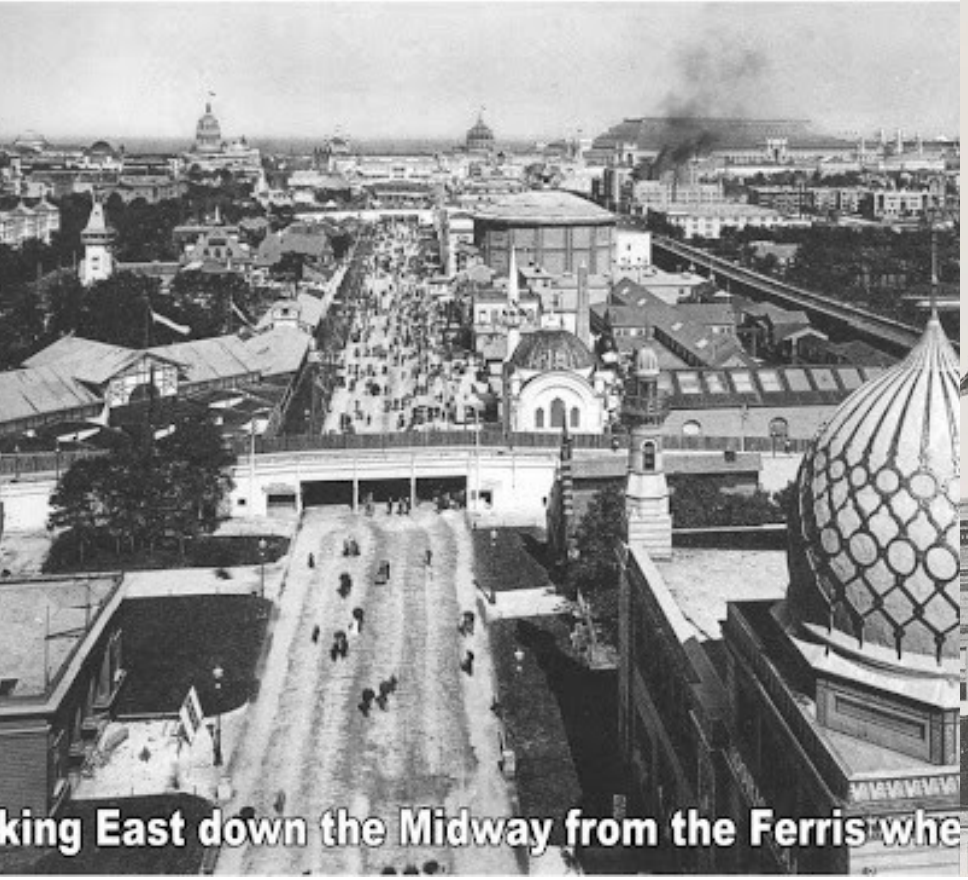


Streetcar Suburbs
Philadelphia

The Walking City: NYC (1880s)

A History of Future Cities: “NYC as it will be in 1999” (1900)

World’s Columbia Exposition
Chicago 1893



Midway Columbian Exposition

The ‘White City’

Sunshine and Shadow in Turn of the Century Chicago