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 Thursdays 1-3pm, Fall, 2014  
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### **Vauban's military urbanism**

How did warfare shape the Early Modern City (ca. 1500-ca.1800) and how are its theories of "military urbanism" still relevant today? Vauban's creations, made at the turning point between Renaissance and Enlightenment, embody both the promise and shortcomings of his time. We will study how their design reflected the strict geometries of siege warfare, absolutist power relations, and made utopic promises for a humane professionalized war and a secure frontier. Generations following him would emphasize the irrational and violent underside of these designs and the darker nature of combat theorized as "total war" by Carl von Clausewitz. In the last sessions we will make spatial and philosophical comparisons with forms of current warfare such as the use of drones, the global threat of terrorism, cyber warfare, and systems of urban surveillance methods as cities once again become military targets.

At the center of this investigation is the pivotal figure, Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633-1707), military engineer to France's King Louis XIV. Vauban's *oeuvre* condensed and catalyzed political and planning trends in all European cities that had been developing since the mid-fifteenth century. France was arguably the most important military and political force of the latter part of this period. Vauban, heretofore seen as a master of the art of attacking and defending bastioned fortifications, was also an accomplished and prolific "urbanist" in the modern sense of the word. He built an exceptionally large and unified corpus of fortified cities: nine new towns and one hundred sixty cities in total. This course sheds new light on how key urban designs in Paris and Versailles were created in dialogue with military innovations made on the borders of France. The French model was an important influence on European urban culture of the Enlightenment that radiated to other capital cities, princely cities and to the colonies. Vauban's urban vocabulary and his ideals are still very present today.

The structure of each seminar session will be part lecture and part reading discussion. It is hoped that the sessions will be lively and that students will bring their own viewpoints as historians and contemporary designers to the table. Readings have been selected both for their informational content, their historical importance and their methodological diversity. All readings will be in English but additional bibliography in French will be provided.

Students are expected to do all assigned readings and come to class prepared with brief written answers (approximately one page total) to directed thematic reading questions available in class the prior week. In the last two classes, they will present a final research project on a topic of their choosing in order to share their findings with the seminar members and get feedback. They will then write this presentation up as a research paper (15 pages of text not including footnotes, bibliography and illustrations). All assigned readings listed below are in English but additional sources in French will be provided. At least half of their papers should focus on pre-1750 material but they can also make trans-historical comparisons.

#### Grading:

Class participation, attendance and presentation: 50%

Final paper: 50%

## **Class Schedule and Readings**

1. Sept. 4: Introduction. History, historiography and methodology
2. Sept. 11: Warfare, violence and the "Military Revolution" of the Early Modern period
  - Geoffrey Parker, "The Military Revolution Revisited," in *The military revolution: military innovation and the rise of the west, 1500-1800*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 1988, Introduction and ch. 1, pp. 1-44 -- Courseworks: Resources. Q: *How was war a driving force for the emergence of the Modern Pstate? Could this be said of other periods?*
  - Christopher Duffy, "The Fortress and Humankind," in *Siege Warfare: the Fortress in the Early Modern World 1494-1660*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1979, ch. 10, pp. 247-264. -- Courseworks: Resources. Q: *What was the experience of war in this period?*
  - Ryan Bishop and Gregory Clancey, "The City-as-Target, or Perpetuation and Death," in Stephen Graham, ed., *Cities, War, and Terrorism. Towards and Urban Geopolitics*, Blackwell, 2004, pp. 54-74. Courseworks: Resources and Avery Reserves. Q: *Why are towns central to disaster, destruction and warfare? Has it always been this way? Why do cities become targets?*
3. Sept. 18: The technology of fortifications and siege warfare: theory and reality
  - Paddy Griffith, *The Vauban Fortifications of France*, Oxford, Osprey Publishing, 2006. -- Courseworks: Resources. Q: *Explain the technology of bastioned fortification. How is Vauban's vision pragmatic and how is it utopic?*
  - Jamel Oswald, "The Perfect Siege of Ath", and "Implementing the Paradigm Siege", in *Vauban under Siege: Engineering Efficiency and Martial Vigor in the War of the Spanish Succession History of Warfare, Volume 41*, Brill, 2007, ch. 2 and 5, pp. 21-45; 123-172. EBOOKS" Courseworks: Library Reserves  
<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/lib/columbia/docDetail.action?docID=10234964>. Library E-reserves. Q: *How did reality differ from Vauban's practice.?*
4. Sept. 25: Military urbanism in Early Modern Europe
  - Horst de la Croix "Military Architecture and the Radial City Plan in Sixteenth Century Italy", in *The Art Bulletin*, Dec. 1960, vol XII no. 4, pp. 263-290. -- E-Reserve. Q: *How did military technology and strategy influence city plans.* Courseworks: Library Reserves
  - Martha Pollak, "The Forms of Military Urbanism," in *Cities at War: Baroque Fortifications and military Urbanism*, Cambridge University Press, 2010, ch. 4 pp. 155-232. E-Reserves and Seminar Shelf" *Define Military Urbanism.* Courseworks: Library Reserves
  - in French: Victoria Sanger "Vauban Urbaniste" in Warmoes and Sanger, dir., *Vauban, bâtisseur du Roi-Soleil*, Somogy, Cité de l'architecture, Musée des Plans-reliefs, Paris, 2007, pp. 214-225; 259-265. – E-Reserves and Seminar Shelf. Q: *How is Vauban a town planner?* Courseworks: Resources
5. Oct. 2: New Towns, Military Camps, Utopia and Dystopia
  - Polybius, "The Roman Military System," *The Histories of Polybius*, Loeb Classical Library Edition, vol. III. Book VI par. 27-42.

[http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Polybius/6\\*.html](http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Polybius/6*.html).

- "Longwy and the Ex-Nihilo towns" in *Military Town Planning under Louis XIV: Vauban's Practice and Method (1668- 1707)*, Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 2000. – Courseworks: Library Resources. Q: *Why did Vauban design "regular" fortifications? How did his approach to ex nihilo towns differ from his predecessors'?*
- Helen Rosenau, "The Renaissance: development and the mannerist phase" in *The Ideal City, its Architectural Evolution*, Studio Vista, London 1974, ch. III, pp. 42-70, and "The Age of the Baroque," in *Op. Cit.*, ch. IV, pp. 71-86. Courseworks: Resources. Q: *Compare the concept of the ideal, utopian, dystopian, new, remodeled and extended city. Give examples.*

#### 6. Oct. 9: The Panopticon

- Richard Ingersoll, "Piazza di Ponte and the Military Origins of Panopticism," in *Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Spaces*, ed. Zeynep Celik et al. (London and Berkeley, 1994) 177-187. -- Courseworks: Library Reserves. Q: *Summarize. Draw a diagram of the panopticon as it operates in a Baroque city.*
- Michel Foucault, "Panopticism," in *Discipline and Punish*, New York, Pantheon Books, 1977, pp. 195-228.-- Courseworks: Resources. Q: *Define Panopticism for Foucault. Compare it with a definition of Bentham's panopticism.*
- David Lyon, "The search for surveillance theories," in David Lyon, ed., *Theorizing Surveillance. The panopticon and beyond*, Willan publishing, 2006, pp. 3-20. Courseworks: Resources and Avery Reserve Desk. JC596.T45 2006g Q: *Is the panopticon the best metaphor for the relations between government and governed? Look up other uses of "Panopticon" in current media. Draw your own diagram of a surveillance method referred to by Lyon. Does it look like a Panopticon?*

#### 7. Oct. 16 : Power struggles and the case of Lille and Paris

- "Lille" in *Military Town Planning under Louis XIV: Vauban's Practice and Method (1668-1707)*, Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 2000. – Courseworks: Library Resources
- William Beik, "The Absolutism of Louis XIV a Social Collaboration," in *Past & Present*, 188, 2005, pp. 195-224. -- Courseworks: Library Resrves. *How is absolutism been redefined. How does Absolutism differ from Fascism?*
- Michel Foucault, *Security, Territory, Population*, Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-1978, Michel Senellart, ed., Graham Burchell, trans., Palgrave Macmillan, ch. 1 (11 jan., 1978), pp. 16-39. Course Context and Summary Michel Senellart et al., pp. 456-507. Courseworks: Resources
- Cesare Birignani, *The Police and the City: Paris 1660-1750*, Ph.D, Columbia University, 2013. Courseworks.

#### 8. Oct. 23: (Mid-Term review week) Field trip to Governor's Island and lower Manhattan. No reading due.

#### 9. Oct. 30: Military urbanism in the 18th and 19th Centuries

- Wolfgang Sonne, introduction and conclusion, in *Representing the State, Capital City Planning in the early Twentieth Century*, London, Prestel Publishing, 2003, pp. 29-49 and 286-315. Courseworks: Library Resources.
- Nicholas Papayanis, Introduction and "Eighteenth-Century Roots of Modern Planning," in *Planning Paris Before Haussmann*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 2004,

pp. 1-61. Courseworks: Library Resources. AA1045 P185

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, pages TBA

10. Nov. 6 Military urbanism in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Please read at least two of the following:

- Vincent Scully, "Shape of France: Gardens, Fortifications and Modern Urbanism" in *Architecture: The Natural and the Manmade*, London, St. Martin's, Press, 1991, pp. 275-311. – Courseworks: Library Resources
- Jean-Louis Cohen, *Architecture in Uniform, Designing and Building for the Second World War*, CCA, 2011.
- Greg Elmer and Andy Opel, "Pre-empting panoptic surveillance: surviving the inevitable war on terror," in David Lyon, ed., *op. cit.*, ch. 7 pp. 139-160. Avery Reserve Desk.
- Stephen Graham, "Surveillance, urbanization and the US, Revolution in Military Affairs," in David Lyon, ed., *op. cit.*, ch. 12, pp. 247-270. Courseworks: Resources and Avery Reserves.
- Eyal Weitzman, "Lethal Theory," in *Log*, Winter/Spring 2006, pp. 53-77. Q: *How has modern technology modified methods of attacking the Early Modern military city?* Courseworks: Resources

11. Nov. 13 and 20: Student presentations.

12. Dec. 11: **Papers Due** and Make up Class

### **Bibliography (See Courseworks: Avery Reserves)**

- G. J Ashworth, "The fortified city" in *War and the City*, London and New York, Routledge, 1991
- Anne Blanchard, *Vauban*, Paris, Fayard, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *Dictionnaire des ingénieurs militaires 1691-1791*, Montpellier, Université Paul Valéry, 1981.
- David Buisseret, *Ingénieurs et Fortifications avant Vauban: l'organisation d'un service royale aux XVIe-XVIIe siècles*, Paris, Ministère de la jeunesse, de l'éducation nationale et de la recherche, Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques, c2002.
- Jean-François Cabestan, *La conquête du plain-pied: l'immeuble à Paris au XVIIe siècle*, Paris, Picard, 2004.
- André Charbonneau, Yvon Desloges, Marc LaFrance, *Québec, the Fortified City: from the 17th to the 19th century*, Ottawa, Parks Canada, 1982
- Jean-Louis Cohen, *Architecture in Uniform, Designing and Building for the Second World War*, CCA, 2011.
- Joan Dejean, *Literary Fortifications: Rousseau, Laclos, Sade*, Princeton University Press, 1984.
- Christopher Duffy, *Fire and Stone: the Science of Fortress Warfare 1660-1860*, Newton Abbot, David and Charles, 1975
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Fortress in the Age of Vauban and Frederick the Great 1660-1789*, London and Boston, Routledge and Keegan Paul, 1985 -- Seminar Shelf AA4485 Eu74 D87
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Military Experience in the Age of Reason*, Athenaeum, New York, 1988
- Arlette Farge, *Subversive Words: Public Opinion in Eighteenth-Century France*, trans. Rosemary Morris, University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994.

- Michel Foucault, *Security, Territory, Population*, Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-1978, edited by Michel Senellart, General editors: François Ewald and Alessandro Fontana, English Series Editor: Arnold I. Davidson, translated by Graham Burchell. -- Courseworks (Google Books)
- Stephen Graham, ed., *Cities, War, and Terrorism. Towards and Urban Geopolitics*, Blackwell, 2004. -- Avery Reserve Desk
- Jean-Louis Harouel, "La Tradition du règlement," in *La Fabrication des villes*, Xavier Malverti and Aleth Picar dir., GEVR, Grenoble, 1995
- \_\_\_\_\_, *L'Embellissement des villes, l'urbanisme français au XVIIIe siècle*, Picard 1993.
- F. J. Hebbert and J. A. Rothrock, *Soldier of France: Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban 1633-1707*, New York, Bern, Frankfurt am Main, Paris, Peter Lang, 1990. – Avery reserves
- Horst de la Croix, *Military Considerations in City Planning: Fortifications*, Braziller, 1971.
- Quentin Hughes, *Military architecture: the art of defence from earliest times to the Atlantic Wall*, Liphook, Hants, Beaufort, 1991, seminar shelf
- Janis Langins, *Conserving the Enlightenment: French Military Engineering from Vauban to the Revolution*, Cambridge, MIT Press, 2004.
- David Lyon, ed., *Theorizing Surveillance, The panopticon and beyond*, Willan Publishing, 2006. - Avery Reserve Desk
- John Lynn, *The Wars of Louis XIV, 1664-1714*, London, New York, Longman, 1999
- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, (1st Italian edition 1532) The Project Gutenberg EBook of The Prince, by Nicolo Machiavelli, Translator: W. K. Marriott. Release Date: February 11, 2006 [EBook #1232] <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm>
- Thierry Mariage, *The World of André Le Nôtre*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999. AA531 L54 M332. -- Seminar shelf
- Emilie d'Orgeix, Victoria Sanger, Michèle Virol, Isabelle Warmoes, *Vauban, la pierre et la plume*, Gérard Klopp, Editions du Patrimoine, Paris, 2007
- Michel Parent, Jacques Verroust, *Vauban*, Paris, J. Fréal, 1971. -- Avery AA497 F8 P21
- \_\_\_\_\_, *Vauban : Encyclopédiste avant la lettre*, Paris, Berger-Levrault, 1983 -- Seminar shelf.
- Geoffrey Parker, *The military revolution: military innovation and the rise of the west, 1500-1800*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 1988
- Antoine Picon, *French Architects and Engineers in the Age of Enlightenment*, Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Antoine Picon, dir., *La ville et la guerre*, Editions de l'imprimeur, 1996. -- Seminar shelf
- Martha D. Pollak, "Art and War: Renaissance and Baroque military Treatises on Military Baroque Architecture", in *Military Architecture, Cartography and the Representation of the Early Modern European City*. Chicago: The Newberry Library, 1991 – seminar shelf Avery: AA490 N423.
- Philippe Prost, *Vauban, le style de l'intelligence*, Archibooks + Sautereau, 2007.
- Pierre Rocolle, 2000 ans de fortification française, Limoges, Charles Lavauzelle, 1973, 2 vols.-- Seminar Shelf.
- Victoria Sanger, Isabelle Warmoes, "The Urban Arches of Louis XIV," August 2000, paper presented at the specialist session "City Gates: Negotiation and Nexus," Fifth International Conference on Urban History, Berlin, Germany, *Journal of Urban History*, special issue "The European City," January, 2003. Courseworks.
- Victoria Sanger, *Military Town Planning under Louis XIV: Vauban's Practice and Method (1668- 1707)*, Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 2000.

- \_\_\_\_\_, "The French Collection of Plans-Reliefs as Political Instrument. Exhibition Review: La France en Relief" *Journal of Architecture*, vol. 18, no. 1, Feb. 8, 2013, pp. 115-134.
- Paul Virilio, *Bunker Archeology*, George Collins trans., Princeton Architectural Press, 1994. <http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/lib/columbia/docDetail.action?docID=10453767>
- Michèle Virol, *Vauban: de la Gloire du Roi au Service de l'Etat*, Seyssel, Champ Vallon, 2003 -- Avery Reserves
- Thierry Martin, Michèle Virol éd., *Vauban, architecte de la modernité?*, Cahiers de la MSHE Ledoux, Presses universitaires de Franche-Comté, 2008.
- Isabelle Warmoes and Victoria Sanger, dir., *Vauban, bâtisseur du Roi-Soleil*, Somogy, Cié de l'architecture, Musée des Plans-reliefs, Paris, 2007 –Avery AA497 F8 V46363 Seminar shelf
- Eyal Zeizman, *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*, Verso, 2007

### **Publications by Vauban**

- Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban, *De l'attaque et de la defense des places: par Mr. de Vauban*, La Haye, P. de Hondt, 1737, Google Books, Avery Classics, AA490 V46
- \_\_\_\_\_, *A manual of siegecraft and fortification (mémoire pour servir d'instruction dans la conduite des sièges et dans la défense des places)*, George Rothrock, trans., Ann Arbor, U. of Michigan Press, 1968.
- Michèle Virol, ed., *Oisivetés de Monsieur de Vauban, ou ramas de plusieurs mémoires de sa façon sur différents sujets*, Seyssel, Champ Vallon, 2007.
- Albert Rochas d'Aiglun, ed. *Vauban, sa famille et ses écrits ses oisivetés et sa correspondance : analyse et extraits*, Geneva, Slatkine Reprints, 1972.