Readings

• Lagopoulos on Thessaloniki
• A city whose landscape symbolism was shaped/reshaped to suit national purpose
The Replanning of Thessaloniki

• An example of nationalist landscape symbolism

• Thessaloniki “liberated” from Turks in 1913 by Greeks
  – Then largely a Turkish/Jewish city, with a large Greek minority

• Greek government wants to rebuild city after disastrous fire of 1917
Thessaloniki

- Second-largest city in modern Greece
- Ancient origins
- Hellenistic street plan makes modern city building difficult
Fig. 1. The Hellenistic streets of Thessaloniki on an early-twentieth-century plan of the city. Source: M. Vickers, Hellenistic Thessaloniki, in: Thessalonikin Filippou Vasilissan: Studies on Ancient Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, 1985, (in Greek), 490. A. Egnatia Street. B. St Demetria Street.
1700

Fig. 2. Thessaloniki in 1700. Lithograph by Dapper.
The Greek Nationalist project required a modernist city
- Get rid of the Ottoman era
- Remove the people who ‘didn’t belong’
- Modify the ‘irrational’ street grid
- Liquidate that Ottoman complexity
- Nationalism prepared to do violence to Ottoman Thessaloniki
Reconstruction

• Post 1917 reconstruction plan devised by French architect Hebrard
  – Track record of imposing western-European modernity on non-western societies
  – He planned French Colonial cities
• Hebrard’s World City concept
Hebrard Plan 1918

- Replaces fire ruins with modern urban scheme
- Western modernity in centre
- Working classes, ethnic enclaves banished to the suburbs
  - Modernity symbolising the new political arrangement of Greek ascendancy
Fig. 4. The plan for the intra-muros section of Thessaloniki by Hébrard, 1918. Source: A. Yerolympos, Urban Transformations in the Balkans, Thessaloniki 1996, 96.
Ottoman Turkey

- A complex, multi-layered non-western society
  - Multiple ethnic groups
- Organization was complex, ordered and intellectually untidy
  - Space was found for different identities
- Ottoman Turkey was not a modern society
  - Little was rational
Greek Nationalism

- Drew upon the nationalist revolutions of C18th and C19th Europe
- Identity imagined to be clear and easy to define
The End of the Ottoman Empire

• Nationalist movements
  – Greek, Armenian, Turkish …
  – Unleashed bloodshed, ethnic cleansing in the old Ottoman empire
Thessaloniki

• Greek Nationalism imposed its order on the landscape and the population
  – Jews, Turks, Macedonians marginalised

• Grandiose schemes of modernity overwhelmed by the traffic congestion of modernity

• What ensues is not entirely what is planned
Reading

- Caprotti on Fascist new towns in Italy
- Italian fascism indulged in feats of imperialism
  - Seized and conquered Ethiopia, parts of Somalia
  - Deployed colonial cities and towns in the Horn of Africa
Caprotti

• On the new towns built by Mussolini’s fascists in Italy’s Pontine marshes
• Fascism has gone, but the towns are still there
• A feat of fascist colonizing
  – Related projects in Libya and Ethiopia
• Fascism keen to triumph over nature, history, decadence
Pontine Marshes

• Early-Mid 1930s aggressive drainage and colonization scheme
  – A fascist priority and showcase
  – 50,000 workers
  – 5 new towns
  – Fascist architecture and social engineering
LITTORIA LITTORIA
UND AGRO PONTINO
UND AGRO PONTINO
Caprotti

• The Pontine colonization allows us to read and decode the strategies of Fascism
  – Pontine new towns helped the Fascists re-plan Addis Ababa

• 1930s filled with grandiose schemes of authoritarian power
  – Hoover Dam
  – Stalin’s 5 year plans
  – Hitler’s Autobahn
Landscapes of Power

• Readings of Landscapes
  – can symbolise power
  – may project power
  – Powerful groups can generate their own landscapes
  – landscape can be shaped to control, exclude or even destroy the powerless