Imperial Paris
The re-making of public space was a vital part of the re-making of Paris under Napoleon III.
Imperial Cities

• London 1850-1875: a centre of a global empire
  – Its landscape is gradually and slowly transformed into more imperial forms
  – Monuments, museums

• Paris, Vienna in the same period
  – Seats of imperial government
  – Landscapes being rapidly transformed into a spectacles of imperial modernity
Creation of Urban Landscape

• Power is important in the shaping of urban landscape
  – Imperialism (political power)
  – Economic power

• Can we really tell the difference?
Capital Accumulation

• Accumulation of capital is important to Marxist interpretations of the city

• City’s built environment is produced by capital accumulation
  – Gets built, torn down, modified, abandoned by the dictates of the market

• One of the forms of power
Paris C19th

- Celebrated for its bourgeois pleasure culture and the social space of the street, night life
- Transformed by industrial capitalism, railroads
- Socially stratified, divided by class, wealth, status
- Growing rapidly through immigration
Imperial Paris

• A revolution in 1848 brings a bourgeois-friendly emperor to power
  – Napoleon III

• Napoleon III presides over the reconstruction of Paris to suit the bourgeoisie
Populations of Paris & Vienna

![Population Graph](image-url)
Haussman rebuilds Paris

• Bourgeoisie anxious to control C19th Paris
  – too many dangerous revolutions
• Bourgeoisie making money
  – France industrializing
  – Railways being built (1850s)
  – Real estate & stock speculation
• Napoleon III in power
Baron Haussman

- Prefét de la Seine 1853-1870
  - Appointed to rebuild Paris
- Proceeds to demolish old working class districts of inner city
- Drives new grand boulevards through
- Establishes monumental buildings
- Enables rebuilding of apartment houses (*immeubles*) for elegant bourgeois living
Haussman’s Paris

- Improves urban networks
  - Traffic routes
  - Sewers, water supplies, gas lines
- Improves the urban outdoors
  - Paving, street lighting, parks, squares
- Finances the cost of street improvements by triggering increases in property values and tax assessments
Rue de Rivoli

• Sliced through troublesome working class Paris, opened 1855
• Created a grand boulevard, lined with impressive apartment buildings, cafes, stores, arcades
  – Attracted the bourgeoisie, forced the working classes to retreat
• Connected the Louvre with Champs Elysées
Paris Catacombs

• C19th urban reconstruction hampered by numerous cemeteries and church yards
• Dig up the graves, remove bones to the cave system of the Catacombs
• Bourgeoisie makes money recycling the graveyards for parks and residential construction
The New Paris

• Wide boulevards
  – ease traffic
  – frustrate barricades
  – enable artillery to bombard revolutionaries
Bourgeois transformation

• French bourgeoisie undergoing a transformation in culture
  – From secluded privacy, to living in public
• Coincides with Haussman’s work
• Bourgeois life moves out of doors
  – Ostentatious, public displays of wealth
  – Parks, promenades, cafes, arcades, department stores,
Bourgeois transformation

• Bourgeois women move into the public eye
  – Promenading unescorted
  – Going shopping unescorted
  – Going to cafes and restaurants unescorted
Bourgeois transformation

• Creation of feminized urban environments
  – Department stores, arcades
  – Streets safe for bourgeois women to walk unescorted
  – Women become consumers of modernity
Grand *Immeubles*

- Apartment buildings
- Allow elegant bourgeois living
  - The concierge can help the police track undesirables
- Built by the new mortgage financing
Paris Rebuilt

- Central Paris becomes the bourgeois pleasure capital of Europe
- Bourgeoisie create, own and control an exclusive enclave of elegance in city core
- Central Paris reshaped to reflect the taste and power of the middle class
Paris Rebuilt

• As a spectacular, modern bourgeois pleasure capital, Paris attracts tourists
  – There is plenty to see
  – Exhibitions, public events, spectacles
  – Guidebooks show you how

• Haussman’s Paris is still the classic Paris of the tourist guidebook
Elegance
Les Invalides
Flaneurie

• Emergence of a bourgeois habit of watching the spectacle of urban life in Paris
• The term *flaneur* applied to those who indulged in this habit
• Recording their observations in books, newspapers, photography, art
• The *flaneur* (or *flaneuse*) was a visual consumer of the city
Parisian Culture

• Visual Modernity became important to the arts in Paris
  – The modernity of the camera
  – Experimental forms of visual art (impressionism)
Paris

• Inner city:
  – remade C19th onwards as an arena for the bourgeoisie

• Suburbs:
  – emerge C19th onwards as a fringe of lower incomes, industry

• A consequence of social power shaping space/landscape
Suburban Paris

• Shanty-towns in the 1930s
Suburban Paris 1920s
Suburban Paris 2005
Paris

• Industrial revolution transformed the city
  – Economically
  – Socially

• Social space, landscapes remade around the interests of the city’s dominant groups

• C19th transformations still shape the city