



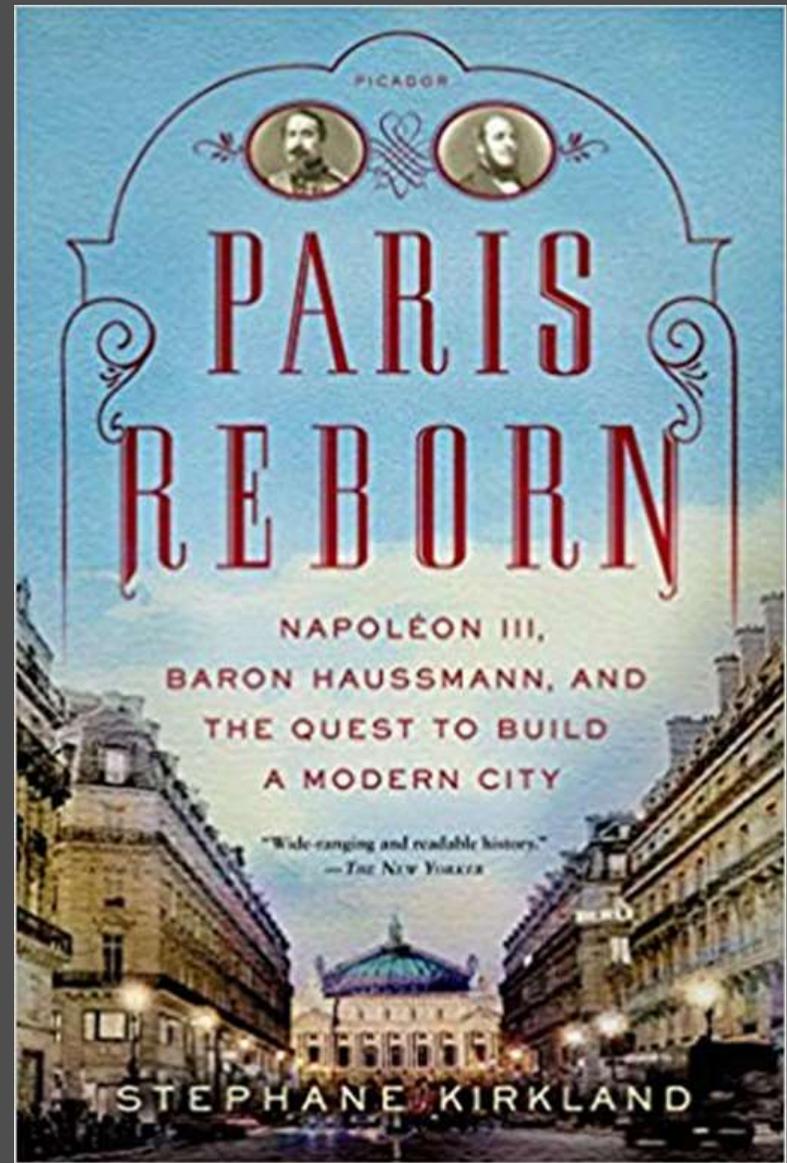
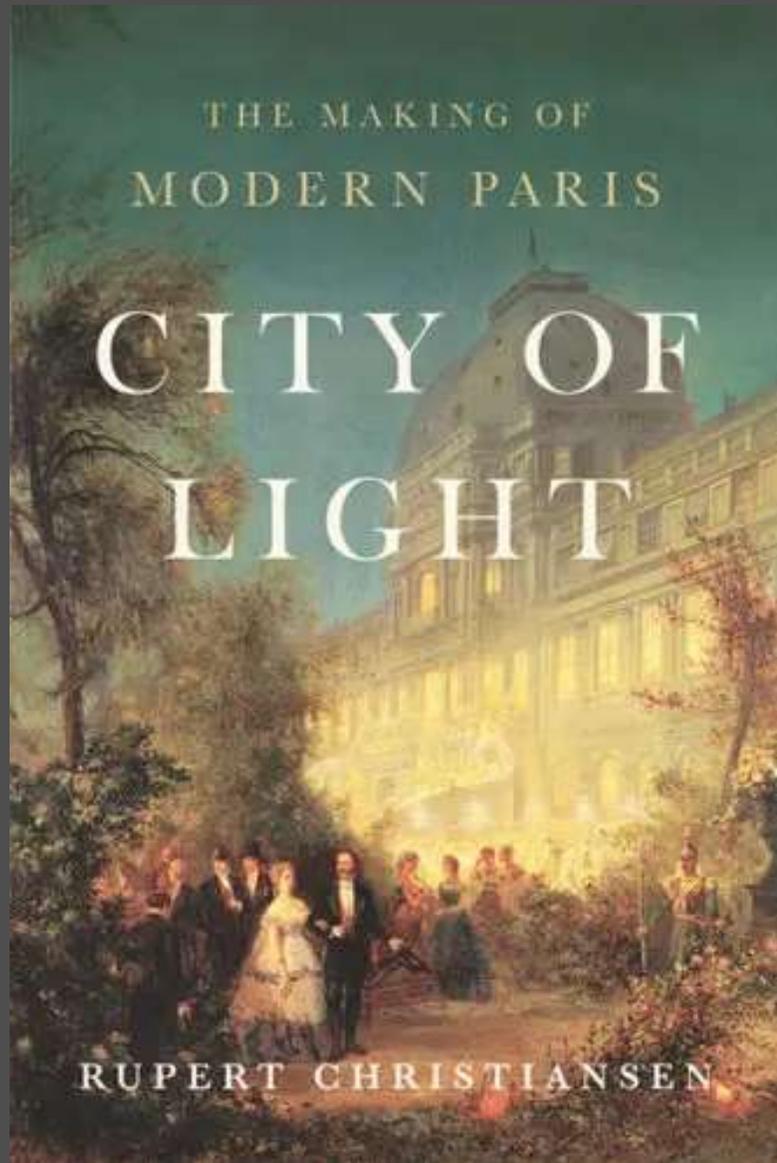
The Second Empire and the transformation of Paris

1853-1870



Winter courses

**Scotland: a History**  
**The Hapsburgs and their empire**  
**(Prague, Vienna & Budapest)**





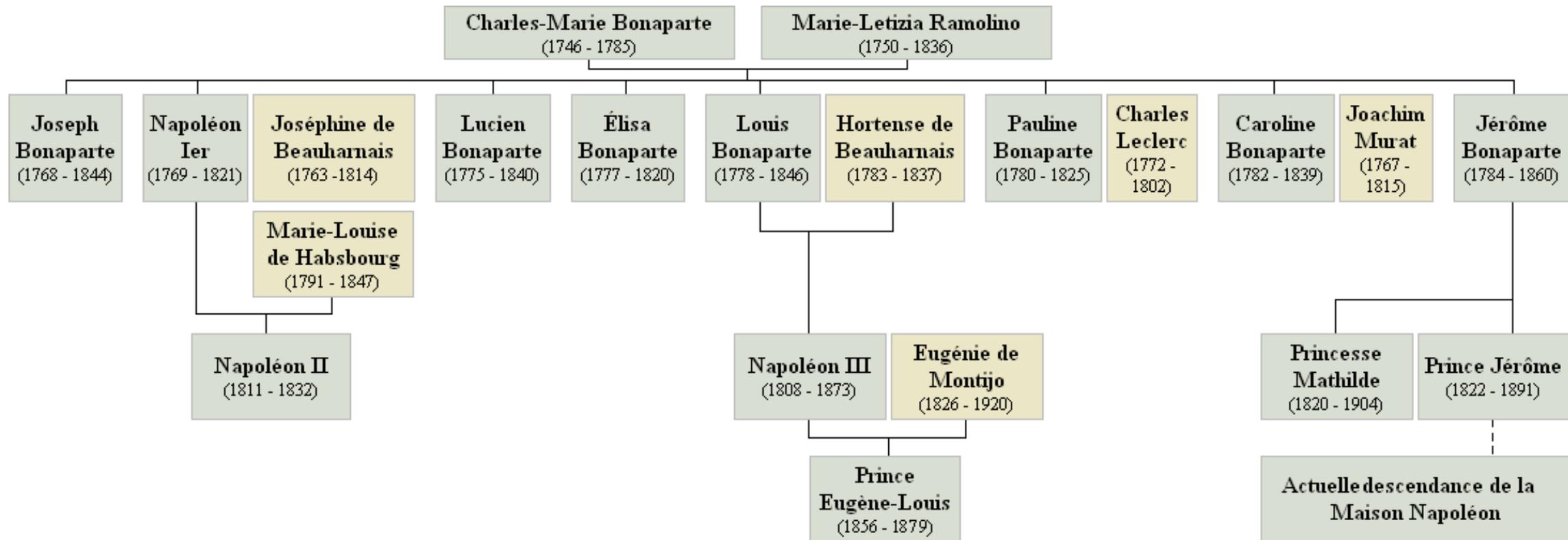
Paris transformed & embellished: a titanic enterprise



Napoleon III: a key role

8 000 construction  
companies  
20 000 houses razed to the  
ground  
30 000 new buildings  
400 km of sewage  
1 million trees planted







Louis-Napoleon: the **third child** of Louis Bonaparte & Hortense de Beauharnais

The golden youth of a Bonaparte prince (1808-1815)

*“Monsieur Oui-Oui”*

Admiration for Napoleon

The defeat of Waterloo (June 1815): a life in exile – The Bonaparte family forbidden to return to France

Little knowledge of Paris  
(life in exile)

1831 visit: Paris still a  
medieval city

Obsolete infrastructure

---

His **objective** once in power: to  
transform Paris into the most  
beautiful city in the world



May-August 1831: exile in London



Louis-Napoleon  
fascinated by **London's  
modernity**

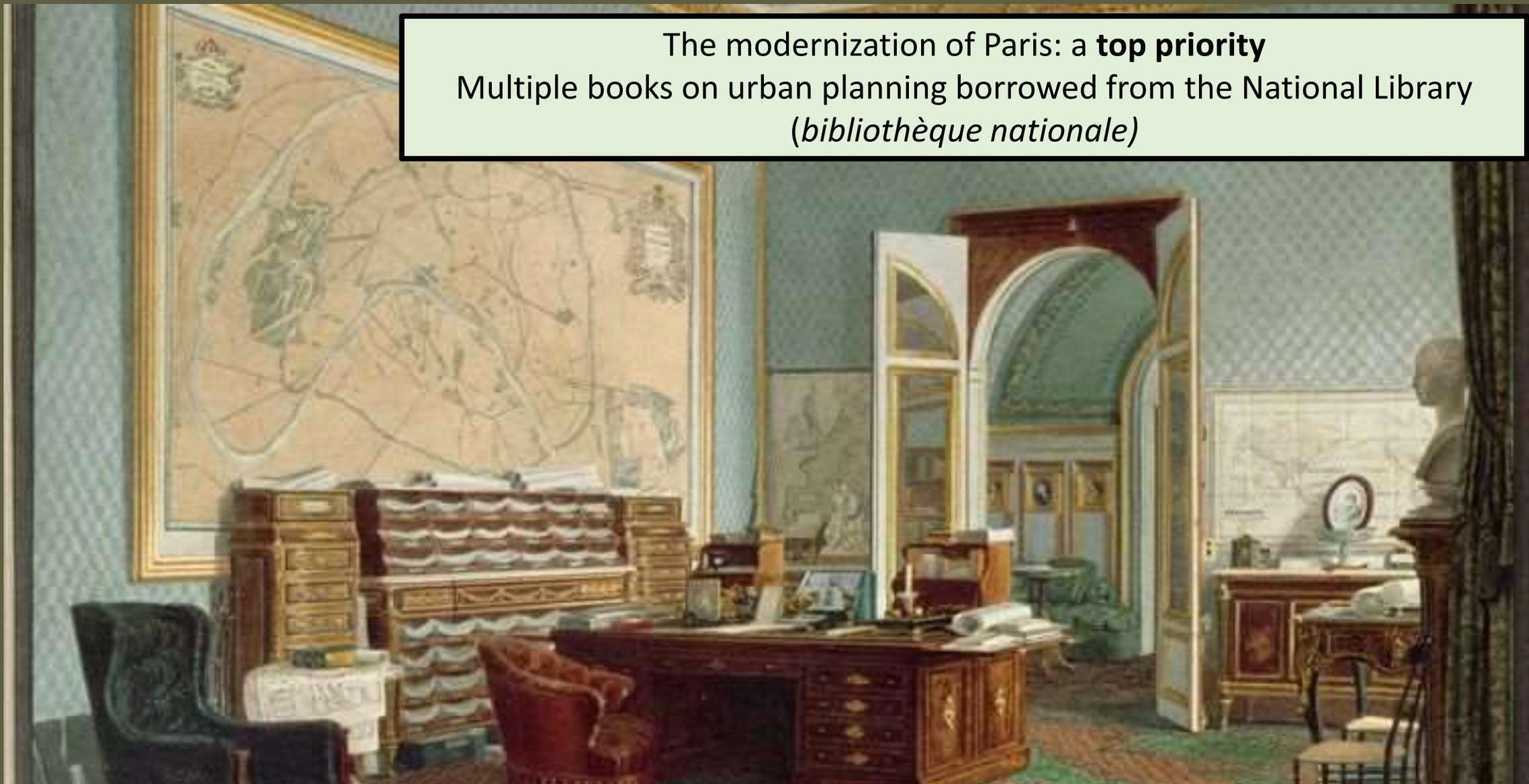
The Revolution of 1848: Louis-Napoleon  
elected deputy





10 December 1848: Louis-Napoleon elected  
**president of the Second French Republic**

The modernization of Paris: a **top priority**  
Multiple books on urban planning borrowed from the National Library  
(*bibliothèque nationale*)



## From president to emperor

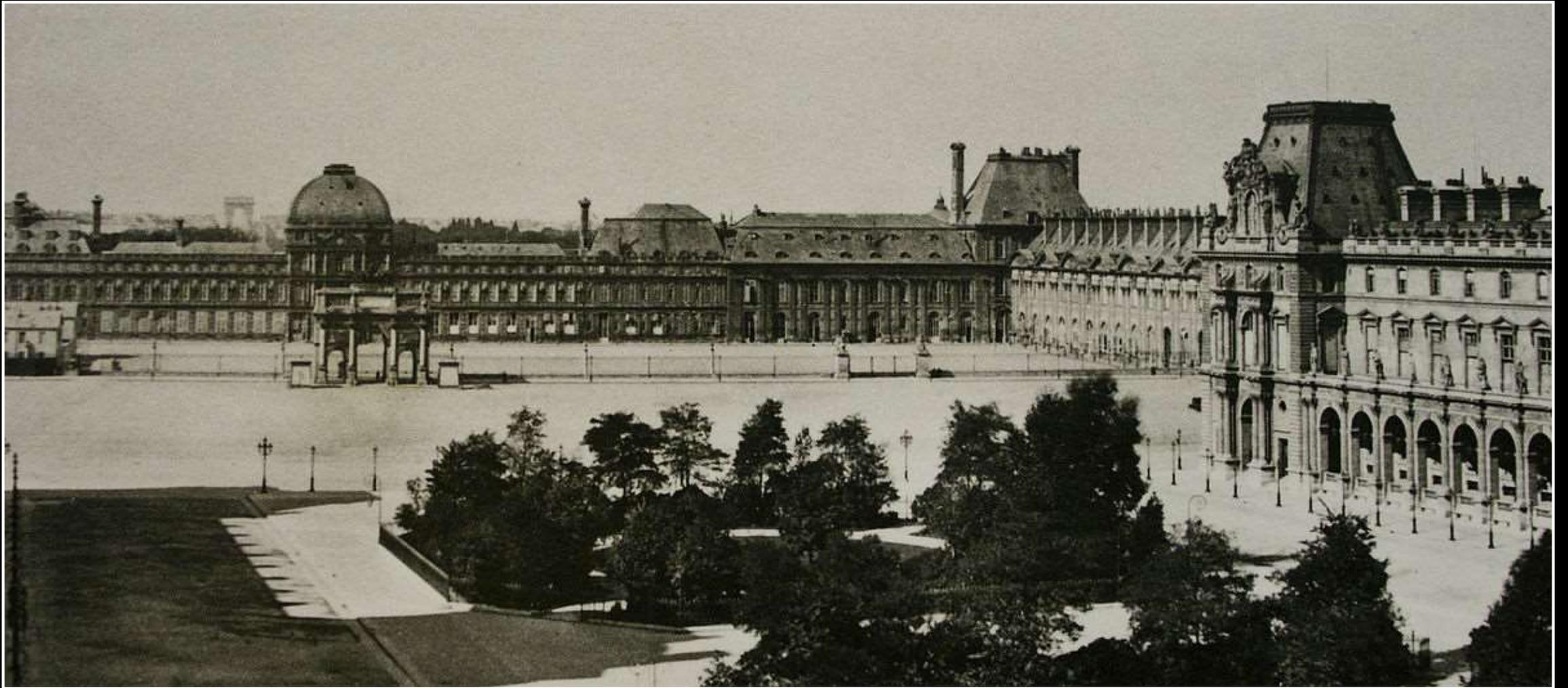
The Constitution: an incumbent president unable to seek re-election

2 December 1851: a **coup d'état**

**A plebiscite (national referendum): 7.1 million approved the coup**

2 December 1852 (the anniversary of Napoleon's coronation) : the re-establishment of the Empire





2 December 1851: Louis-Napoleon moves to the Tuileries Palace



**Jean-Jacques Berger:** NO borrowing  
to finance transformations



June 1853: a new Prefect of the  
Seine: **George-Eugene Haussmann**

Napoleon III & Haussmann: a **close cooperation**/Same vision for Paris





1860: a greater Paris – The annexation of 8 surrounding communes

The arrondissements



A “Commission of the embellishments of Paris”

Chaotic development of Paris since the Middle-Age (narrow streets/lack of hygiene)

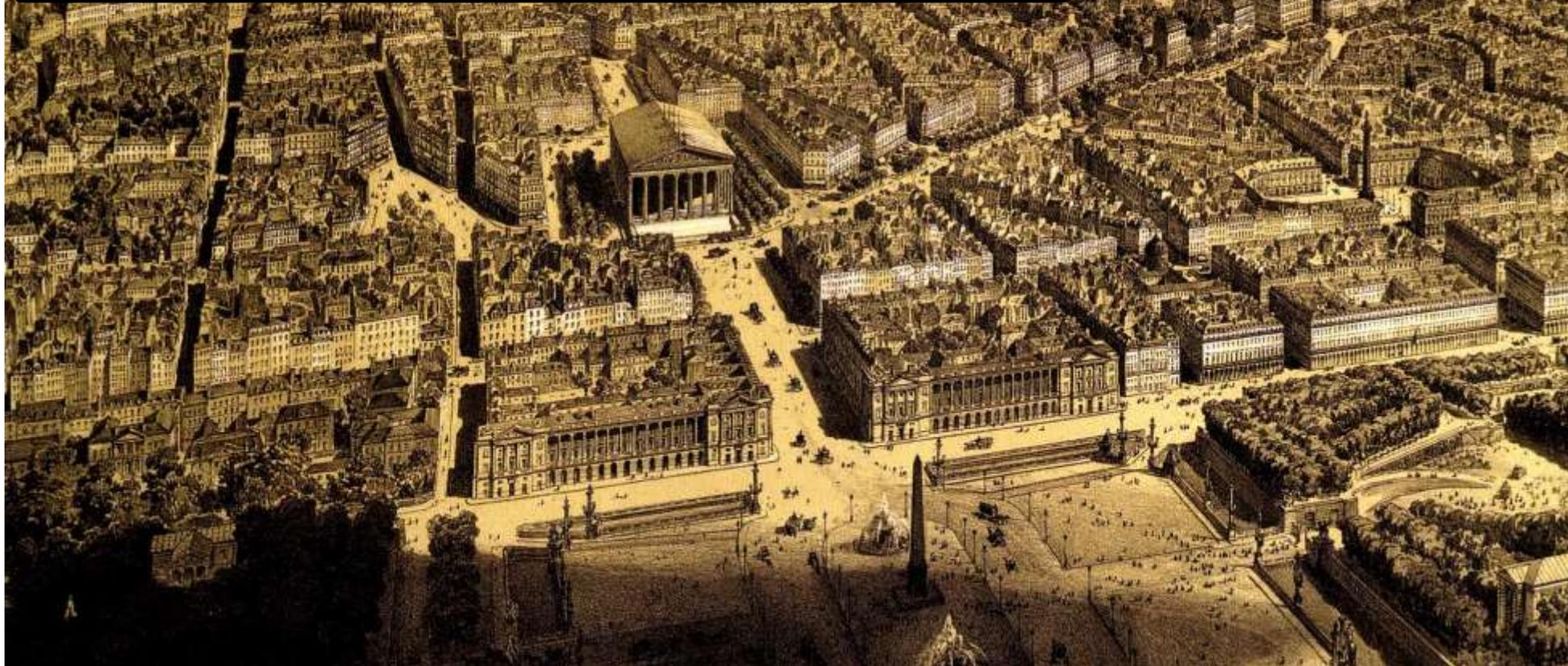
Napoleon III: precise instructions

1. To bring air, light and water to the center of Paris
2. To connect the different neighborhoods with wide boulevards & avenues



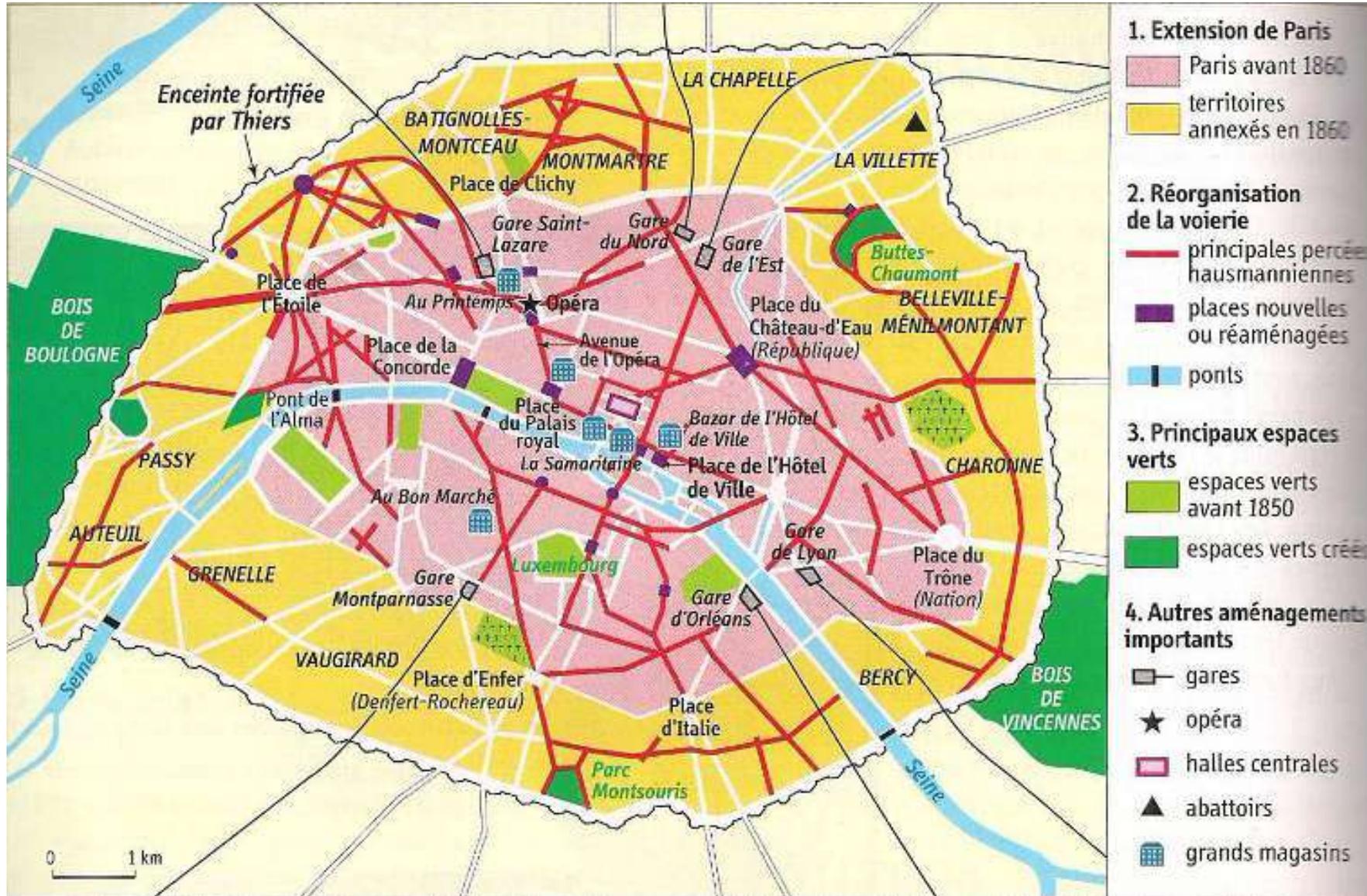


Like the human body: Paris to have its **circulatory system**  
(geometrical grid of boulevards and avenues)  
its **waste disposal system** (the network of sewers built under  
the city)  
A **respiratory system** (network of green spaces)



A sewage system





## Napoleon III: 2 axes

1. Gare de l'Est-  
Observatoire
2. Place du Trône-  
L'Etoile





Rue de Rivoli: the first boulevard conceived by Haussmann (1855)

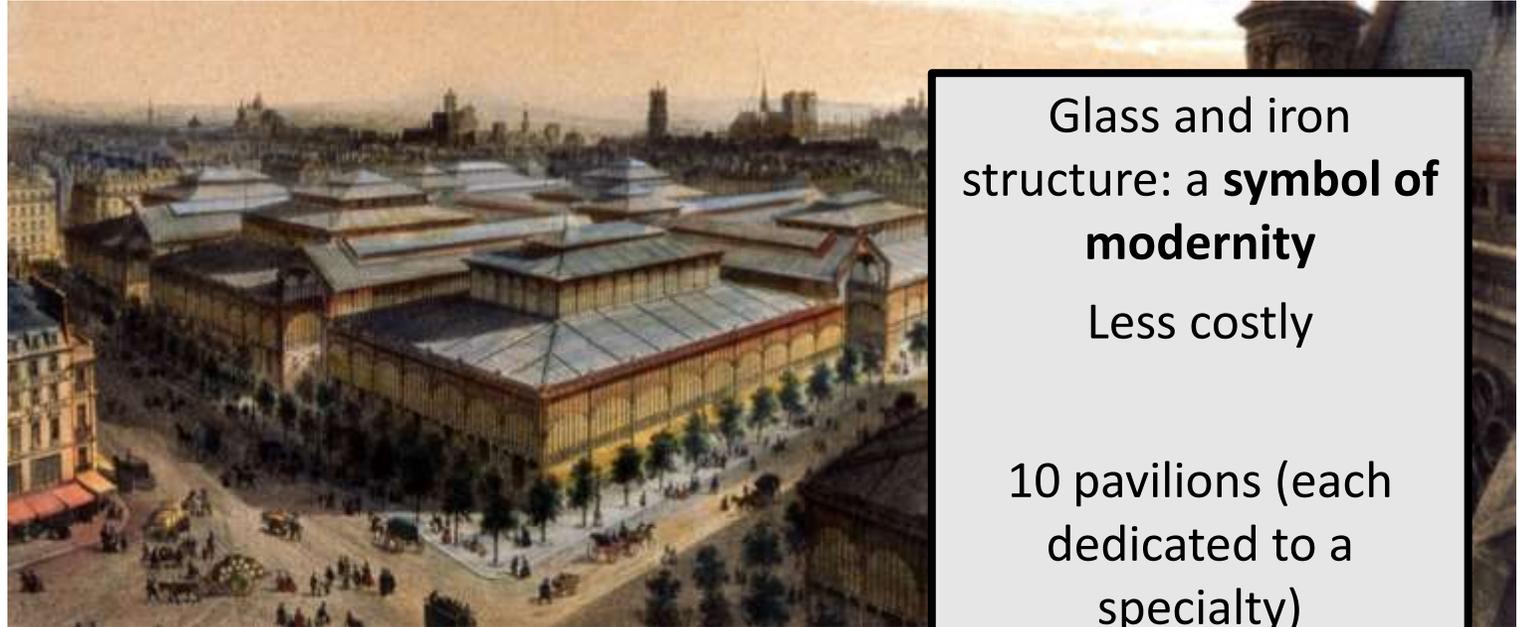
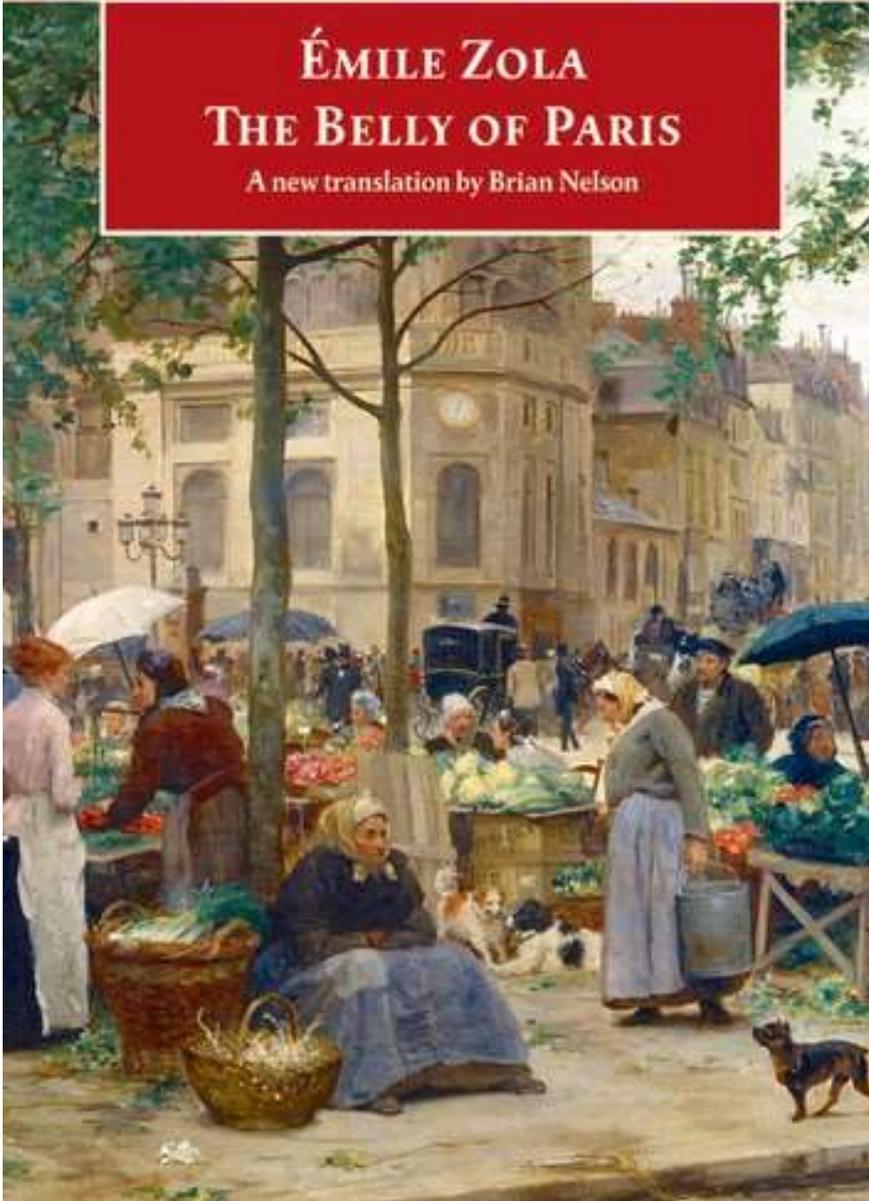


## Uniformity & homogeneity



OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

ÉMILE ZOLA  
THE BELLY OF PARIS  
A new translation by Brian Nelson



Glass and iron  
structure: a **symbol of  
modernity**

Less costly

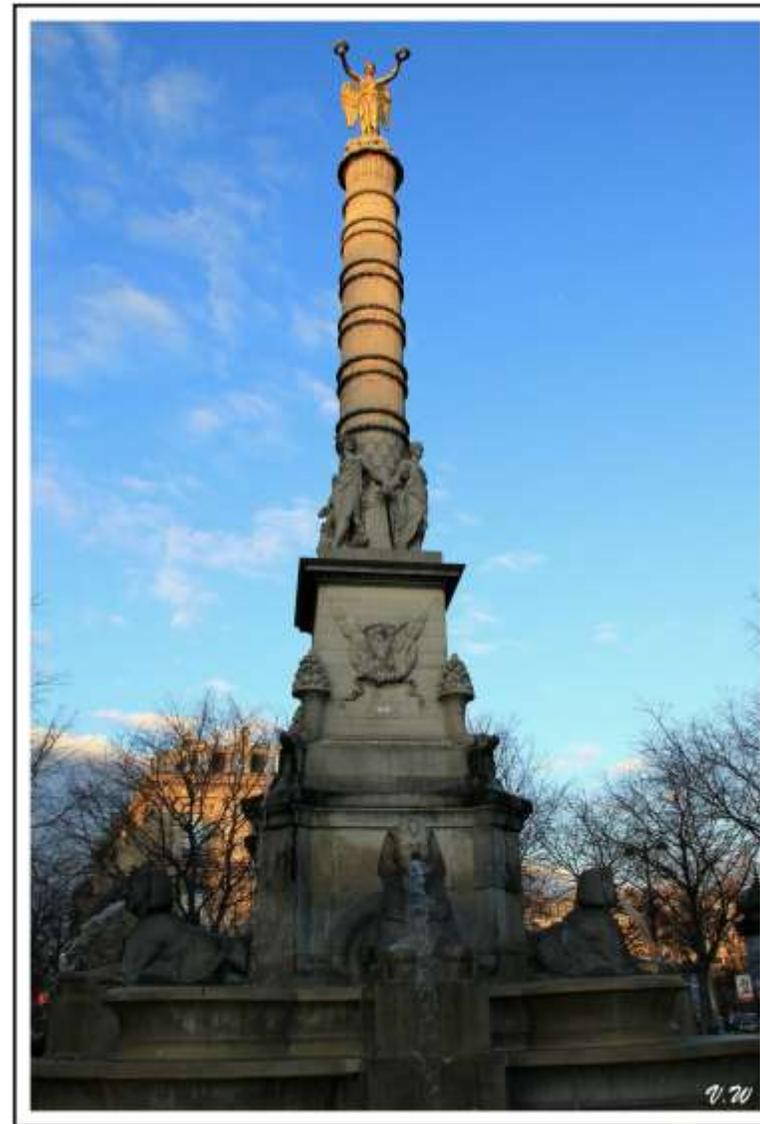
10 pavilions (each  
dedicated to a  
specialty)

Les Halles (central food market): at the junction of  
the 2 axes

---



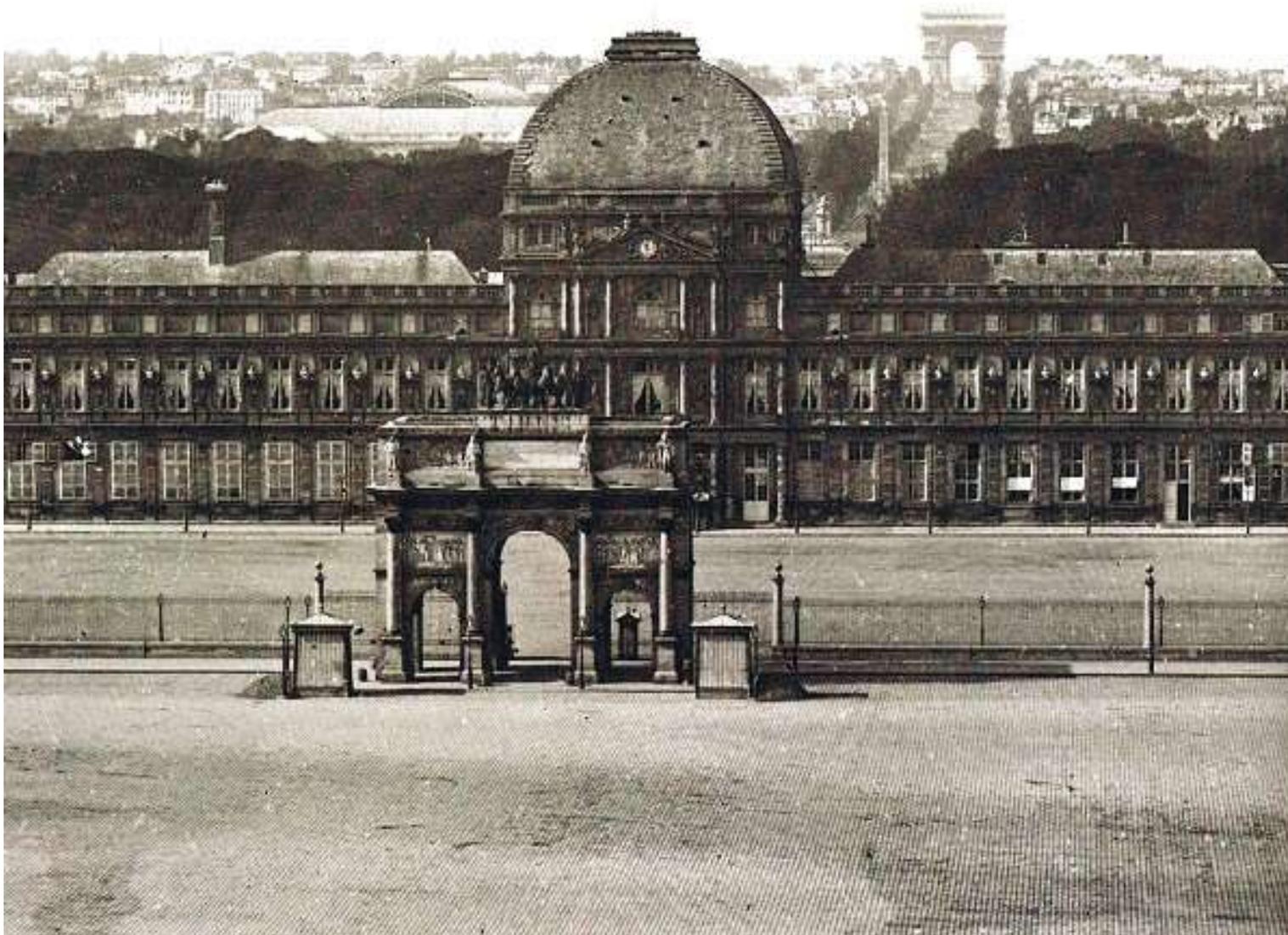
**Fontaine du palmier** (celebration of Napoleon I's victories) at the centre of a large square (place du châtelet)







JULY



An arc to celebrate Napoleon's military victories

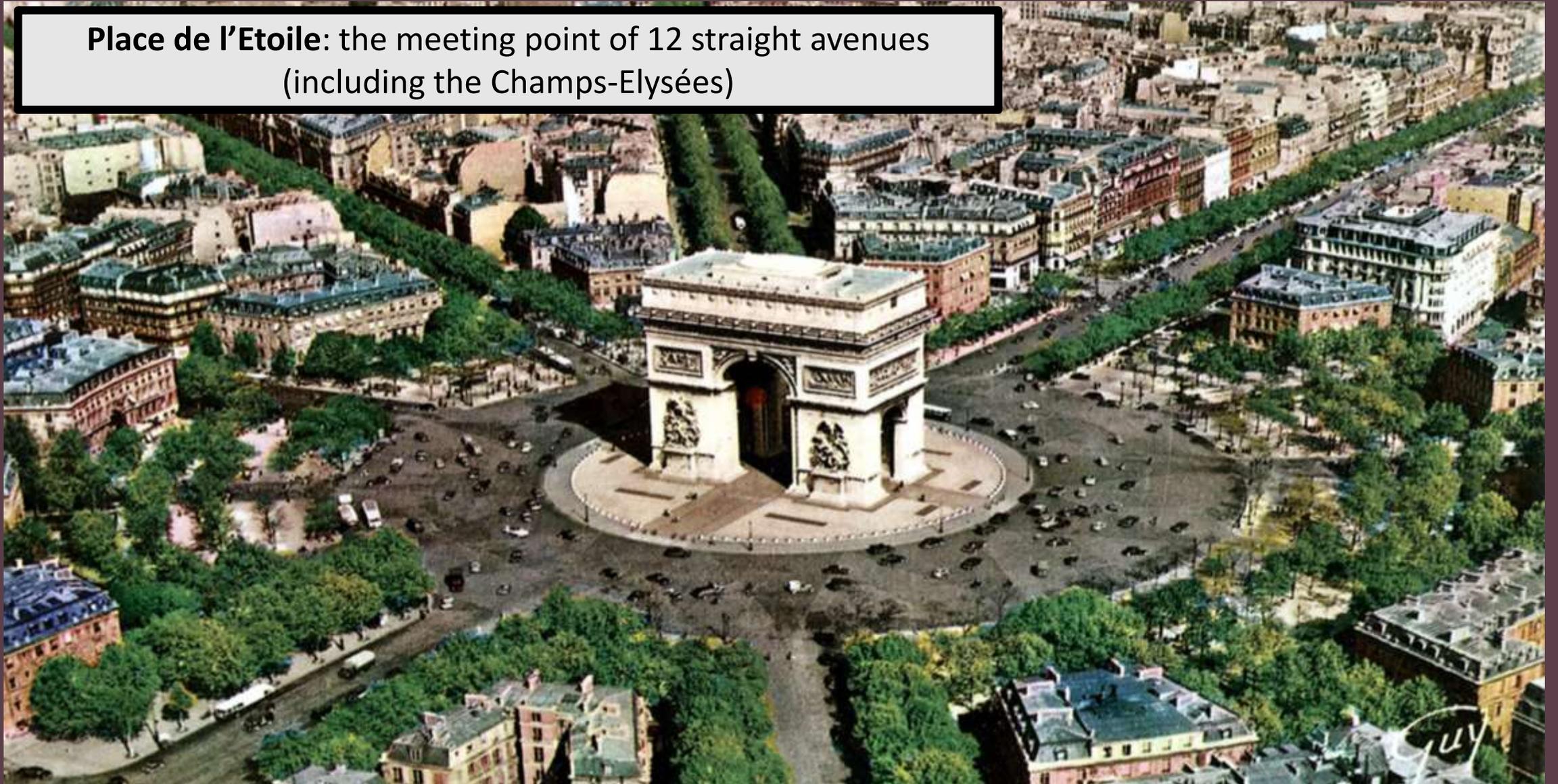
An arc "big, simple and majestic" (1807)

The Tuileries perspective

The construction interrupted (1815-1823)

Louis-Philippe (1830-1848): monument dedicated to the French armies (1792-1815)

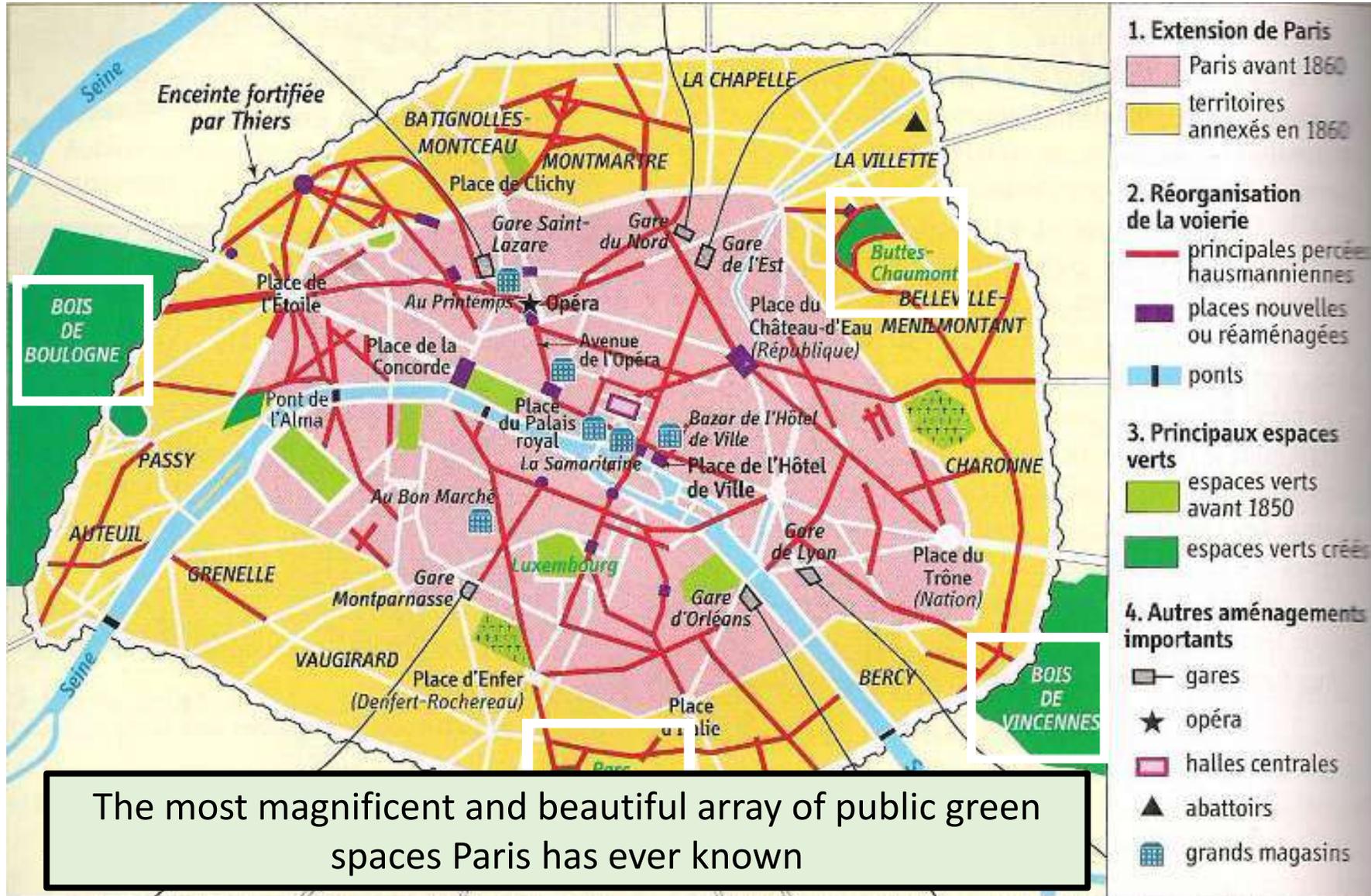
**Place de l'Étoile: the meeting point of 12 straight avenues  
(including the Champs-Élysées)**



An ambitious program of “**green spaces**” (the “lungs” of Paris)  
Urban planning with a social bent (Parisians’ well-being): a novel concept  
24 squares, 4 gardens, 4 parks and 2 woods: access to a green space no more than 30 minute walk



Crédit Photo : Provost - Brown University Library



The most magnificent and beautiful array of public green spaces Paris has ever known

**Square Louis XVI (1865)** sits on former Madeleine cemetery (burial place of many victims of the guillotine including Louis XVI & Marie-Antoinette)



**Square des Batignolles (1862):** planted as an English landscape garden

Layout includes a waterfall, a river, a lake and rare trees



**Jardins de l'Avenue Foch (Avenue de l'Impératrice)**





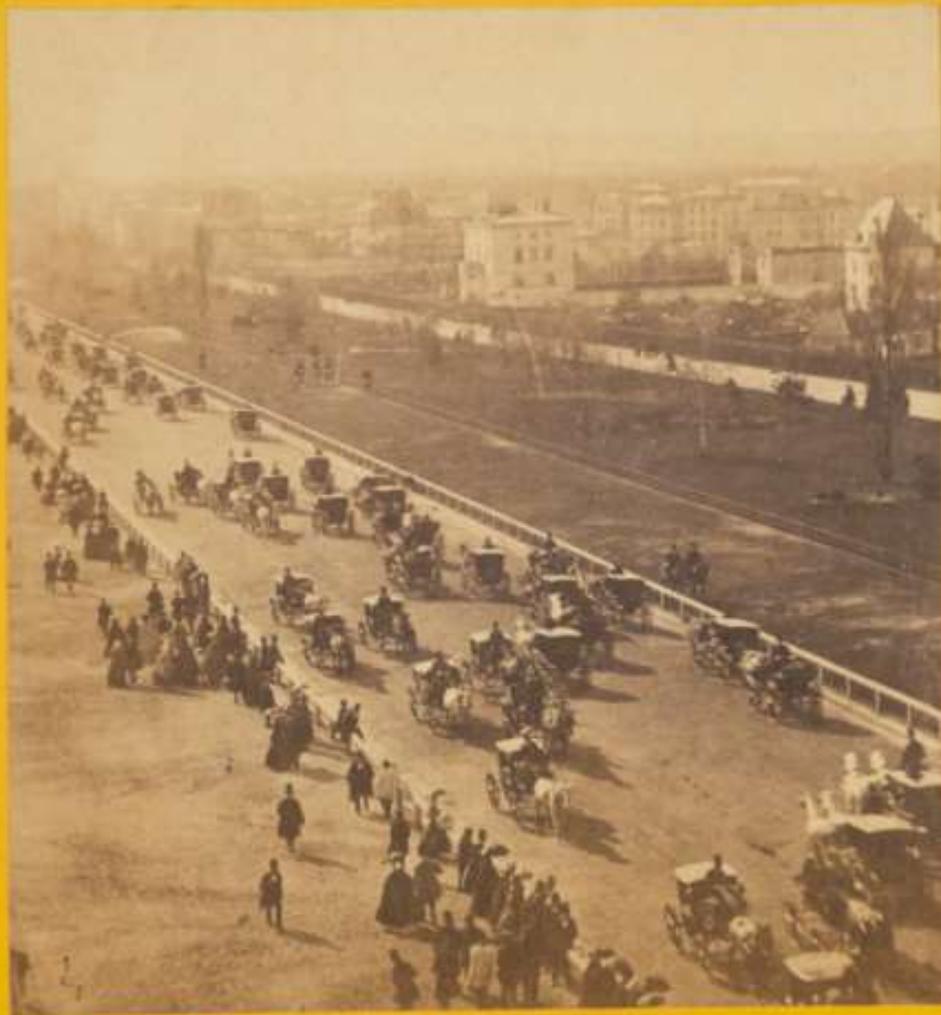
A majestic highway (1865) to connect Paris and the newly created **Bois de Boulogne**

Over 1 km long and 450 feet wide  
2 side alleys

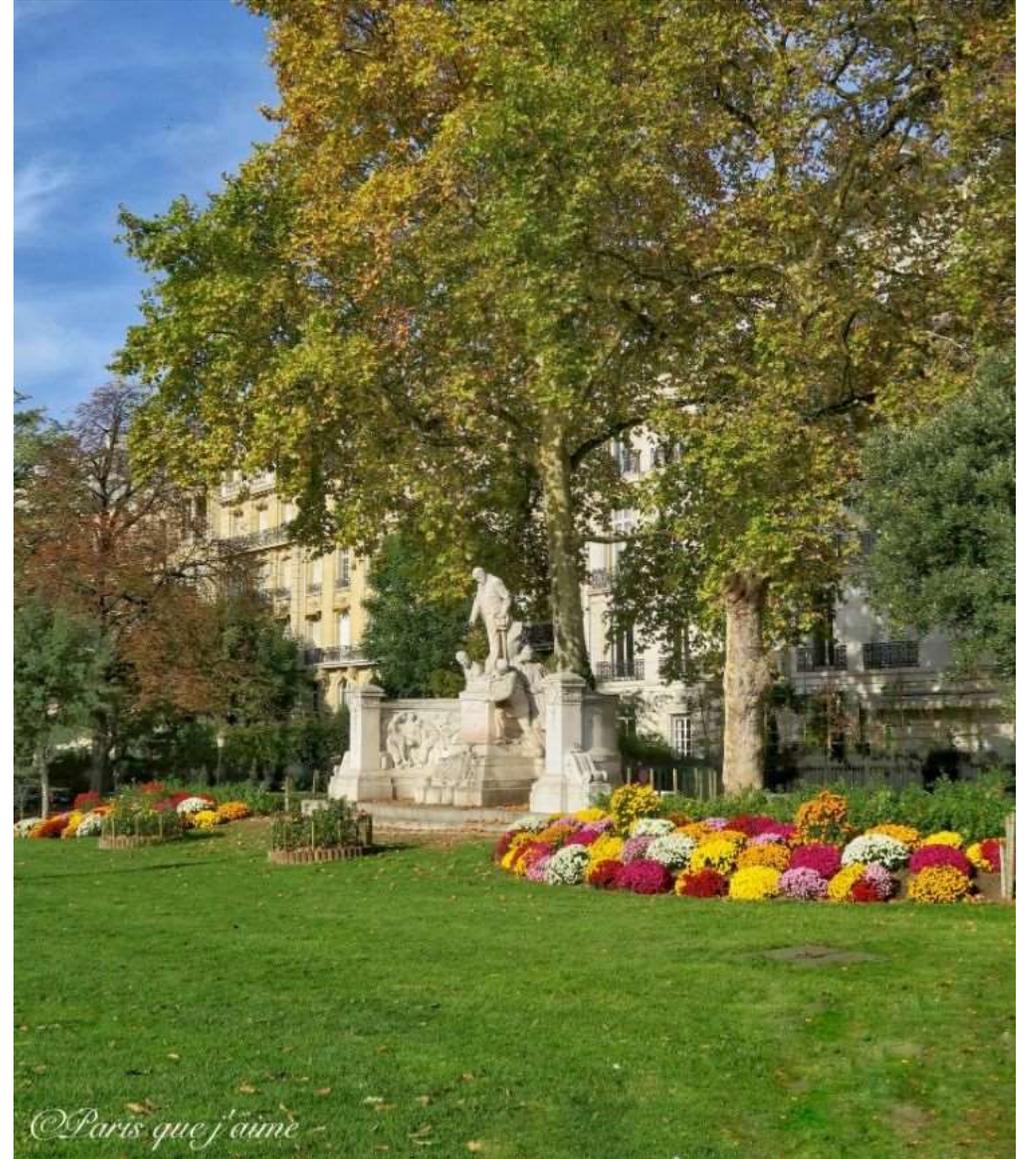
Avenue adorned with gardens  
(4 000 trees and bushes)

A fashionable meeting place for  
Parisian high society



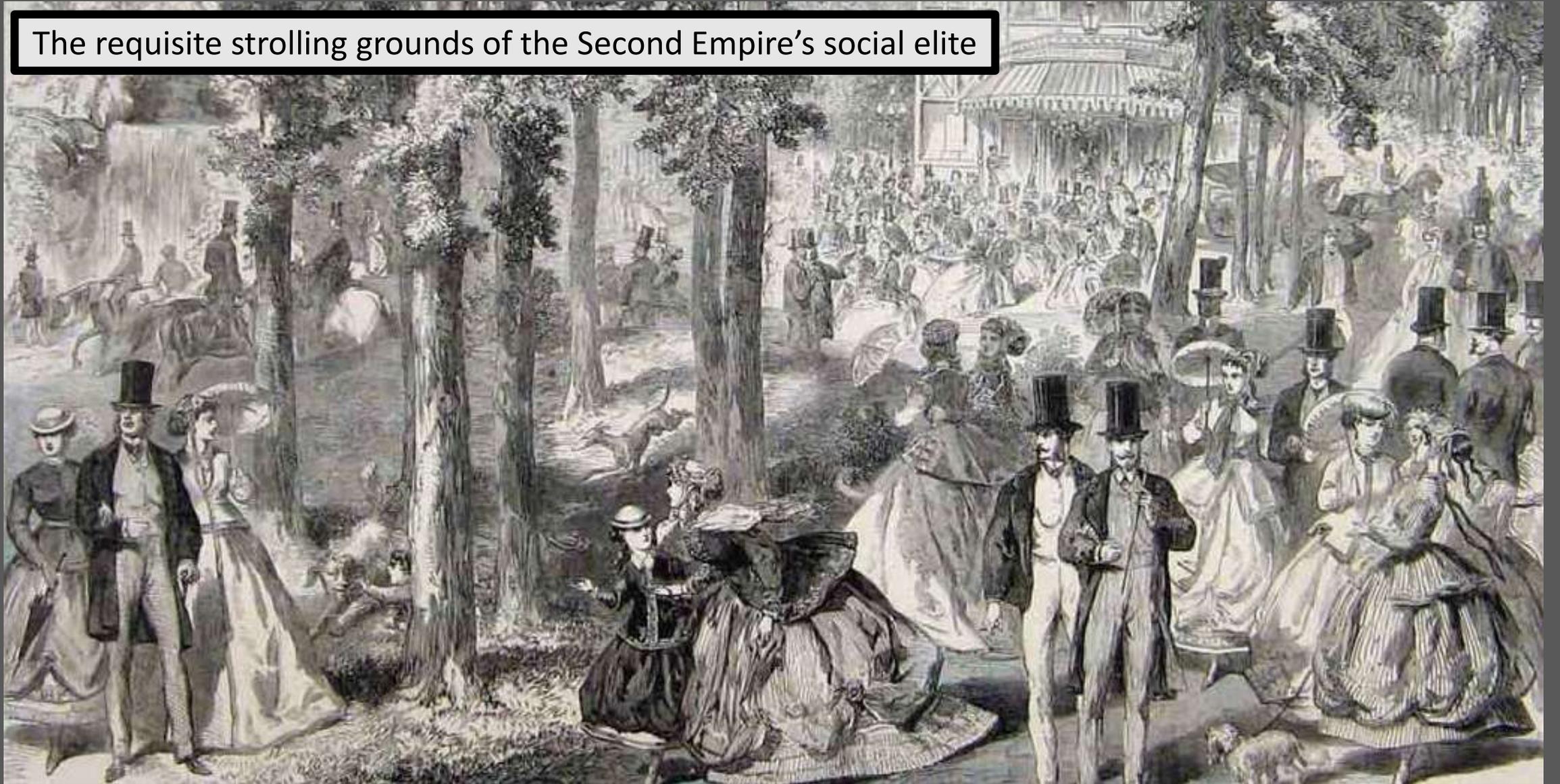






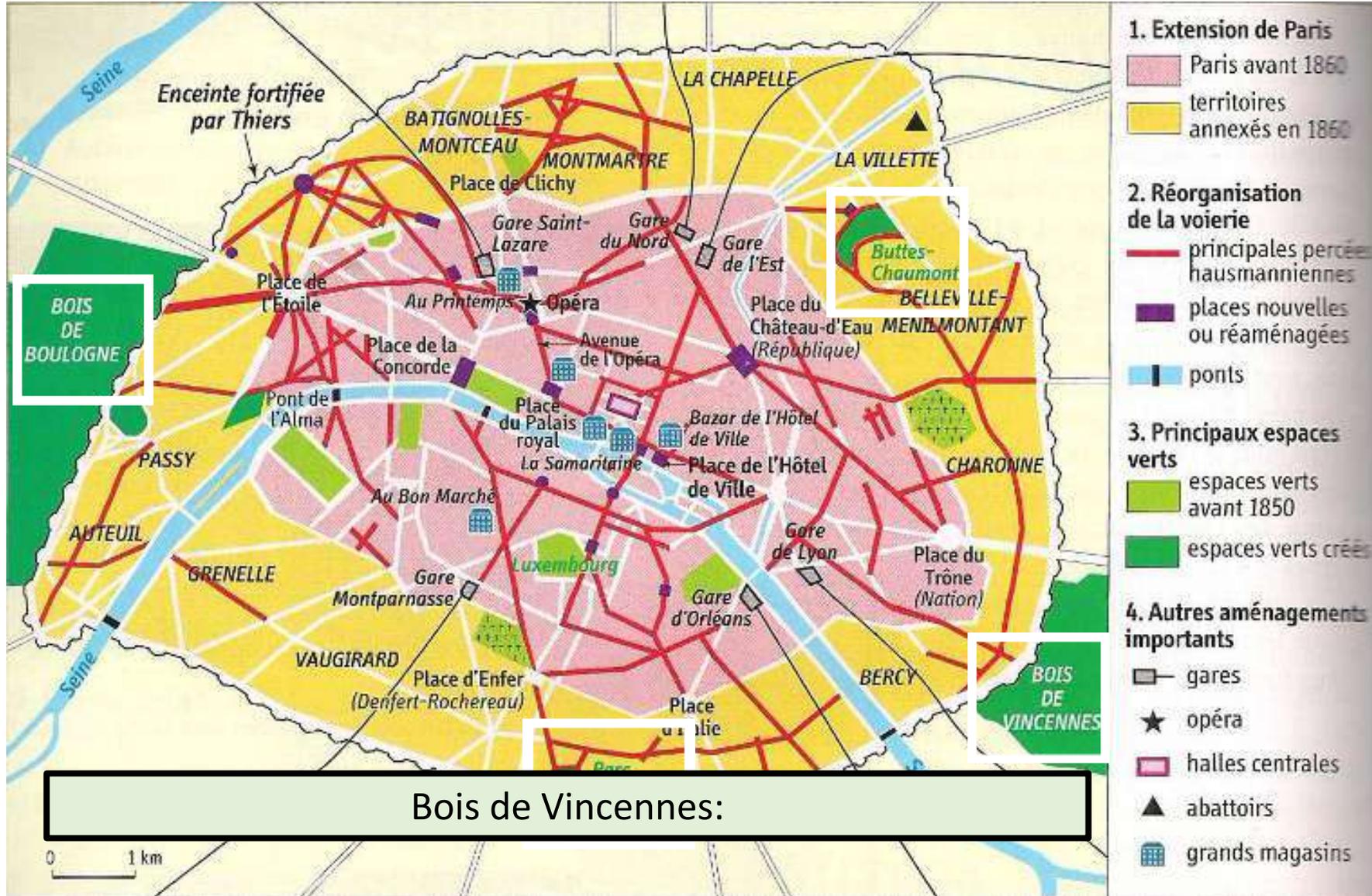
*©Paris que j'aime*

The requisite strolling grounds of the Second Empire's social elite





295. - PARIS. - Bois de Boulogne - Allée des Acacias (1)







Parc Monceau (1861)



Parc Montsouris  
(1867-1878)

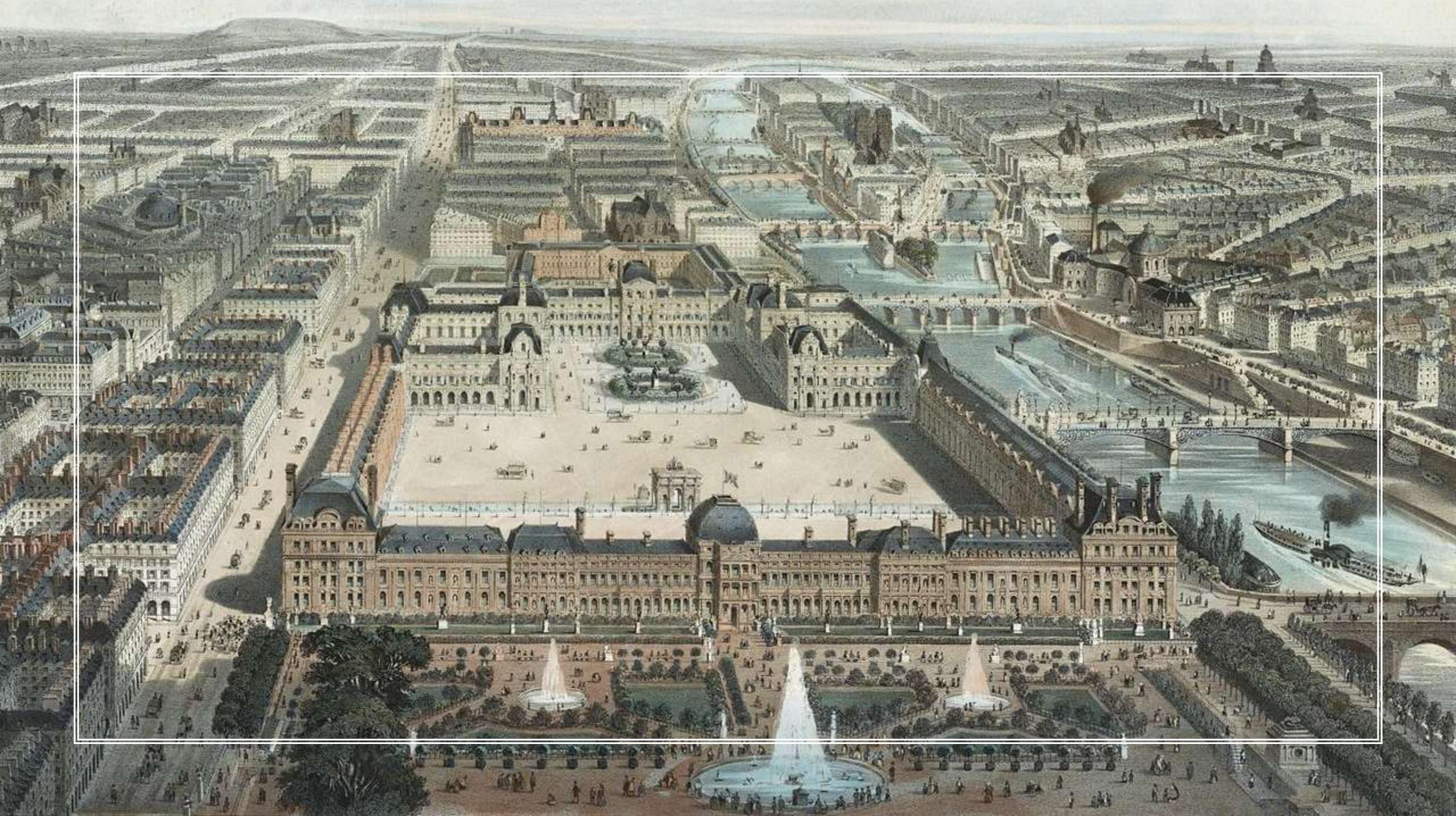


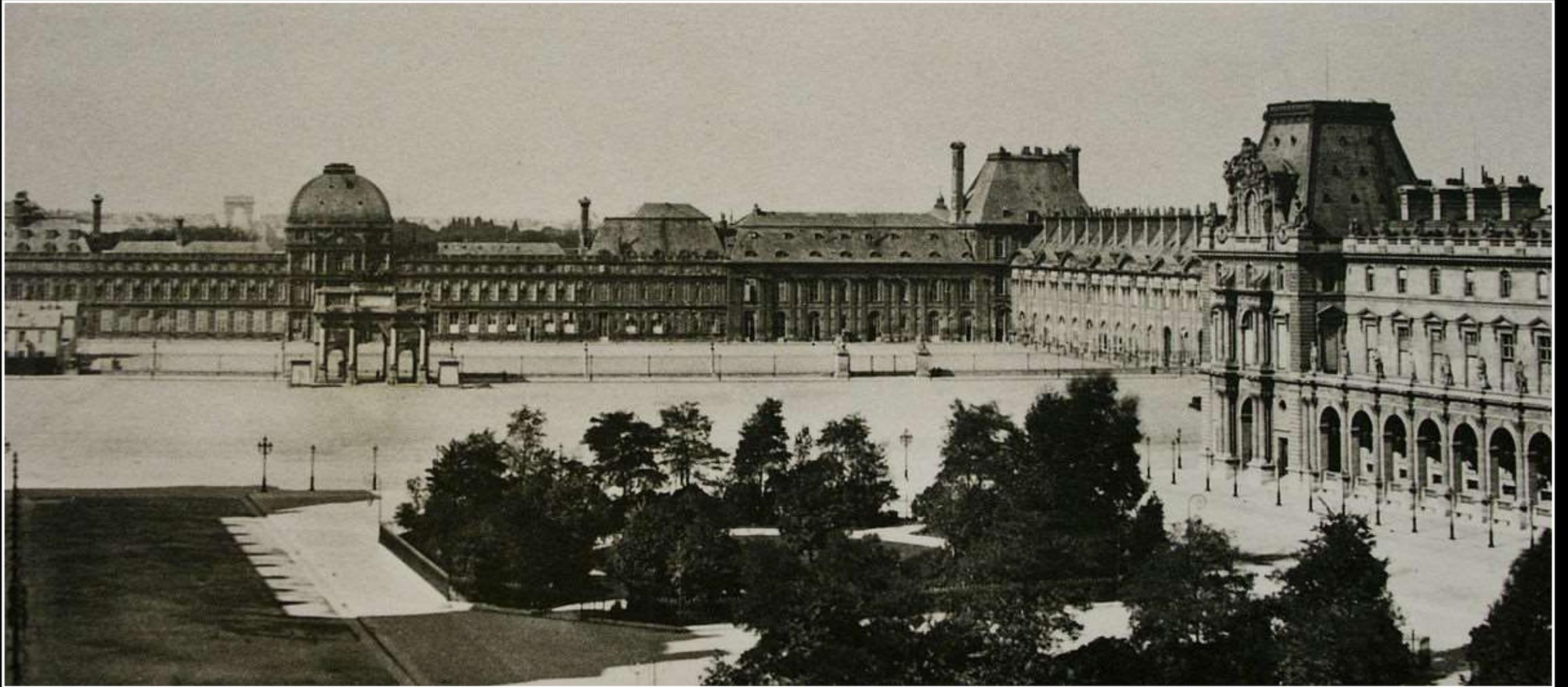


Parc Montsouris: to provide open space for people living in the southern neighborhoods of the capital

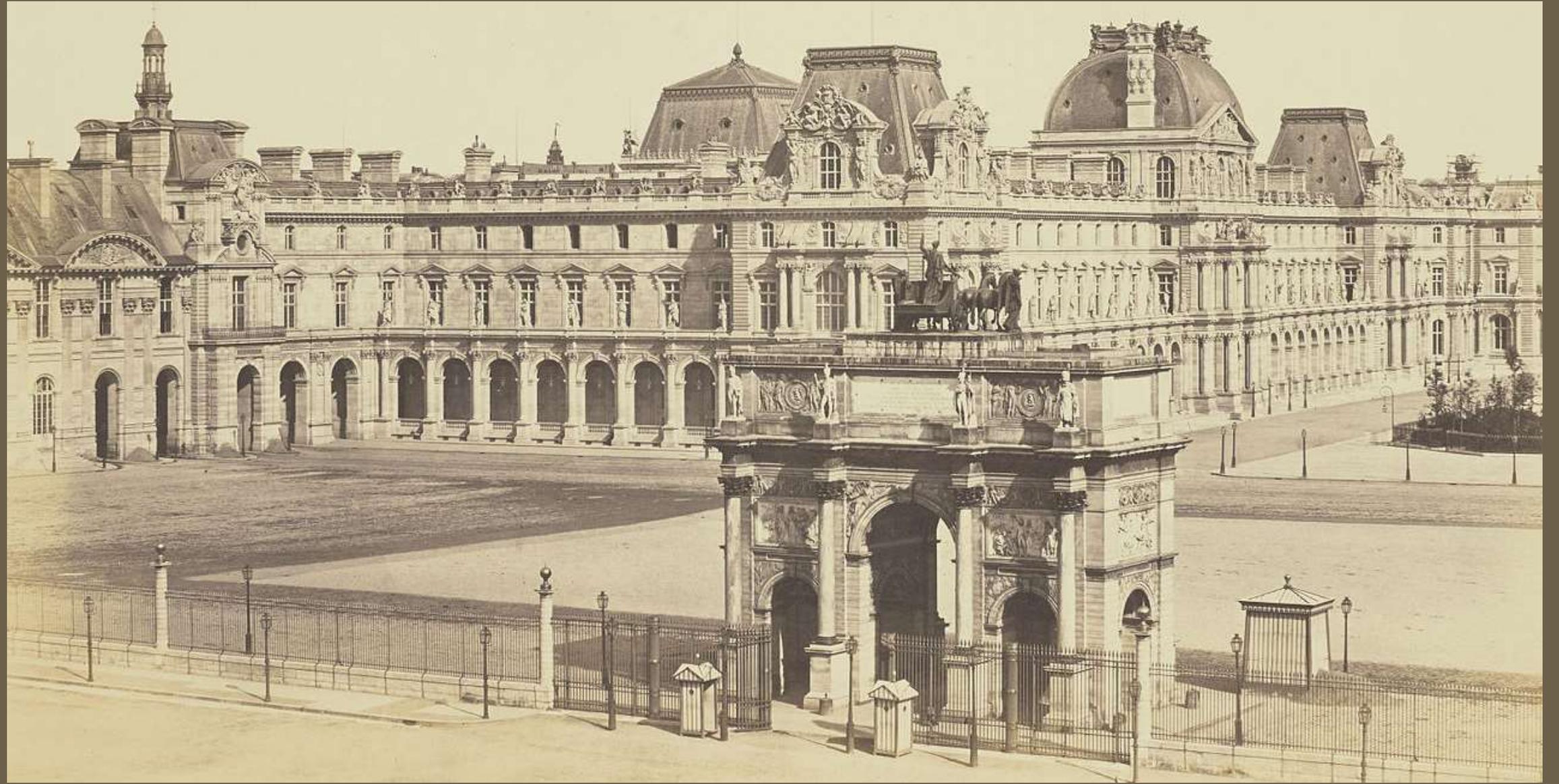








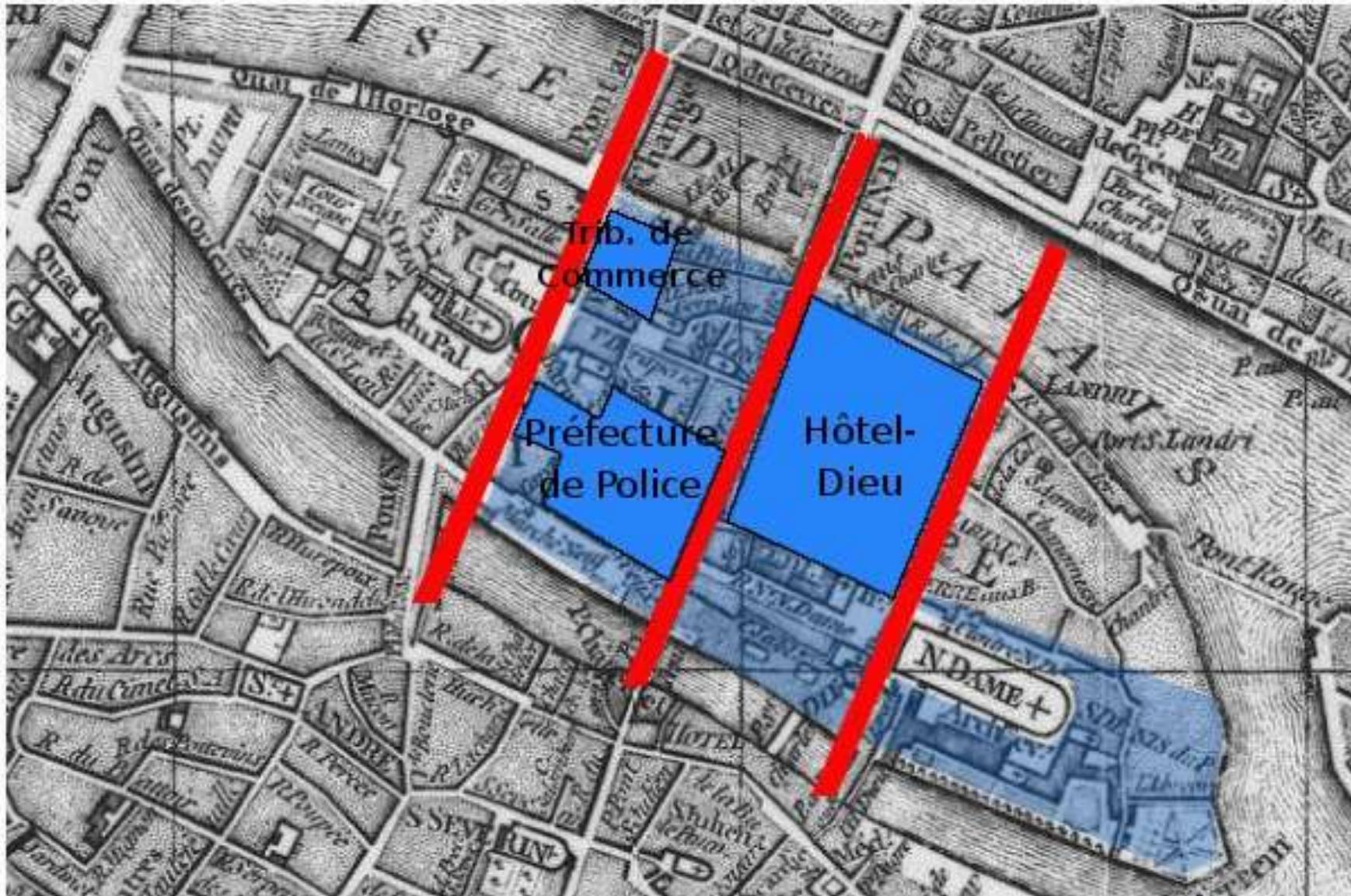
The Tuileries Palace and the Louvre fully connected (1857) – A true “imperial city”/The “Versailles of the Second Empire



L'île de la Cité: the heart of Paris razed to the ground (except Notre-Dame, the Sainte-Chapelle and the Conciergerie) and rebuilt

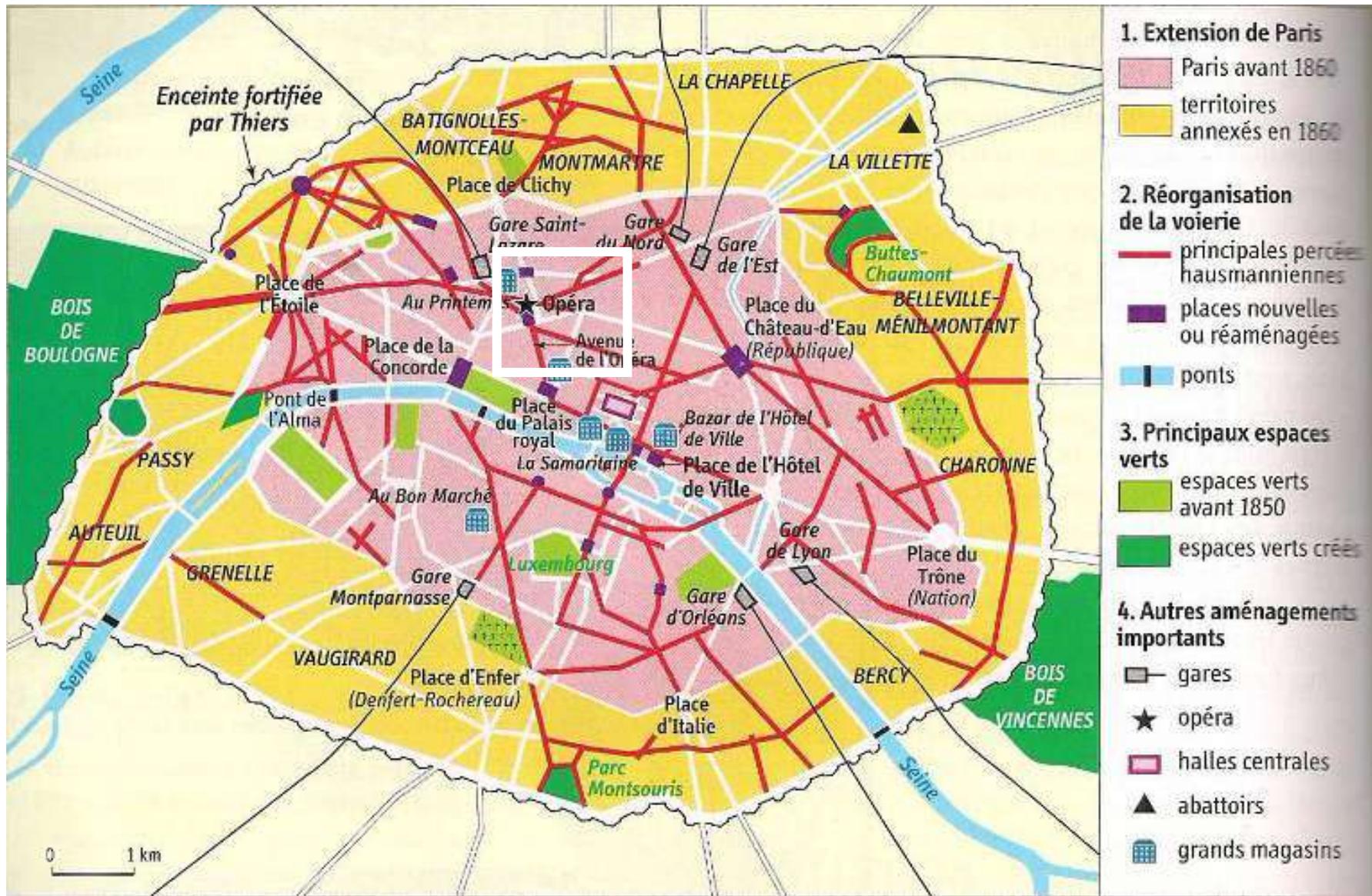
---









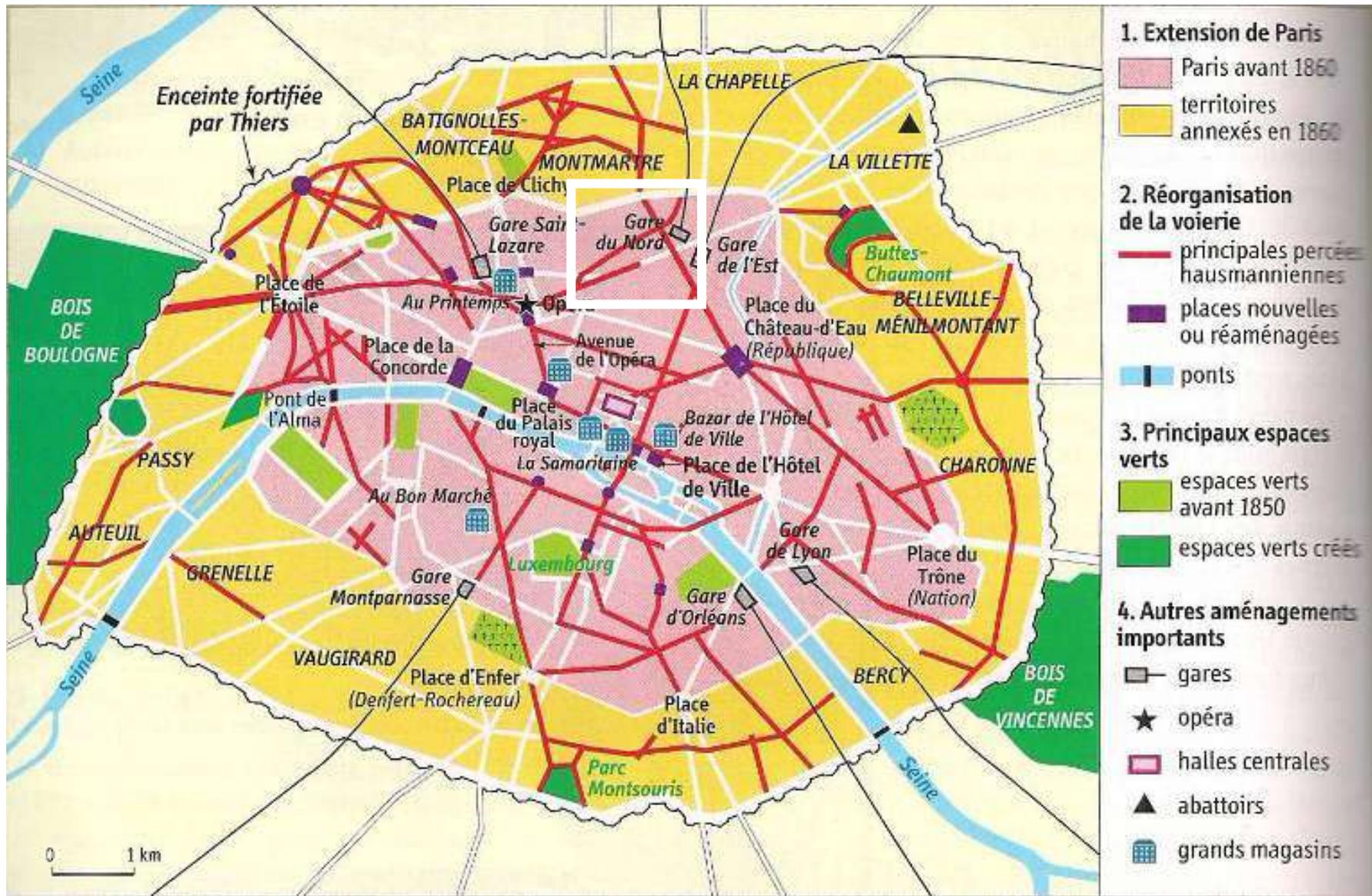


The Opera house: a monument in itself – The **reorganization**  
of an entire neighborhood











Charles Riviere del et Lith

GARE DU CHEMIN DE FER DU NORD.

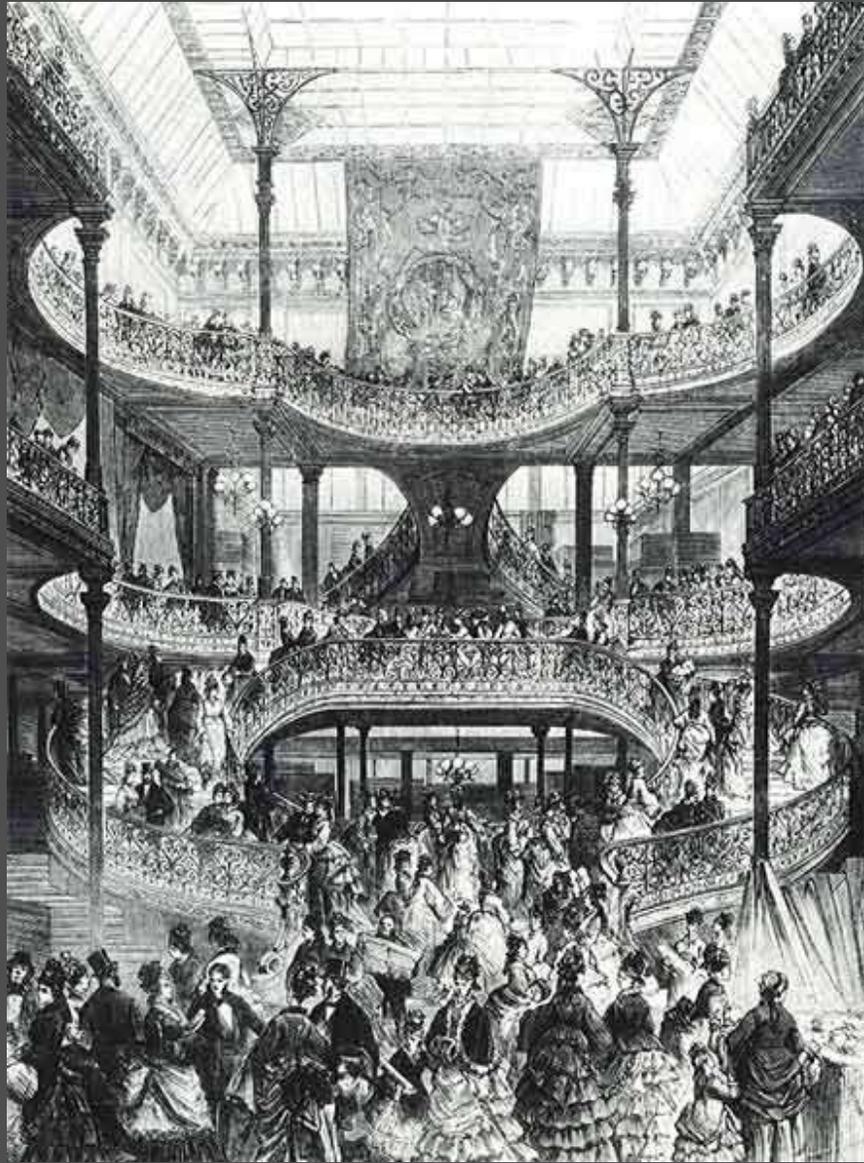
Paris Maison Marnet

37

Imp: Godard Paris

## Mass consumerism: the department stores





Victoria's official visit to France (1855): the first British sovereign since the Hundred Years War – A complete success



