



*New urbanism as a modern religion -  
will the smaller cities win?*

Laura Kolbe  
Professor of  
EUROPEAN history  
29 XI 2017 Oslo



**World Metro Map**  
 © TfL, Alan Foale, Mark Ovenden 2005

# Moscow and/or Chicago..?



# The Golden Age and Cities..and “golden ideas” of a good city life

- Athens 500-400 BC
- Rome 50 BC-AD 100
- Gent, Bruges, Antwerp  
13th century
- North Italy 15th, 16th  
century
- Amsterdam 1648-90
- London 18th century
- Manchester 1760-1830

- St. Petersburg & Vienna  
19th century
- Paris before 1914
- New York 1880-1940
- Los Angeles 20th  
century
- Stockholm 1945-1980
- Singapore, Hong Kong  
21st century
- Berlin, Moscow,  
Sao Paulo 21st century



# The spirit of cities..

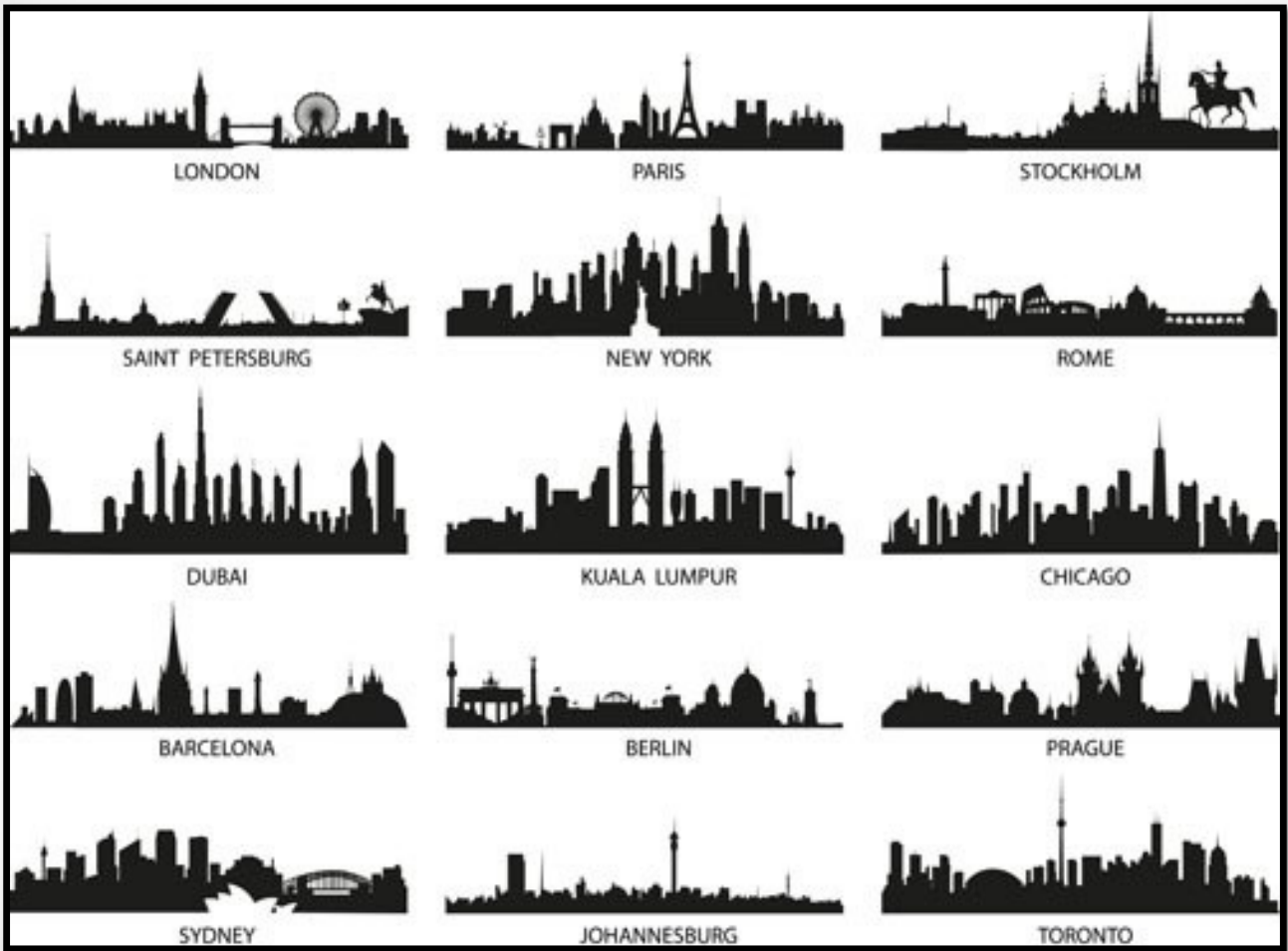
- Can cities provide a sense of uniqueness, of a particular political and cultural identity?
- Theories arguing for the general advantage of urban life are many and important
- ...but there is hardly any discussion on what makes cities special and different from each other
- How cities represent themselves locally / globally?
- Cosmopolitanism – community rooted in particularity
- Why city-based identities matter from a normative point of view?
  - What creates a sense of community / a feeling that a city is particular ?

capital – le capital – die Hauptstadt –  
huvudstad – pääkaupunki















**Richard Florida**

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



THE  
RISE  
OF THE  
CREATIVE  
CLASS

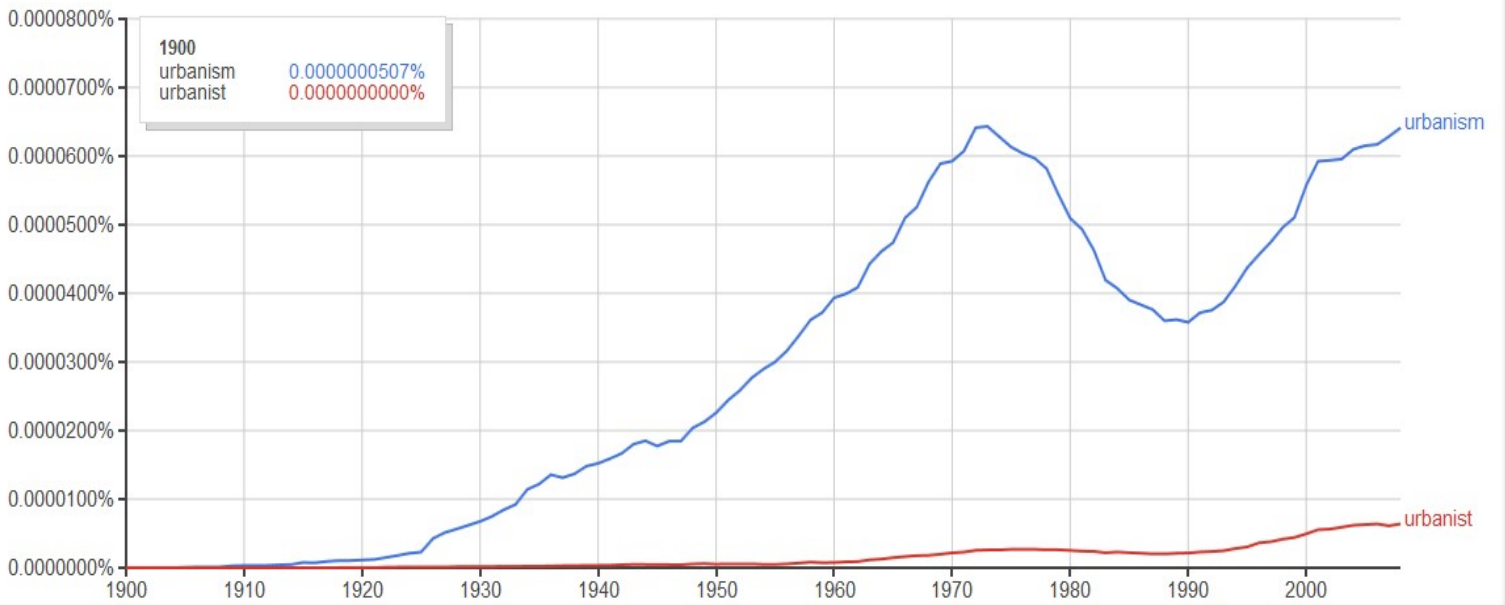
*Revisited*

RICHARD FLORIDA

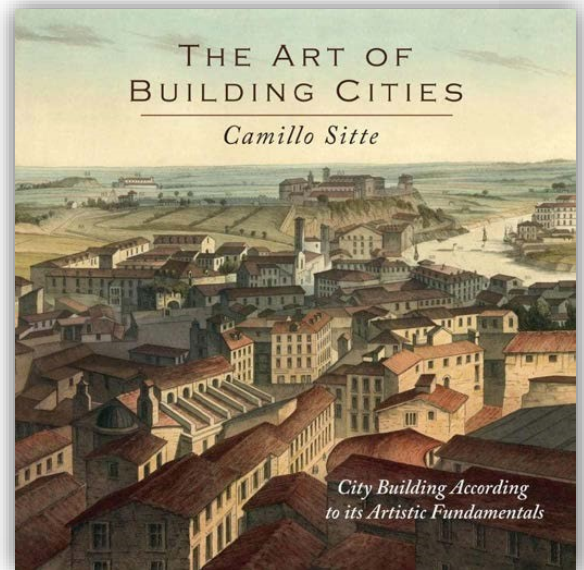
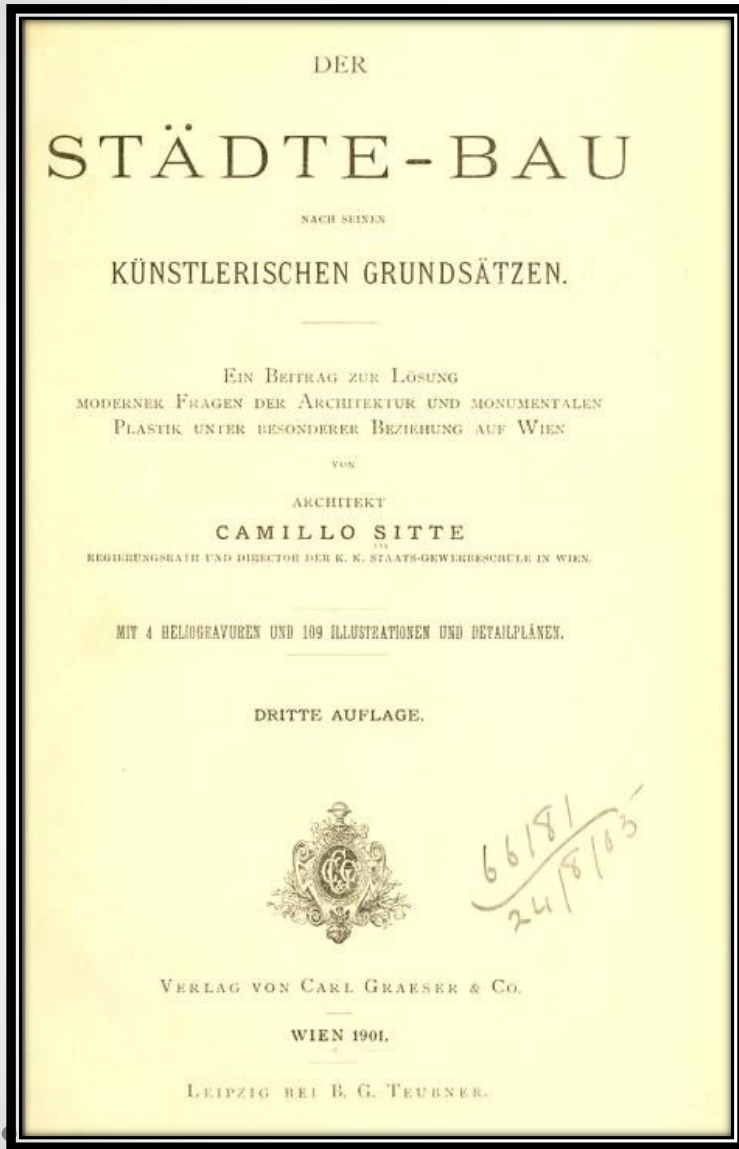
# Google Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases:   case-insensitive

between  and  from the corpus  with smoothing of  [Search lots of books](#)









**HEALTH of the COUNTRY  
COMFORTS of the TOWN**



**LETCWORTH**  
The **FIRST GARDEN CITY**

*Reproduced from the pages of "Punch" Christmas Number, 1920*

**Yesterday**



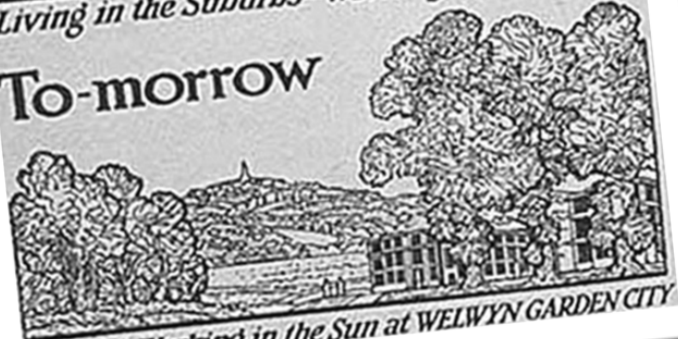
*Living and Working in the Smoke*

**To-day**



*Living in the Suburbs - Working in the Smoke*

**To-morrow**



*Living & Working in the Sun at WELWYN GARDEN CITY*

# THE THREE MAGNETS

**TOWN**

CLOSING OFF NATURE. SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY.  
 ISOLATION OF CROWDS. PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.  
 DISTANCE FROM WORK. HIGH MONEY WAGES.  
 HIGH RENTS & PRICES. CHANCES OF EMPLOYMENT.  
 EXCESSIVE HOURS. ARMY OF UNEMPLOYED.  
 FOGS & DROUGHTS. COSTLY DRAINAGE.  
 FOUL AIR. HURRY SNY. NAIL BIT STREETS. NO PUBLIC SPIRIT. NEAR BY REFORM.  
 SLUMS & PALACES. LITTLE WAGES. CROWDED VILLAGES.

**COUNTRY.**

LACK OF SOCIETY. BEAUTY OF NATURE.  
 HANDS OUT OF WORK. LAND LYING IDLE.  
 TRESPASSERS BEWARE. WOOD. MADDOX FOREST.  
 LONG HOURS. LOW WAGES. FRESH AIR. LOW RENTS.  
 LACK OF DRAINAGE. ABUNDANCE OF WATER.  
 LACK OF AMUSEMENT. BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

**THE PEOPLE**  
 WHERE WILL THEY GO?

**TOWN-COUNTRY.**

BEAUTY OF NATURE. SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY.  
 FIELDS AND PARKS OF EASY ACCESS.  
 LOW RENTS. HIGH WAGES.  
 LOW RATES. PLENTY TO DO.  
 LOW PRICES. NO SWEATING.  
 FIELD FOR ENTERPRISE. FLOW OF CAPITAL.  
 PURE AIR AND WATER. GOOD DRAINAGE.  
 BRIGHT HOMES & GARDENS. NO SMOKE. NO SLUMS.  
 FREEDOM  
 CO-OPERATION









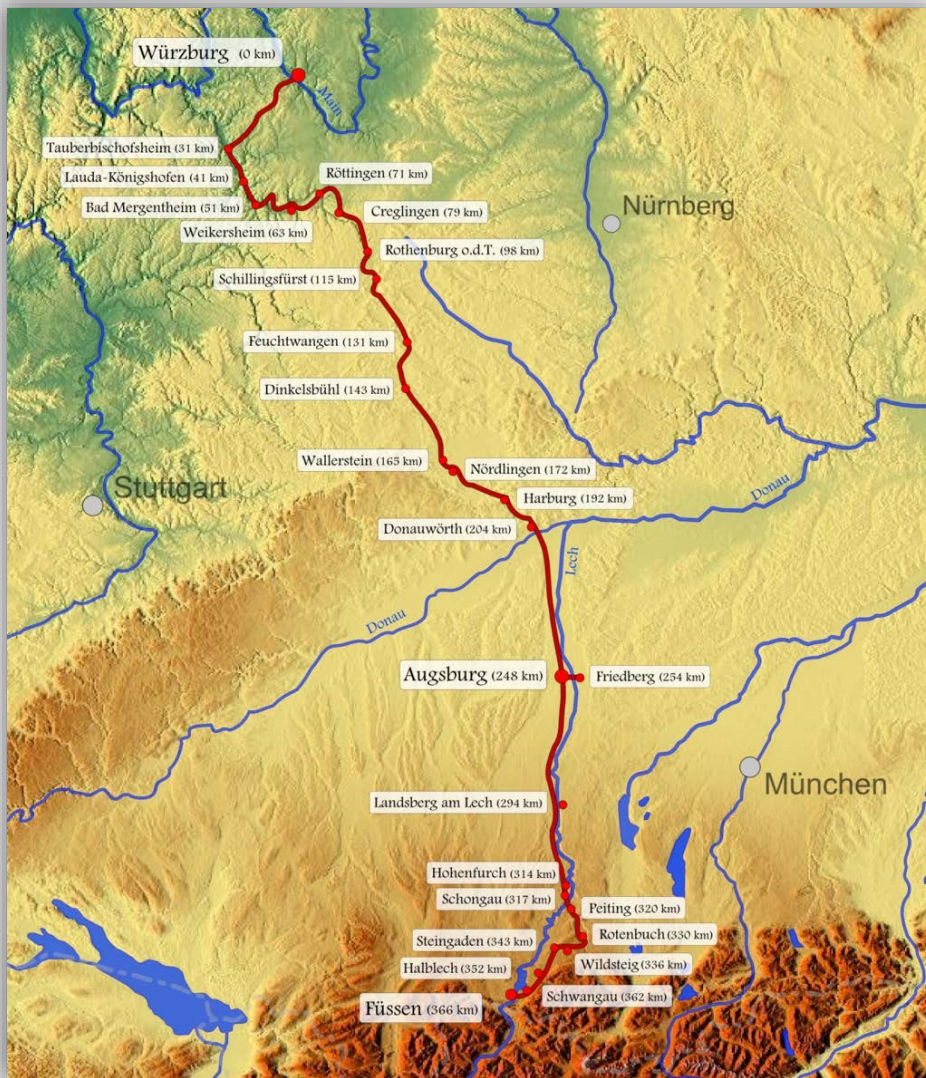


# Weymouth, Dorset, England





# Romantische Strasse



# Rothenburg ob der Tauber





# Bad Mergentheim



# Solingen: Mittelalter-Markt mit guter Resonanz



# Trästaden Eksjö och tidens vingslag





Christmas in Norway lasts more than a few days: it's a whole season with specific rituals and preparations...





Panorama of picturesque small town Gudhjem with red roofs by early morning, Bornholm, Denmark



# Gouda, The Cheese Capital





# Tartu





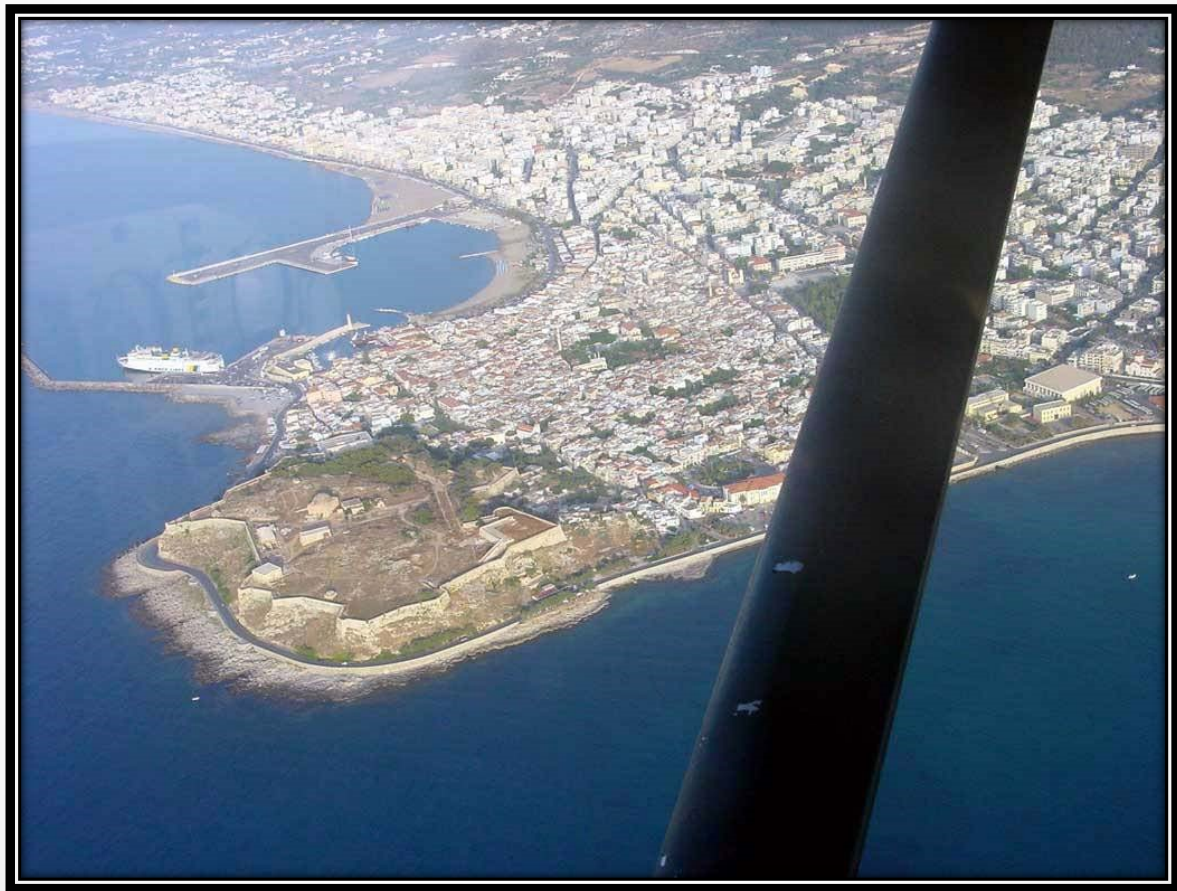
## Williamsburg, Virginia..



## **Williamsburg, Virginia..**

- might just have the most unique downtown main street of any town on this list. The 301-acre downtown area is a living museum, and reenacts life during the American Revolution 365 days a year (in fact, Williamsburg's historic reenactment is considered the best in the world).
- Visitors along the main street are sure to enjoy speaking with the costumed actors and visiting the meticulously detailed, Colonial-era shops and restaurants.
- Visit in October and take in the annual An Occasion for the Arts. Interestingly, located within only a few miles of downtown Williamsburg is Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in what would become the United States.

# Réthymno







# Uusikaupunki









# Город Мышкин в 2012 году



