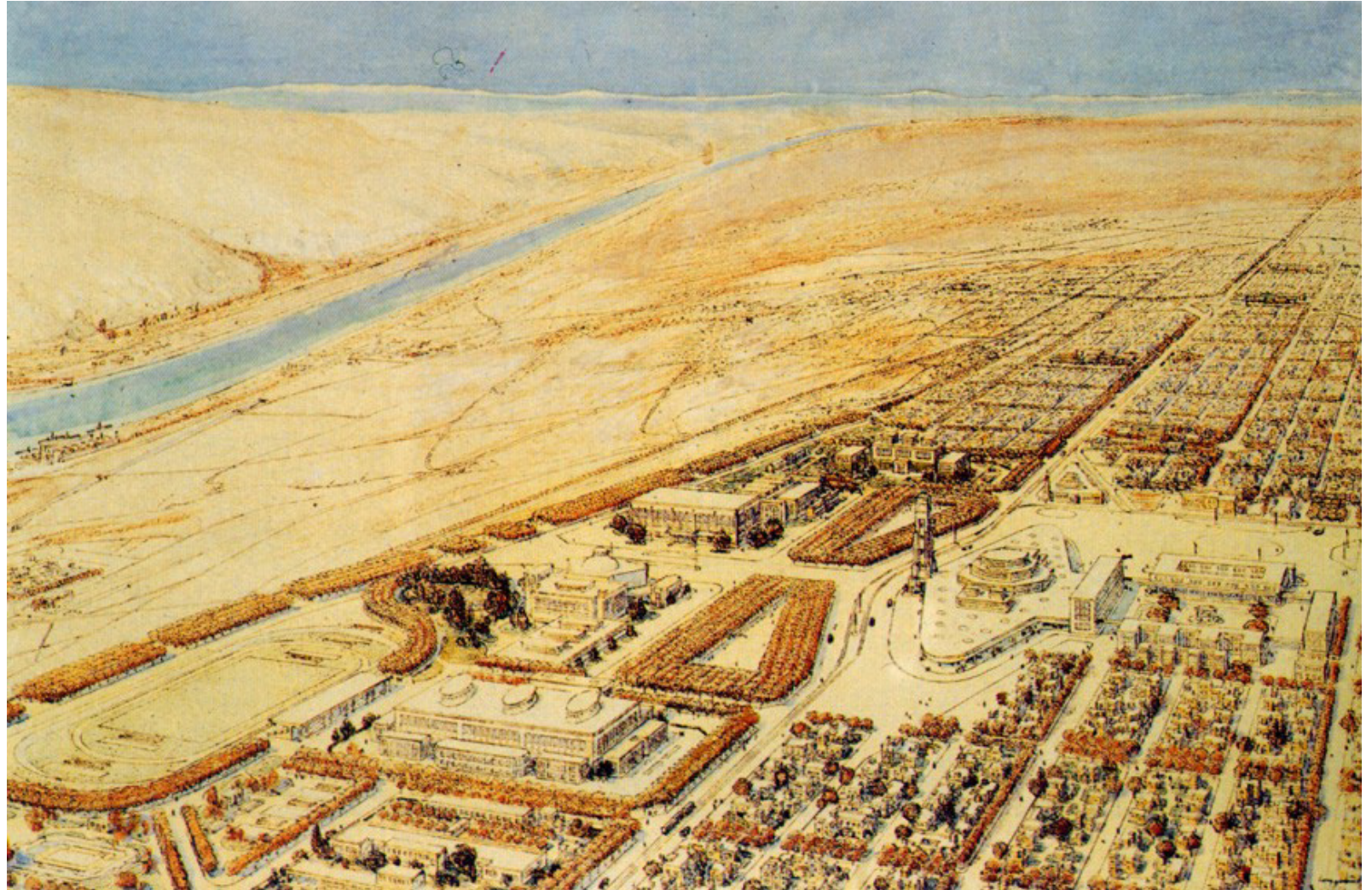


# Urban Design History

Grigor Doytchinov

## Introduction



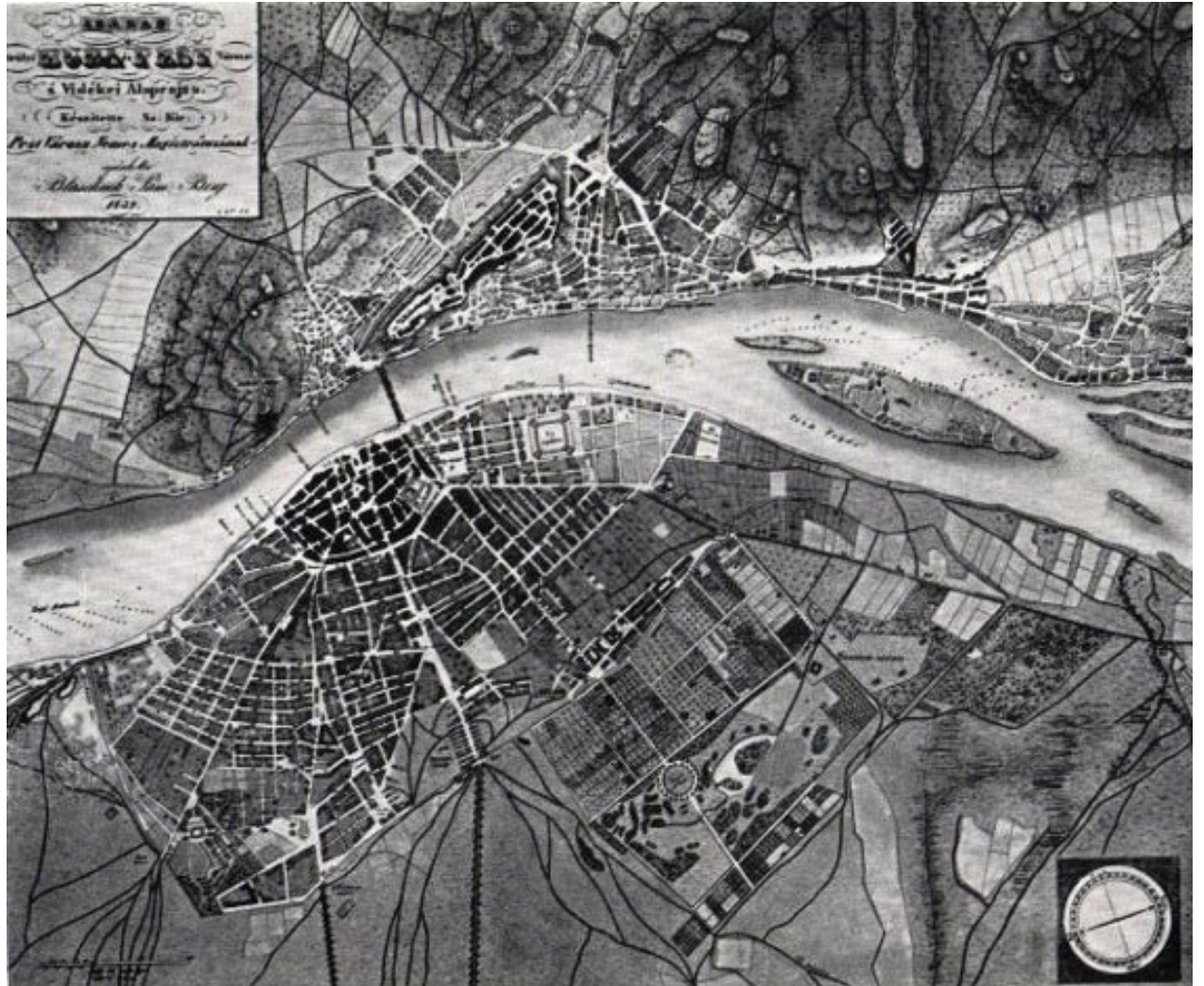
Features of the historic aspect of urbanism:

- history is a partial aspect of the comprehensive and interdisciplinary character of urbanism
- the city shape is a readable historic certificate
- the historic aspect influences the planning motivation
- the dealing with the past creates tendencies to preserve the individual city characteristic against common abstract city models



The object of the Urban Design History:

- the dealing with the historic aspect of the complex phenomenon of the city
- the research of links between urban shape and its meaning



Urban Design History is a successive phenomenon of the preservation of historic monuments and sites:

- the systematic preservation of historic monuments is a result of romanticism in the early 19th century
- the preservation of historic ensembles and sites is an extending of the preservation of historic monuments on the urban level around 1900

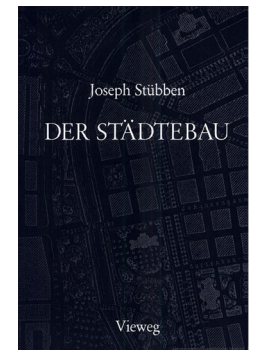
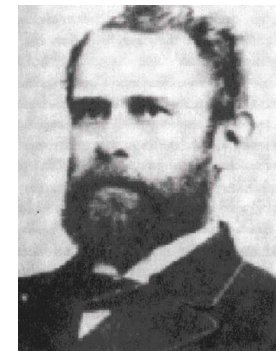
Camillo Sitte (1843-1903):

- Der Städtebau, 1889



Josef Stübben (1845-1936):

- Der Städtebau, 1890
- Der Bau der Städte in Geschichte und Gegenwart, 1895
- Vom englischen Städtebau, 1912
- Vom französischen Städtebau, 1915



Albert Erich Brinckmann (1881-1958):

- Stadtbaukunst. Geschichtliche Querschnitte und neuzeitliche Ziele, 1920



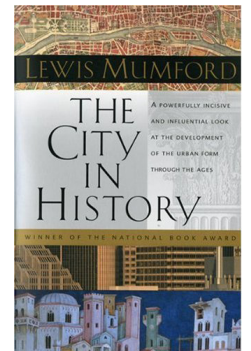
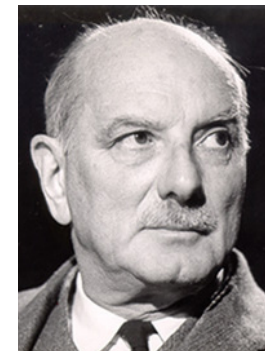
Pierre Lavedan (1885-1982):

- Histoire de l'urbanisme, 1948

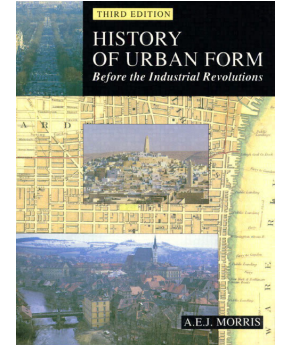


Lewis Mumford (1895-1990):

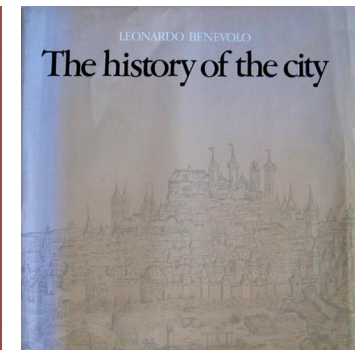
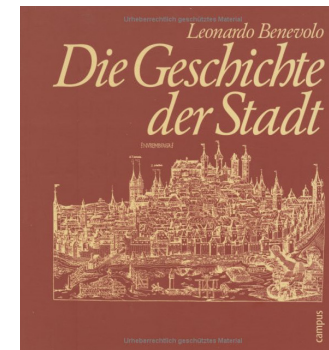
- The City in History: its origins and transformations, and its prospects, 1961



Anthony Edwin James Morris:  
- History of Urban Form, 1979



Leonardo Benevolo (\*1923):  
- The History of the City, 1980



Anthony Sutcliffe:  
- Towards the planned city: Germany, Britain, the USA and France 1780-1914, 1981



## The origin of the city

- The city is the result of a basic cultural change (the Neolithic Revolution) in the 4th millennium BC
- The Neolithic Revolution is the transition from pre-urban (rural) to urban culture
  - ° in the pre-urban (rural) culture the form of living together is defined with religious and moral norms by a traditionally fixed upper strata
  - ° in the urban culture the norms are defined by a free, self-regulated market economy
- The Neolithic Revolution has taken place independently in different regions (Mesopotamia, Hindus-Valley and later in America) and has given raise to differentiated shapes

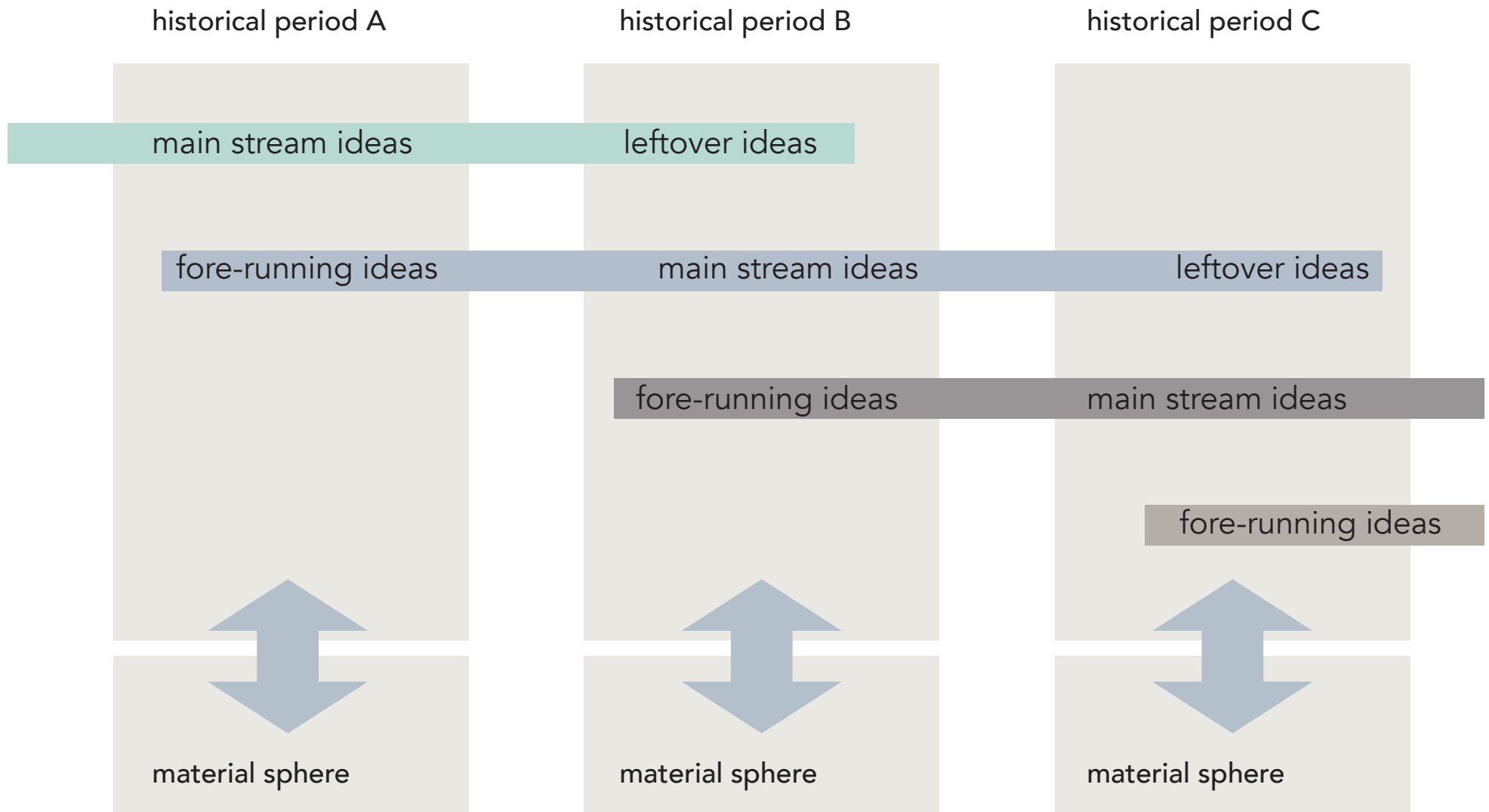
## Marks of the Neolithic Revolution:

- surplus of production and uneven distribution
- social differentiation and hierarchic social strata
- spatial concentration of the population
- division of labour and intellectualising
  - ° instances of law
  - ° autonomy of the city administration
  - ° development of script and science
- development of the market mechanism

The positioning of the Urban Design in the social order:



The phase-wise interferences between Urban Design ideas and social order:





The basic periods in history of Urban Design:

pre-industrial

until the Industrial Revolution (1780-1830)

industrial

until 1960s-1970s

post industrial

(not treated in the lecture course)

The pre-industrial periods of Urban Design:

The Antiquity

Mesopotamia and Egypt

Ancient Greece Civilisation

Roman Empire Civilisation

until 4<sup>th</sup> c AC

Early Middle Ages

until 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> c

Late Middle Ages

until 14<sup>th</sup> c

Renaissance

until 16<sup>th</sup> c

Counter Reformation

until 17<sup>th</sup> c

Absolutism

until 1800

The Liberal city - from the Industrial Revolution till the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1850)

The post-Liberal city - from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century till 1900 (WW I)

The Modernist city - (from 1900 till the 1960s/70s)

The starting point for the questions of the lecture course is the relation between the urban structure and the political, economical, social and technological conditions shaping it.

- What was the need and how was the planning process organised?
- Who were the actors in the urban design and planning process and what were the ideas and interests guiding them?
- Why do some urban patterns appear ordered and some appear chaotic and disordered?

The lectures bring into focus the European urbanism, its outer-European roots and its interferences with the urbanism of the New World



## Lecture Topics in Winter Term 2020/21

The pre-industrial period (till 1800):

- The Roots of the European Urbanism: Mesopotamia and Egypt

- The Rise and Decline of the Ancient Urbanism: Greece and Rome

- The Renaissance of the Urbanism: Italy and France

- The Representative Patterns of the Counter-Reformation and Absolutism

- The Precursors of the Urbanism of the Bourgeois Societies

## Lecture Topics in Winter Term 2020/21

The industrialisation period (1800-1900):

- The Industrial Revolution and the Crises of the City

- The Intellectualisation of the Urbanism in the 19th c.

- The Artistic versus the Geometric Design Ideas around 1900

- The Decentralisation Ideas around 1900

## Lecture Topics in Winter Term 2020/21

### The modernism (1900-1960s):

- The Decomposition of the Urban Block after WW I

- The Modernist Doctrine

- The Urbanism of the Dictatorship Societies of the 20th c.

- The Post-War Modernism

## NOTE:

I am seeking, naturally, to characterize only the general urban design and planning phenomenons.

I am aware that numerous exceptions must be made.

But they cannot modify the general impression which comes from an examination of the data available.