

Post-socialist City



Luděk Sýkora

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science
 Department of Social Geography and Regional Development
 Centre for Urban and Regional Research (CVMR)



dynamics of urban change

- urban structure

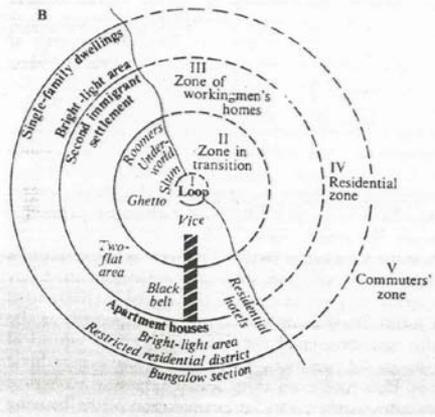


FIGURE 2.1 The Burgess model and contemporary Chicago (Source: Burgess, 1925)

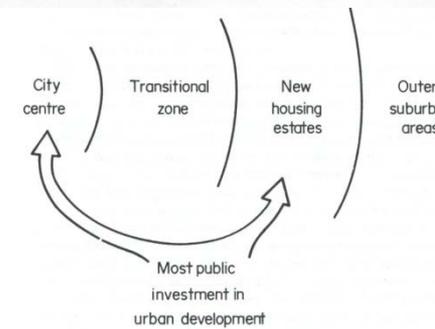


Fig. 7.1 Zones and their shares of public investment

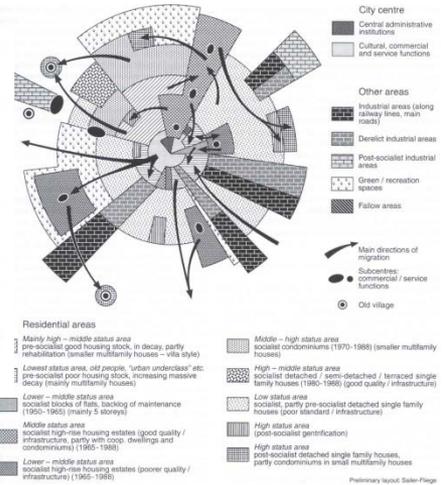
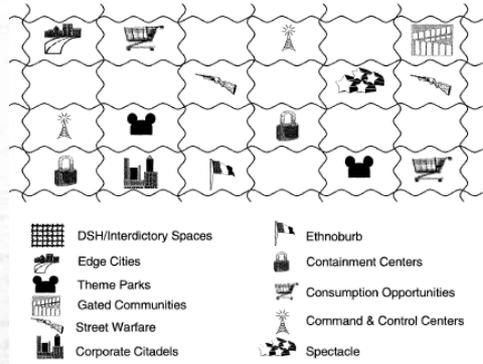


Figure 4 Spatial model of land use and social areas in a post-socialist city (1998). Preliminary layout: Sailer-Flage

- principles and mechanisms of urban change

- population preferences
- firms, capital, profit
- governments, public interest
- discourse and representation
- institutions and rules

dynamics of urban change

• urban structure



• principles and mechanisms of urban change

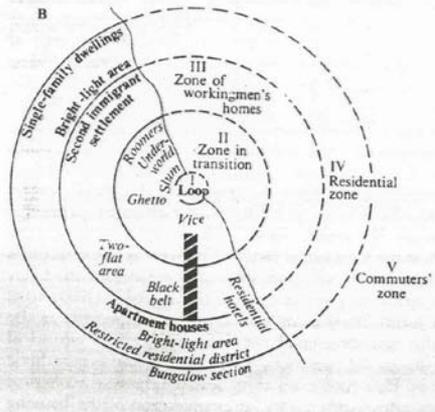
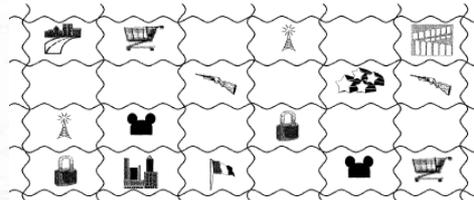


FIGURE 2.1 The Burgess model and contemporary Chicago (Source: Burgess, 1925)



- DSH/Interditory Spaces
- Edge Cities
- Theme Parks
- Gated Communities
- Street Warfare
- Corporate Citadels
- Ethnoburb
- Containment Centers
- Consumption Opportunities
- Command & Control Centers
- Spectacle

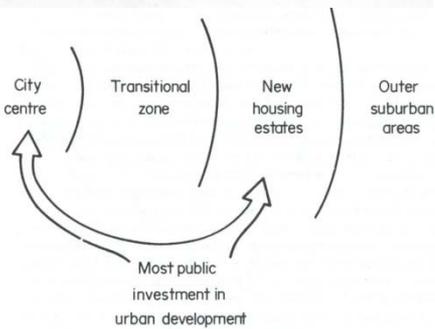


Fig. 7.1 Zones and their shares of public investment

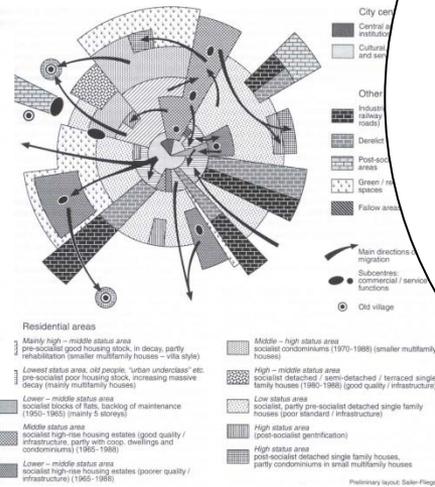


Figure 4. Spatial model of land use and social areas in a post-socialist city (1998). Preliminary layout: Sailer-Flage

stability - dynamics

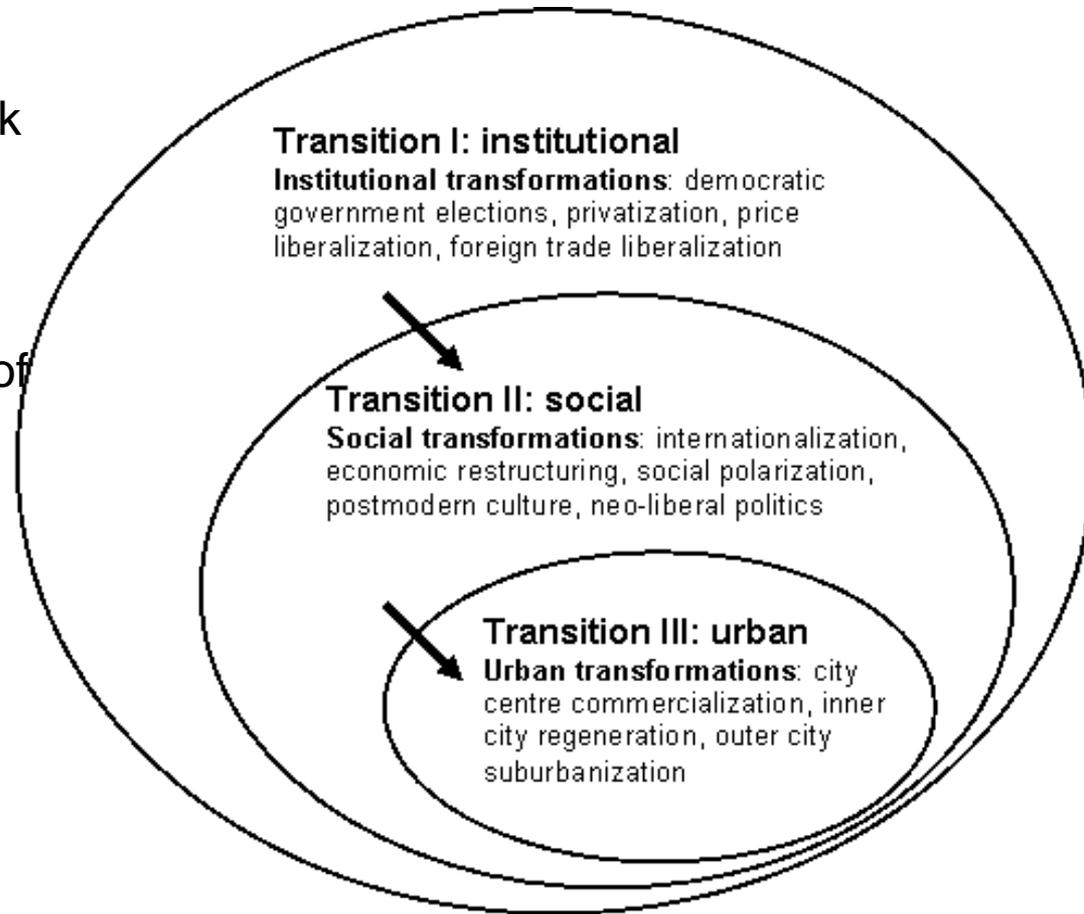
evolution - revolution

industrial – post-industrial society

communism – capitalism

multiple transformations

- *i)* the **institutional** transformations created a general reform framework
- *ii)* transformations of the social, economic, cultural and political **practices** shape the everyday life of people, firms and institutions and we recognize it as **social processes** and **social structures**
- *iii)* the transformation dynamics of **urban** spatial change



Sýkora, L., Bouzarovski, S. (2012): Multiple transformations: conceptualising post-communist urban transition. *Urban Studies*, 49 (1), 41 – 58.

multiple transformations

- *i)* the **institutional** transformations created a general reform framework

- *ii)* transfer of economic

STRUGGLE FOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Sýkora, L., Bouzarovski, S. (2012): Multiple transformations: conceptualising post-communist urban transition. *Urban Studies*, 49 (1), 41 – 58.

post-socialist city

- political and economic **principles** have been changed quickly
- urban **spatial structures** have high inertia
- post-socialist cities are characterised by **changes**
- the **adaptation** of urban environment to new societal conditions

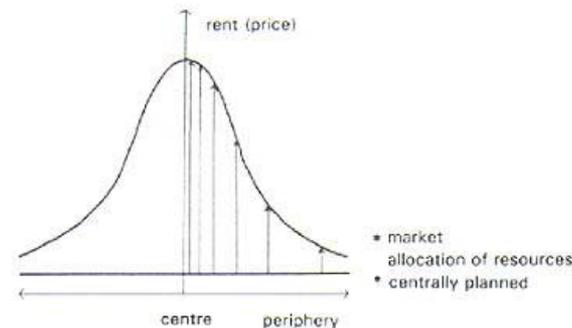


Fig. 4. A schematic comparison of rent curves under two different economic systems indicating dynamic change in restructuring urban space.

Sýkora, L. (1993) City in transition: the role of rent gaps in Prague's revitalization. Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie 84 (4), 281-293.

post-socialist city

- political and economic **principles** have been changed quickly
- urban **spatial structures** have high inertia
- post-socialist cities are characterised by **changes**
- the **adaptation** of urban environment to new societal conditions



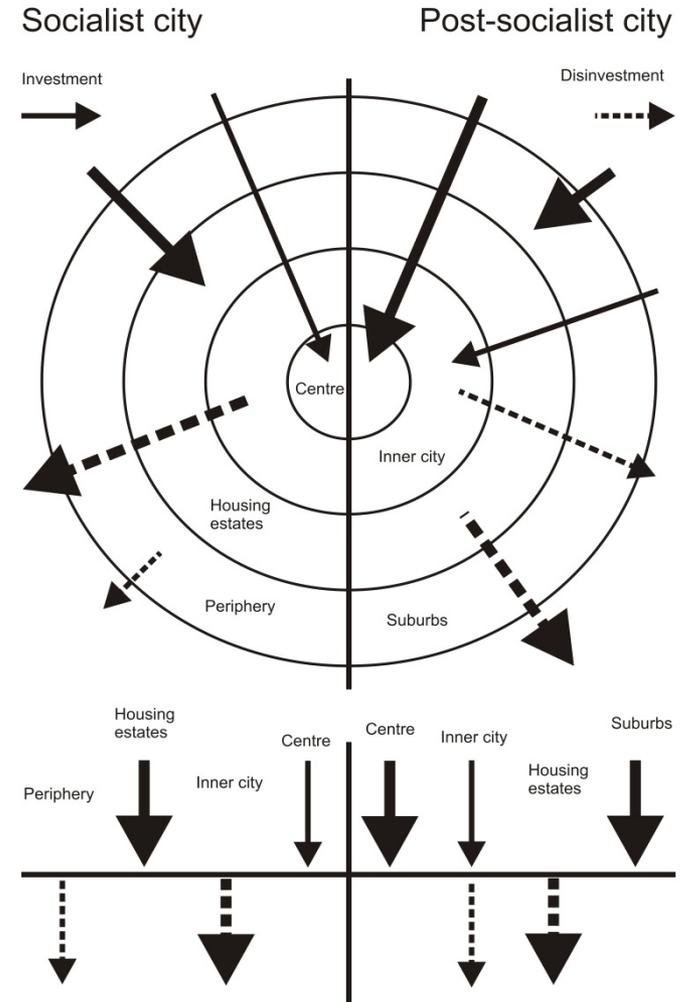
post-socialist city

- political and economic **principles** have been changed quickly
- urban **spatial structures** have high inertia
- post-socialist cities are characterised by **changes**
- the **adaptation** of urban environment to new societal conditions



post-socialist city

- political and economic **principles** have been changed quickly
- urban **spatial structures** have high inertia
- post-socialist cities are characterised by **changes**
- the **adaptation** of urban environment to new societal conditions



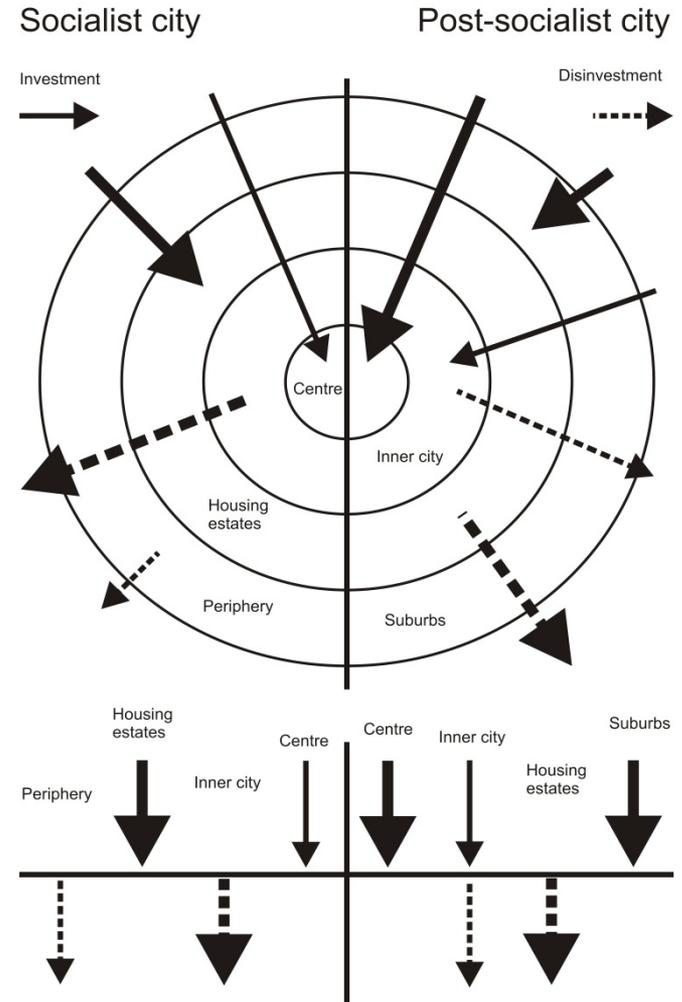
Sýkora, L. (2009) Post-Socialist Cities. In: Kitchin, R., Thrift, N, eds, International Encyclopedia of Human Geography, Volume 8, 387-395. Oxford, Elsevier.

post-socialist city

- political and economic **principles** have been changed quickly

• urba

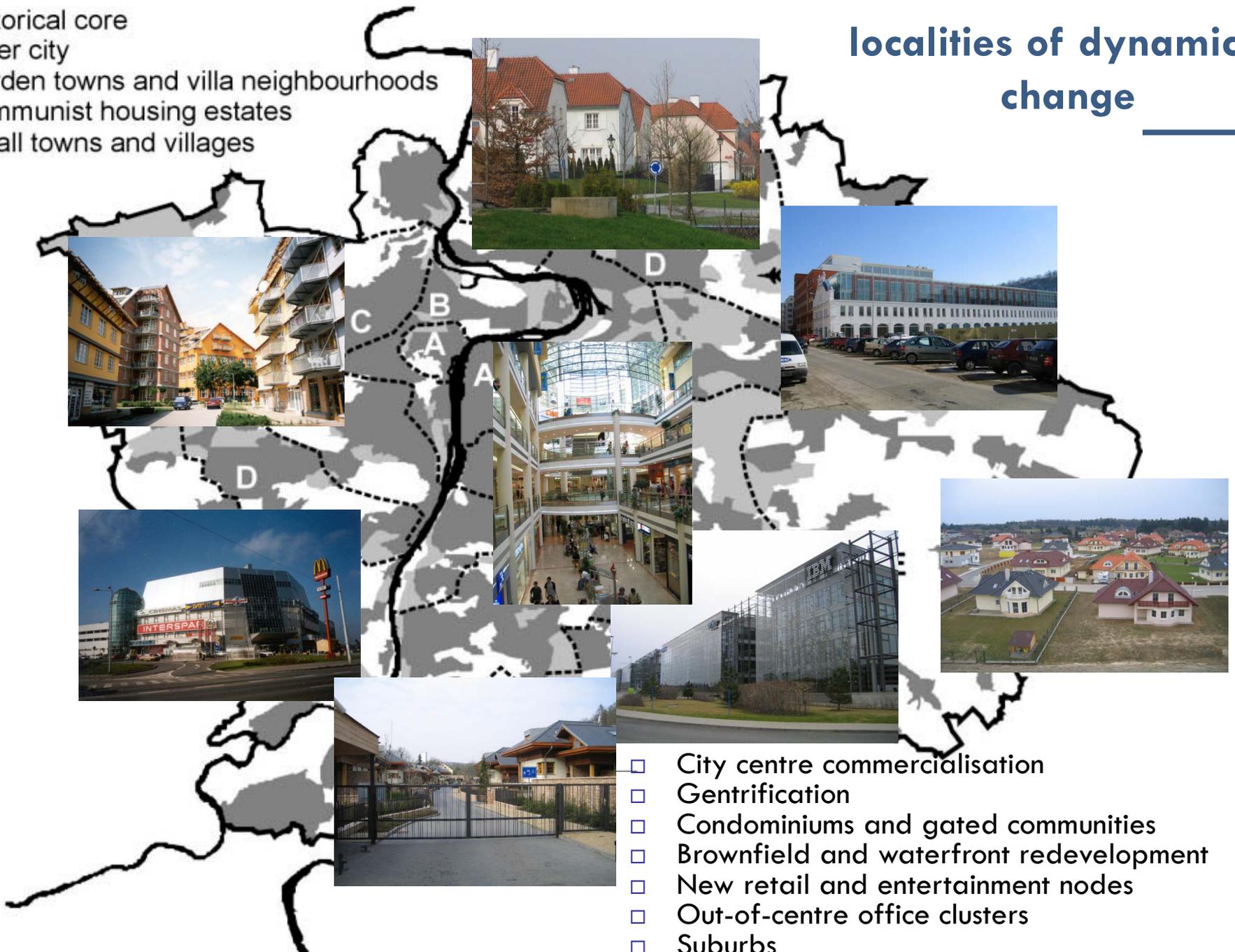
**post-socialist city
revolutionary changes**



Sýkora, L. (2009) Post-Socialist Cities. In: Kitchin, R., Thrift, N, eds, International Encyclopedia of Human Geography, Volume 8, 387-395. Oxford, Elsevier.

- A historical core
- B inner city
- C garden towns and villa neighbourhoods
- D communist housing estates
- E small towns and villages

localities of dynamic change



- City centre commercialisation
- Gentrification
- Condominiums and gated communities
- Brownfield and waterfront redevelopment
- New retail and entertainment nodes
- Out-of-centre office clusters
- Suburbs

waterfront (re)development

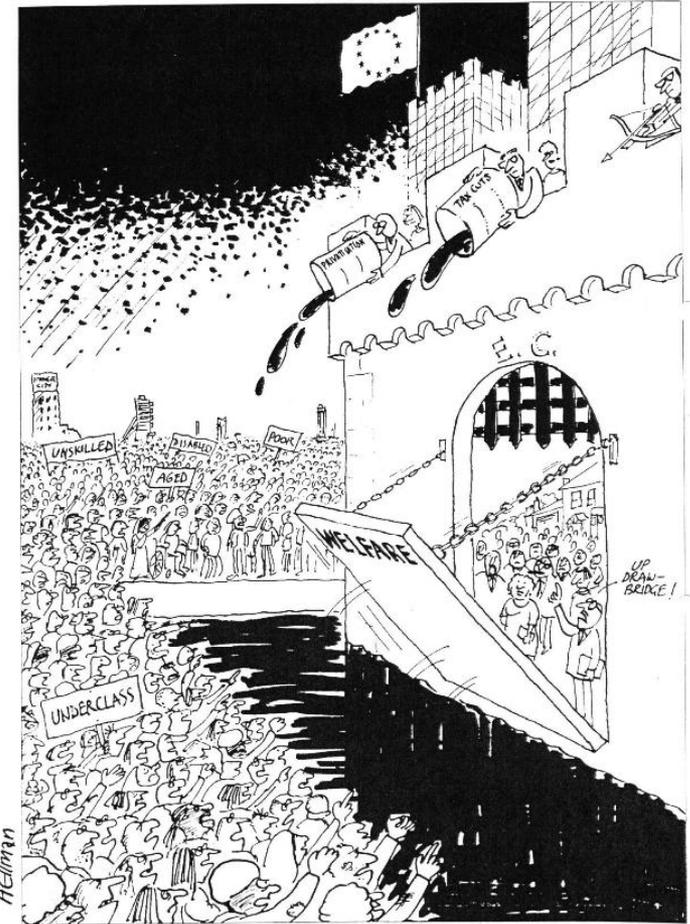
- **large functionally complex areas**
- places of **production -> consumption**
- major private **investments** and strong visionary public **intervention**
- **globalised investment** circles and **localized decision-making**
- **vested interests** of local politicians and **local resistance** of citizens
- need for **strategic local consensus** about **economic, social** and **environmental** goals x politics of mutual **delegitimation**



revolutionary changes forward look

- a **multiplicity of critical junctures**: choices that will impact the development of cities for years
- **anticipate, critically evaluate and provide normative suggestions** about the development paths
- asses **opportunities** and **risks**
- new developments may lead to the formation of **new path-dependent lock-ins**
- the problematic developments may be **avoided** if **alternative development** paths are taken sooner rather than later

Sýkora, L. (2008) Revolutionary change, evolutionary adaptation and new path dependencies: socialism, capitalism and transformations in urban spatial organizations. In: Strubelt, W., Gorzelak, G., eds, City and Region, 283-295. Budrich UniPress, Leverkusen Opladen

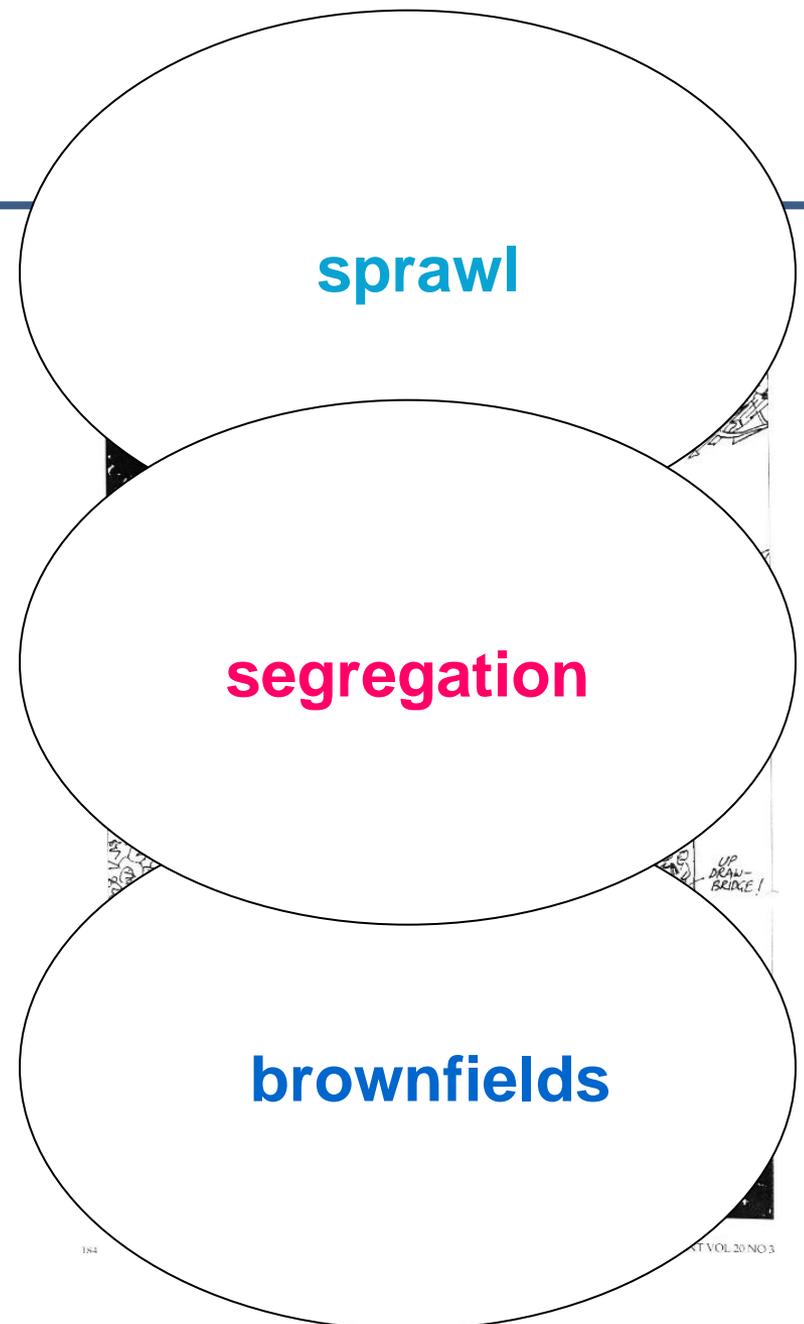


184

BUILD ENVIRONMENT VOL 20 NO 3

revolutionary changes forward look

- a **multiplicity of critical junctures**: choices that will impact the development of cities for years
- **anticipate, critically evaluate and provide normative suggestions** about the development paths
- asses **opportunities** and **risks**
- new developments may lead to the formation of **new path-dependent lock-ins**
- the problematic developments may be **avoided** if **alternative development** paths are taken sooner rather than later



Sýkora, L. (2008) Revolutionary change, evolutionary adaptation and new path dependencies: socialism, capitalism and transformations in urban spatial organizations. In: Strubelt, W., Gorzelak, G., eds, City and Region, 283-295. Budrich UniPress, Leverkusen Opladen