

BARON HAUSSMANN **and the modernization of Paris**

I. Life & Origins of Georges-Eugène Haussmann

27 March 1809 – 11 January 1891

Studied law, no actual education in urban planning, rapid advancement in civil service

Prefect of the Seine from 1853-1870

Hired by Napoleon to 'modernize' Paris, they worked in close proximity together

II. Rebuilding of Paris

- Pre-modernization: Medieval Paris with narrow winding streets and open sewer system
- Population of Paris doubled to over a million people from 1800 to 1850
- Reasons for changes: Disease, crowding, easier suppression of riots
- Napoleon III's hopes: Safety, better housing, better sanitation, wider streets for preventing revolution, more shopping-friendly

Changes made by Haussmann:

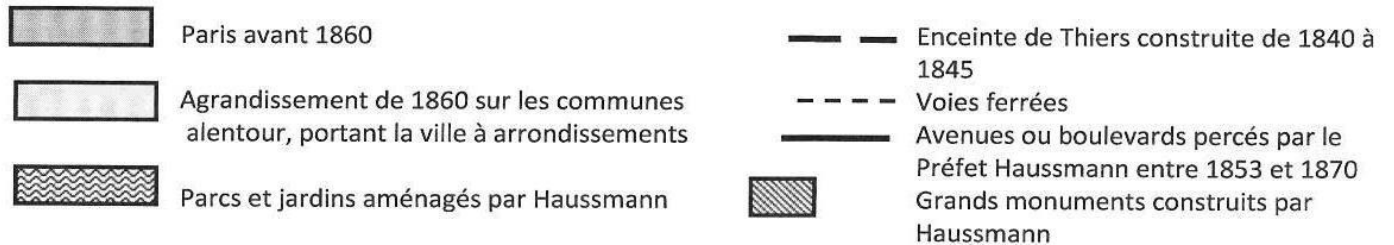
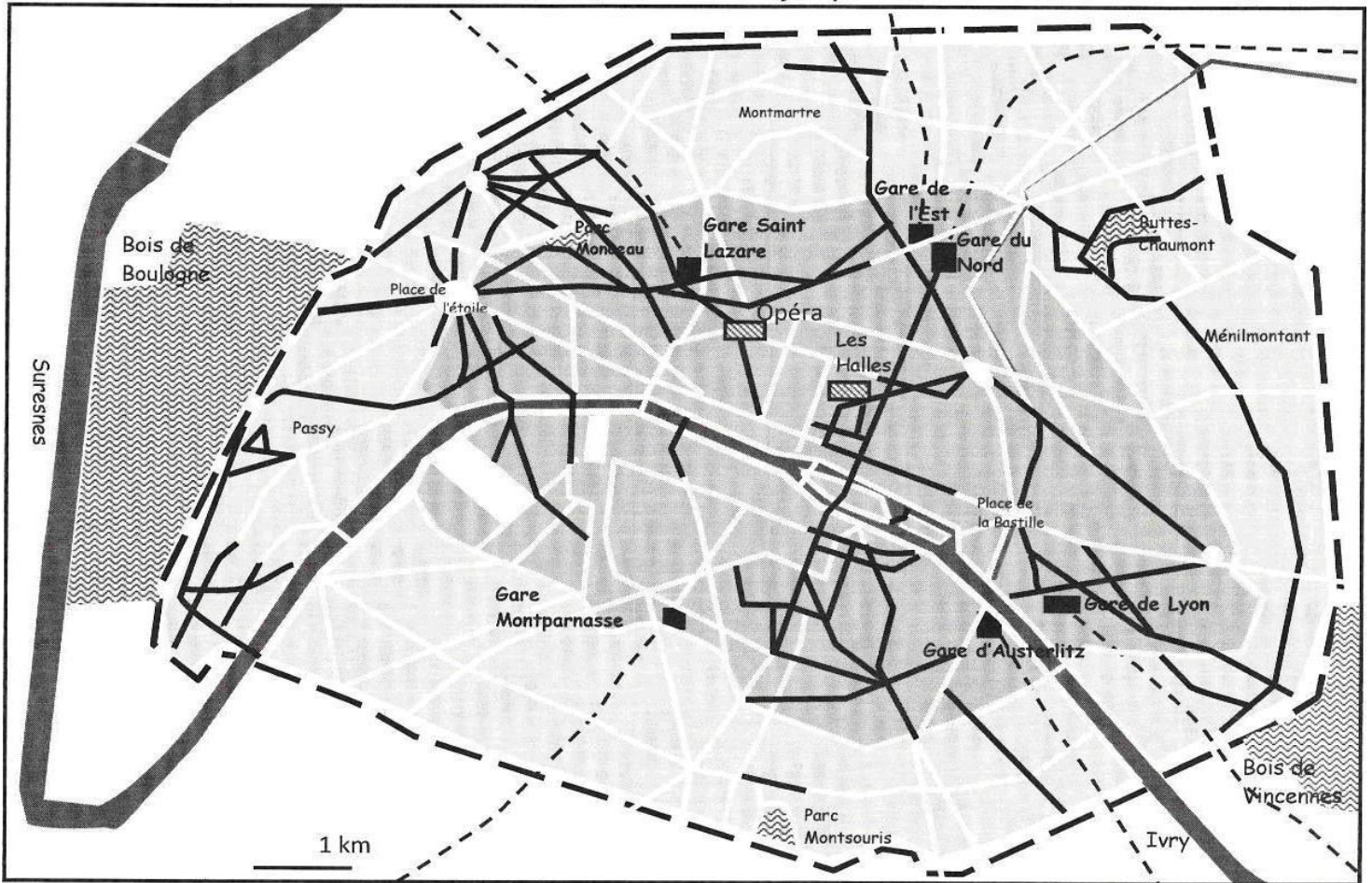
- Sewer system
- Wide Boulevards
- Gas lighting
- Public Building regulations
- Monuments
- Updated Facade
- A reorganized symmetrical road system
- Parks
- Division of Paris into arrondissements (Districts) and its expansion

Criticisms:

- a. Parisian's complained of losing Old Paris, never-ending construction in the city, an original distrust of the budgeting and funding and a concern for debt after the loans and additional costs.
- b. Critics accused Haussmann of squandering money and planning poorly
- c. Haussmann, commissioned by Napoleon, spent 2,500,000,000 francs renovating the city
- d. "Haussmannomania" & "Haussmannization"

III. End of Career & legacy

- 'Fired' by Napoleon on January 5, 1870: Napoleon was losing popularity, and after Haussmann's critiques, he was used as a scapegoat by Napoleon
- The man who destroyed Old Paris, or the man who created New Paris?
- It is estimated that Haussmann transformed 60% of Paris' buildings, ~20,000 buildings destroyed, ~30,000 buildings erected
- Often called "Second Empire reforms" although it continued after the fall of the Second Empire
- Died of Tuberculosis in 1891
- Eventual improvements: disease diminished, traffic flow improved, better buildings and overall quality of life for residents of Paris



Translation:

- Paris before 1860
- Enlargement of 1860 on the common surrounding, supporting the city quarters
- Parks and gardens altered by Haussmann
- Enceinte de Thiers constructed from 1840 to 1845 (Wall built in defense)
- Steel tipped routes
- Avenues or boulevards made famous by Haussmann between 1853 and 1870
- Monuments constructed by Haussmann