**Paris : The petit quatriemeBerlin : Reviving a world cityGermany’s financial capital : FrankfurtThe Barcelona model**

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**Paris : the petit quatrieme**

At the beginning of the twentieth century Berlin and Paris were acknowledged world cities. Berlin lost its imperial role and leading position as an industrial and cultural centre. Paris has, however, kept a place near the top of what is now a global hierarchy. But there is debate about whether Paris ranks with London, NewYork and Tokyo, and Paris has been labelled the petit quatrieme of world cities.

**A changing planning style in the city of Paris**

Following the election of Mayor Chirac in 1977 the city of Paris undertook substantial urban renewal across its northern and eastern arrondisements.

The Paris Rive Gauche development is the last of a series of large-scale projects that signalled the international ambitions of the city.

The project looked expensive and few prestigious commercial tenants had been attracted.

Depite its new planning principles the regime of Mayor Tiberi ended in 2001 with the election of the city's first socialist mayor.

The story of Paris Rive Gauche marks an important shift of orientation by city planner.

But this 'more human planning' of the review of Paris Rive Gauche runs up against another mayoral ambition which is to increase development densities in the e city through increased use of tall building.

The new development approach of the city is contested.

So there has been a substantial shift in thinking about city planning since the 1980s.

The cultural investment of the Grands Projets in the 1980s and new concern with the quality of the environment in the 1990s contribute to the city's competitive advantages.

Paris made bids for the 1992 and 2008 Olympic game.

**Revitalising the suburbs**

The city of Paris sees an opportunity in its plan to establish better links between the city itself and neighbouring suburbs.

The new socialist regime in the city opened up new possibilities for intercommunal planning but we need to see this initiative in a much wider context of institutional reform.

Intercommunal cooperation is a significant process in the modernization of the French state with intercommunal associations now responsible for a substantial amount of public expenditure.

Intercommunal cooperation alson gives a new framework for the implementation of national urban policy.

The developmental objective of Plaine Commune brings forward new thinking about managing the growth of the Paris region.

**Berlin : reviving a world city**

Berlin is the largest German city. The city-regional scale of planning has proved problematic, and difficulties at this scale weaken the ability of Berlin to compete with its rivals.

Rebuilding the central city

Compared to other german of European cities Berlin's economy is weak

Following the reunification of the city in 1989 the economy needed rebuilding.

To achieve the international importance the city had in the early twentieth century Berlin needed to recapture more than government functions.

Berlin's local economy on both sides of the wall developed in an usual way during the Cold War period and the east/west difference continues to have ramifications.

In addition to planning at the large scale, more incremental processes also demonstrate tensions in the new ambitions for the city.

Reunification and the return of market forces have also made gentrification a feature of Berlin's inner suburbs and some dramatic social change have taken place.

Maintaining social objectives is clearly a problem for a city government under fiscal pressure.

However, despite this weakness the city has become very conscious of its international position.

**City-region Berlin**

The political and administrative boundaries drawn after the reunification of Germany did not reflect the economic realities of the new city of Berlin.

**Germany’s financial capital : Frankfurt**

The development of Berlin as a competitive European city, a high-level service centre for central Europe or a modern capital depends on both an enhanced level of interregional cooperation and successful resolution of development challenges within the city itself.

In rankings of Europe's cities Frankfurt often appears in third place, reflecting an important concentration of financial and other services.

Germany's financial capital has an important European role but rather than being a rival to London we can see the city's economic functions as has an economic role extending only across the estern Lander, and an uncertain role in an expanding European Union. Planning in both cities is contentious, in particular in the management of city-regional growth.

**The Barcelona model**

The 1992 Olympic Games substantially enhanced Barcelona's international image. But such image-boosting events may only give temporary advantation in a Europe of continuing city competition

In the 1990s Barcelona exported a powerful image of successful mayoral government and a 'Barcelona model' of revitalization through urban design and consumption.

The success of the Olympics, good strategic planning and a new approach to public management boosted the reputation of the city and mayor.

The Olympic project transformed a substantial tract of the city's old industrial areas along the waterfront.

The city promotes a vision of its future role as a business hub that spans a population of 16 milion and reaches into southern France.

The 'model' has also been characterized by the way that it has incorporated other interests.

Thus the Barcelona model has been widely viewed as a success, but more recently it has alson attracted criticism.

It might be argued that the extent to which other cities can learn from Barcelona is limited