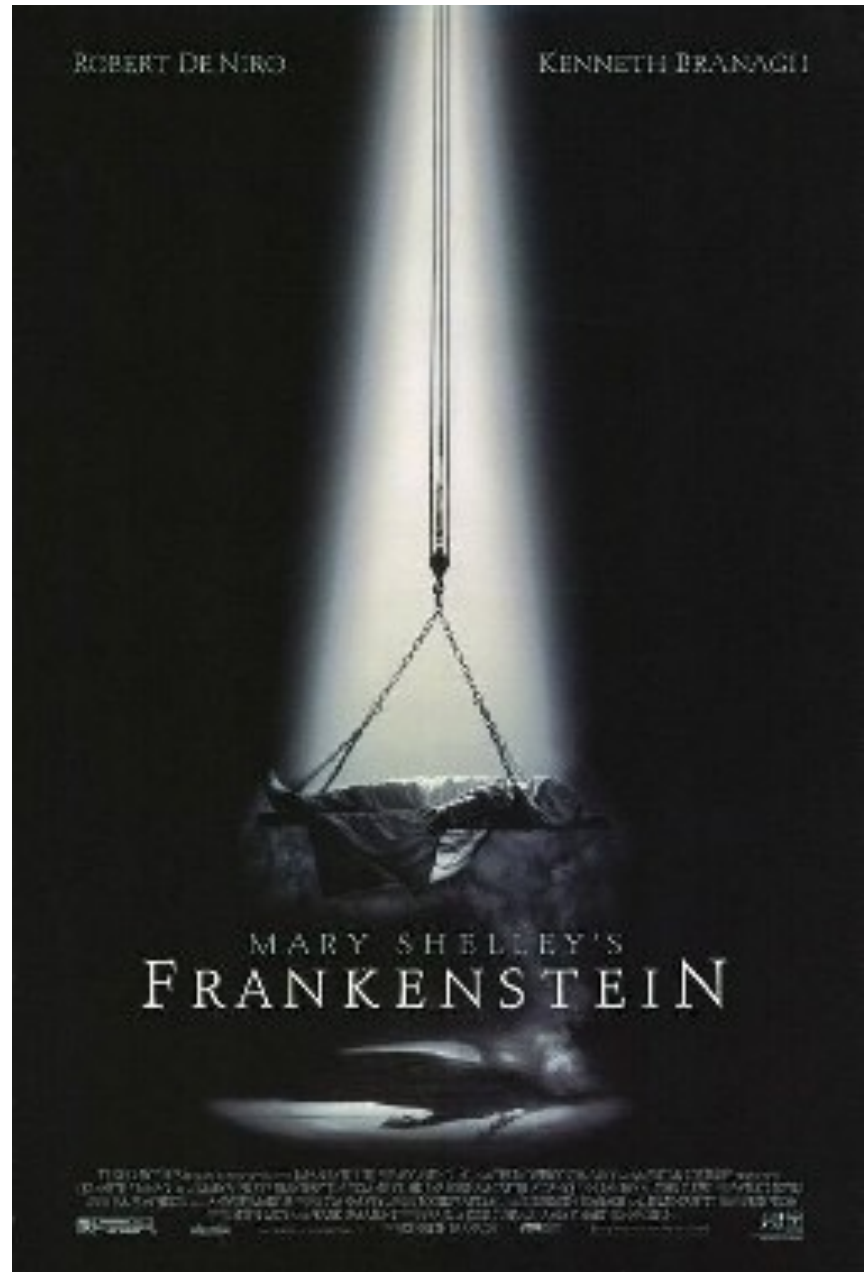UIA – GREEK SECTION

Protection of public health,
public freedom, public space:
fictional narratives and
neoteric or contemporary reality

Dr Konstantinos Moraitis
Professor Emeritus NTUA
ARSIS ARCHITECTS
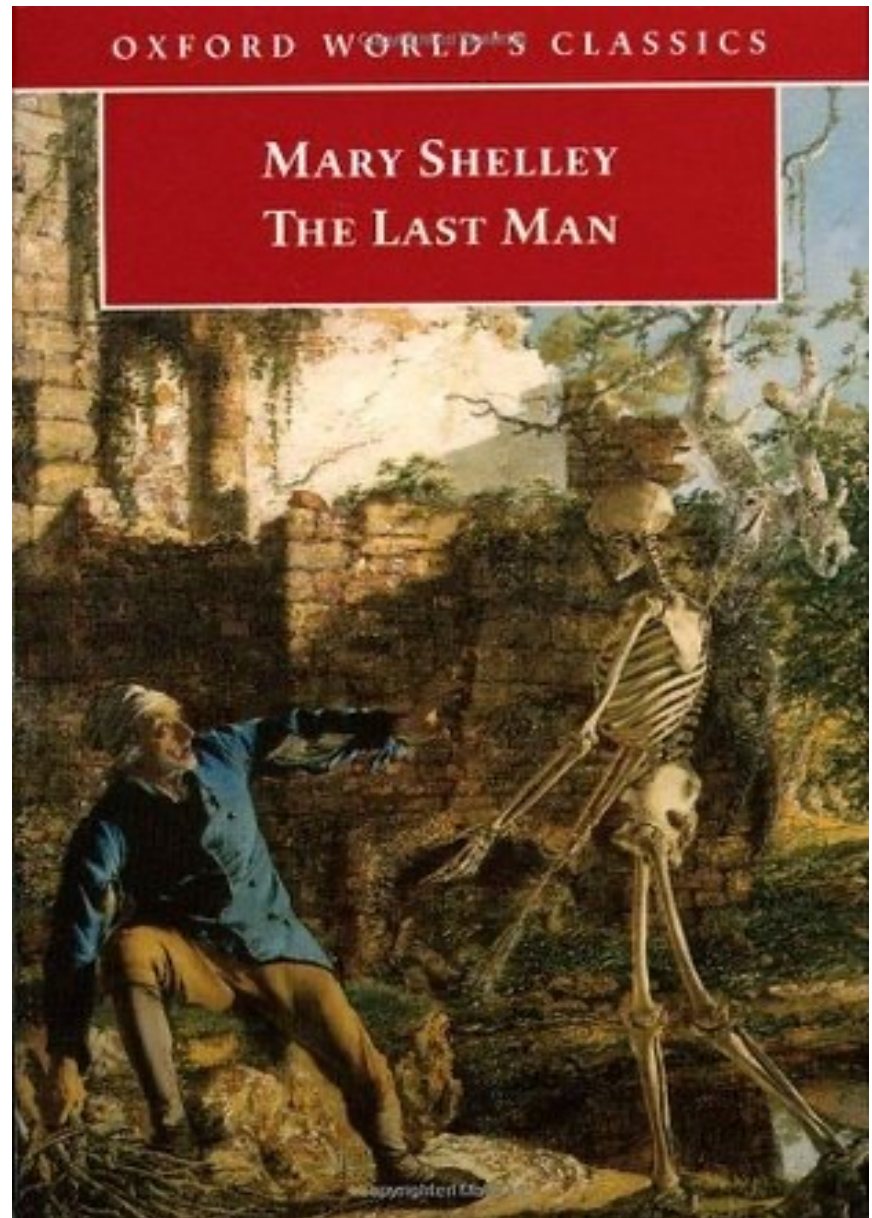
UIA - HEALTHY CITIES and PUBLIC SPACES

Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft Shelley author of
Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus,
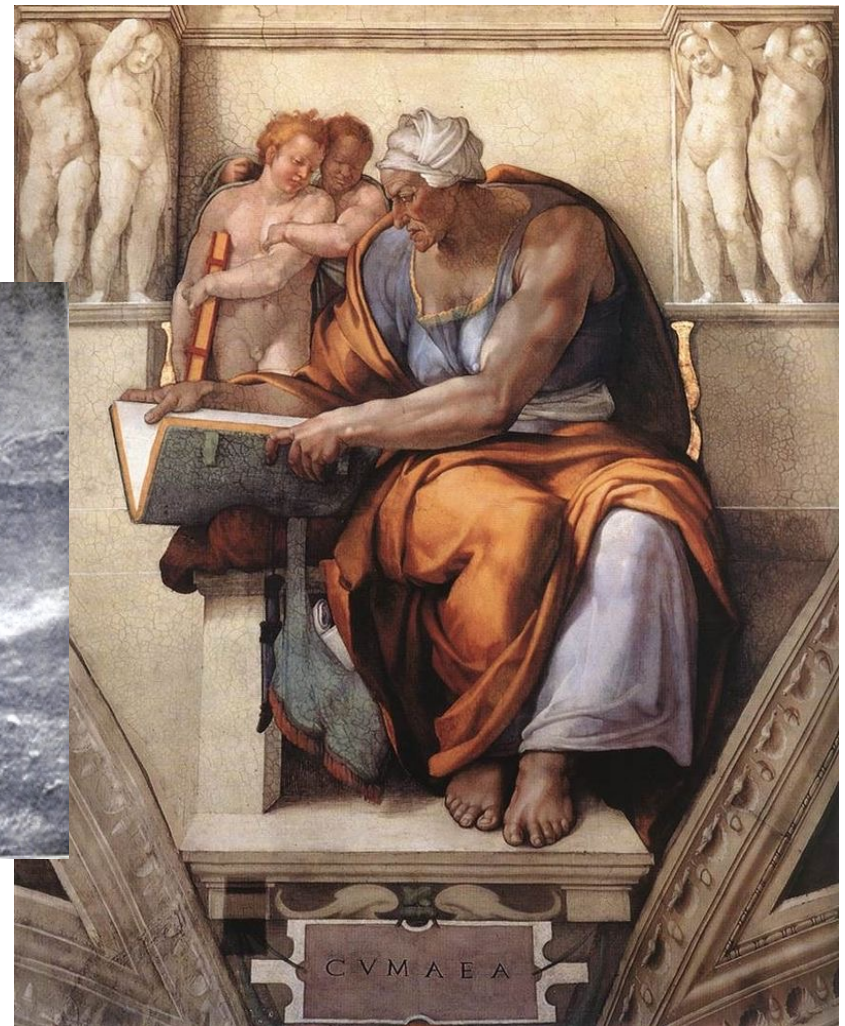a narrative that could be regarded as a comment on bioethics.

ROBERT DE NIRO   KENNETH BRANAGH

MARY SHELLEY'S
FRANKENSTEIN

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

MARY SHELLEY
THE LAST MAN

Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft Shelley is also the author of *The Last Man*...

...During a military confrontation, between a united European army and an oriental empire, a pandemic, a worldwide pandemic is exploded.

According to Cumean Sibyl's oracle, Shelley says, *a horrifying pandemic would be realized during 21st century.*
Finally the totality of the human population would disappear, with the exception of the last survived human creature, Lionel,'The Last Man'.
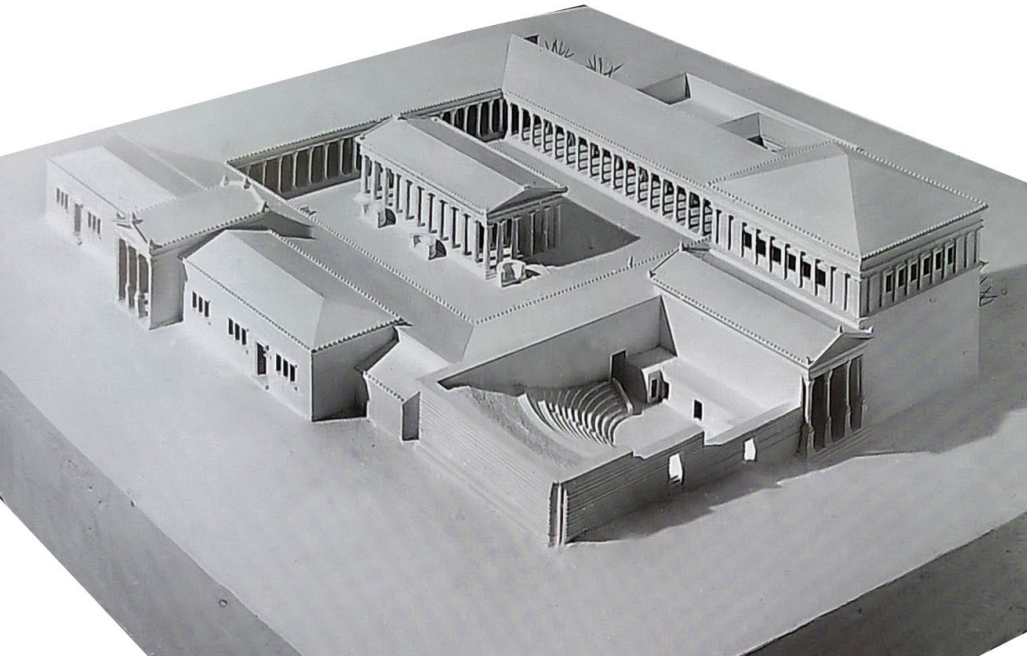
Antonie-Jean Gros, ***Napoléon sur le champ de la bataille d' Eylau***. The continuous military massacres during the Napoleonic wars - in south and central Europe, in Russia as well.
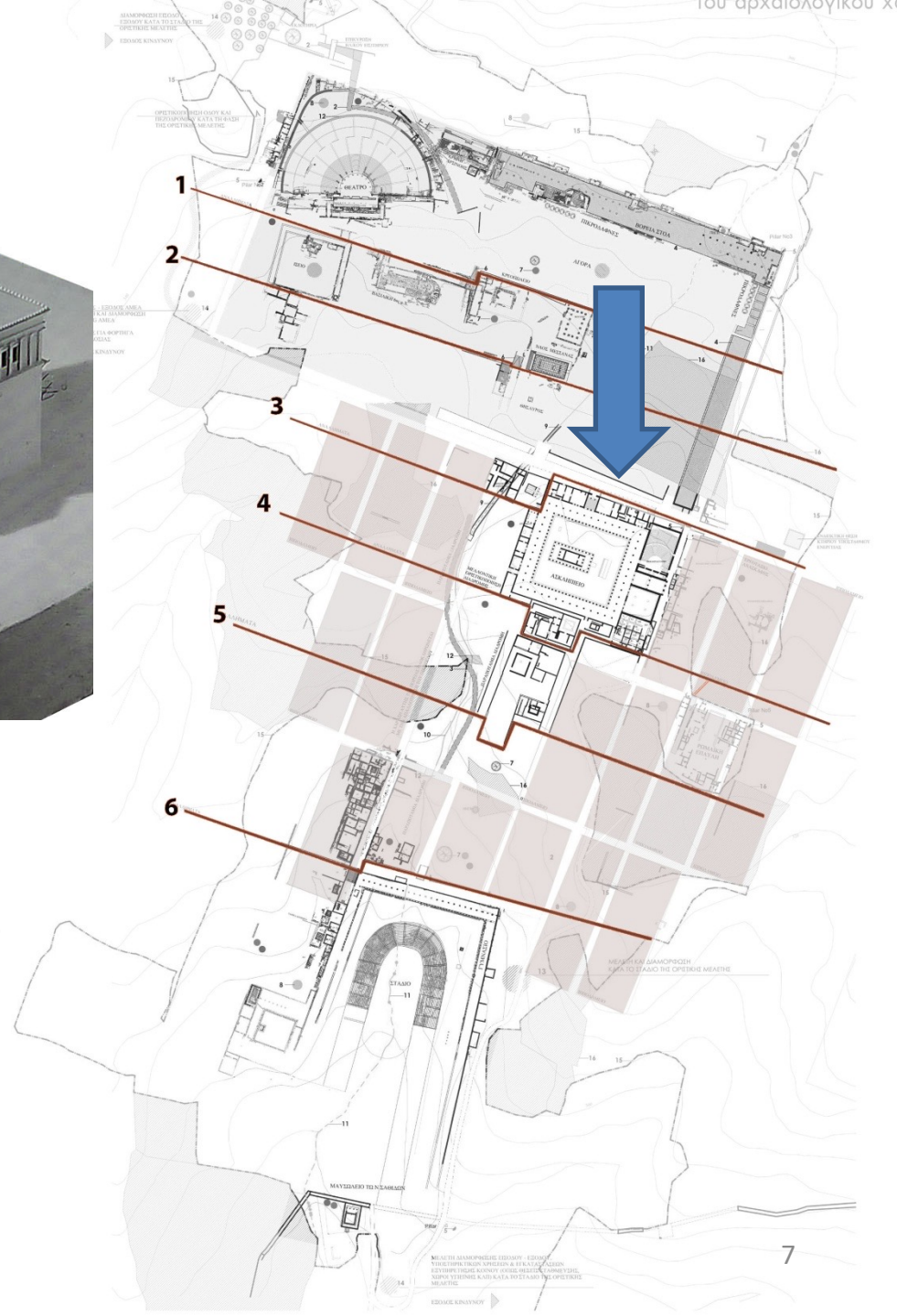
Asclepius was, according to the ancient Greeks, the legendary initiator of medical treatment, of the science of medicine; probably a real personality of the remote Hellenic past.
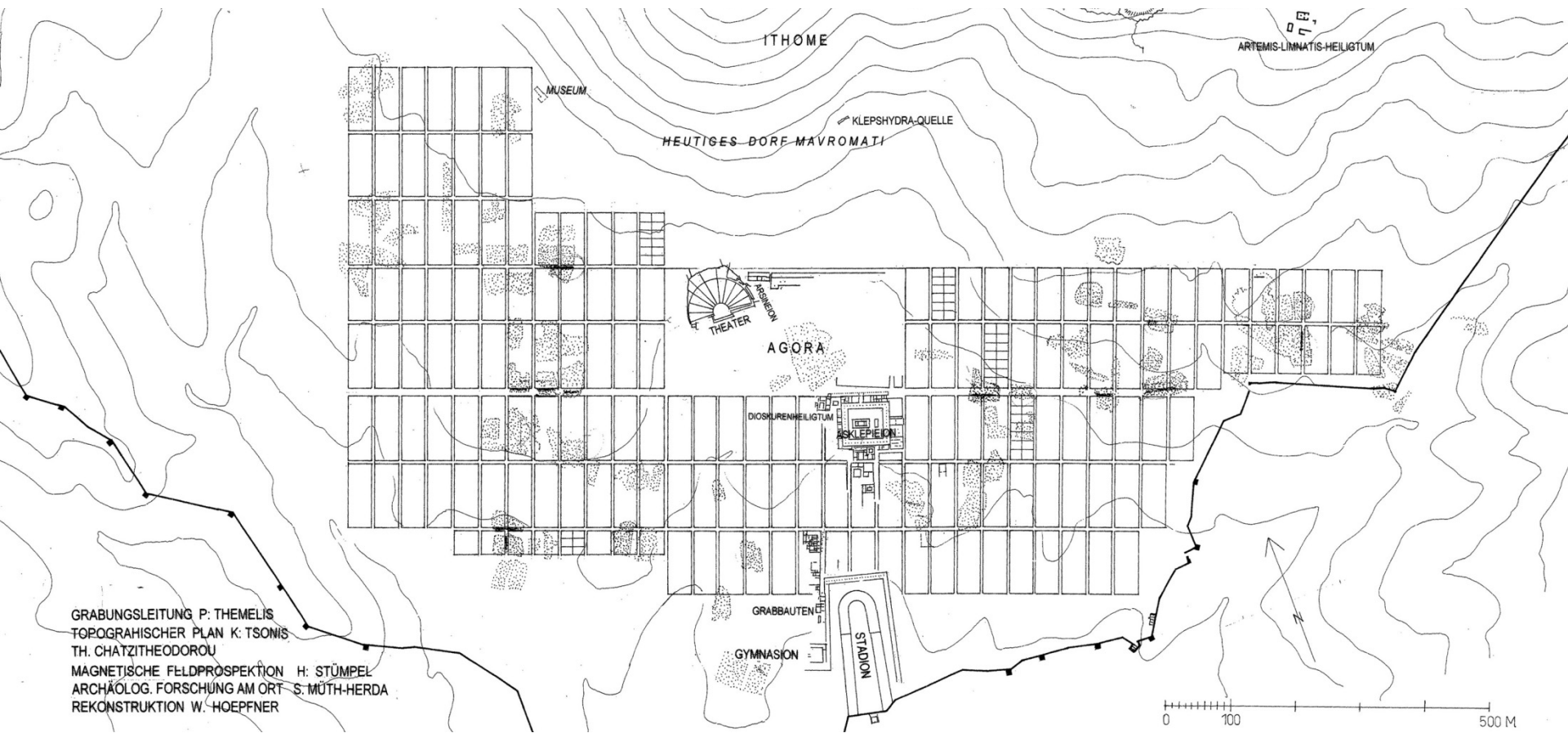

Asclepeia, the therapeutic shrines dedicated to Asclepius, were usually constructed at the outskirts of the cities, outside them, in order to ensure the calmest possible conditions of therapy.

However, ***Asclepeion of ancient Messini in south Peloponnese***, was installed in the interior of the urban context, in the middle of the city. ***It was not devoted to the medical treatment but to the public, cultural and political life of the city***; it was an important, central part of the public space of Messini.

Ancient Messini *was an Hippodamean city, organized on the basis of a democratic urban formation*, consisted of uniform housing 'insulae', housing city blocks, providing *equal positive hygienic conditions of lighting and ventilation*.

On the left - **Gustave Doré:** *Houndsditch*. Homeless citizens in 19th century London. An engraving, as presented in the book *London: A Pilgrimage,* a collection of 180 depictions by Doré and texts by Blanchard Jerrold (London:. Grant & Co. edit., 1872).
On the right- an example of **Charles Booth's** *'Maps of poverty',* describing the impoverished quarters of late Victorian London.

Hippodamus of Miletus, Aristotles commented in his book on *Politics*, was not only the initiator of the rationalized, Euclidian urban planning system.

He moreover was a political theorist, being able to present, in urban perceptible constructed form, the principles of democracy and 'isopolity'; of political equality among all members of a given society.
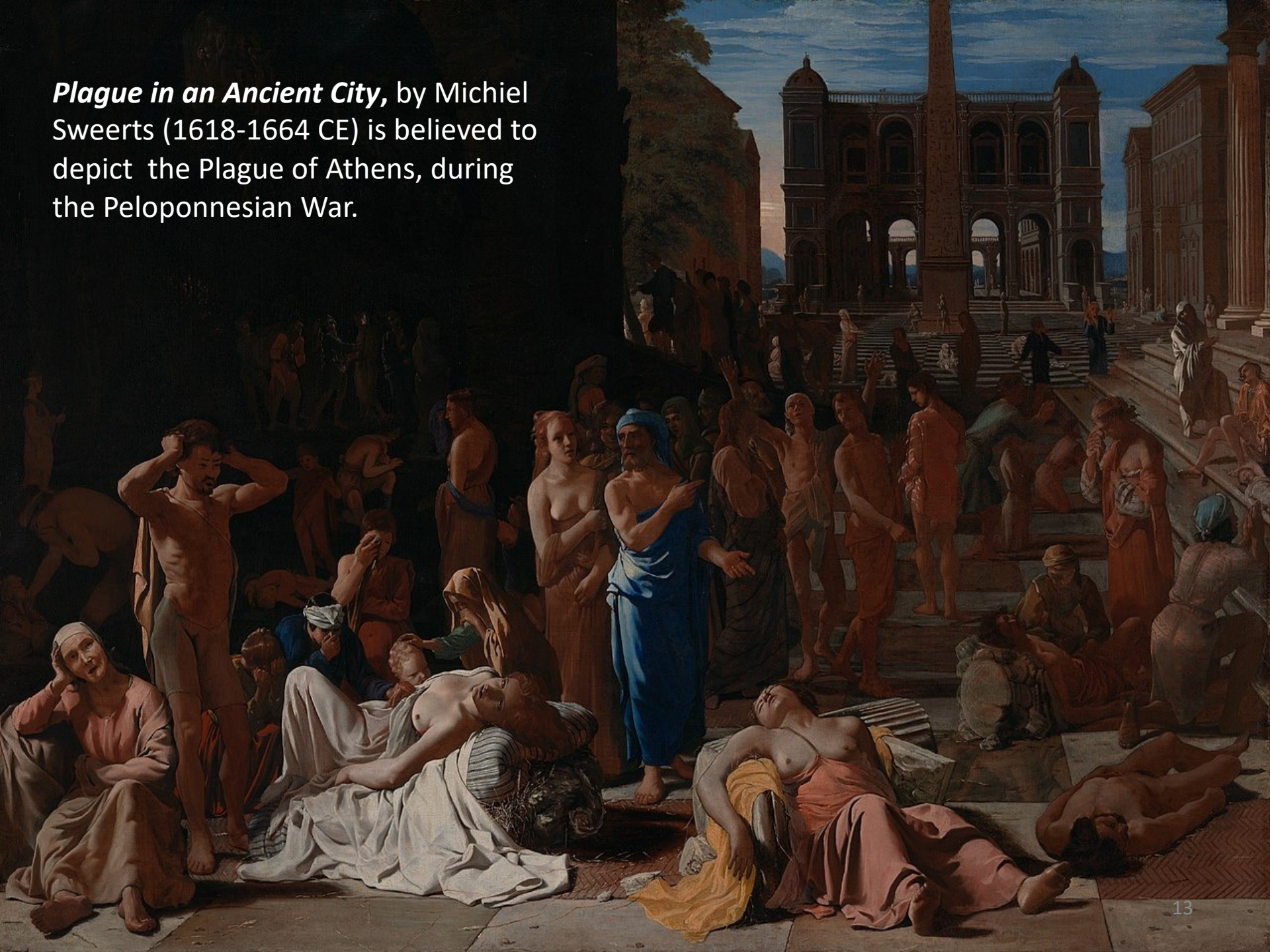
Pericles's Funeral Oration, by Philipp Foltz (1852)

Our "administration" Pericles claimed, *"favors the many instead of the few; this is why it is called a democracy."*

"If we look to the laws" he continued, *"they afford equal justice to all in their private differences; if no social standing, advancement in public life falls to reputation for capacity, class considerations not being allowed to interfere with merit; nor again does poverty bar the way, if a man is able to serve the state, he is not hindered by the obscurity of his condition".*

Plague in an Ancient City, by Michiel Sweerts (1618-1664 CE) is believed to depict the Plague of Athens, during the Peloponnesian War.

The hygienic amelioration of the cities it a matter of political decision, but also a matter of space formation and space use.

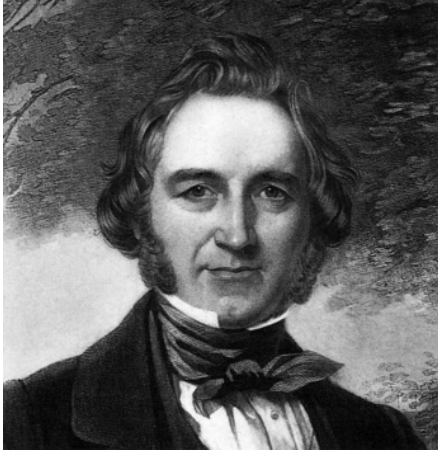**What can we judge as the most important of the two?**

Hard as it is to believe, but the 1918 epidemic killed more people than the dead of the World War I.

War claimed an estimated 16 million lives. *The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 killed an estimated 50 million people.* One fifth of the world's population was attacked by this deadly virus.
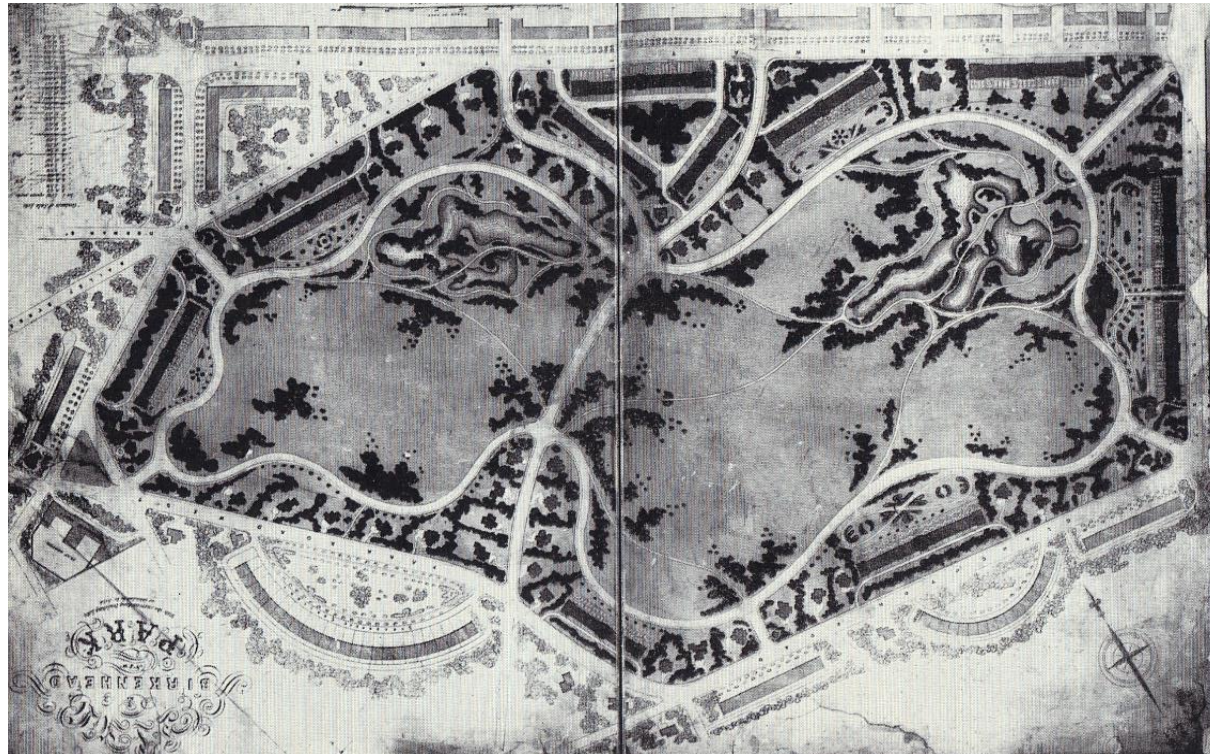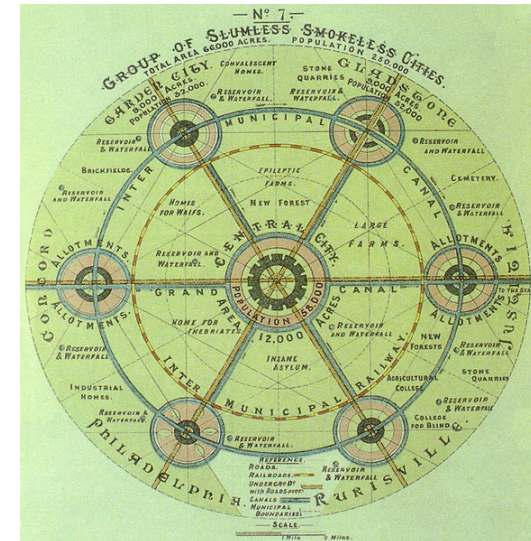Within months, it had killed more people than any other illness in recorded history.
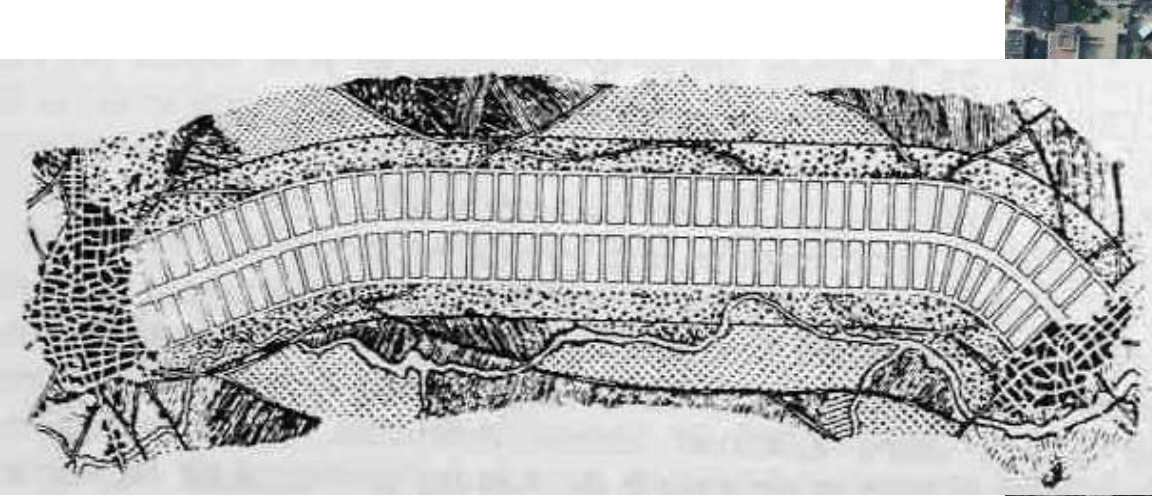
John Claudius Loudon and
the Derby Arboretum

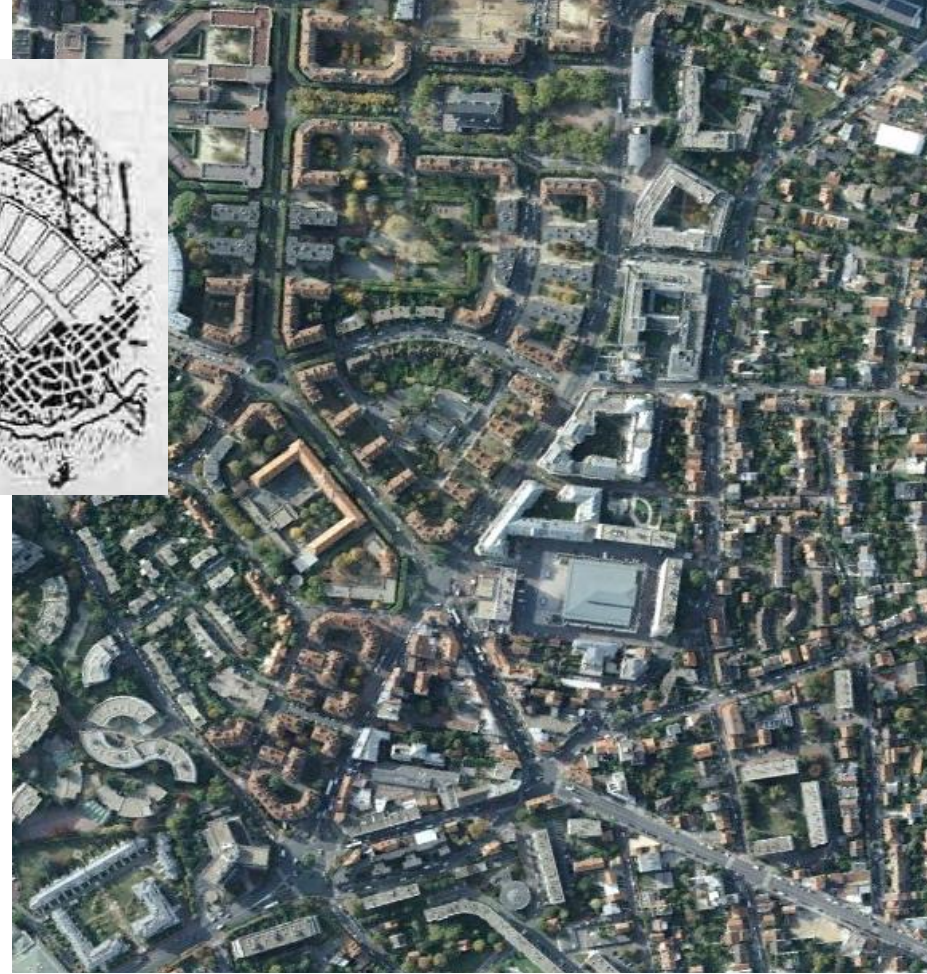Joseph Paxton and the
Buckingham Park

Again John Claudius Loudon and his earlier proposal for the transformation of London to a garden city (center), in comparison to Ebenezer Howard's later diagrammatic proposal, as presented in early 20th century.

The linear city, the *'Ciudad Lineal', as* proposed by Spanish urban planner Arturo Soria y Mata (1882). Because of its narrow width, the linear city may offer a continuous correlation, at both sides of it, to the surrounding natural landscape.
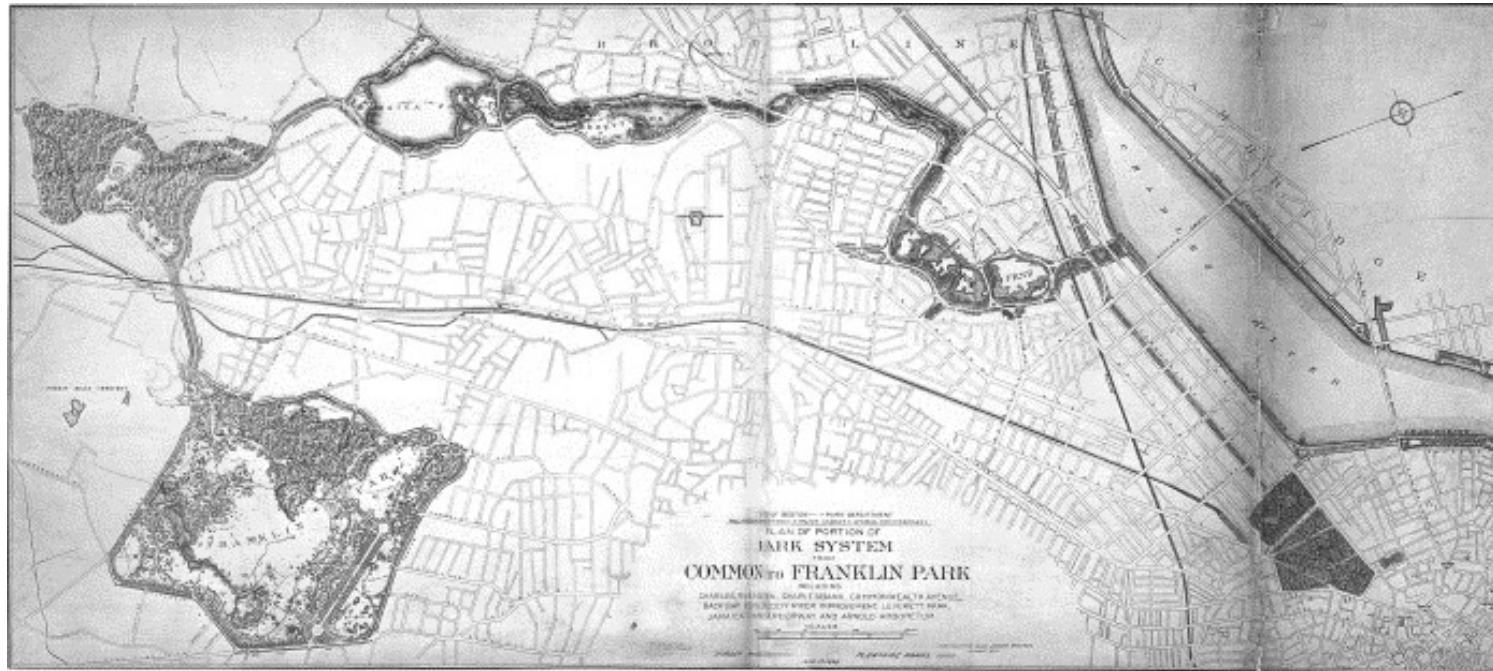
Aerial view of the of the municipality of Suresnes, in the departement of Hauts-de-Seine in the region of Île-de-France, on the left riverside of Seine.

It was re-organized, as a garden city, in the middle-war period, under the continuous political efforts of the emblematic mayor Henri Sellier. It was because of Sellier's political influence that, during this period, eleven garden cities were created around Paris.

Baron Haussmann's (on the left) ***reform of Paris and his network of urban and peri-urban parks***, did not prevent neither the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 nor the Paris Commune of 1871 (image on the right). It offered, at least, better living conditions to the next generations.
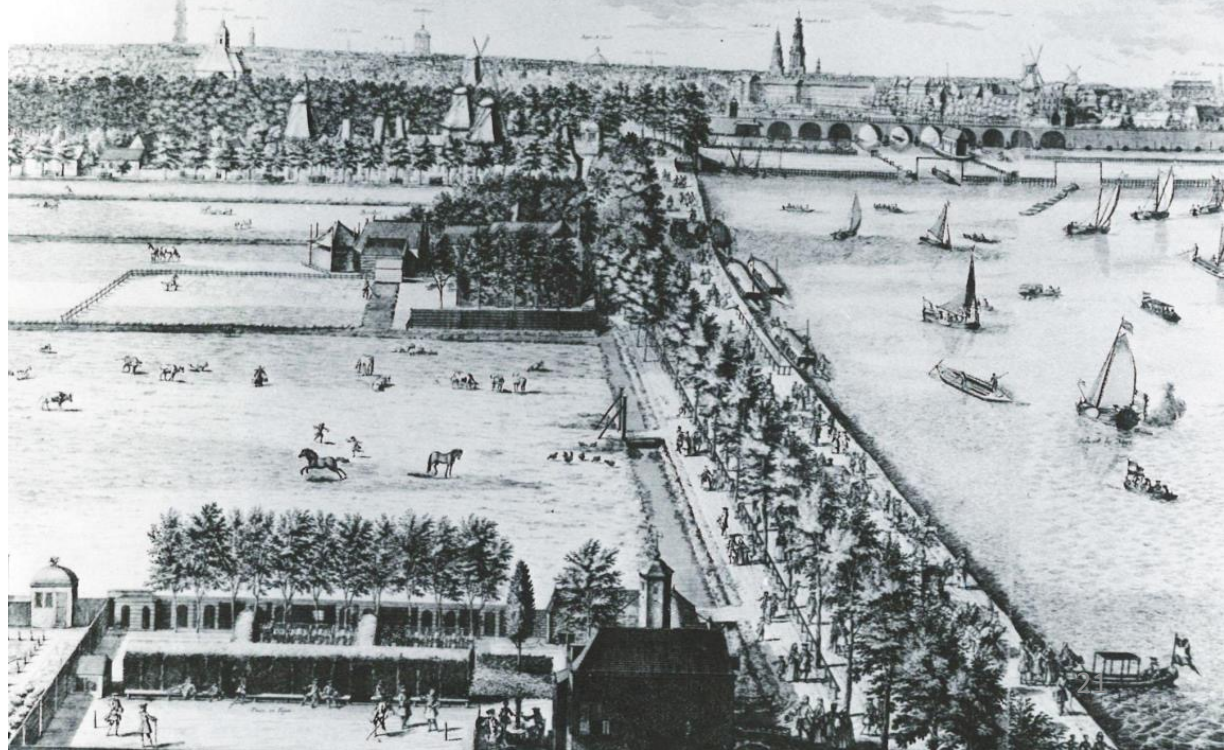
Frederick Law Olmsted (on the left) and his proposal for the *"Boston Park System"*, metaphorically described as *"Emerald Necklace"* (1876 – on the right).

Cornelis Anthonisz:
Aerial view of Amsterdam

The Peacocks Park:
17th century in
Amsterdam – the first
public park in the post-
Renaissance and
neoteric Europe

Pandemics, are they, finally, 'political' pandemics?
Positive urban design has to do with the 'political
sustainability' of societies?

Pandemics, are they, finally, 'political' pandemics? Positive urban design has to do with the 'political sustainability' of societies?

Kibera slum, in Nairobi Kenya;
the second biggest slum in Africa and the third biggest in the world

I have to thank you…
Ευχαριστώ