

NEW YORK A GLOBAL CITY



Key question: what are the main features of global cities?

In determining whether a city can become global, size matters, of course -- because it represents the possibility for diversity and complexity -- but it is not the only important factor. The emerging megacities of Asia are not necessarily truly global, at least not in the way we currently understand the term. Many if not most of today's global cities are Old World cities that reinvented themselves. Like London and Istanbul, they already had enormous complexity and diversity.

That's not to say that newer-world cities cannot reinvent themselves as global cities. Take Miami, never an Old World city. Today it is certainly a global city. Why? One factor was the infrastructure of international trade that the Cubans in Miami developed. There was also real estate development, often spurred by wealthy individuals from South America, and the establishment in Miami of Latin American bases for firms from Europe and Asia.

These conditions do not exist in Chinese cities. They are too government-controlled to be equivalent to Miami. And I happen to think that some of this is good -- if it aims at rebalancing the strong inequalities created by the current economy.(...)

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First features listed here

- they offer Infrastructure in trade and communication**

- They all show a real estate development to adapt to a growing population**

Some is encouraged by wealthy social classes

**Let's work on another text by the same
author to complete the definition**

The organizational side of the global economy materializes in a worldwide grid-réseaux -of strategic places, among which are major international business and financial centers. We can think of this global grid as constituting a new economic geography of centrality, one that cuts across national boundaries and increasingly across the old North-South divide. It has emerged as a transnational space for the formation of new claims by global capital but also by other types of actors. The most powerful of these new geographies of centrality at the inter-urban level bond the major international financial and business centers: New York, London, Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt, Zurich, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Sydney, Hong Kong, among others. But this geography now also includes cities such as Sao Paulo, Shanghai, Bangkok, Taipei, and Mexico City. The intensity of transactions among these cities, particularly through the financial markets, transactions in services, and investment, has increased sharply, and so have the orders of magnitude involved. [...]

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The space constituted by the worldwide grid of global cities, a space with new economic and political potentialities, is perhaps one of the most strategic spaces for the formation of transnational identities and communities. It is not only the transmigration of capital that takes place in this global grid but also that of people, both rich— i.e., the new transnational professional workforce—and poor— i.e., most migrant workers; and it is a space for the transmigration of cultural forms, for the reterritorialisation of ‘local’ subcultures. [...] Global cities and the new strategic geographies that connect them and bypass national states can be seen as constituting part of the infrastructure for global civil society.

Source: Saskia Sassen, professor of the University of Chicago, *Global civil society*, Chapter 9: global cities and diasporic networks: microsites in global civil society, Oxford University press, 2002.

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So, let's add up some features:

- There are many interactions between the world cities: they are inter-connected (Metropolitan archipelago)
- In global cities there are many types of flows of capital as well as migrations of people
- In global cities there are many different communities to represent a wide variety of different cultures (what's called « sub-cultures » in the text)

DEFINITION

A global city is a city that has international political influence, home to multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations, in addition to a globally influential mass media, and well-developed communication and transportation system.

**Let's see what New York offers to find out
why it is a global city**

Presentation

Officially **The City of New York** (nicknamed "Big Apple" (prizes in horse races) or "Gotham" since the 19th century)- 25 million people

It is located in the southern end of the state of New York, thus in the northeast of the USA, approximately halfway between Washington D.C. and Boston.

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It was founded as the colony of New Amsterdam by Dutchmen in the early 17th century, and then ceded/ given to the British in 1664.

Presentation

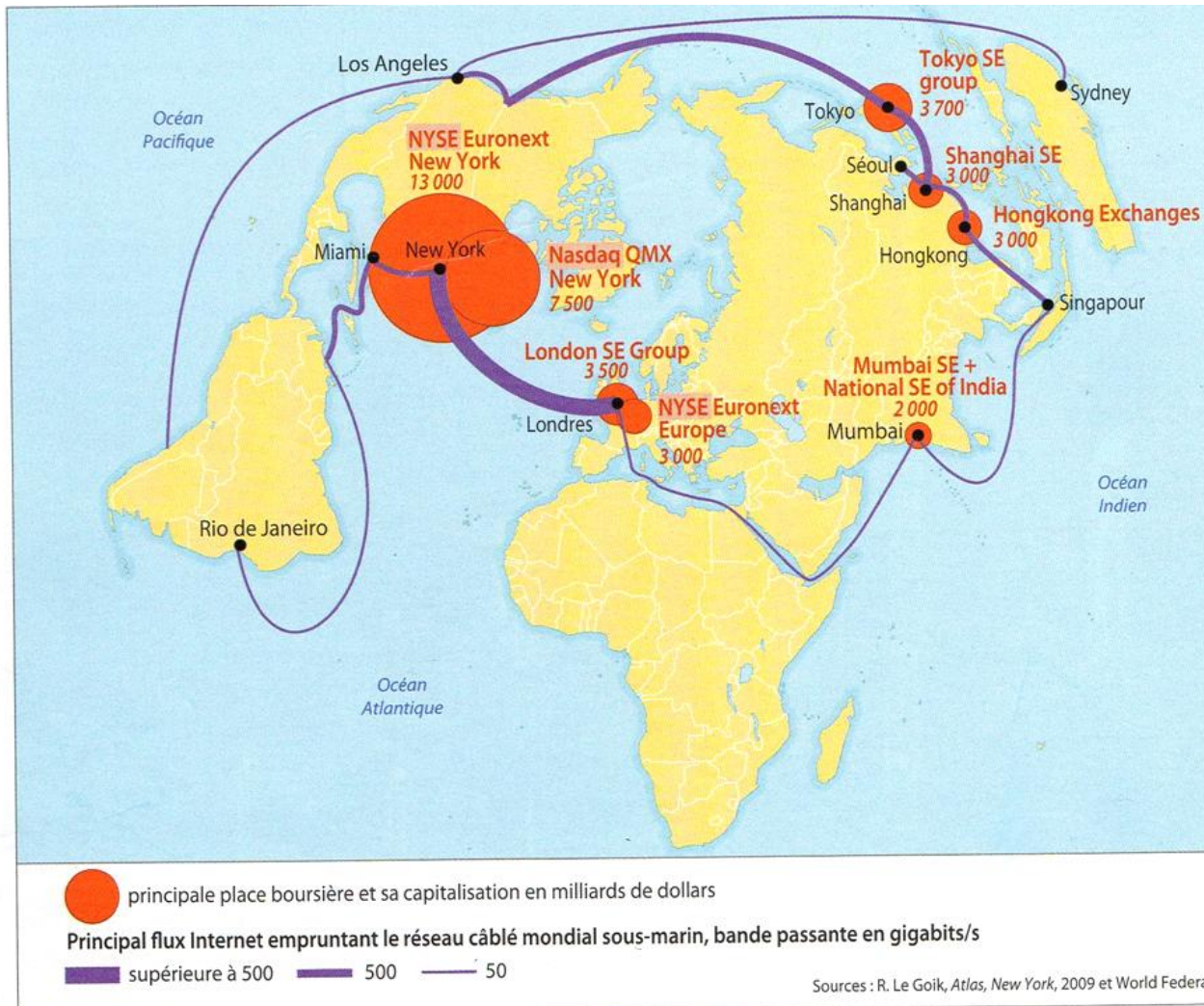
5 boroughs: 1-Manhattan, 4-Bronx, 3-Queens, 2-Brooklyn, 5-Richmond/staten island





FINANCIAL POWER

1)A deep integration in financial globalization



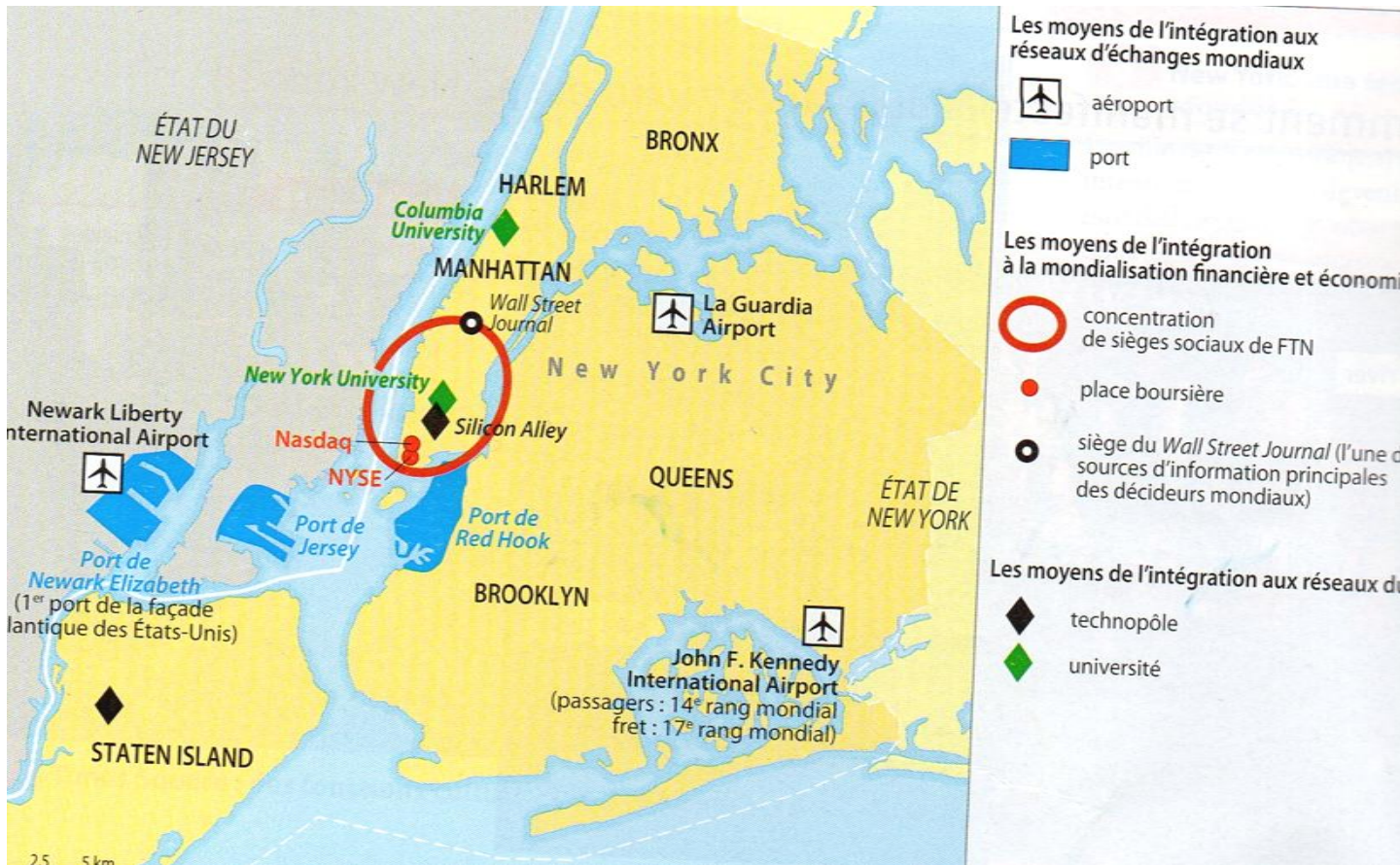
Biggest stock exchange WALL STREET

Well linked to other financial places through seaborn cables

NASDAQ is a stock index consisting of more than 3000 companies
Dow Jones consists of only 30 major companies traded on the NYSE

20 out of the 500 biggest TNC's headquarters are located there as well as the headquarters of the Wall Street journal

2) A well integrated city in the world network of exchange and information



Airport

Port

Transnational
companies
headquarters

Stock-market
Wall street Journal
Office

Technopolis
University

-3 huge airports: **Newark, La Guardia, JFK**

-Highly connected in the Megalopolis/ Bostwash and Main Street America today and in the USA

-Lots of big ports **Newark Elisabeth** is the major American multimodal platform (container ships)

-Lots of **technopolises** linked with its two universities:

Columbia \$80,000/22,000

New York University in Greenwich \$75,000/42,000

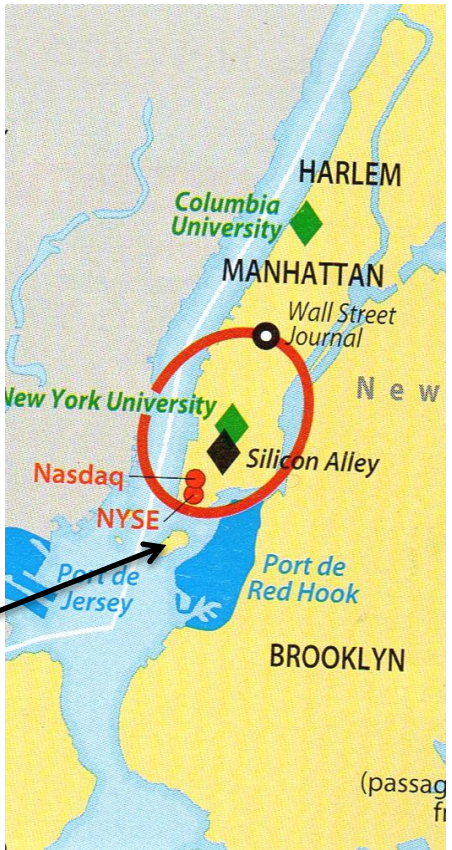
3) New York a major city on the world stage

Rang mondial global	Économie	Budget recherche et développement	Rayonnement culturel	Qualité de vie	Environnement	Accessibilité
1. New York	2	1	3	28	24	3
2. Londres	4	4	1	15	12	2
3. Paris	7	7	2	1	15	1
4. Tokyo	1	2	5	5	6	4

World rank economy research cultural quality environment
Development influence of life

New York is ranked:

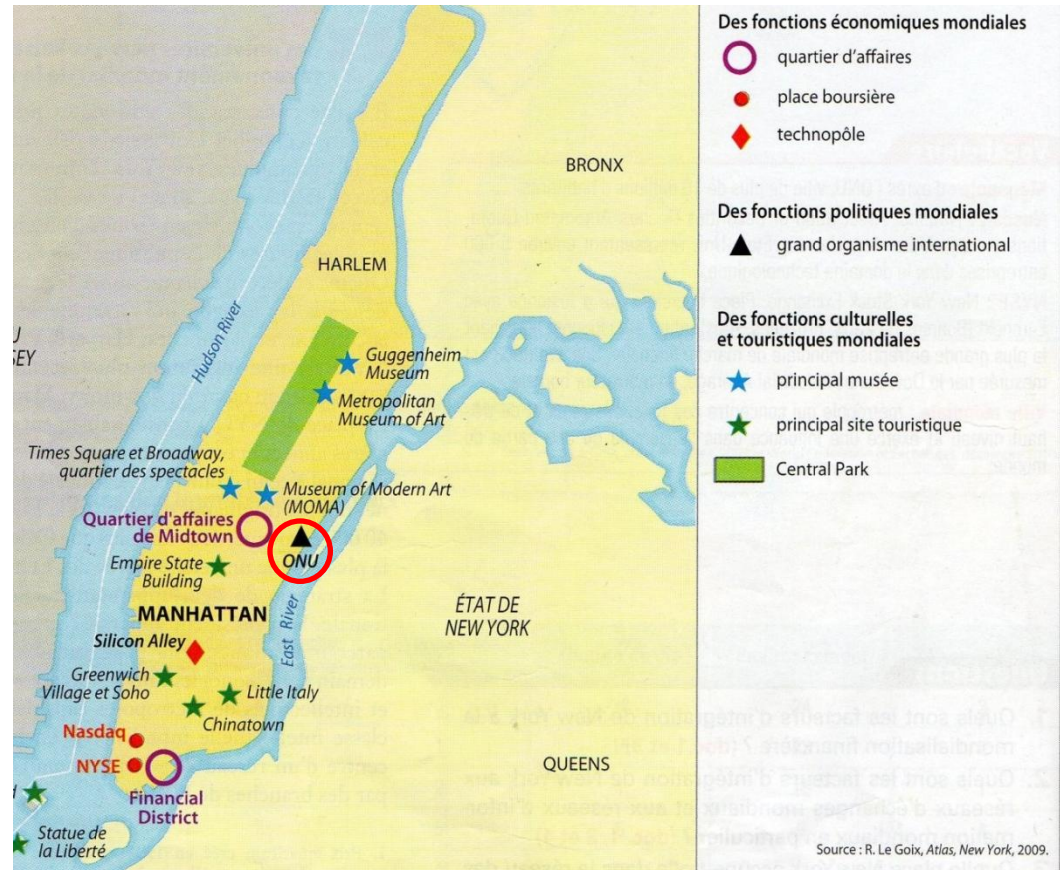
- 2nd for its world economic influence
- 1st for research and development:
Huge technopolis in « **silicon alley** » to remind of the « silicon valley » in the South of SF: core of innovations.
- 3rd for accessibility
- It has a cultural attraction too:
Manhattan, Ellis Island, Statue of liberty



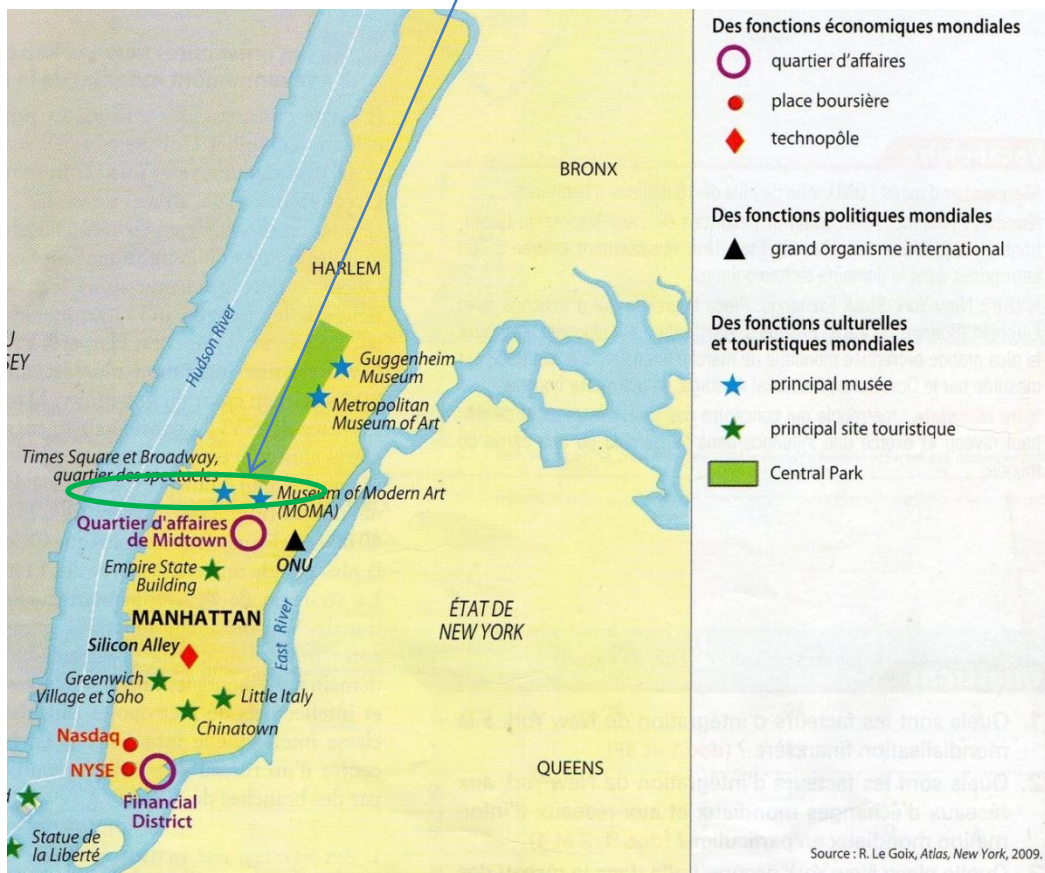
POLITICAL AND CULTURAL POWER

-Headquarters of the UNO in the East of Manhattan

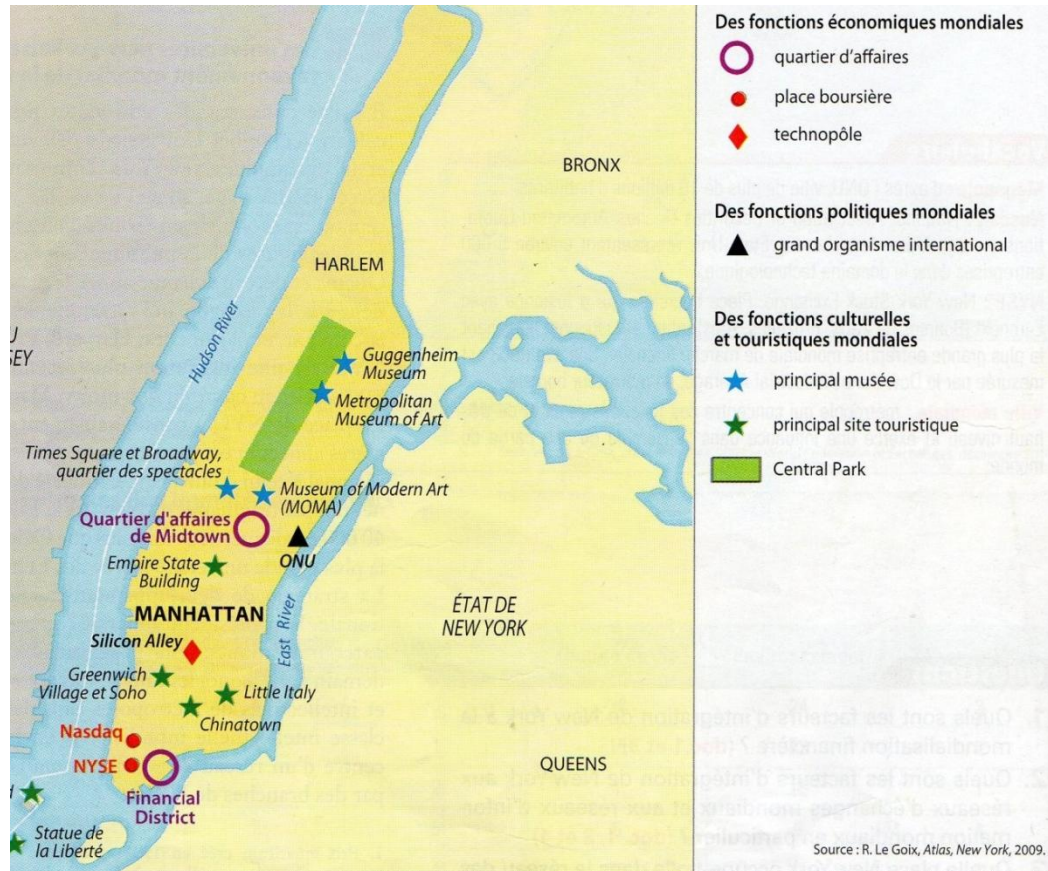
-Lots of museums : Guggenheim, Metropolitan Museum of arts, MOMA (museum of modern arts)



-Lots of symbolic places: Times Square and Broadway (musicals, plays...), Empire state building, Chinatown, Soho and Greenwich village, little Italy, statue of liberty, Central Park



- A very attractive city : 3 million foreigners, 36% immigrants which represents 43% of the working population of the city



BUT

In September 11th 2001 New York was hit by 4 hijacked planes because it was such a great political and economic center

- The World Trade Center's twin towers (symbol of economic power) collapsed

The 9/11 terrorist attack in New York seen from New Jersey



Source:
<http://static.911digitalarchive.org/REPOSITORY/IMAGES/PHOTOS/1005.jpeg>

AFTER THE ATTEMPTS

One World Trade Center (One WTC), also called **Freedom Tower**, [skyscraper](#) in New York, [New York](#), that is the centrepiece of reconstruction at Ground Zero, the site of the former [World Trade Center](#) complex.

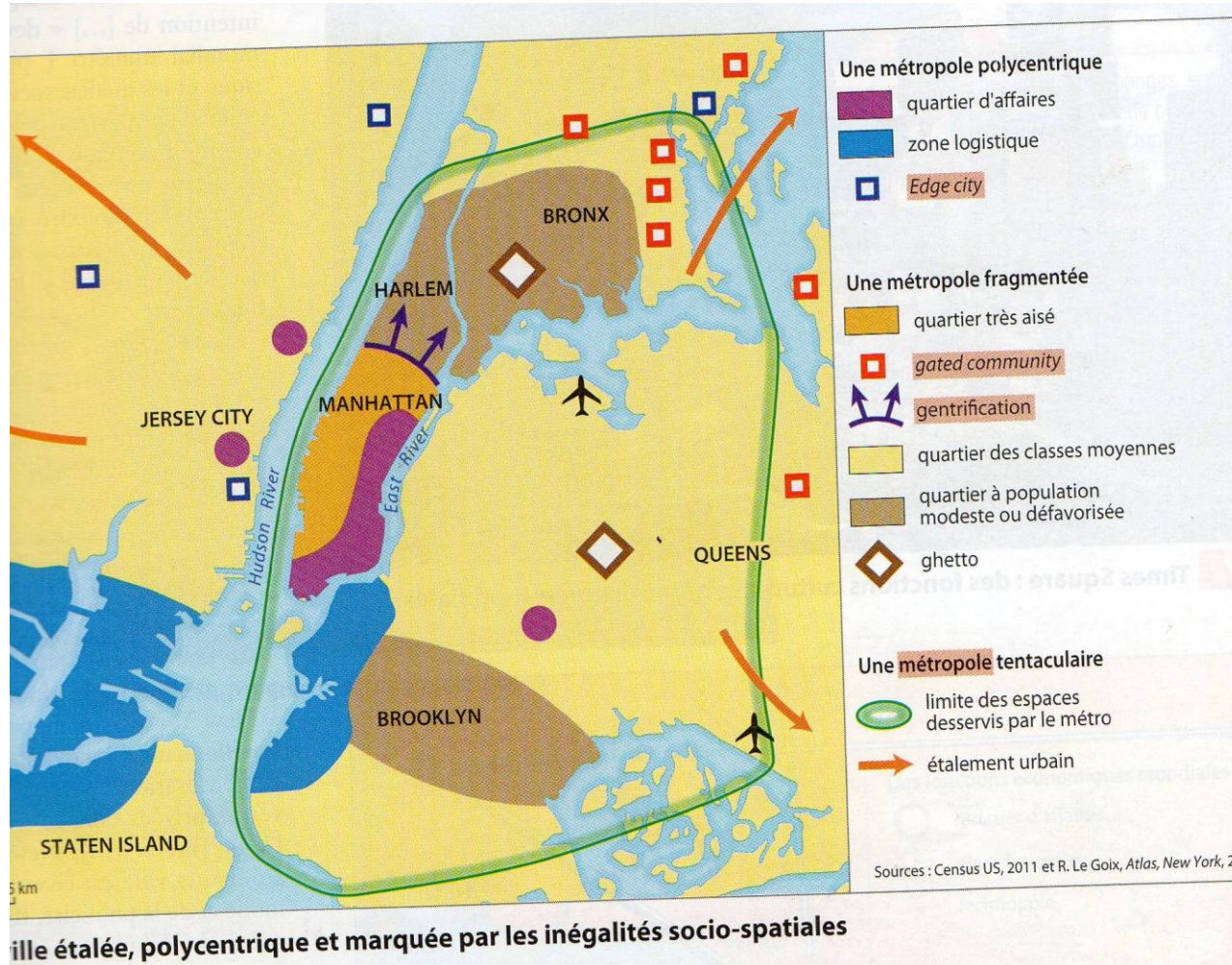
The [building](#) officially opened its doors in 2014



Effect of globalization on New York:

Some new challenges to meet

1) A specific urban development



Business district
Transports
Edge city

Well-off neighbourhood
Gated communities
Gentrification
Middle-class neighbourhood
Underprivileged neighbourhood
Ghetto

Limits of the area accessible
using subway
Urban sprawl

New centers

-Gentrification (when some districts attract well off people) in the North of Manhattan, whereas in the North beyond Harlem and the Bronx there are **some gated communities**

-Some specialized districts: Jersey City and the South of Manhattan: CBD and the South of Staten Island for the airport

Some districts stay left aside

a low-class ones like **some parts of Harlem**,
Brooklyn or the Bronx and even some
ghettos in the Queens



Very wealthy district

2-) Some widening social gaps

- 25% of NY's population was poor in 2018

- The 20% of the richest inhabitants earned 50 times more than the 20% of the poorest

- The lack of space explains the high rents : for 25% of the population, rent represents at least 50% of the monthly expense

- 35,000 homeless

3- Spatial segregation

New Yorkers who work for the stock market or into TNC have seen their income rise in the past 10 years which caused rent increase in center Manhattan

The underprivileged population from these districts has been pushed out up North in Harlem and the Bronx or down South in Brooklyn.

This spatial segmentation is even more dramatic than it is doubled by the existence of « communities » as « Chinatowns » or « little Italy » which are often low-class ones.

READ THE TEXT AND EXPLAIN THE LINK
BETWEEN SPATIAL RACIAL AND ECONOMIC
SEGREGATION IN NYC

Wealth gap in cities creating a social time bomb

Growing inequality in US cities could lead to widespread social unrest and increased mortality, says a new UN report on the urban environment. In a survey of 120 major cities, New York was found to be the ninth most unequal in the world [...]. "High levels of inequality can lead to negative social, economic and political consequences that have a destabilising effect on societies," said the report. "[They] create social and political fractures that can develop into social unrest and insecurity." According to the annual State of the World's cities report from UN-Habitat, race is one of the most important factors determining levels of inequality in the US and Canada. "In western New York state nearly 40% of the black, Hispanic and mixed-race households earned less than \$15,000 compared with 15% of white households. The life expectancy of African- Americans in the US is about the same as that of people living in China and some states of India, despite the fact that the US is far richer than the other two countries," it said. [...]

Source: *The Guardian*, October 23, 2008

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4- Pollution, a new challenge

Michael Bloomberg was the mayor of NY from 2002 and 2013 he ran for the democratic party

Bill De Blasio took over from him in 2014

Today's mayor (since Jan 2022) is Eric Adams a democratic politician he took over from De Blasio



**LET'S READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT BY MAYOR
BLOOMBERG TO FIND OUT THE CITY'S PLANS TO
REDUCE INCREASING POLLUTION**

"There's no longer much doubt that the greenhouse gases we produce by burning fossil fuels contribute to global warming; the real question now is 'What are we going to do about it?' New York's answer is straightforward; we aim to reduce our release of greenhouse gases by 30% by 2030. In fact, City government is going to lead the way by hitting that 30% target by 2017. These are ambitious goals, and last week we took some major steps toward reaching them.

"On Wednesday, I joined former President Bill Clinton in announcing a multi-billion dollar public-private partnership that will help property owners and government agencies in New York and 15 of the

world's other biggest cities cut energy consumption in our existing buildings.

"Working with the Clinton Foundation, five major international banks have each pledged \$1 billion to finance upgrades in heating, cooling, and lighting systems and other worldwide building improvements that will cut energy use-and greenhouse gas production-by as much as 50%. This will make a big difference in New York, because the more than 900,000 buildings in the five boroughs account for nearly 80% of the greenhouse gases we produce. [...]

"Automobile exhaust is another major source of greenhouse gases. It also produces the air pollution responsible for the tragically high rates of serious childhood asthma in our city. That's what makes our proposed pilot project of automobile congestion pricing in Manhattan below 86th Street so important. It would cut the number of vehicles on those streets-and on streets and highways throughout the city and region-and also finance major mass transit projects. [...]

"I stressed our city's environmental goals-especially those relating to global warming-when I spoke to mayors of many of the world's greatest cities when they were in New York last week for a global summit on climate change. Cities are at the forefront of fighting global warming. Even though cities produce more than 70% of the world's greenhouse gases, the good news is that because our homes and businesses are relatively compact and close to one another, and because we rely so heavily on mass transit, New York and other cities also tend to be very energy efficient.[...]

"This is Mayor Mike Bloomberg. Thanks for listening."

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Mayor Bloomberg's weekly radio address as 1010 WINS News Radio for Sunday, May 20, 2007.

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2012 from: www.huffingtonpost.com

HuffPost (*The Huffington Post* until 2017) often abbreviated as *HuffPo*) is an American progressive news website launched in 2005

**WHAT ARE NEW YORK'S ATTRACTIVE SIDES WHICH
HELP MAKING THE CITY GLOBAL?**

The emerging and maturing global economy presents both opportunities and threats to the United States, and it seems that the country is having one of its periodic bouts (*poussée de*) with insecurity about our ability to compete in the global market.

In the United States we have a combination of democracy, regulated capitalism and occasional openness to immigration. That combination has created a dynamic and creative place that manages to collect a good deal of the world's brain power and creativity in a single location. Of course, as a New Yorker I see my home city as the central meeting point of what John F. Kennedy once termed "a nation of immigrants." In the 2000 census, nearly 40% of the people who lived in New York City were born in other nations. That figure did not include an estimated one million or so illegal immigrants not counted by the census or the many foreign diplomats, business people, and tourists that crowd these streets as well.

We don't know what nearly a decade of post 9/11 paranoia about foreigners has done to New York's international profile, but I doubt it has made this city less global. New York City provides a free and safe environment as it continues to serve as a gateway to the rest of the nation. People come here first from other parts of the world, and after a few years make their way to Arizona, Vegas or places closer by.

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- It's a cosmopolitan city : it attracts many foreigners
- Indeed: It is **a hub**, there are many different means of transportation ex: 3 airports, 2 ports, Ellis Island
- Re-explain quickly 9:11- the author says It had no real bad impact on how immigrants were seen
- Gateway

All of New York's mayors have understood the centrality of immigrants to the city's growth and prosperity. A few decades ago, city leaders started their political campaigns with trips to the three "I"s: Italy, Ireland and Israel. Today the city's immigrant base is more complex. Of course, the city's immigrants do not only come from other nations, they also come from other American states. New York City is both a real place and an image planted in the imagination of the ambitious and adventurous.

New York's role as a gathering place is what makes this city work, and this strategy is central to the nation's long-term prosperity and competitive edge. Yet this is not always understood well. America has long had its nativist, anti-immigrant side: immigrants supposedly take low wage jobs away from "real" Americans and somehow corrupt our culture. But in the 21st century these views only serve to endanger our already shaky economic well-being. New York City has made immigrants a key part of our identity throughout history. That is not the case in China and Japan and in many other nations. A foreigner in Japan is always a foreigner, but a foreigner in America might be the grandfather of New York City's mayor or the father of the nation's president.

As communication, information and transportation technology continue to shrink the globe, the ability to welcome immigrants can't help but provide New York with a competitive advantage in attracting and growing businesses. **Steven Cohen**

All of New York's mayors have understood the centrality of immigrants to the city's growth and prosperity. A few decades ago, city leaders started their political campaigns with trips to the three "I"s: Italy, Ireland and Israel. Today the city's immigrant base is more complex. Of course, the city's immigrants do not only come from other nations, they also come from other American states. New York City is **both a real place and an image planted** in the imagination of the ambitious and adventurous.

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- Italy Ireland, Israël: origins of immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
- « an image »: part of the American dream (statue of liberty, Ellis island)
- Immigrants are well accepted and seen as a « competitive advantage »

Michael Bloomberg has Jewish Lithuanian origins



Bill de Blasio mayor from 2014 to 2021 had a German father and an Italian Mother



Today's mayor (since Jan 2022) is Eric Adams a democratic politician he took over from De Blasio



[...] There is a class of cities that are critical to the new global economy. These are called global cities, because they perform certain functions that differentiate them from others and that help drive the global economy. [...] One key element of the functional global city system is that new networks and linkages are created in the system and global cities are the points of convergence of these networks and thus acquire growing centrality and importance. Network functions are engendered through financial flows, headquarter-branch relations, high-tech service intensity, and telecommunications networks [...] Global cities should be seen as a “junction in flows” of goods, information. [...] Competitive leadership depends upon the nodality(being a hub), density, and efficiency of international transport and communication networks linking theses cities to the rest of the world. Hubs within these networks have accounted for a disproportionate share of urban development and have attracted firms engaged in transport logistics, telecommunications, and air passenger transports.

Fu-Chen Lo and Yue-Man Yeung, *Globalisation and the world of large cities*, UN University Press, 2008