

# Cottonopolis: Manchester, the growth and growing pains of a modern city

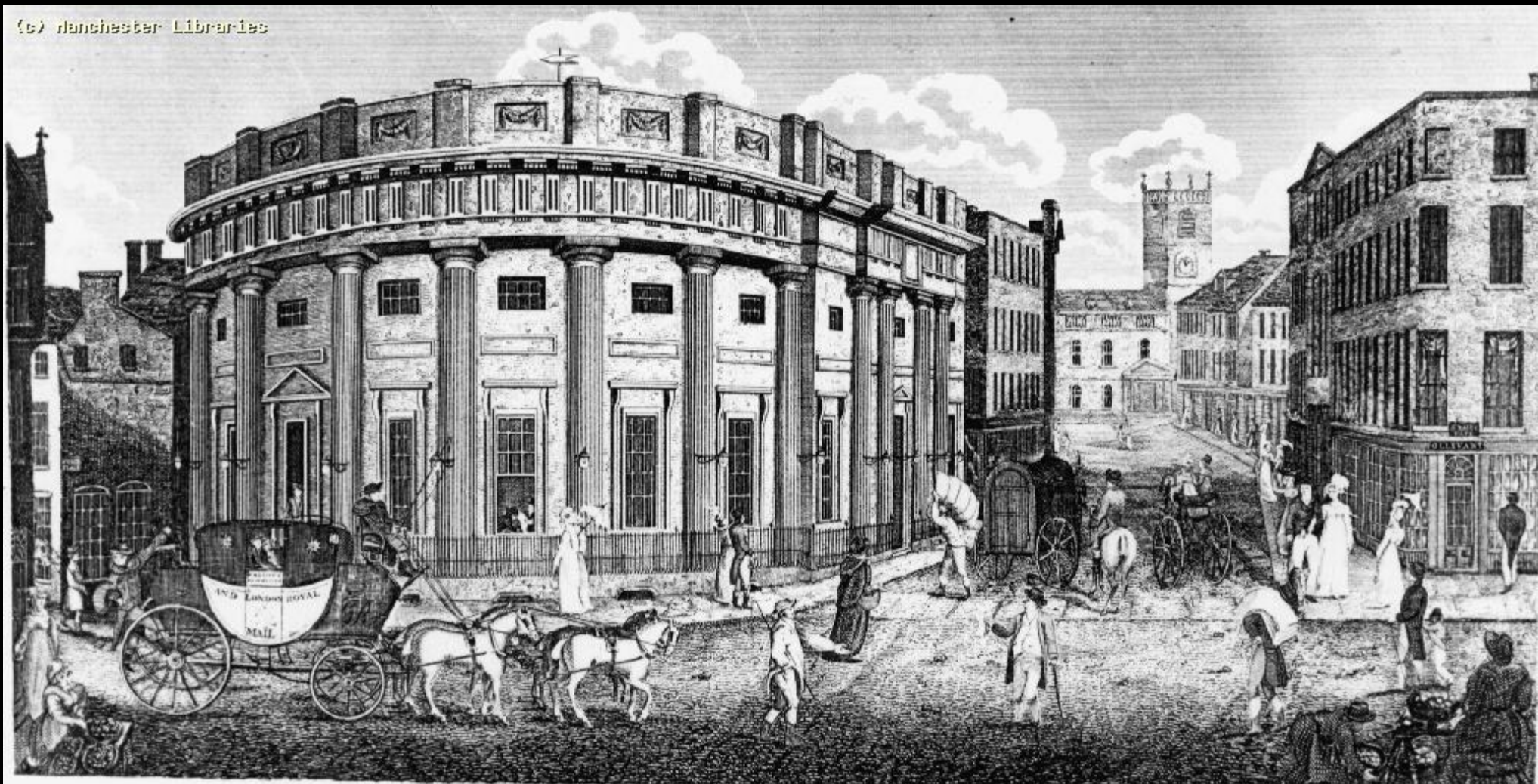
Dr Victoria Bateman  
Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge  
Legatum Institute, London  
@vnbateman

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# Cottonopolis – contemporary tourist guides

- 1807: “an immense manufacturing, mercantile, and trading town” (*John Britton, Beauties of England and Wales, vol. 9, p.251*)
- 1897: “the chief industrial town of England, and the great metropolis of the cotton-manufacture” (*Karl Baedeker, Great Britain - Handbook for Travellers, p.339*)

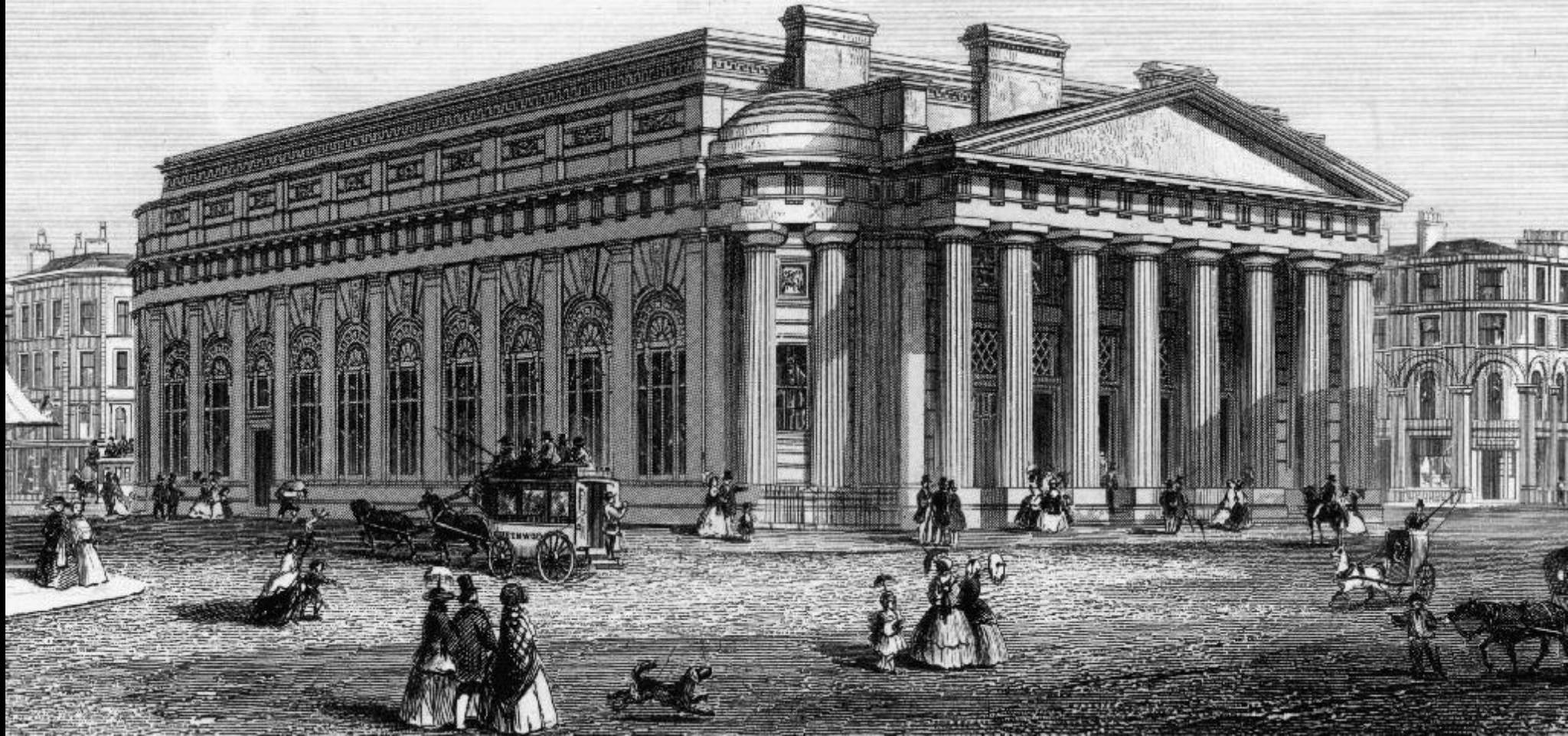
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Royal Exchange, 1809 (by Paget, 1817)  
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Royal Exchange, 1860 (by Morton)  
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Royal Exchange  
(interior, 1880)  
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Arkwright Mill  
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Manchester (Ancoats), late 20<sup>th</sup> century  
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# Cottonopolis – international and long run perspective

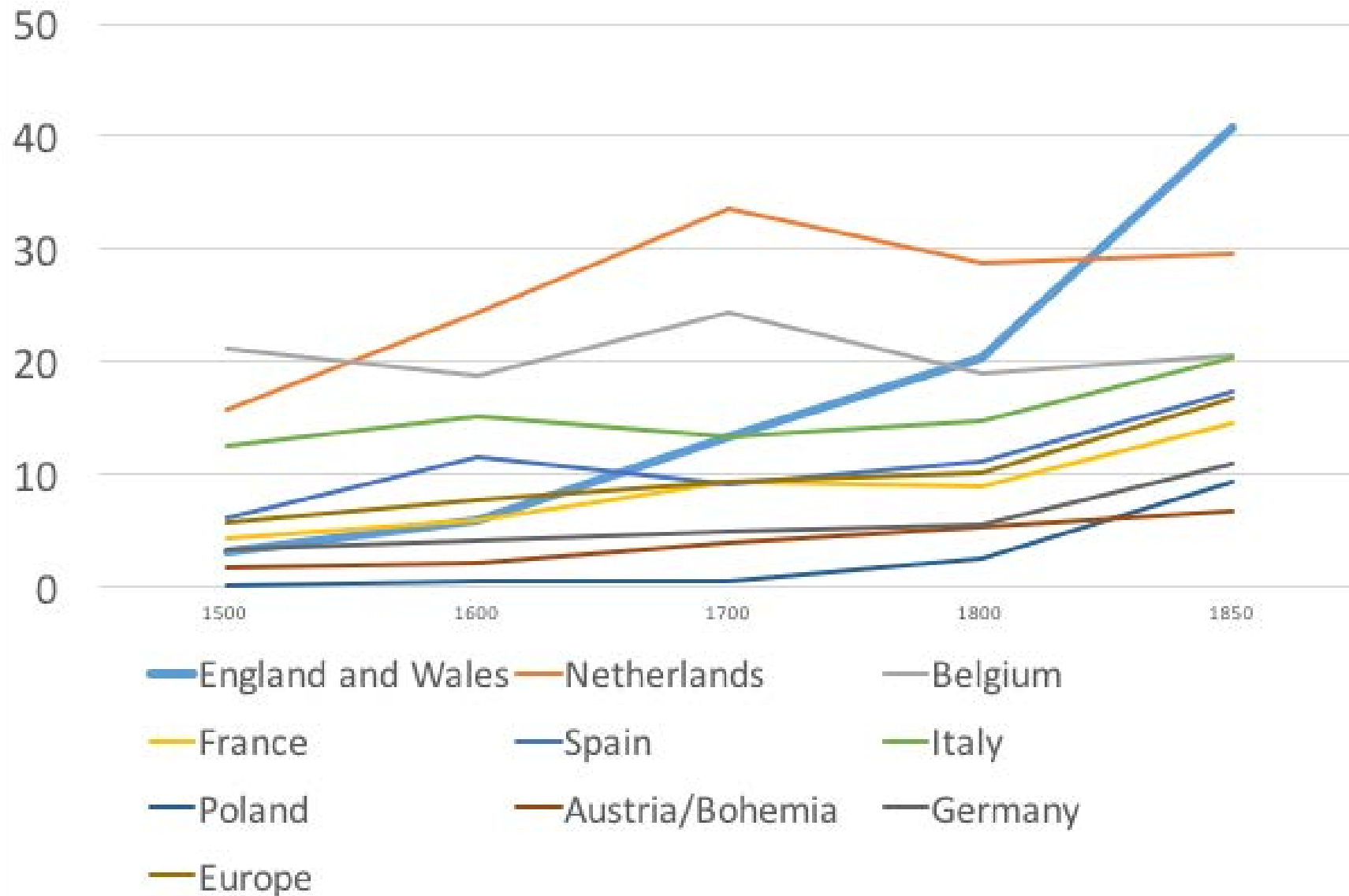
- 8,000 years ago: first city - Middle East
- Soon after, China and Indus Valley
- 1,500 BC: cities start to grow in size
- Europe enters: Ancient Rome (100 AD) 400k-1m population
- East then de-urbanises as the West urbanises
  - Yangtze Delta: early 13<sup>th</sup> c. 23% urban; by 1776, 15% (Xu, van Leeuwen and van Zanden, 2015 )
  - Europe: 1500, 5.6%; by 1850, 16.7% (*Broadberry and Gupta, 2006*)



*“The urban system that arose in Western Europe between 900 and 1300 was... geared towards generating its own resources via market exchange; it was highly competitive, independent of large territorial states (which were quite weak between 900 and 1300) and became oriented towards long-distance trade via the sea. It was this new dynamic, more state-independent urban system that generated the long term economic development that was characteristic of Western Europe in the millennium after 900 and which finally, spurred on by the impact of the Great Discoveries, made Europe overtake the Arab World in terms of economic prosperity.” (Bosker et al, 2013 )*



## European urbanisation rates (1500-1850), %







	Global urbanisation rate
1800	3%
1900	14%
2000	40%
2050 (estimated)	70%

*Source: Population Research Bureau*

# Why Manchester – and why cotton?

- Market-base plus technological developments
- Productivity race between agriculture and industry
- Cotton machinery: spinning and weaving
- From water to coal-powered steam engines
- Competition between producers (Leunig, 2003)
- Transport: Duke's Canal (1761); Manchester-Liverpool Railway (1830); Manchester Ship Canal (1894)



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## Manchester Ship Canal Docks

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# Why Manchester – and why cotton?

- Women's work: 58% of cotton industry (Burnette)



# The result: headline figures

- 1831: cotton represents  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Britain's merchandise exports; 22% of industrial value added; and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of TFP growth from 1780 to 1860 (Crafts, 1985; Crafts and Wolf, 2013).
- Britain maintained a lead: 1800, 95% of spindles; 1900, 58% (Farnie and Jeremy, 2004).
- 1850: 66% of spindles in Lancashire; 1903, 79% (Crafts and Wolf, 2013)

# Twin challenges

- (1) Market vs. State led origins of growth (Ha-Joon Chang, 2002)



Free Trade  
Hall  
Copyright:  
Manchester  
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  - “I am not myself so extreme laissez-faireist as to have thought of that school with pathos in the city of its origin, but I dare say it was a good thing in its time. We are only now slowly learning how to apply the opposite social principles in behalf of the man rather than the Master, and we have not yet surmounted all the difficulties or dangers of the experiment” (William Dean Howells, 1909)

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  - Abraham Lincoln (1863): “I know and deeply deplore the sufferings which the working-men of Manchester, and in all Europe, are called to endure in this crisis.”



Ancoats, 1890

Copyright: Manchester City Council

PROPERTY IN CAROLINE S  
LOOKING FROM SANDFORD S  
3-50 pm 1977 July 1  
H. E. ...  
C-00-N-440



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- (2) Domestic vs. International Origins
  - Cotton industry was global (Beckert, 2014 and Riello, 2013)

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  - Cotton industry was global (Beckert, 2014 and Riello, 2013)
  - *“[i]deas and materials have filtered from the East but that is not the point, even without any allowance for independent [European] discoveries. The point is the response. However early in time developments in making cotton had occurred in Asia, and whatever transmission to Europe there was, the technological response in England was utterly novel and utterly formative of the modern world. The cant term would be “game changer””* (Eric Jones)

# Twentieth century decline

- OECD (2015): specialisation “can yield returns if this part of the economy is performing well. However, it also reduces economic resilience and increases the risk of a severe downturn if the sector experiences an external shock or decline for other reasons”



# Twentieth century decline

- OECD (2015): “Europe needs to deal with the fact that – in global comparison – its large cities are relatively small, which implies a specific need for cities to be well connected to each other”

	Ranking
<b>Rochdale</b>	1
<b>Burnley</b>	2
<b>Bolton</b>	3
<b>Blackburn</b>	4
<b>Grimsby/Hull</b>	5
<b>Grimsby/Hull</b>	6
<b>Dundee</b>	7
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	8
<b>Bradford</b>	9
<b>Blackpool</b>	10
Nottingham	12
Liverpool	19
Birmingham	24
<b>Manchester</b>	<b>45</b>
London	63
Cambridge	73
Milton Keynes	74

Joseph  
Rowntree  
Foundation

# The Future: Manchester meets Venice

- Gergaud, Laouenan and Wasmer (2016): “A brief history of human time. Exploring a database of ‘notable people’, (3000BCE-2015AD)”
  - Religious figures
  - Military
  - Politicians
  - Entrepreneurs
  - Artists