The ‘Megalopolis’ and ‘Global Integration Zones’ in European planning thought

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Image Sources: Brunet, 1989; Mehbye, 2000; French Presidency, 2002; Junzmann et Wegenner, 1991; NWM A Spatial Vision Group, 2000; RPA, 2005; Read, 2000 [all images, except RPA, appear in European Spatial Planning, Andreas Faludi (Editor), Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2002]
United States
Focus on population growth and urban growth management

A recent history:
2001  Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Course
2005  Towards and American Spatial Development Perspective (Carbonell, Yaro)
2006  America 2050
Europe
Focus on economic growth and the effects of population decline

A recent history:
1957 Treaty establishing European Economic Community had no interest in spatial planning
1970s European Parliament began to make real movement on regional policy and planning
1980s regional policy becomes more than distributing funds
1999 European Spatial Development Perspective
The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) (CEC, 1999) bears witness to the influence of two planning traditions:

- **The French aménagement du territoire**, a form of regional economic development informed by spatial analysis and scenarios – *in line with funding regional development*

- **Comprehensive management of urban growth** – *counter to members states desire for control over national territories*
The Blue Banana

Source: Brunel, 1989 [in Faludi, Lincoln]
EU = one global economic integration zone
US = four global economic integration zones

Source: Mehlybe, 2000 [in Faludi]
TENTATIVE POUR UNE DEFINITION SPATIALE DES ZONES D’INTEGRATION MONDIALE PERIPHERIQUE

Les trois secteurs de polarisation périphérique potentiel
Corridors de developpement

Point d’appui et polarisation
BERLIN

CENTRE-EUROPE

Zone de polarisation Nord-Ouest

Source: French Presidency, 2000 (in Faludi, Lincoln)
The current debate in Europe:

- Compensate the peripheral regions and regions suffering from the effects of industrial restructuring

- Focus on the winners, mostly in the already prosperous regions in Europe
A role for sustainability:

- Insofar as a high-quality environment may contribute to competitiveness (attracting knowledge workers)
- Confronting the potential effects of climate change and mounting energy prices on patterns of urban growth