SITOPIA
Rethinking our lives through food
(and Covid-19)
What is a good life?
Sharing food

Hadza, Tanzania
Urban paradox

London, 2020

Mato Grosso, Brazil
Cornucopia
London, 2020

Shock
Fertile Crescent

Grain
Ur, 2000 BCE

City 1.0
Oikonomia

Athenian polis
Rome, 300 AD

City 2.0
Roman food miles
Johann Von Thünen – *Isolated State*, 1826

**Geography**
London – Legal Quays, 1804
Paris – Port aux blés, 1782

A Tale of Two Cities
Medieval European Trade

18th century Paris ‘provisioning rings’
Stephen Kaplan – Provisioning Paris

A Tale of Two Cities
Adam Smith

François Quesnay

Economics
Fat Birds Fly Slowly

Blame
16th century London foodways
London – Smithfield Market, 1830

Necessary chaos
Liverpool to Manchester Railway, 1831

Goodbye geography
Urban sprawl

Growth of London 1840-1929
American ‘Great West’

Transformation
Chicago Union Stockyards, 1880

‘Cheap’ meat
Dust Bowl

Oklahoma, 1935
Industrial v Organic

Fertilisers (Haber-Bosch)

Living soil

Justus Liebig

Albert Howard
War

Use spades, not ships.

Grow your own food and supply your own cookhouse.
Car town
"Food Deserts" in New York City

Supermarket Need Index
- high
- med
- low

Source: NYC Dept. of City Planning

Desertification
Magic carpet
1/3 lost or degraded
30% food-related
70% in farming

2 billion
50% of lakes
50% wasted

1/3 harvest
10 cals for 1
55 % decline

Externalities
McGlobe

Steve Crisp
Kind things people are doing for their neighbours during the coronavirus outbreak

Deborah Arthurs Thursday 19 Mar 2020 5:25 pm

SOS - kindness from communities towards neighbours amid the coronavirus outbreak

Resilience
Technology is the answer, but what was the question?
Cedric Price

Rethink
Plato
Republic, 380 BCE

Thomas More,
Utopia, 1516

Ebenezer Howard,
Garden Cities of To-Morrow, 1902
‘Progress’
Progress?
‘Worrying about something as simple as food in the digital age is weird’ – Rob Rheinhart

‘Self-sufficiency is freedom’ – Epicurus
Utopia = ‘Good place’ or ‘No place’
from Greek eu, good + topos
or ou, no + topos

Sitopia = ‘Food place’
from Greek sitos, food + topos, place
Food culture

USA

Britain

Egypt

Italy

Hungry Planet
Peter Menzel and Faith D’Aluisio
A Good Life?
London, 1940

Havana, 2010

Detroit, 2015

True value
Permaculture

Organic

Forest Garden

Nature-led diet

Working with nature
160 million consumers

Jan-Willem Grievink
European Food Study

110 buying desks

3 million farmers

Democratisation
Co-Producing

CSA – Angelic Organics, Chicago

Farmdrop, UK

Carlo Petrini

Park Slope Food Coop, Brooklyn

Incredible Edible Todmorden

Co-Producing
Neo-geographical age

Patrick Geddes, *Cities in Evolution*, 1915

Bohn and Viljoen – CPULs

Urban Design Lab – NYC Regional Foodshed

MVRDV – Almere Oosterwold
Food planning

Urban growing

Governance

Farmers’ markets

Abattoirs

Food hubs

Patchwork farms
Rural renaissance

Land reform

Regenerative farming

Family farms

Infrastructure
Valuing food

British cheese, 1970

British artisanal cheese shop, 2019
A good society
Seeing through food