

The 'Megalopolis' and 'Global Integration Zones' in European planning thought

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Image Sources: Brunet, 1989; Mehlbye, 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

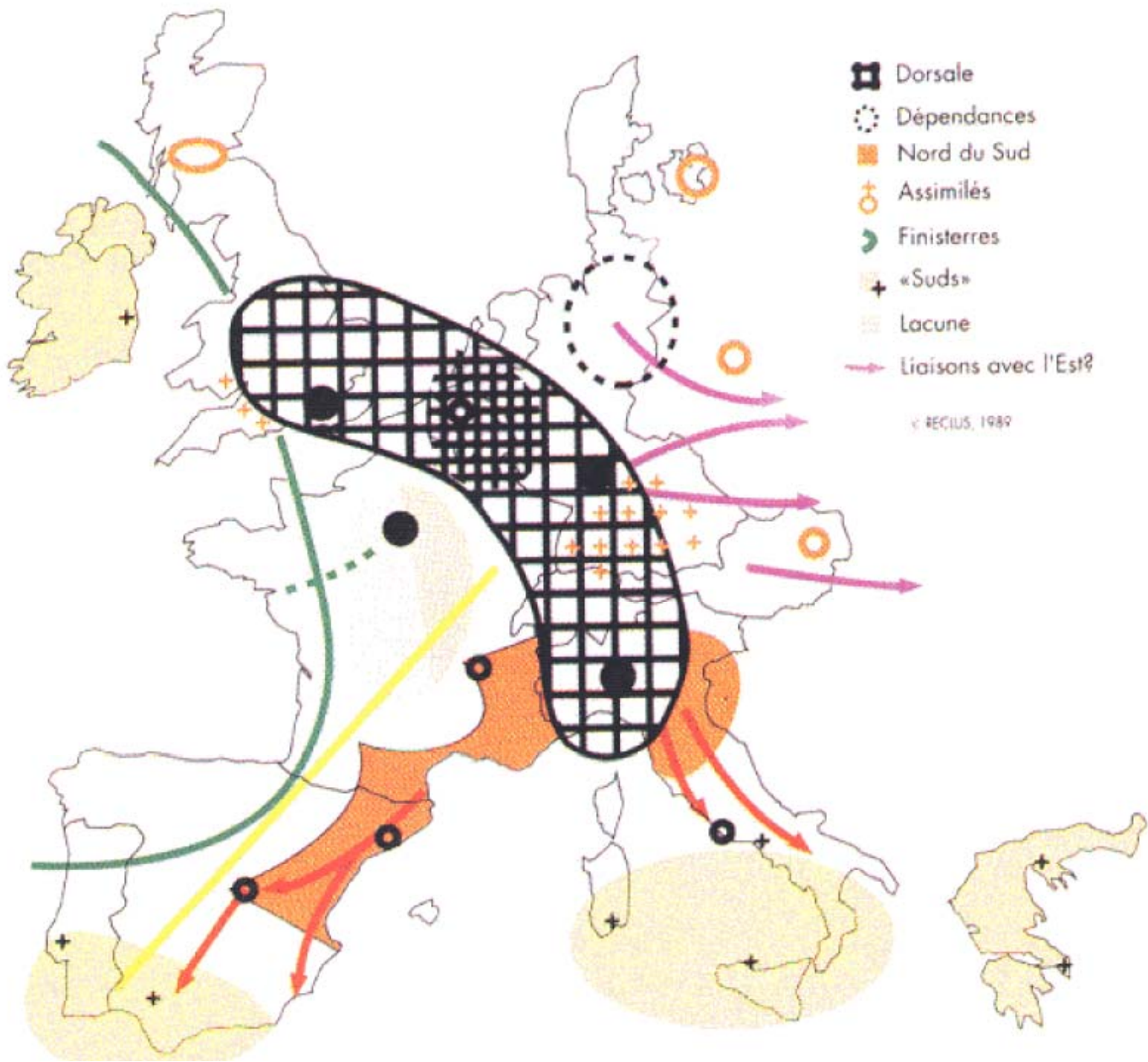
A recent history:

- 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

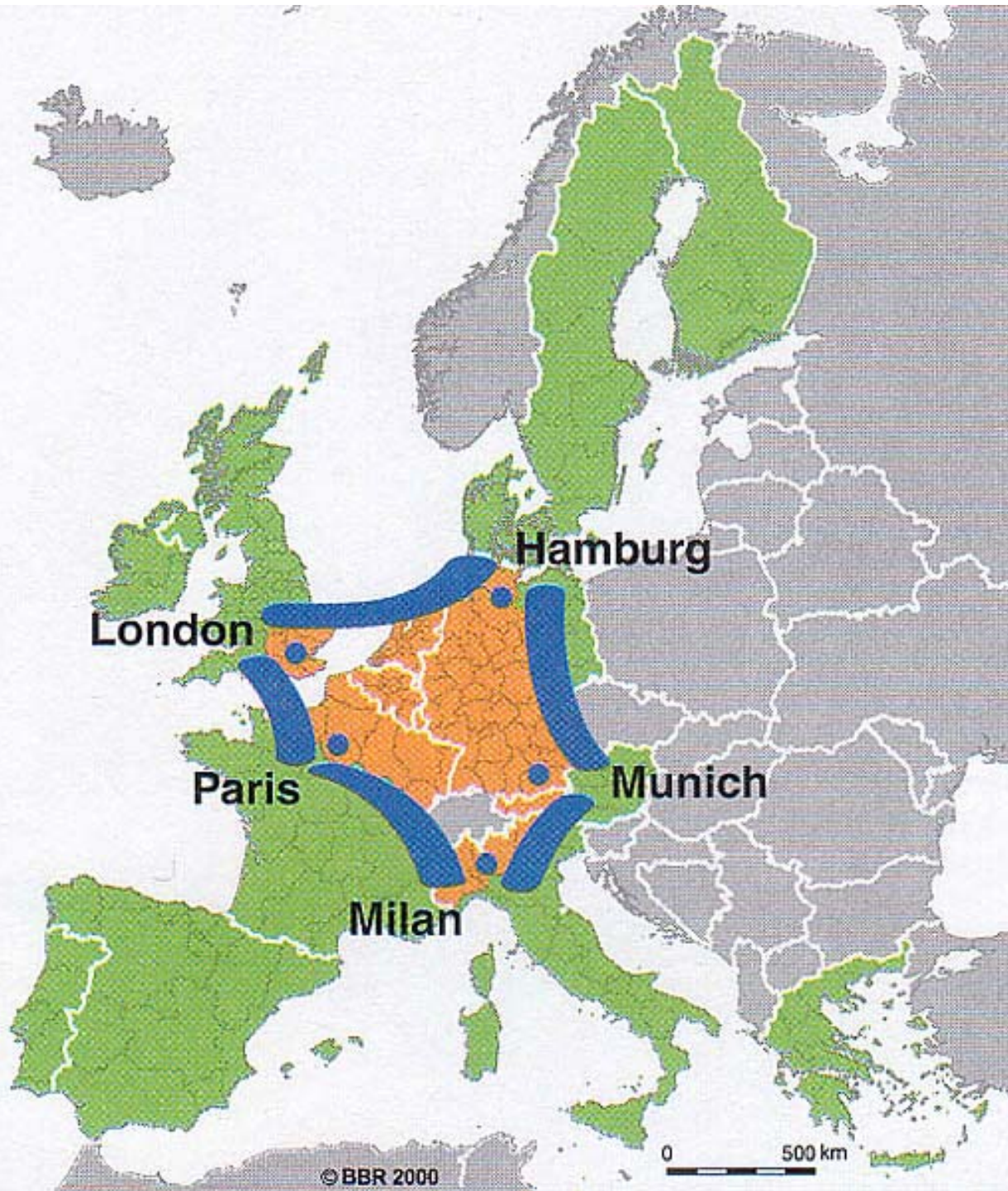
The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) (CEC, 1999) bears witness to the influence of two planning traditions:

- **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



The European Pentagon

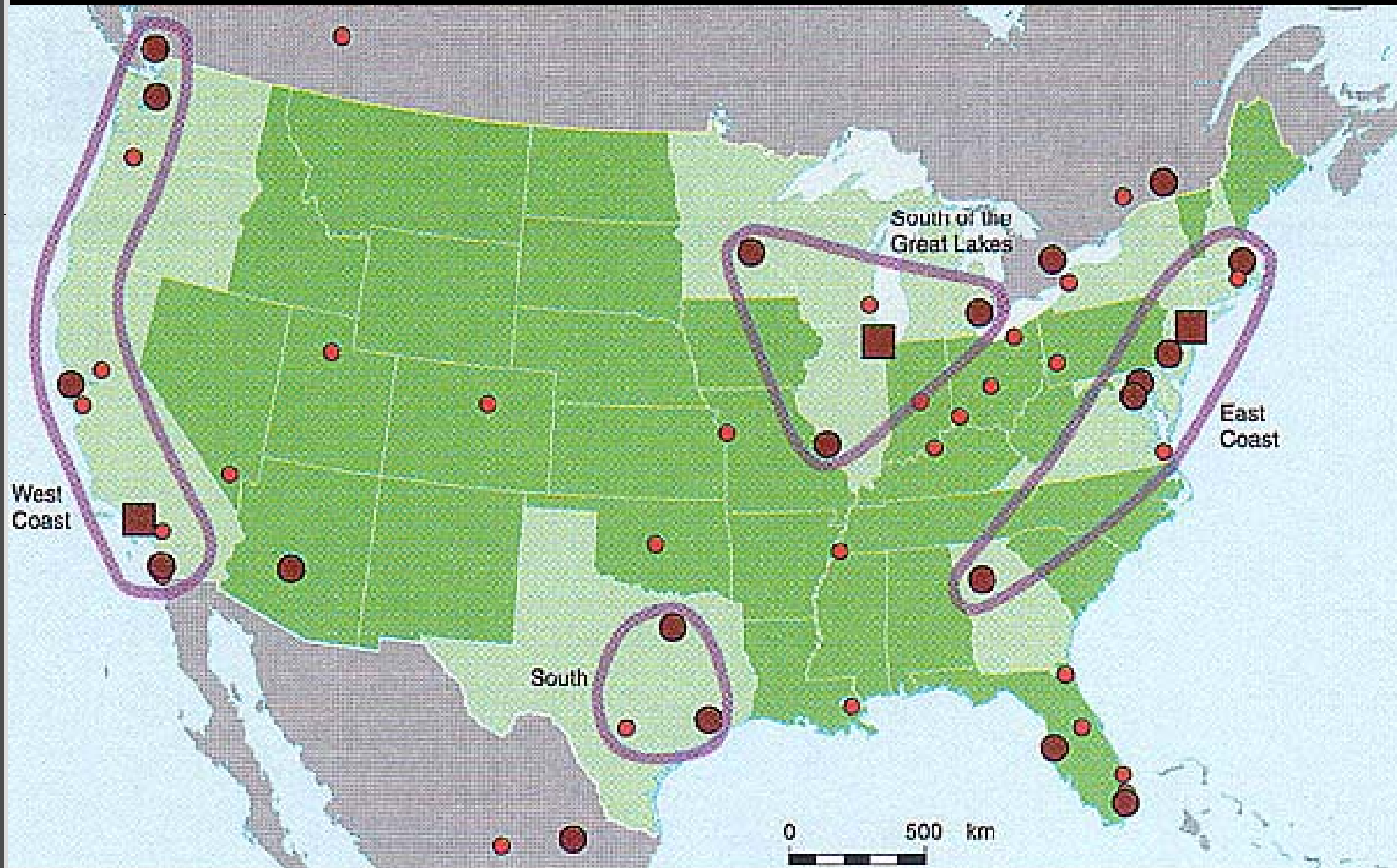


EU = **one**
global
economic
integration
zone

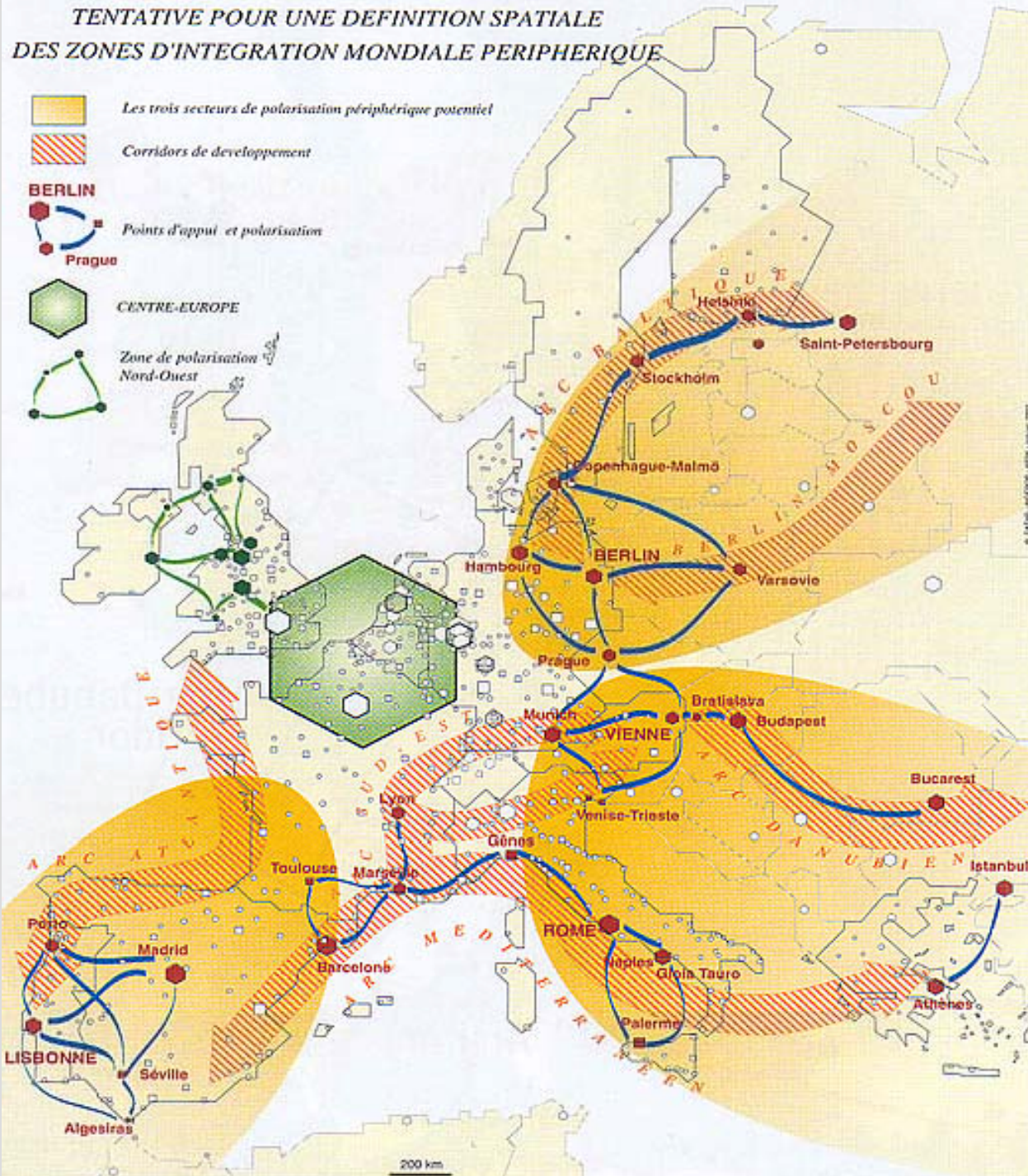
Source: Schon, 2000 [in Faludi, Lincoln]

US = **four** global economic integration zones

Source: Mehlybe, 2000 [in Faludi]



Possible New Integration Zones



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