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Glimpses of Le Havre History

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“Glimpses of Le Havre History”

**A slide lecture by John Barzman
Professor of History, University of Le Havre**

Welcome to the class of 2015

**Sciences Po Campus le Havre
August 24, 2015**

Introduction

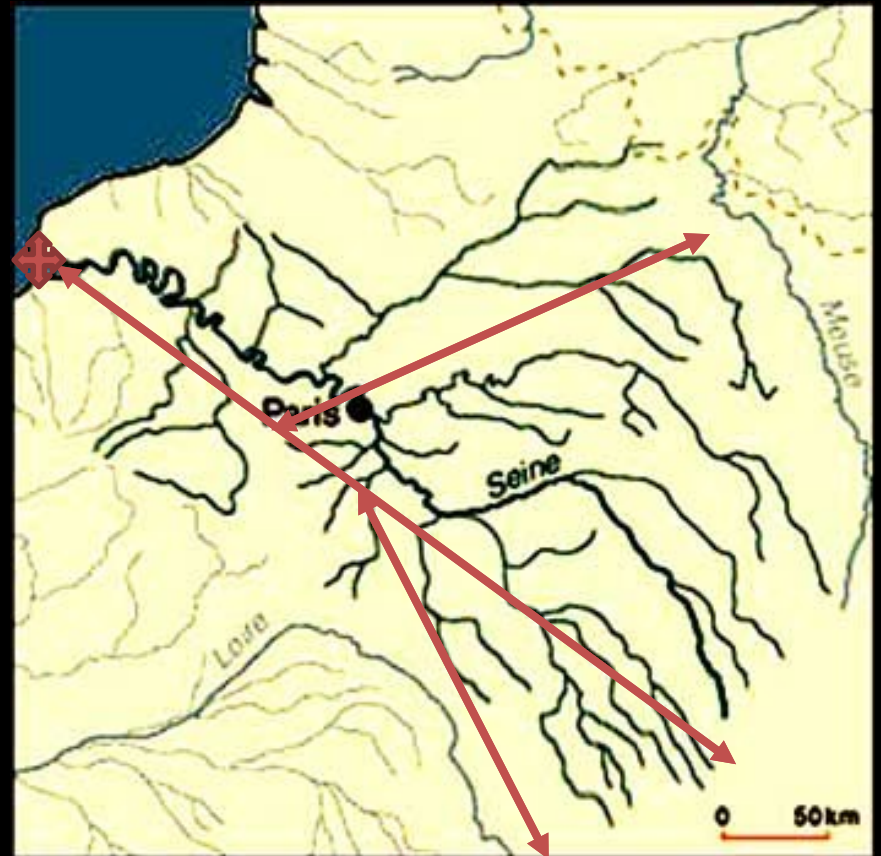
Urban history

**How world trends combine in a particular city
or
How densely populated built-up areas are managed**

A theme for Le Havre: state logic and autonomy

**Tool of the continental entity (French state)
and
Emerging will of its inhabitants**

The strategic importance of the mouth of the Seine for the continental entity

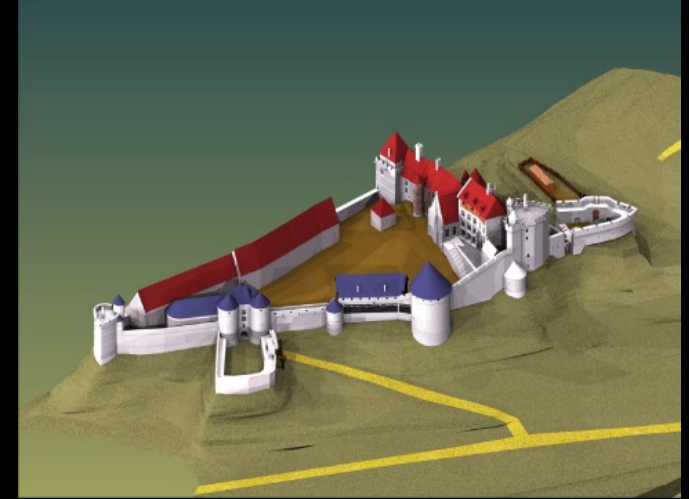


I. Le Havre before Le Havre

Roman and medieval times



Vikings, Castle of Tancarville Abbey of Montivilliers, Chef de Caux



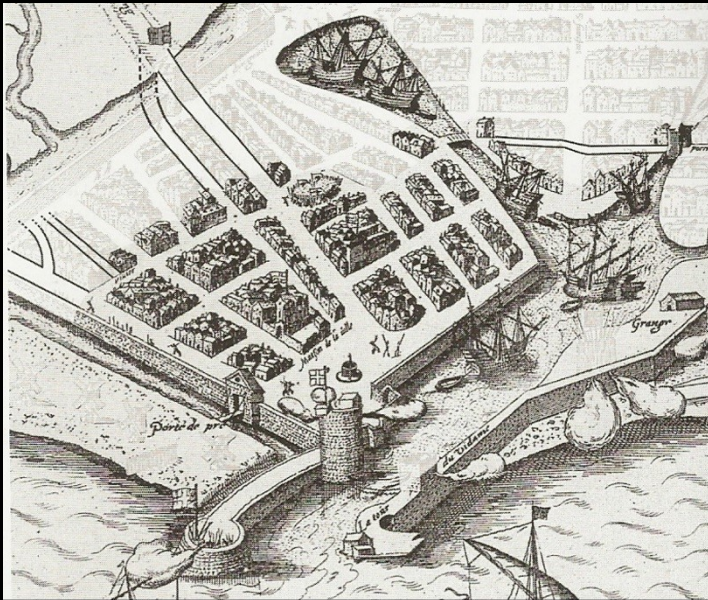
Harfleur 1415

Henry V, King of England

William Shakespeare, The Chronicle History of Henry the Fifth



II. Foundation by royal initiative and failed attempts at autonomous development



Restitution du plan du Havre de Grâce en 1520.
(Plan de Hiéronymus Cook, vers 1550 -
Extrait de « Le Havre, un port, des villes neuves »
de Claire Etienne-Steiner)



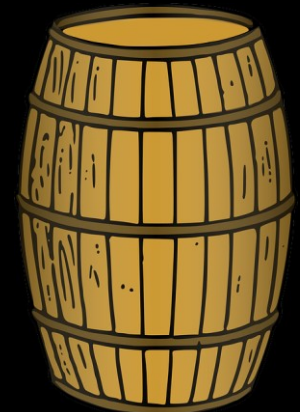
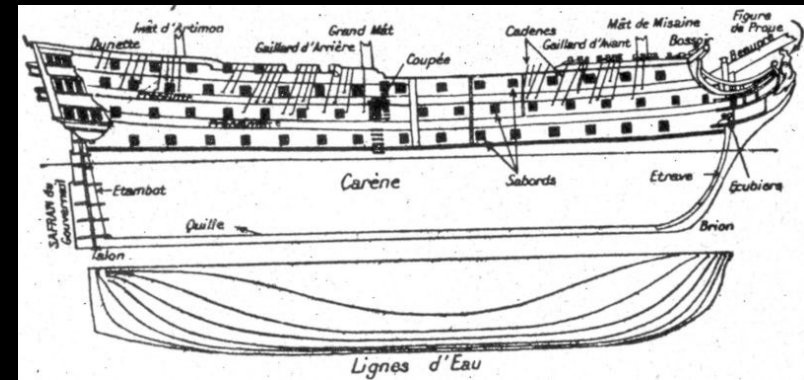
Church of Our Lady of Le Havre



Cathédrale Notre-Dame du Havre

Semi-autonomous economic development : shipbuilding, European trade, fishing, oceanic trade

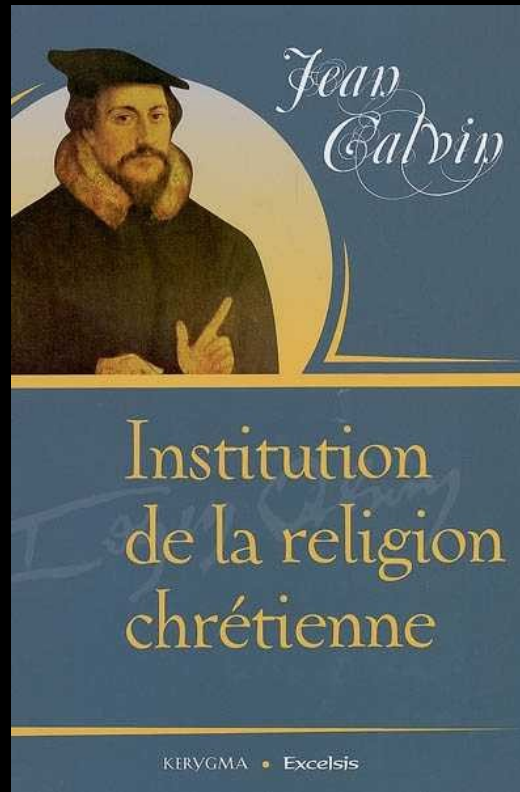
Model of “Hanseatic city states”



Linked to trade, industry : rise of Protestantism



Amiral Gaspard de Coligny



Jean Calvin

Manoir de Bévilliers

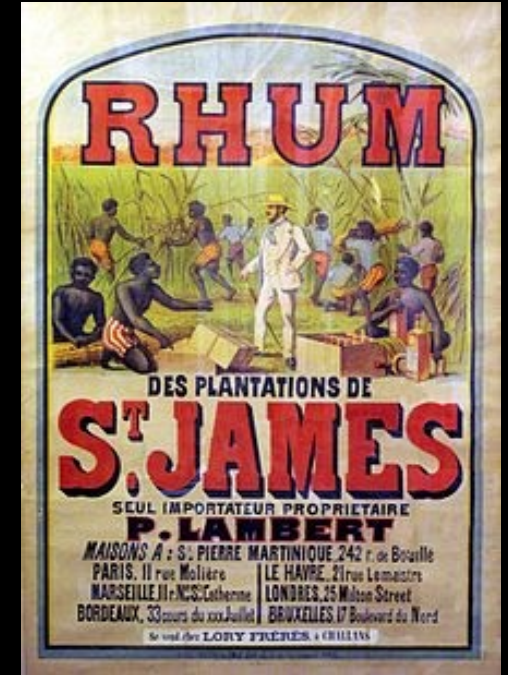


III. Development of trade under royal protection





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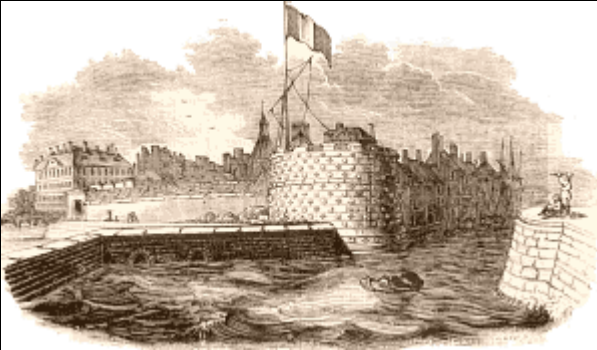
Maison de l'armateur



Martin Foache

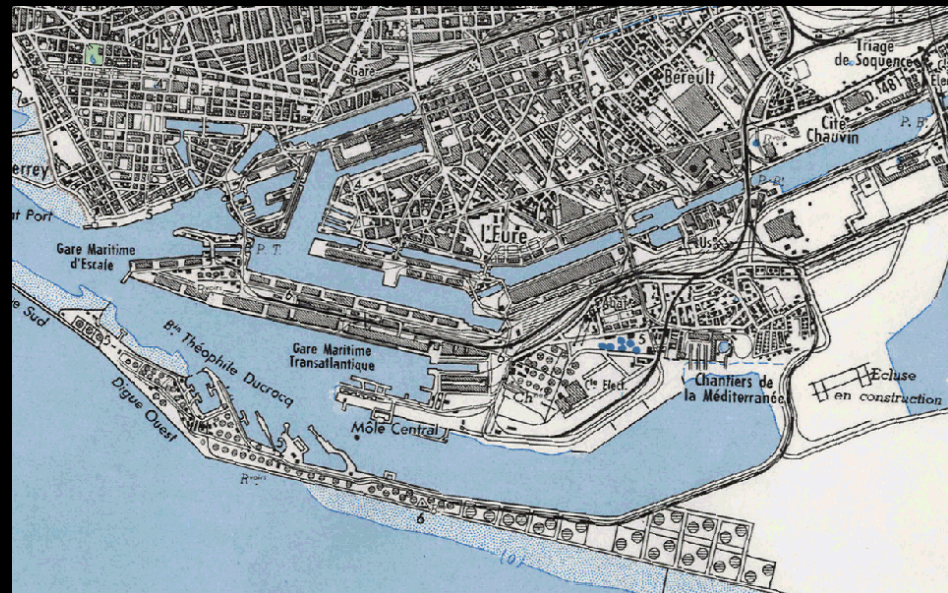
Jacques-François Begouën-Demeaux

IV. Expansion in the first and second industrial revolutions



Breaking out of the old walls

Building new basins and docks



The Compagnie des Docks et Entrepôts du Havre

The first Saint-Katharine-style enclosed dock in France



New basins, new warehouses, new railroads, new cranes



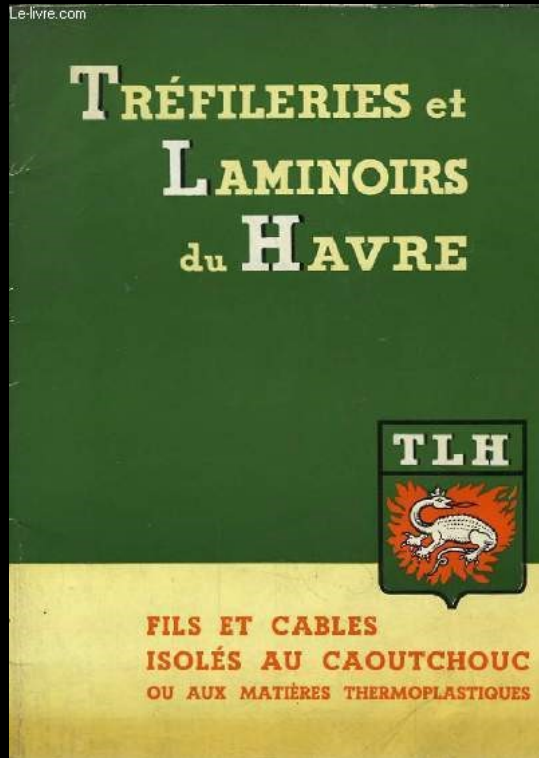


**State-initiated
or financed
or controlled
enterprises**



Another strategic state initiative in the 1970s: the creation of the port of Antifer

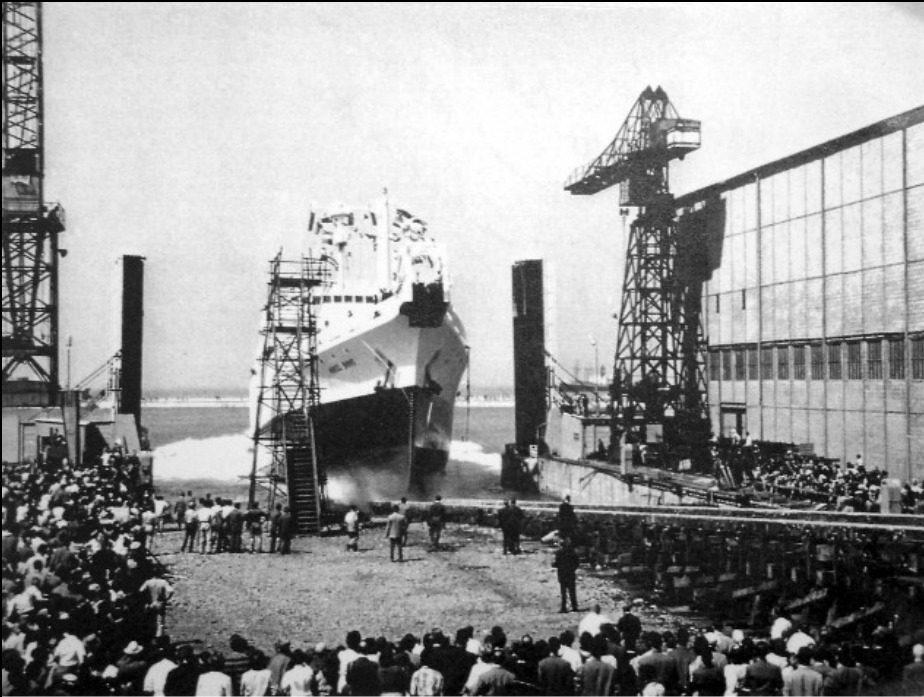




Alongside the trading houses a new generation of industries:

- Mechanical
- Chemical
- Wood
- Food



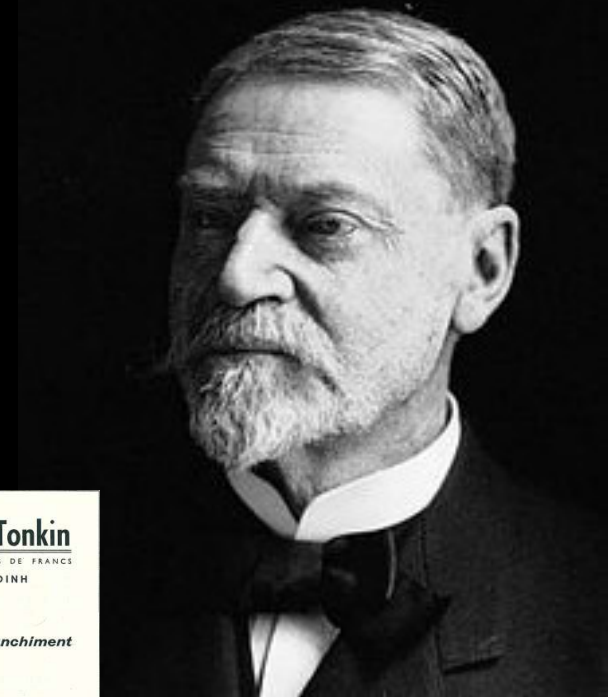
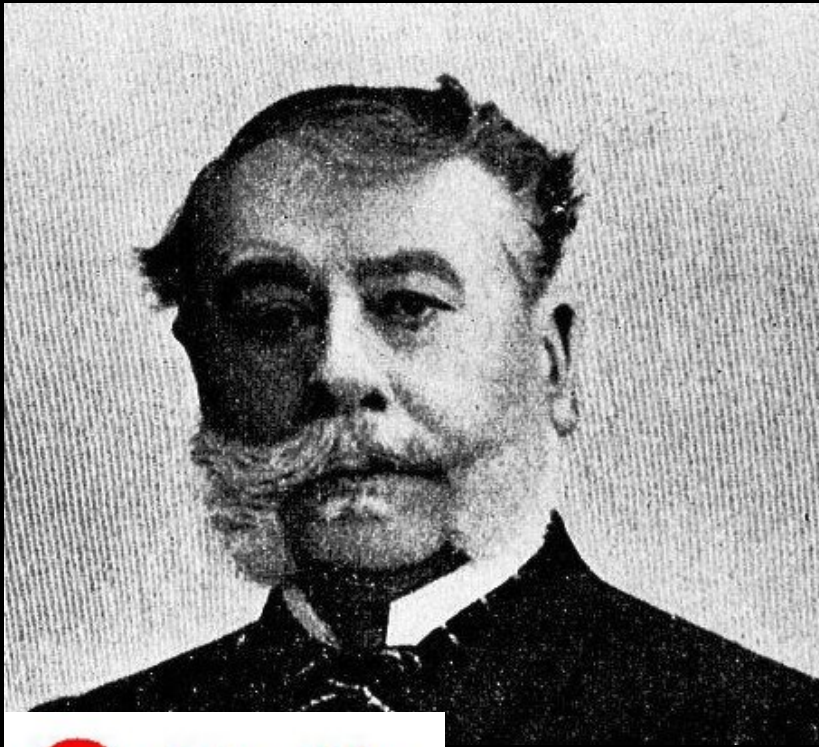


**Shipbuilding
steel hulls
Diesel engines
Instruments
cables**

Two emblematic industrial and commercial leaders

Jules Charles-Roux

Director of the Compagnie Générale transatlantique



Jules Siegfried, cotton tycoon



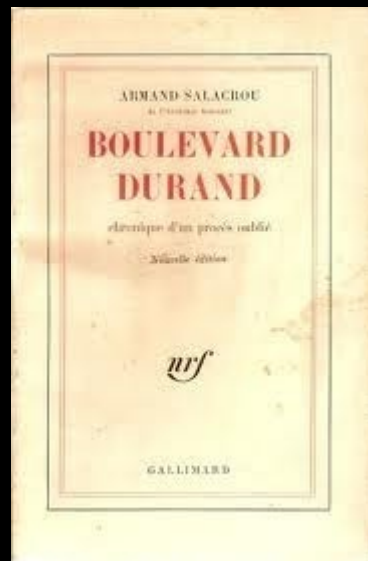
Working Class

Trade unions

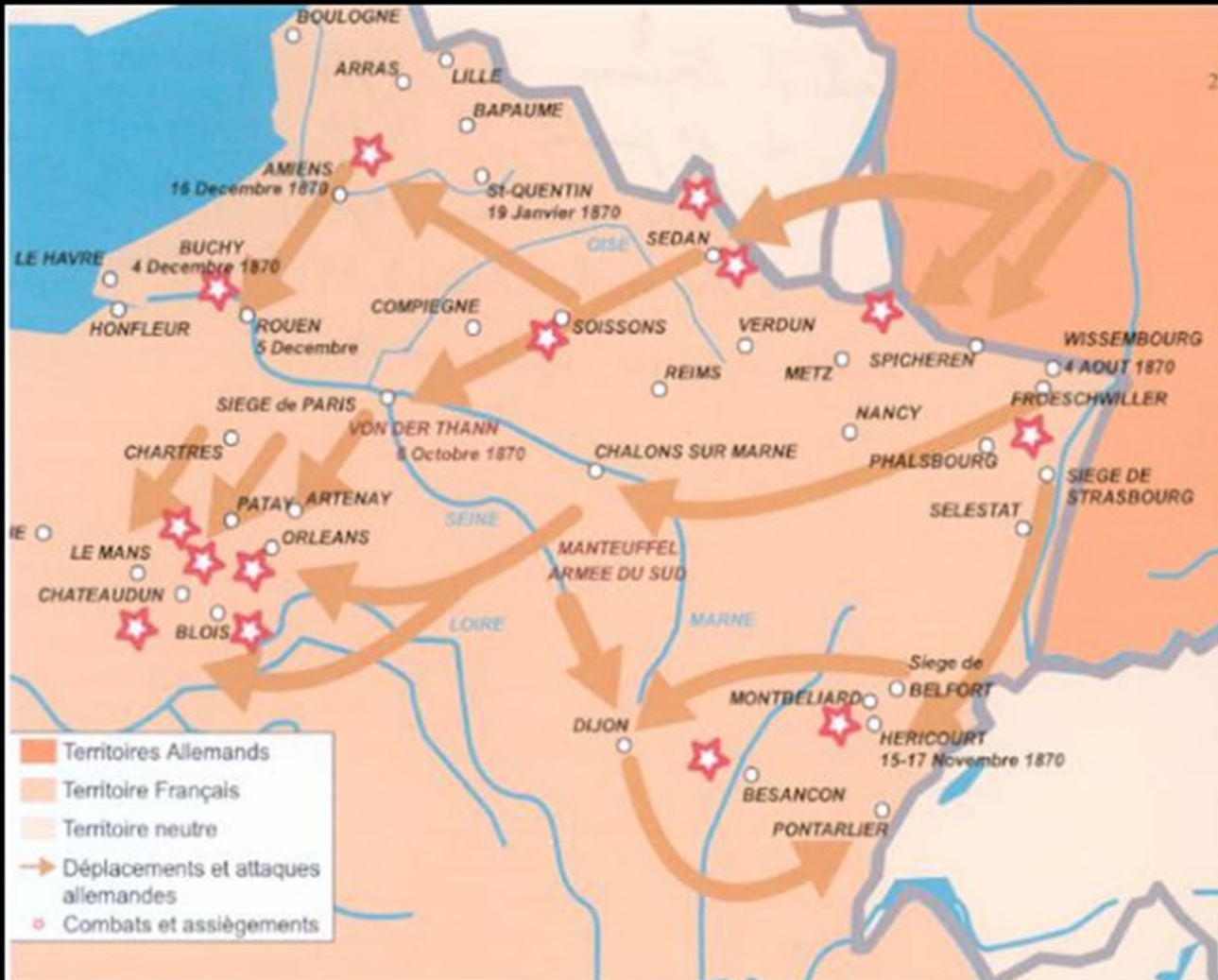
A local hero Jules Durand



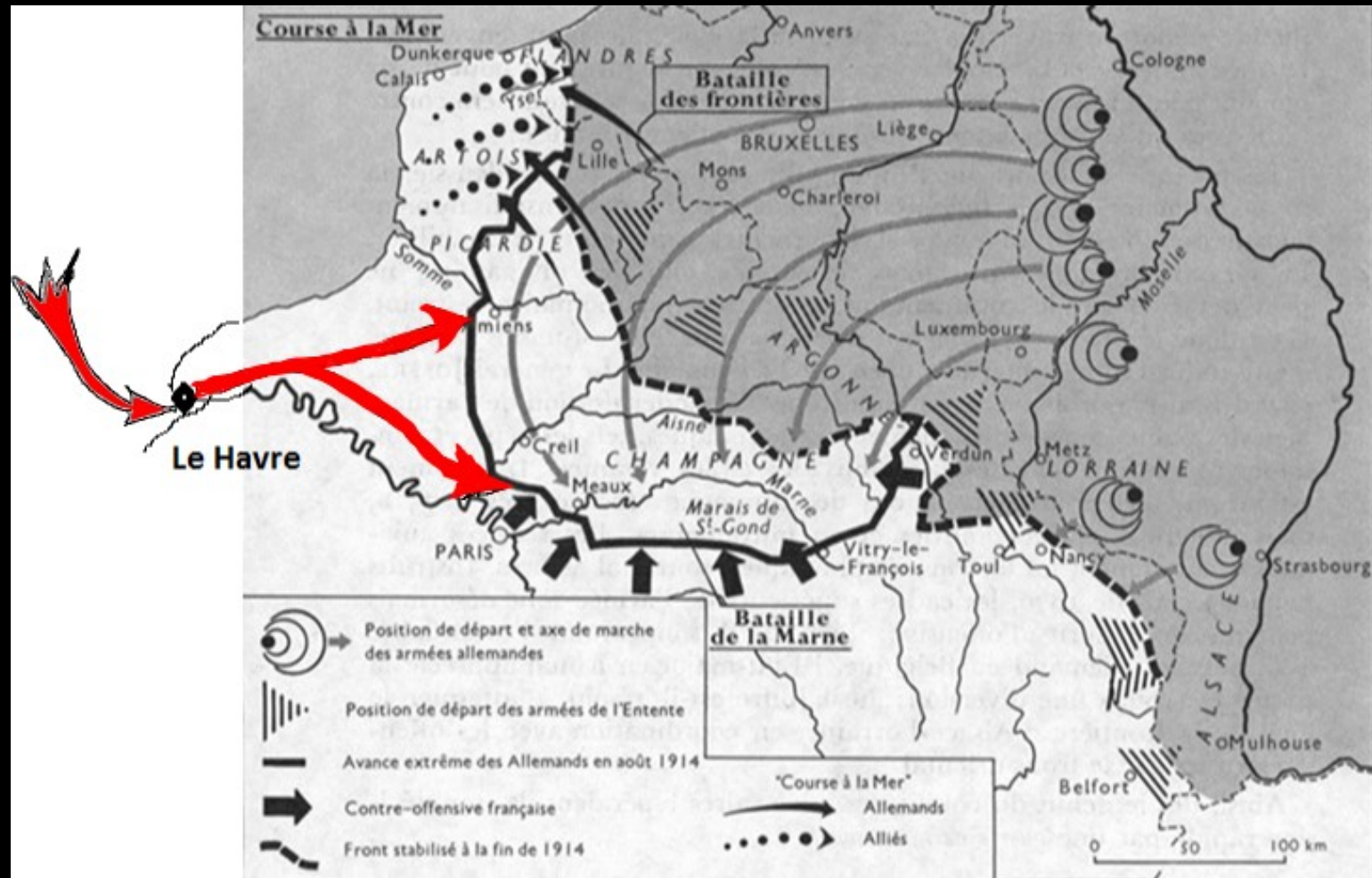
The memory of Jules Durand



V. Le Havre in three wars



Franco-Prussian
War
1870-71



World War One 1914-18 : a supply base for the Western front



Hotel Dufayel served as the seat of the Belgian Government



"ATHOS". — TORPILLÉ EN

Multiple distinctions et témoignages officiels de satisfaction de la Marine à l'Etat-Major et à l'équipage du navire. Très nombreux disparus dont : le commandant, 2 officiers de pont, le commissaire, 1 officier de la machine, 6 personnes de l'équipage.

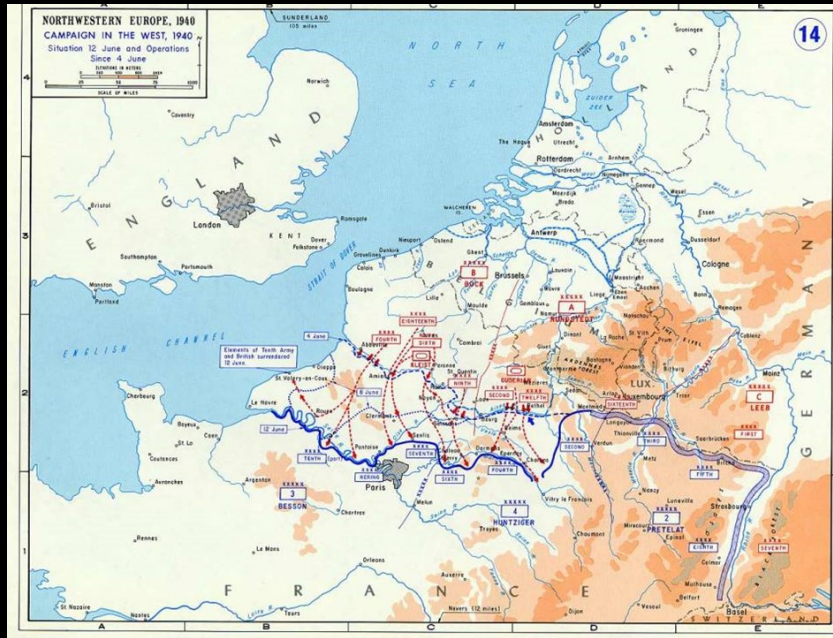


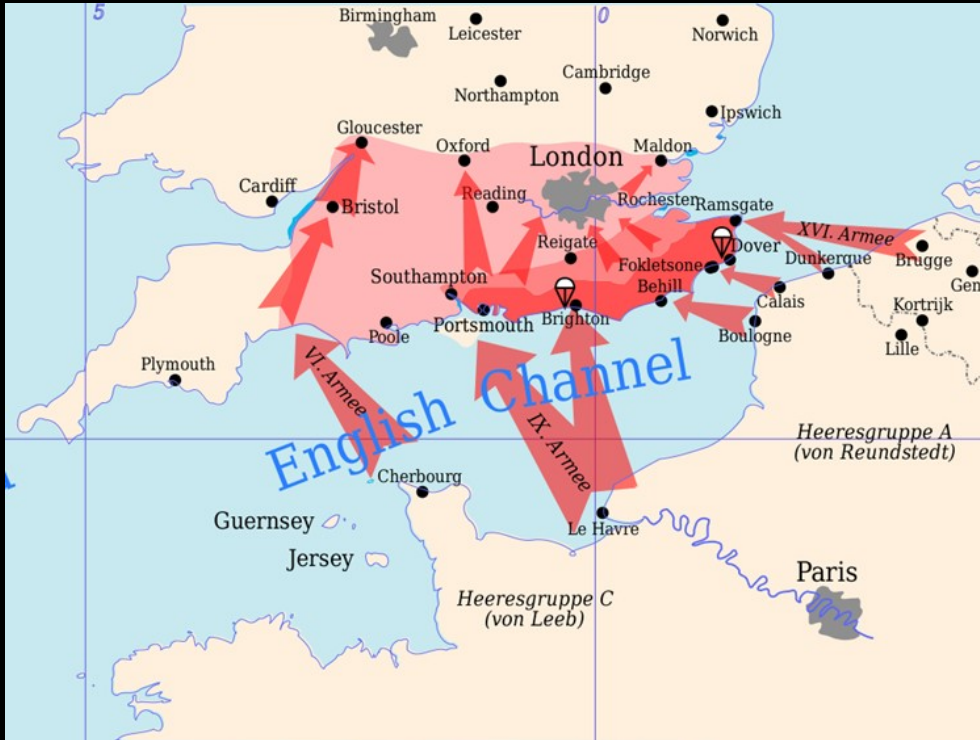
MÉDITERRANÉE. LE 17 FÉVRIER 1917

Témoignage officiel de satisfaction de la Marine : Un témoignage officiel de satisfaction est accordé au capitaine et à l'équipage du paquebot *Athos* pour la belle conduite et courageuse tenue de l'esprit de dévouement dont son équipage a fait preuve lors du torpillage de son bâtiment le 17 février 1917.

Athos ship carried 950 Chinese coolies who boarded at Hong Kong

Le Havre 11 June 1940 : Dunkirk avoided Niobé sunk during exodus



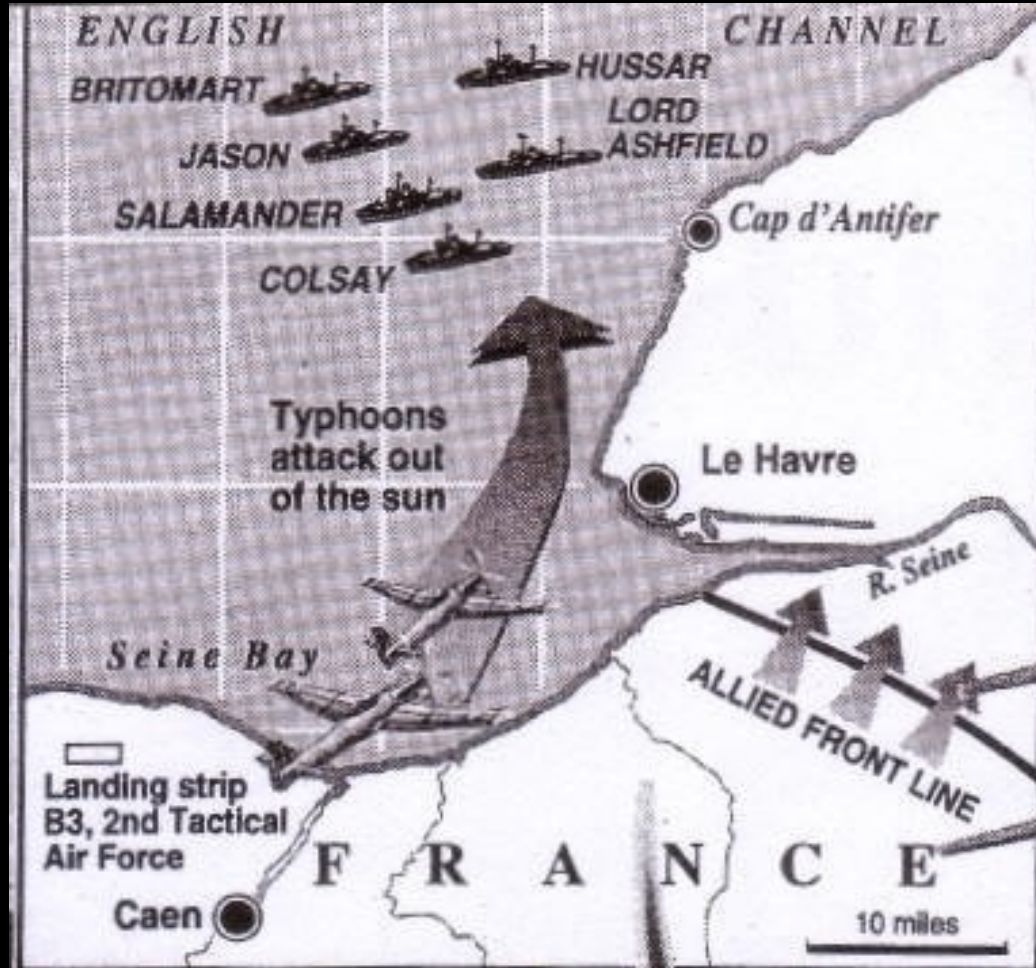


Operation Seelöwe

Fortress of Atlantic Wall



Fortification of Le Havre forced Allies to land on Normandy beaches June 6, 1944





Léon Meyer
elected democratically
1919 to 1941,
revoked by Vichy

“



Pierre Courant
appointed by Vichy

VI. Bombing, reconstruction and after



Housing the lower classes; not a priority for state



“Stalingrad-sur-Seine?”



After 1995: two priorities of Rufenacht-Philippe government
1) port function 2) urban renewal

Port 2000 France's number one container port



Attempted gentrification: attract upper middle-class inhabitants

Docks Vauban: maritime cultural space or commercial mall



attempted gentrification



Quartier Saint-Nicolas de l'Eure



The alternative: a « Barcelona model »?

Mix and match

Preservation of sites of memory



Courtesy of the ICUB (Barcelona Institute of Culture)

Fabra i Coats factory

Today
Cultural and educational
exhibits

2017 Celebration

Modernity

Resilience

Maritime cultural metropole