



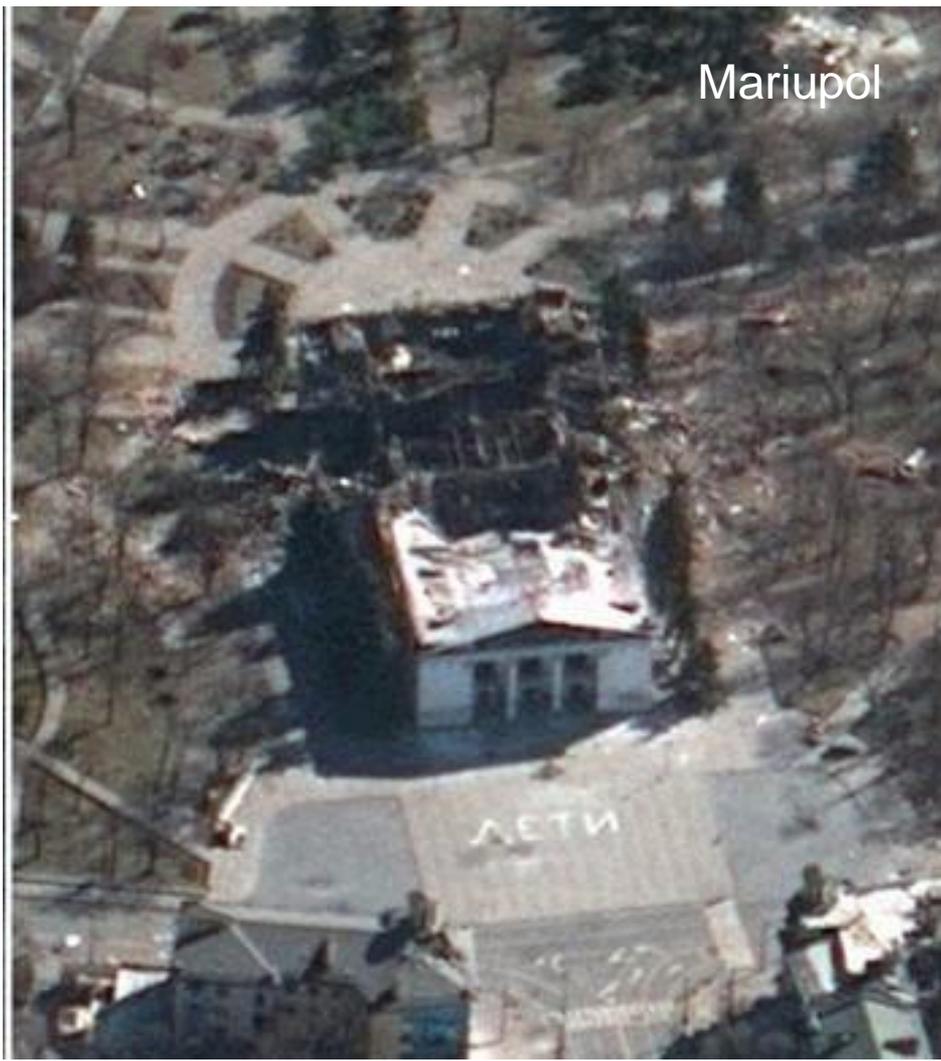
# *Postwar reconstructions*

**What can history teach us?**

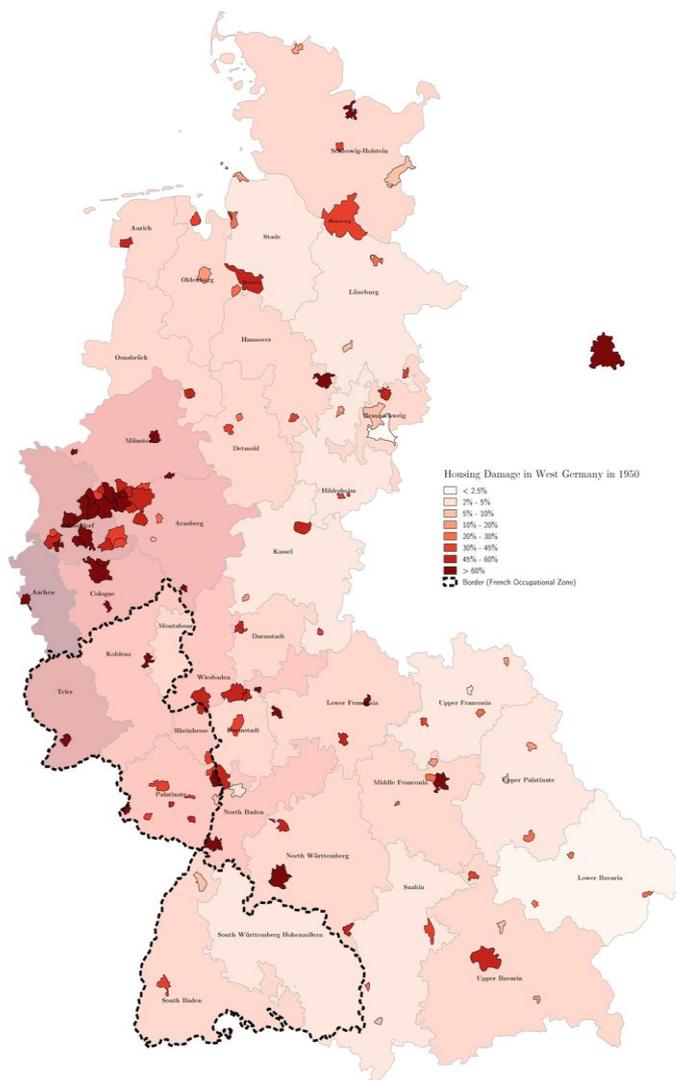
Tamás Vonyó

**Bocconi University**

# 1945 - 2022



# The bombing of (west) Germany



- Until May 1945, 3 mill dwellings destroyed, 2.24 mill in cities
  - ❖ 40% of urban housing lost
- Almost 1 mill rebuilt between 1945 and 1949
- Housing census 1950
  - ❖ Housing stock: 10.1 mill
  - ❖ Housing requirement: 15 mill
- Post-war housing deficit
  - ❖ Pre-war deficit
  - ❖ Wartime destruction
  - ❖ Additional post-war demand

# Destruction and displacement

- Post-war housing requirements do not only depend on war damage!
- You need to assess 3 components
  1. Pre-war deficit or surplus
    - Population of Ukraine declined by one-fifth since independence
    - Pre-war construction rate 150k units per year
    - Mobilize surpluses in unaffected regions for post-war rehousing
  2. Wartime destruction
    - Most recent estimates up to 500k, so far 2.5% of pre-war stock
    - Given speed of destruction, final count will be much higher
  3. Population change
    - Displacement disproportionately bigger than destruction
    - Assess likely return rate of refugees + regional resettlement of IDPs

# Rebuilding (west) Germany



- Remove the rubble
  - ❖ 310 mill m<sup>3</sup> of debris left after demolished buildings
  - ❖ Removal in big cities barely began until 1949
- Reconstruction 1950-1961
  - ❖ 5.5 mill dwellings restored or newly built
  - ❖ 55% of new units social housing
- Economic costs
  - ❖ Almost half of all construction
  - ❖ One-quarter of all investment, one-third of which state funded

# The first challenge of reconstruction

- You cannot start rebuilding the day after the war is over!
- The most monumental task of reconstruction is rubble removal
  1. Purpose
    - To assess the damage
    - To clear the space for reconstruction
    - To facilitate transport and handling of materials
  2. Implementation
    - Small communities: mobilize local companies and citizens
    - Large cities: call your friends – Ukraine cannot do it alone
- International aid
  - Amass heavy equipment to remove and transport debris
  - Plan and coordinate to secure enough building capacity and funds



Thank you!