

My House My Castle



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Housing situation in UK

- Total value of properties in UK in accordance with a qualified estimate reached **5 trillion pounds** in 2014
- 30% of homes are owned by their occupants
- 40% are owner occupied on mortgage
- 18% social housing
- 12% privately rented
- **Cost of housing is higher than in other European countries**
- Jurisdiction: Ministry of State for Housing

Victorian Era (1837-1901)

- Background: rapid population growth
- Influx of people into the cities from the country
- Housing shortage; many new homes – funded through building societies
- Most people who came to the cities did not own their lodgings but rather they **rented from housing landlords**
- Most newcomers had low income, there was not enough capital to build rapidly ⇒ **overcrowded slums**
– **hygiene problems** ⇒ high mortality rate, esp. among infants



Great Stink

- it started in July to August in the summer of 1858
- horrible sewage system – Thames was just a sewage canal + warm weather
- During this time period, many contagious diseases spread through London
- Most common diseases of the time were **cholera, smallpox, typhus, yellow fever, scurvy, scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles, tuberculosis, rickets.**
- Around this time a **man's average lifespan was up to 45 and a woman was 20-25** so not many people lived through this event.



Victorian slum housing vs. Stately homes



Slum in Durham



Longleat house

Victorian housing and Almshouses (bede-houses) of St. John's in Winchester



Caroline Cottages, Conduit Place, cca 1890s.

Victorian parlour



Hygiene in Victorian homes

Some streets would have **one or two outside toilets** for the whole street to share!



Richer Victorian home



1900-1939

- Legislation:
- 1/ Tudor Walters Report – 1918 – it established **standards for council housing and its location**
- 2/ Housing, Town Planning Act – Liberal Prime Minister – **David Lloyd George** – established a system of **government housing** – local authorities had to have an overview of the housing needs in the local area and they were obliged to start building council houses in order to replace Victorian slums; rents were subsidised by the treasury
- In some areas (esp. Metropolitan) large local council estates – up to 30000 residents
- Around the new „residential“ areas new suburbs started to grow, including shops, schools, libraries, community places

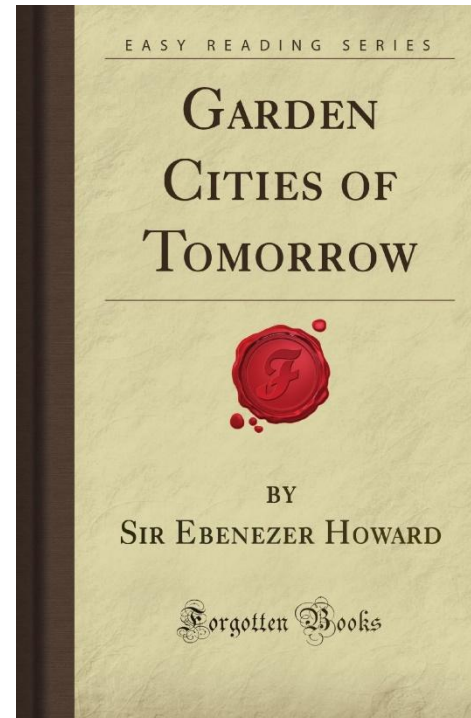
1900-1939 houses

Becontree – built between 1921 and 1932 – 22000 houses, 103 000 residents



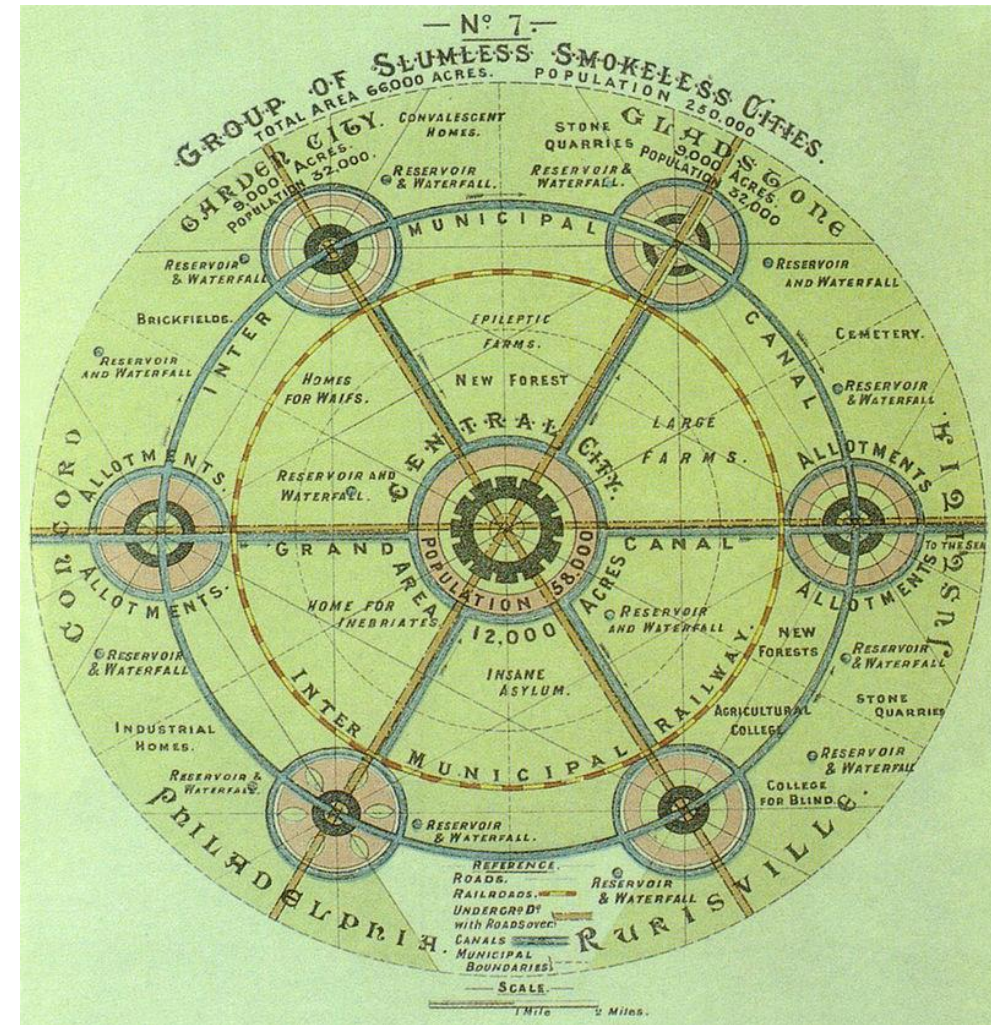
Garden city movement

- a 20th century [urban planning](#) movement promoting satellite communities surrounding the central city and separated with [greenbelts](#). These Garden Cities would contain proportionate areas of residences, industry, and agriculture, spacious low-density developments and semi-detached houses
- **Ebenezer Howard** [To-Morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform](#) (1898)
- Better construction standard – more spacious houses, indoor WC, running hot water, more bedrooms
- More communal services – e.g. Public laundromats, more shops
- The design was indirectly influenced by full suffrage (1921 – all above 21 years)



Garden city movement

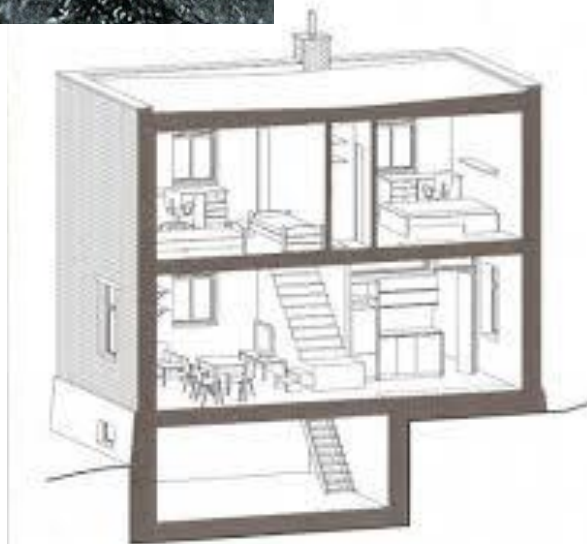
- Inspired by the [utopian](#) novel *Looking Backward* and Henry George's work *Progress and Poverty*, Howard published the book *To-morrow: a Peaceful Path to Real Reform* in 1898 (which was reissued in 1902 as [Garden Cities of To-morrow](#)). His idealised garden city would house 32,000 people on a site of 9,000 acres (3,600 ha), planned on a [concentric](#) pattern with open spaces, public parks and six radial [boulevards](#), 120 ft (37 m) wide, extending from the centre. The garden city would be self-sufficient and when it reached full population, another would be developed nearby. Howard envisaged a cluster of several garden cities as [satellites](#) of a central city of 58,000 people, linked by road and rail.



Letchworth – the first English garden city



Garden city – Zlín – Czech Republic *Bata*



Roman city plans in Britain



Sisister

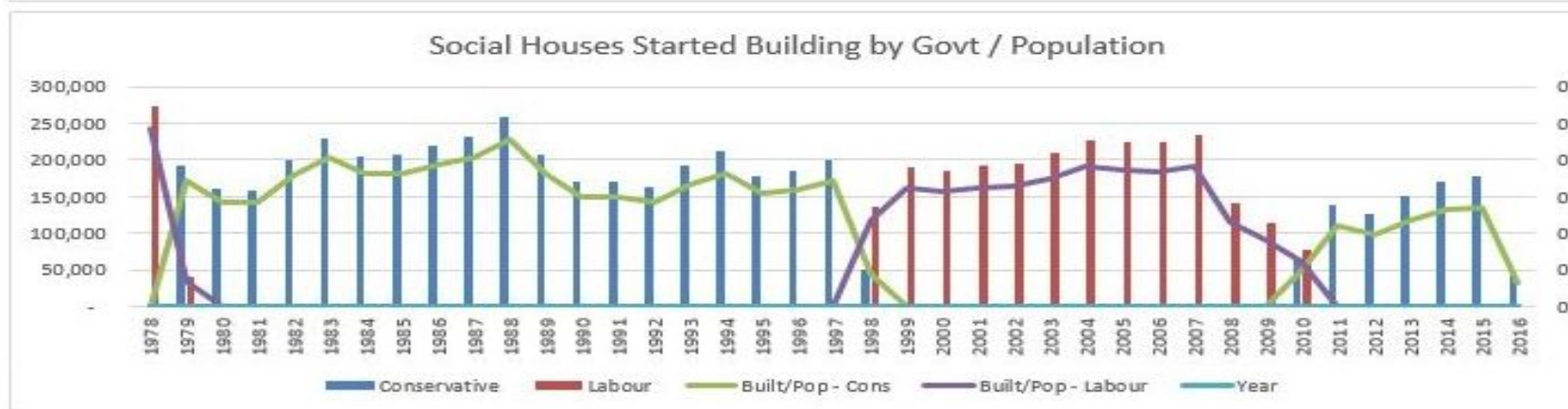
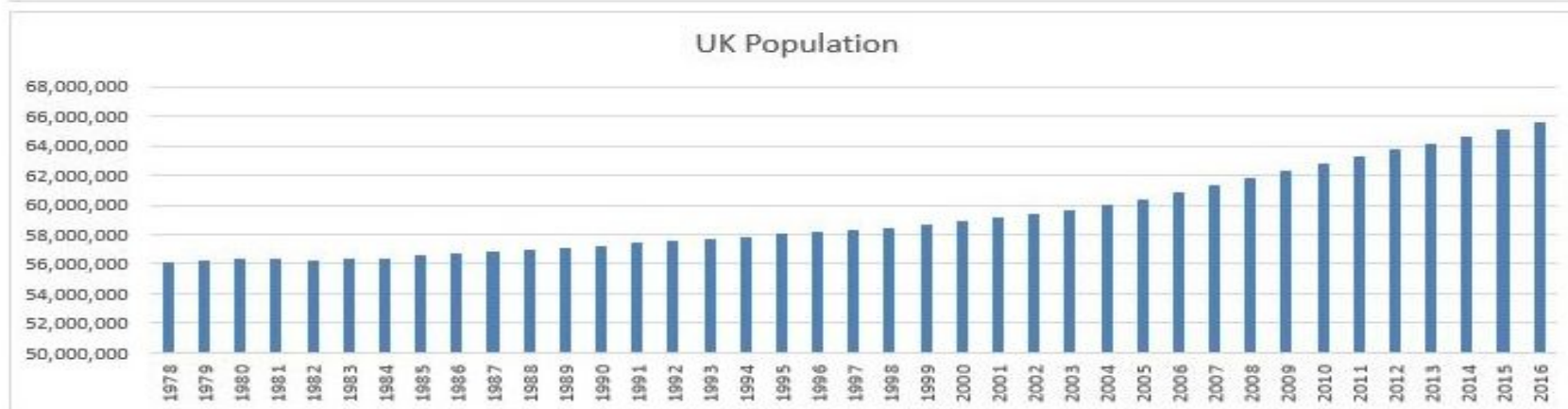
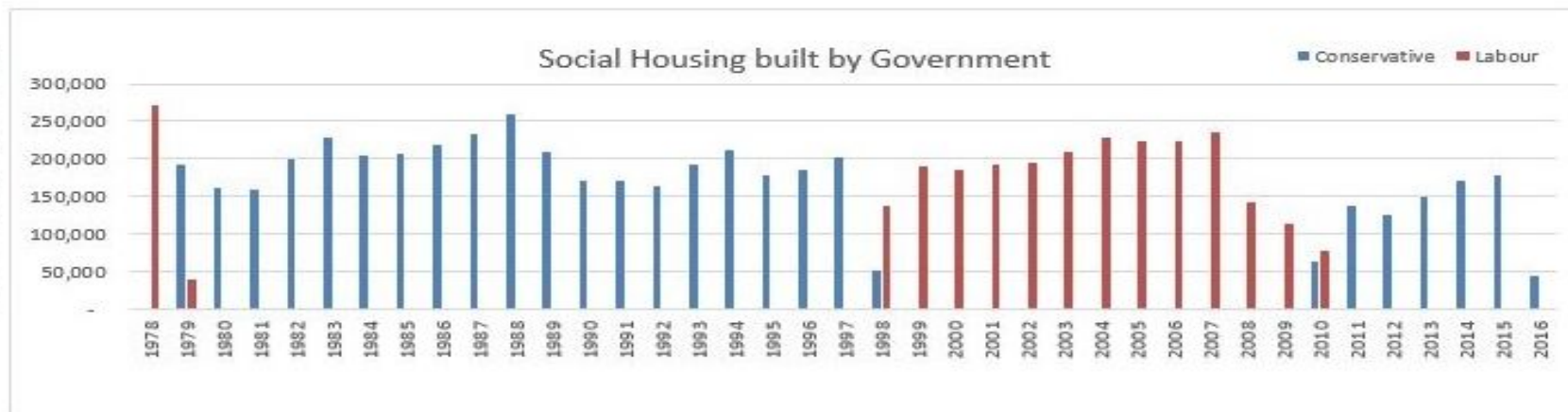


After 1945

- More than 3000000 homes were destroyed or damaged
- Critical shortage of housing after the WWII
- Maximum speed of building – 350000 new homes per year
- Housing became a hot political topic in the elections of 1951
- Heated debate whether there should be high-rise buildings for living
- Fierce opposition in some political circles as it was considered as a quarters just for the working class that might potentially become slums again
- On the other hand: solution to overcrowding in small flats
- It goes against the British fundamental belief: „My house my castle“
- Yet: home ownership:
- 1914 – only 15% of citizens owned their lodgings
- 1938 – 32%
- 1996 – drop to 18%
- 2009 – 30% out of 27 million homes, currently the policy is the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government



Prime Minister	Years
Callaghan	1978-1978
Callaghan/Thatcher	1979-1979
Thatcher	1980-1989
Thatcher/Major	1990-1990
Major	1991-1997
Major/Blair	1998-1998
Blair	1999-2006
Blair/Brown	2007-2007
Brown	2008-2009
Brown/Cameron	2010-2010
Cameron	2011-2016



Based on:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/615820/LiveTable211.xls

1980 – Right to buy policy

- The conservative governments since 1950s supported ownership of houses
- In 1980 – under Margaret Thatcher – Right to buy policy adopted + the restriction to build new council houses
- In 1982 -200,000 council houses were sold to their tenants. By 1987, more than 1,000,000 council houses in the UK had been sold to their tenants, although the number of council houses purchased by tenants declined during the 1990s



Czech traces in British architecture

Jan Kaplický



**FUTURE
SYSTEMS**



Czech traces in British architecture

- Eva Jiříčná



Czech housing estates – extreme examples



- The length of the building is **340 meters**
- **18 entrances**
- more than **600 flats**
- circa **1000 people**
- built in 1975

The tallest Czech block of flats building



23 storeys

81 meters high

Czech twin towers

My house my castle



The Headington shark

7.6 metre installation by artist Bill Heine in Oxford
1986 as an anti-war, anti-nuclear protest
still relevant amid the invasion of Ukraine

Unique British homes



Unique British homes



Britain vs. America



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