



# CRISIS AND POST-CRISIS LOOKS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF GEOGRAPHY

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## *Teaching Economics in a Europe in Crisis*

*20th Conference of the Association of European Economics Education*

*Research and debate on the teaching of Economics and Social Sciences  
(ENSECOSS)*

Aix-en-Provence, 27-29 August 2014

## Introduction: what are we talking about?

- Crisis = an **everyday term** which is overused to refer to "something abnormal / bad / usually short-lived, but... which can last" (R. Brunet, 2014)
- Crisis = **polysemous term** (difficulty, tension, accident, shortage, event preceding a change of state...)
- Crisis comes from the ancient Greek word *krisis*, which refers to a **critical moment involving a decision** with a before and an after, causes and consequences
- **A lasting state of affairs isn't a crisis** but a transformation (new global economic order, climate changes in progress...)
- When faced with a crisis, we have the **freedom to choose** → Significance of the two-sided Chinese ideogram



危机

Dangers

Opportunities

## Presentation plan

- **1. Geographers' views on crisis/crises**
  - 1.1. A term that doesn't always appear in the major geography dictionaries
  - 1.2. Few scientific works relating to crises
  - 1.3. Recent renewed interest
  - 1.4. Initial results
  
- **2. Teaching geography and the crisis**
  - 2.1. Bases of our reflection
  - 2.2. Resources currently offered to teachers
  - 2.3. Two interesting approaches
    - 2.3.1. Mapping the crisis in Europe
    - 2.3.2. Analysing the changes in productive systems
  - 2.4. Conclusion

# 1. GEOGRAPHERS' VIEWS ON CRISIS/CRISES

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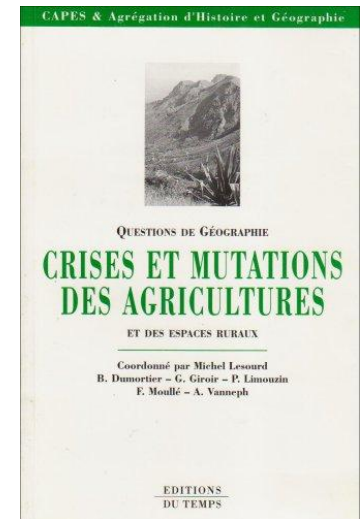
## 1.1. A term that doesn't always appear in the major geography dictionaries

- **P. George et F. Verger (1970-1996)**
  - Crisis = break in rhythm or a reverse in trend in a changing situation. Is used in physical geography, economics and human geography, for instance: tectonic crisis, morphogenic crisis or economic crisis
  - Economic crisis = phase of depression characterised by overproduction and unemployment in an economic cycle... Any evolution would involve alternating periods of relative stability or slow development and phases of acceleration or imbalance which constitute crises
- **R. Brunet, R. Ferras et H. Théry (1993)**
  - Crisis = 1. Moment of extreme tension, paroxysm, conflict, change when the system's regulations and retroactive effects are no longer sufficient or no longer play a role; 2. Moment of doubt, indecision; 3. The time it takes for a system to collapse; 4. Shortage
  - Climatic, tectonic crises = meaning 1
  - Economic crises = meaning 3, possibly 4 but often in accordance with meanings 1 and 2
  - General crisis, crisis of values, of civilisation, global crisis = crises decreed by individuals when they themselves are in crisis...
- **J. Lévy et M. Lussault (2003)**
  - Term not relevant here

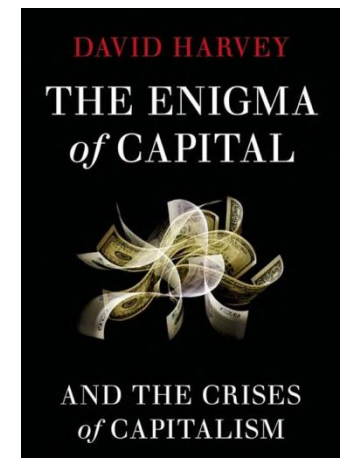
## 1.2. Few scientific works relating to crises

- Term crisis not often present in the titles of works or articles
- It is found above all in **four types of publication** :
  - Research on crises and transformations in farming and rural areas (exam question in 1997) or on the global food crisis (Hérodote, 2008)
  - Works by radical geographers, such as D. Harvey, who has reinstated the Marxist view over the past 40 years in order to better understand the weaknesses of the capitalist system and has shown how and why the crisis moves in space
  - Publications on the history of geography and geographers, especially at key moments: the 1930s (J.-B. Arrault) or the 1970s (P. Claval) regarding either the influence of the crisis on geographic works, or the contribution of geography during this period of doubt
  - Studies on the spatial dimensions of the crisis or its management in a particular context earthquake, tsunami, etc. (R. D'Ercole et al.), drought (M. Bouchelka)..., most often in countries in the south

+ a pioneering work by G. Di Meo, *Les démocraties industrielles, crises et mutations de l'espace*, Masson, 1988.




1997



Oxford University Press, 2010.

## 1.3. Recent renewed interest






- The theme “Crisis/Crises” was therefore chosen by the young researchers of the Institut de Géographie de Paris for their annual day 2014
- The **day's objective**: to reflect upon the crisis as a scientific object in geography. When is this notion mobilised and to what extent is it relevant? Is a crisis a simple failure in a system or can it produce space? More generally, what does it tell us about spaces and territories? What are the limits and contributions of this analysis grid?
- 6 key areas** for reflection were pinpointed
  - definitions of spatial scales and temporal limits
  - methodological problems
  - study of crises on different scales
  - spatial logic and dimensions
  - dynamics
  - players and management



# Dysfonctionnements territoriaux ou facteurs de production de l'espace ?


## Jeudi 10 Avril 2014

Ouverture  
par Olivier Sevin (Directeur de l'École Doctorale de Géographie Paris) et le comité d'organisation

PARIS  
LE DIDEROT

sites.google.com/site/journeeigparis/



9h  
9h15

**Atelier 1: Crise, (re)configurations socio-spatiales et identités**

Animé par **Amandine Spire** (Univ. Paris 7)

**Les communautés chinoises à Abidjan dans la "crise" ivoirienne.**  
Xavier Aurégan, Institut Français de Géopolitique - Univ. Paris 8

**Migrations et crise foncière: le cas du rapatriement "librement consenti" des réfugiés mauritaniens au Sénégal.**  
Hamdi Ahmedou, IEDES - Univ. Paris 1

**Des cloisonnements identitaires aux reconfigurations du territoire national belge: la fin d'une crise gouvernementale ?**  
Clotilde Bonfiglioli, Laboratoire Habiter - Univ. de Reims Champagne-Ardennes

**La fabrique urbaine de Belfast: une crise productrice d'espace ?**  
Adèle Schar, UMR ADESS - Univ. Bordeaux Montaigne

**DISCUSSION avec la salle**

Pause café

**L'invité de la JIG: Roger Brunet** (directeur de recherche émérite au CNRS)

**L'espace épistémologique des crises: qu'en faire quand on est géographe ?**  
**DISCUSSION avec la salle**

Pause déjeuner

**Atelier 2: Sociétés et territoires dans les crises économiques**

Animé par **Nicolas Douay** (Univ. Paris 7) et **Petros Petsimeris** (Univ. Paris 1)

**Session 1: Du local au global, les systèmes productifs dans la crise**

**Enquête sur la crise comme émergence révélatrice d'obsolescence(s) ?**  
Mathias Rollot, UMR LAVUE, ENSA Paris-La Villette, Paris 8

**Le territoire face aux délocalisations des activités productives en France: le cas de l'industrie textile et de l'habillement.**  
Dalila Messaoudi, EA CEMOTEV, Université Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

**Housing as a conjunction and as a colony: the case of Greece.**  
Emmanuel-Stylitanos Skoufoglou, UMR Géographie Cités, Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

**DISCUSSION avec la salle**

Pause café

**Session 2: Les villes dans la crise**

**Fabriquer la ville en temps de crise: une lecture critique du modèle de développement urbain espagnol. Le cas de Madrid au regard de ses projets universitaires**  
Lise Fournier, Lab'Urba, Université Paris Est

**Anciens quartiers industriels "en crise": une crise qui dure ou un nouvel équilibre ?**  
Florence Nussbaum, UMR 5600, ENS Lyon

**Le projet de la Tour 13, quelle clé d'analyse locale d'un projet d'aménagement urbain global ?**  
Clotilde Kullmann, Laboratoire EA-EIREST, Univ. Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne

**DISCUSSION avec la salle**

Remise des prix du concours de Posters  
par Olivier Sevin et Chantal Béranger (École Doctorale de Géographie de Paris)

Conclusion et Clôture  
Buffet de clôture

11h15  
11h30  
13h  
14h30  
16h  
16h15  
17h45  
18h

Amphithéâtre Emmanuel de Martonne - 191, rue Saint-Jacques - Paris 5<sup>e</sup>

Comité d'organisation : Solène Baffi, Emmanuel Chauvin, Clémentine Cottineau, Sylvestre Duroulier, Jack Kailo, Clémence Montagne, Guillaume Sauloup, Etienne Touraille, Représentants des doctorants à l'École Doctorale de Géographie de Paris (ED 434): Comité Scientifique: Nicolas Douay (Univ. Paris 7), Antoine Fleury (CNRS), Réjabelle Gèneau de Lamarlière (Univ. Paris 1), Petros Petsimeris (Univ. Paris 1), Amandine Spire (Univ. Paris 7).

## 1.4. Initial results

- More interested in long-term processes (urbanisation, de-industrialisation, desertification, climate changes...), geographers have generally favoured **global dynamics** rather than crises which are nothing more than breaking points or bifurcation points
- Subsequently, the term crisis features far less often in their works than transformation or change
- However, the idea of crisis is interesting in geography because of its **spatial and temporal implications**. Where are the crises? What are their deployments and their spatial logics? Which factors lie at the source and what reconstructions do they entail?



## 2. TEACHING GEOGRAPHY AND THE CRISIS

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## 2.1. Bases of our reflection (1)

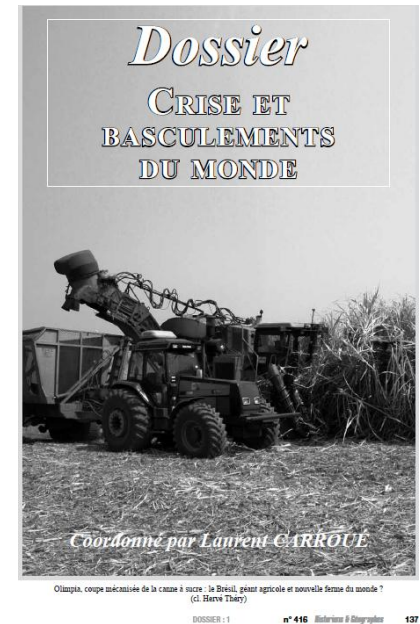
- The word crisis appears in many geography classes, undoubtedly associated with the desire to follow the news and views in the media:
  - food crisis, energy crisis, industrial crisis, environmental crisis, ecological crisis, climate crisis, economic crisis, financial crisis, political crisis, housing crisis...
  - but also: neighbourhoods in crisis, towns in crisis, suburbs in crisis, areas of countryside in crisis, regions in crisis, countries in crisis...
- But, in general, the term isn't really explained because it isn't considered a basic concept and rarely features in curricula

## 2.1. Bases of our reflection (2)

- Both in geography and in other disciplines, **the common idea of crisis doesn't help us to think**, on the contrary, it serves as a vague yet categorical explanation (R. Brunet, 2014)
- Even worse, reference to the crisis serves to absolve and **eliminate responsibility** : "It's the crisis...", and to defuse criticism because it leads to resignation in the face "reality" and supposed political "realism", while omitting to identify the players in the system and the inequalities of the impact of the crisis (*Ibidem*).
- Therefore, **it is necessary to avoid views on the crisis** and closely examine the information we have available to us, in order to develop a proper critical view with regard to the processes in place

## 2.2. Resources currently offered to teachers

- **Summaries** where the emphasis is on the major transformations of geopolitical, geostrategic and geoeconomic balances (L. Carroué, 2011)
- **Cases studies of particular crises** (environmental, health, political, activities or, more rarely, space); for instance, the 29 cases on the Géoconfluences site:
  - 10 for environmental and health crises
  - 9 for crises related to activities
  - 6 for political crises (essentially in Africa)
  - 3 for crises in particular spaces (towns or borders)
  - 1 for the demographic crisis in Russia



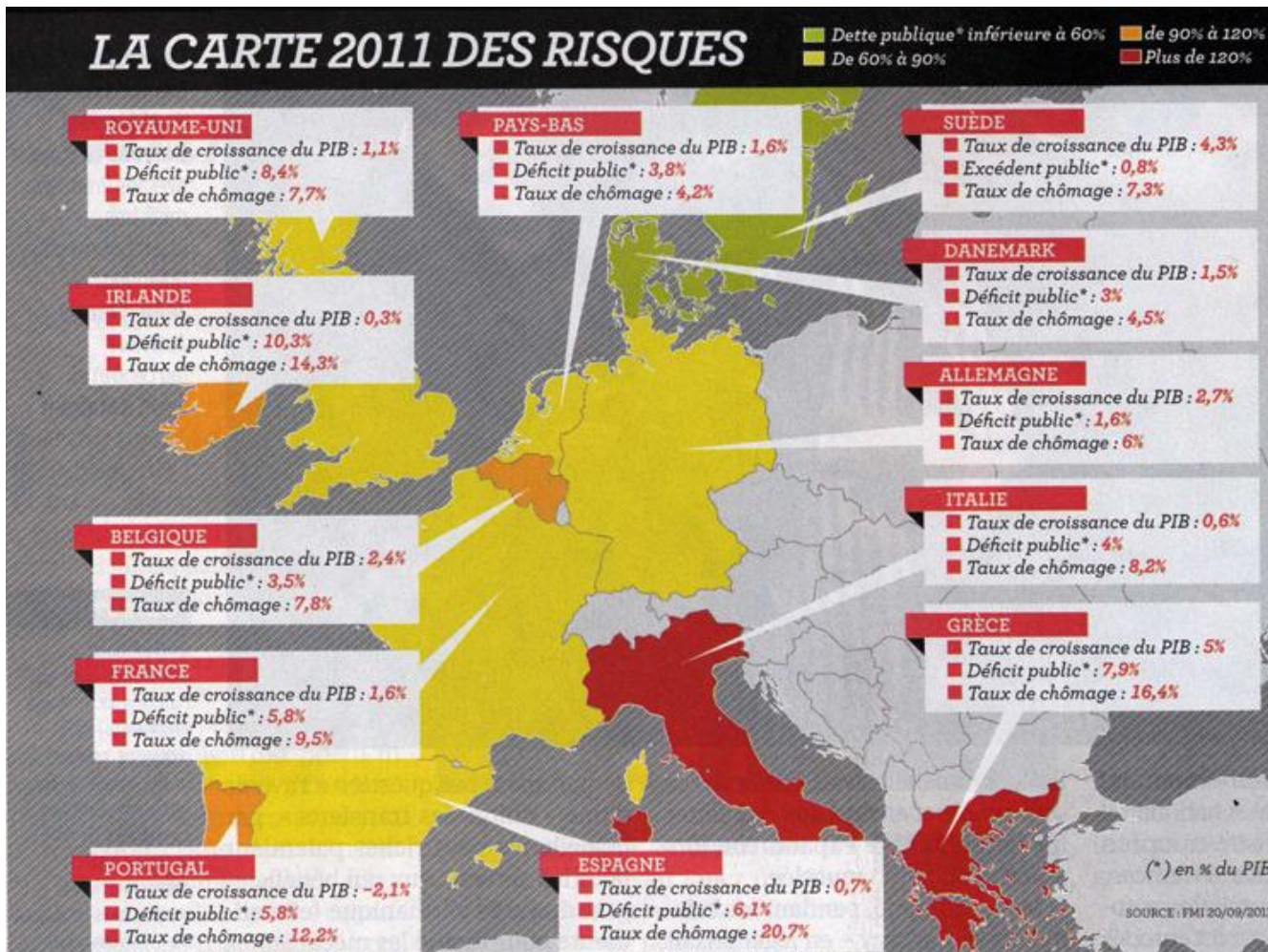
2011

## 2.3. Two interesting approaches :

### 2.3.1. Mapping the crisis in Europe

- **Why there and not somewhere else?** = key question in geography whose preferred tool is the map (and the sketch)
- Since Europe is a “collection of national spaces, led by dynamics that are not always synchronous and countries whose interests and perceptions rarely converge when we look beyond the major principles” (Y. Richard, 2012), it would be interesting to create **maps allowing us to better understand the diversity of situations**
- Two publications from 2012 attracted our attention
  - J.-P. Bord, « La «crise» dans l’Union européenne vue par les cartes », *Mappemonde* 106, 2012.
  - Y. Richard, « La crise européenne. Un regard de géographe », *EchoGéo*, avril 2012.

## J.-P. Bord's maps and sketches (1)

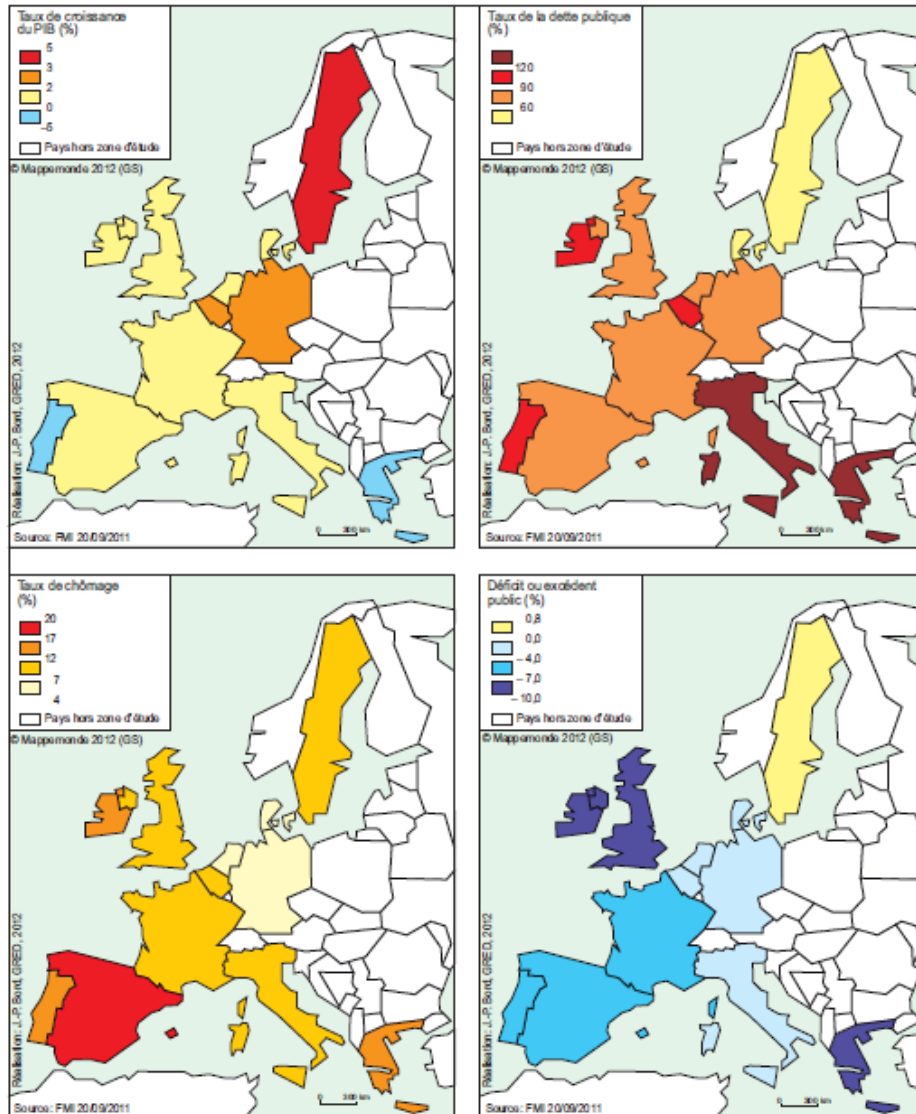


Starting point: Nouvel Observateur map from 2011 based on 12 countries and 4 indicators. A map to be read and not to be looked at, and whose presentation is a problem

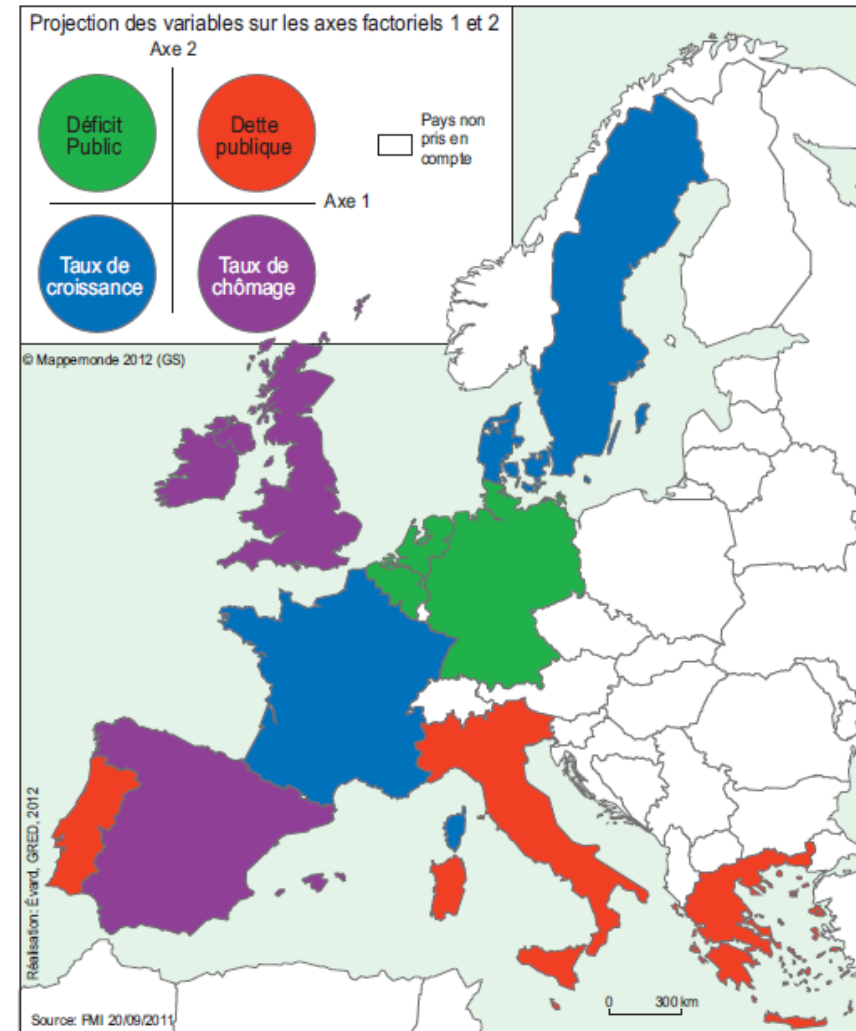
Suggestion of one map per indicator and a synthetic map after statistical processing – PCA (Principle Component Analysis) – and, finally, a map and an outline diagram after matrix processing

## J.-P. Bord's maps and sketches (2)

Discrétisation graphique selon les seuils observés

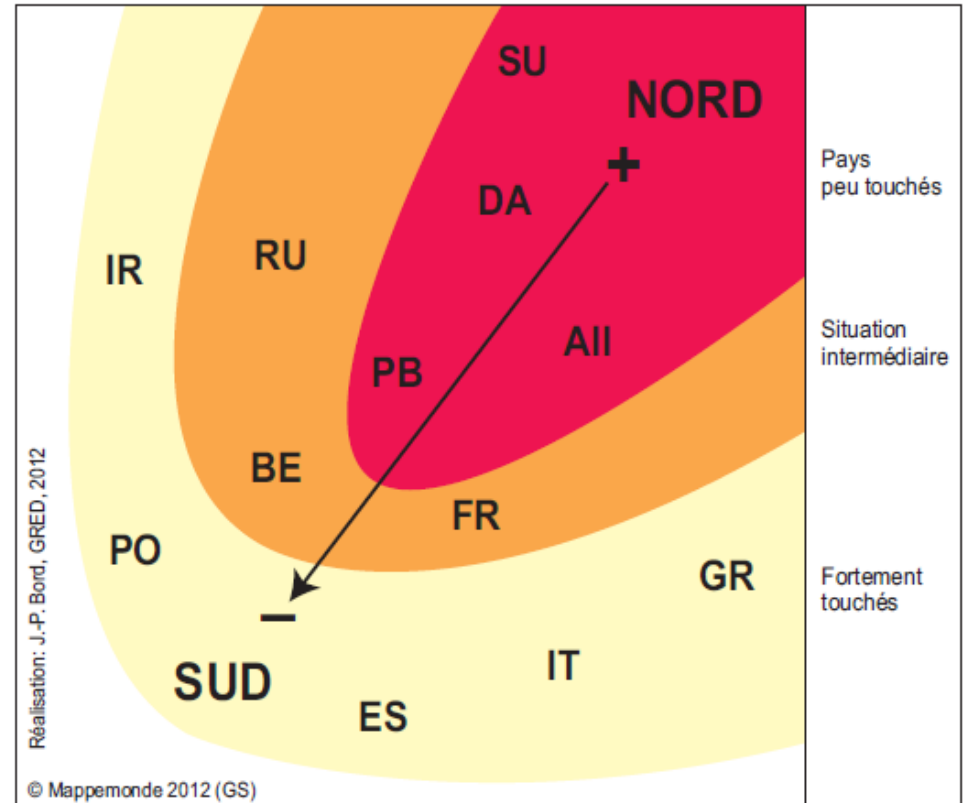
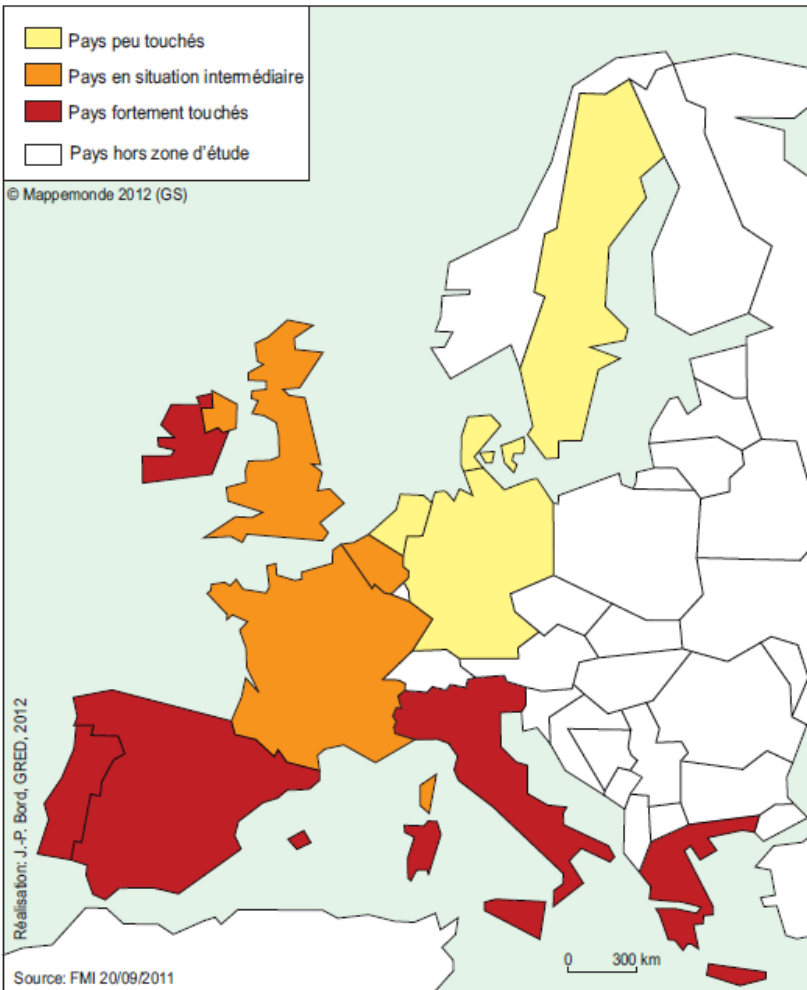


2. Cartes des risques en 2011



6. La carte de synthèse: projection sur les axes factoriels 1 et 2

## J.-P. Bord's maps and sketches (3)

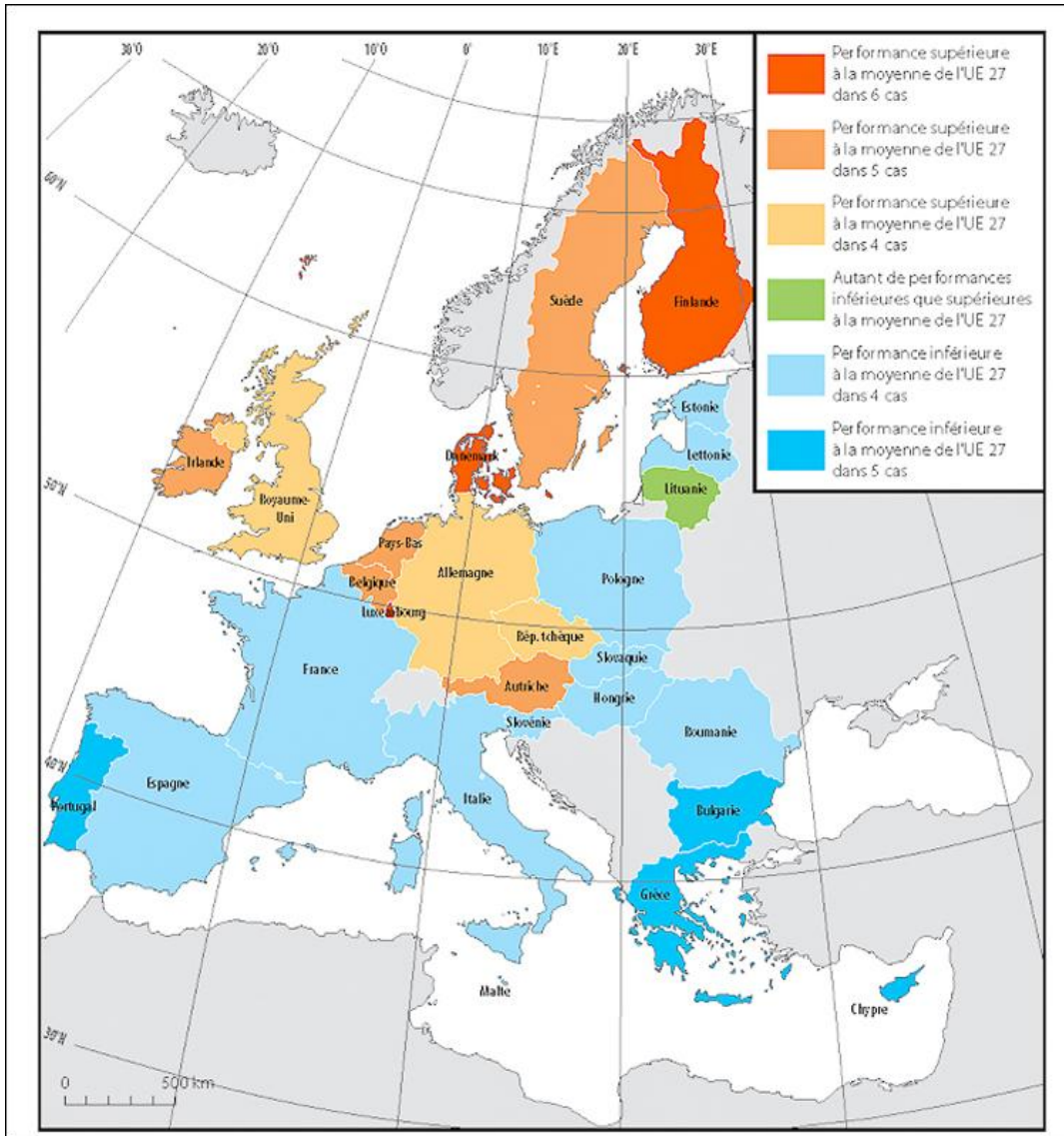


8. L'impact de la crise en 2011 (carte simplifiée)

7. L'impact de la crise en 2011



## Y. Richard's maps (1)

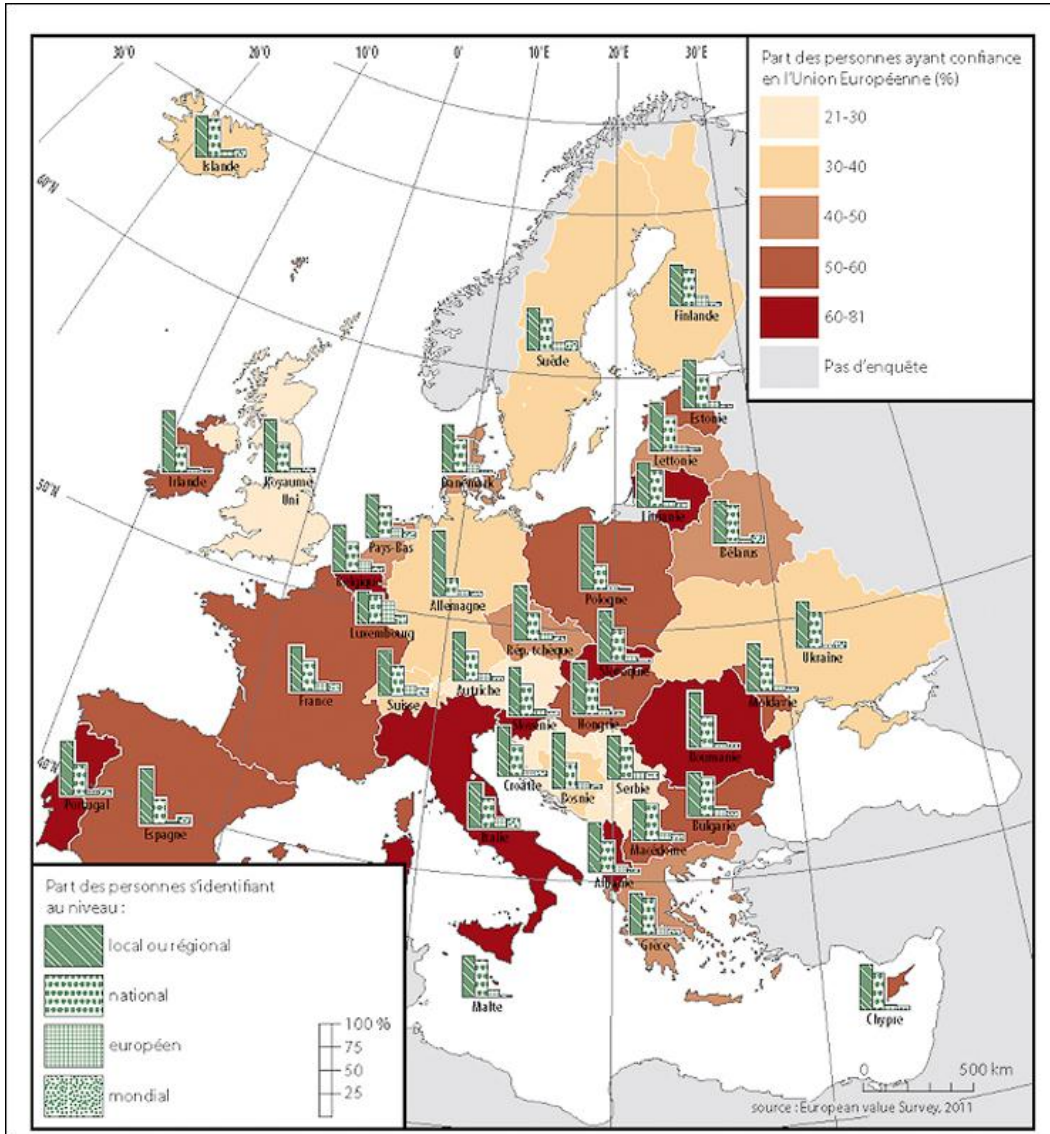


Classification of countries according to **their average macroeconomic performances over the period 2002-2008** (before the “crisis”) in six areas in relation to the European Union’s average: unemployment rate, current account surpluses, trade balance, annual growth, labour productivity, debt :

> 0 if higher than the average performance of the EU 27  
 and < 0 if lower

Wide-scale and often old contrasts (centre – periphery) and persistence of national dynamics

## Y. Richard's maps (2)



Nationalism and European identity in European countries based on a survey carried out by the European Union in May 2010

Trust in European institutions is stronger in outlying areas than in the centre. The opposite is true concerning identification with Europe even if local or regional identity is always at the top → very unbalanced integration model

The excessive fragility of the EU and the euro zone is the result of their disparities and their internal divisions → what does the future hold?

## 2.3. Two interesting approaches :

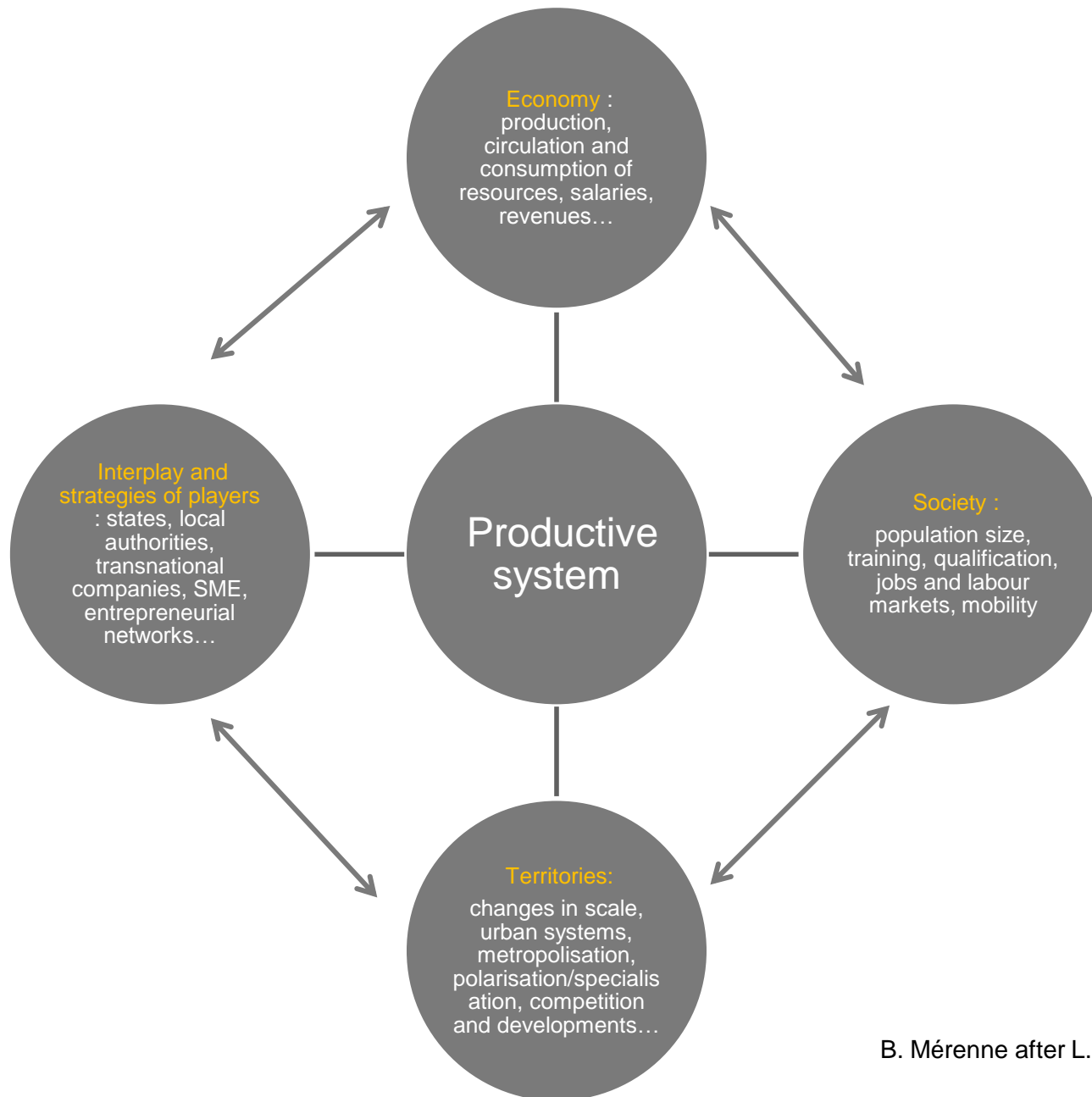
### 2.3.2. Analysing the transformations in productive systems (1)

Source : L. Carroué, La France – les mutations des systèmes productifs, A. Colin, 2013.

- **A productive system** = all the factors and players contributing towards the production, circulation and consumption of resources
- It is based on a **new functional division of the activities** identifying two major spheres: the sphere of *social reproduction* and the *productive sphere*, which produces the essential part of the resources; this includes material production and services related to production (see slide 21)
- The concept means that economy, society, the interplay and the strategies of players and territories can be joined together again (see diagram slide 22)
- It is therefore a **key to the analysis of the dynamics of territories**, since their development mainly relies on the economic activities located there through the jobs on offer and the distributed revenues. And yet, the activities have different general principles governing location on all spatial scales, which makes the territories more or less vulnerable

## THE TWO SPHERES OF ACTIVITIES IN THE PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

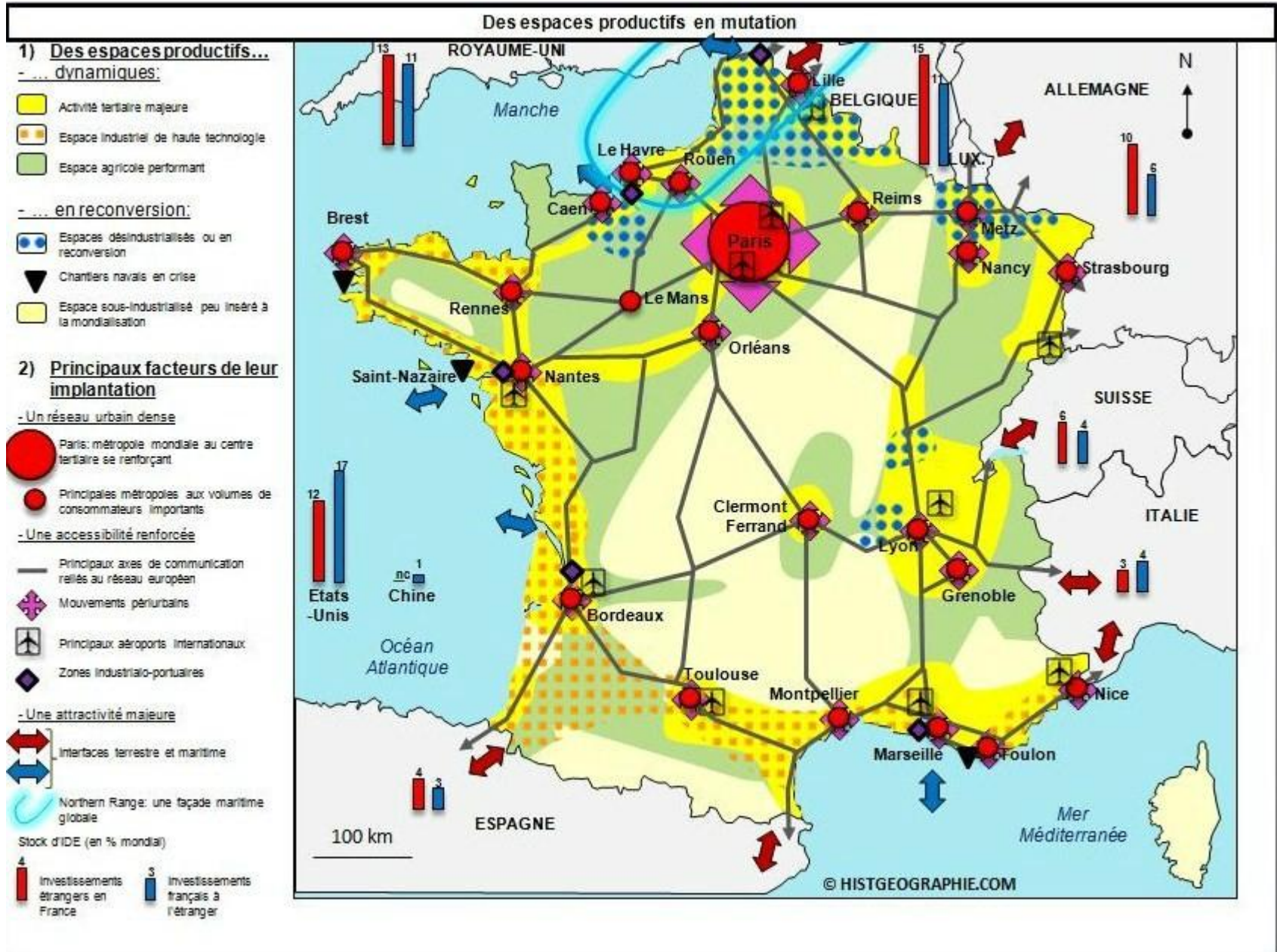
Production or productive sphere	Social reproduction sphere
<p><b>Material production sphere with concrete and abstract functions:</b> agriculture, industry, buildings and public works</p>	<p><b>Non-discriminant services:</b> retail trade, primary and secondary education, socio-educational and sports teams.</p>
<p><b>Services related to production sphere:</b> services for companies, banks and insurance companies, network services (transport, telecommunications, water and power distribution)</p>	<p><b>Discriminant services:</b> higher education, media, central public services, armies, museums, etc.</p>



## 2.3. Des démarches intéressantes :

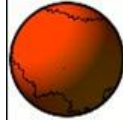
### 2.3.2. Analysing the transformations in productive systems (5)

- A few general principles
  - The functional segmentation of work and outsourcing often increase **functional disjunction**, with the company looking for the most appropriate location for every post. This leads to hierarchical systems, segregation and avoidance
  - The dynamics can be seen in **all spatial scales**: sites, urban areas, regions, countries, continents, the world. Many are associated with the globalisation of the economy and the process of metropolisation. They generate significant spatial inequalities everywhere (B. Mérenne, 2011)
  - The role of the **players** is a determining factor: companies first, but also the state and local authorities, financial operators, organisations... Understanding the tensions and resistance as well as the regulations is essential (*Ibidem*)
  - The crisis is actually only the moment when the system changes



# LA FRANCE DES NOUVELLES TECHNOLOGIES

## LOGIQUE NATIONALE DE L'ORGANISATION



Pôle national dominant



Zone d'influence du pôle dominant (PMI dynamiques)



Zone à forte Impulsion de la recherche d'État

## PARTITION GÉOTECHNOLOGIQUE À L'ÉCHELLE DE L'EUROPE



Coeur technologique européen



Périphérie de montage



LYON Concentration de la recherche dans les FMN



Revitalisation en lien avec l'espace rhénan

## PRINCIPALES IMPLANTATIONS



Technopôles principaux



Vallées spécialisées

AEROSPACE, ASTECH, PÉGASE, Bio Valley Régions technopolitaines

Spécialisations Industrielles □ -pharmacie fine □ -optique, Image, média □ -télécommunications





## 2.4. Conclusion

- While the analysis of economic crises, the only ones analysed here, relates above all to the field of economics, geography unquestionably allows us to take into account **the spatial dimensions of these crises and their impacts**, either by effectively mapping certain indicators or by combining them, or by associating economy, society and territories
- As for the notion of crisis in geography classes, it can be an innovative **operational concept and relevant** for the understanding of a world in movement in its temporal, social and spatial (and therefore scalar) dimensions providing we have the right information and we process it properly by having a critical view of what we do

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**Merci de votre attention**

Thank you for your attention