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A saga of battles, bloodshed, grand excesses, revolution, reform, resistance, renaissance and constant reinvention.

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Paris Today

The Latin motto '*fluctuat nec mergitur*' ('tossed but not sunk') was adopted by Paris around 1358. Officialised by Baron Haussmann in 1853, it still appears on the city's coat of arms. But it became emblematic of the city's spirit following the terrorist attacks of 2015. Paris' resilience came to the fore as defiant Parisians determined to uphold the city's cherished quality of life reclaimed cafe terraces and public spaces, and grand-scale plans for municipal infrastructure and greener living surge ahead.

Best on Film

Les 400 Coups (400 Blows; 1959) Moving portrayal of the magic and disillusionment of childhood.

La Haine (Hate; 1995) Mathieu Kassovitz's prescient take on social tensions in modern Paris.

Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain (Amélie; 2001) Endearing story of a winsome young Parisian.

La Môme (La Vie en Rose; 2007) Édith Piaf, from street urchin to international superstar.

Hugo (2011) A tribute to cinema and the legendary Georges Méliès.

Best in Print

Notre Dame de Paris (Victor Hugo; 1831) The classic tale of the hunchback of Notre Dame.

A Moveable Feast (Ernest Hemingway; 1964) Memoirs of the aspiring writer's life in Paris.

Life: A User's Manual (Georges Perec; 1978) Intricately structured novel about an apartment block's inhabitants between 1833 and 1975.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog (Muriel Barbery; 2008) French bestseller unveiling the world behind a Parisian facade.

Parisians: An Adventure History of Paris (Graham Robb; 2010) History tome and unexpected page turner.

Greater Paris

The Grand Paris (Greater Paris) redevelopment project got the green light in 2016 (although the governing authority won't be fully operational until 2020). The scheme connects the outer suburbs beyond the traffic-snarled *bd Périphérique* – the ring road that stands on the site of the former city walls – with the city proper. This is a significant break in the physical and conceptual barrier that the *périphérique* has imposed. But, due to the real estate boom that pushed many middle-class residents and large companies outside the ring road, the steadily growing suburban population (10.5 million, compared to 2.2 million inside the *périphérique*) has created a real need to redefine Paris, on both an administrative and infrastructural scale.

The crux of Grand Paris is a massive decentralised metro expansion, with 68 new stations and six suburban lines, with a target completion date of 2030. The principal goal is to connect the suburbs with one another, instead of relying on a central inner-city hub from which all lines radiate outwards (the current model). Progress is swift: tunnelling, which began in 2015, continues at a rate of some 12.5m per day.

Ultimately, the surrounding suburbs – Vincennes, Neuilly, Issy, St-Denis etc – will lose their autonomy and become part of a much larger Grand Paris governed by the Hôtel de Ville.

Smaller Paris

While Paris is spreading outwards, the city centre itself is – if voted in by parliament – shrinking, administratively at least. One of Mayor Anne Hidalgo's key reforms is to combine the 1er, 2e, 3e and 4e into one *arrondissement*. The move, which would come into operation in 2020, is intended to more evenly distrib-