1.1 Urban populations

	Over 100,000	50,000 to 100,000	20,000 to 50,000
In 1500			
Italy	Venice Naples	Florence Milan Palermo Bologna Verona Rome	Brescia Perugia Cremona Lecce Vicenza Piacenza Ferrara Lucca Taranto Mantua Parma Padua
Low Countries		Ghent Antwerp Brussels Lille Bruges	Ypres Amsterdam Utrecht Valenciennes Arras Douai Leyden Groningen Maastricht
Germany			Nuremberg Lübeck Hamburg Augsburg Magdeburg
Spain/Portugal		Lisbon Granada Valencia Seville	Toledo Barcelona Valladolid Jaen Burgos Cordoba Segovia Salamanca Saragossa
France	Paris	Lyon Rouen	Mulhouse Marseilles
British Isles	London		
In 1600			
Italy	Naples (280,000) Venice (148,000) Palermo (104,000) Rome (100,000) Messina (100,000)	Florence Milan Genoa Bologna Verona	Cremona Lecce Vicenza Piacenza Padua Turin Brescia Ferrara Mantua Parma Perugia Lucca Taranto
Low Countries	Antwerp	Brussels Lille	Amsterdam Utrecht Leyden Groningen Haarlem Maastricht
			Ghent Bruges Douai Valenciennes Arras
Germany		Hamburg Nuremberg Vienna Augsburg	Cologne Bremen Lübeck Breslau Magdeburg
Spain/Portugal	Seville Lisbon	Granada Valencia Madrid	Toledo Barcelona Valladolid Segovia Jaen Salamanca Cordoba Burgos Saragossa
France	Paris	Lyon	Rouen Aix Tours Toulouse Nantes Marseilles Orléans Poitiers Bourges Dijon Bordeaux Rennes Amiens Montpellier Caen Reims
British Isles	London		

formed a consistently influencial element in contemporary politics. Contemporaries and later historians alike have found it difficult to decide how the *bourgeoisie* can be fitted into the conventional class structures of sixteenth-century Europe. Marxist historians have tended to view them as a class apart, hostile alike to the peasantry and to the national monarchies, whose growing power increasingly invaded their local, urban privileges.

In general, however, as Perez Zagorin has concluded, 'it makes little sense to speak of a class struggle between aristocracy and *bourgeoisie* in the period we are discussing'. The great cities often played an important role in the operation of the national monarchies and there was less and less