

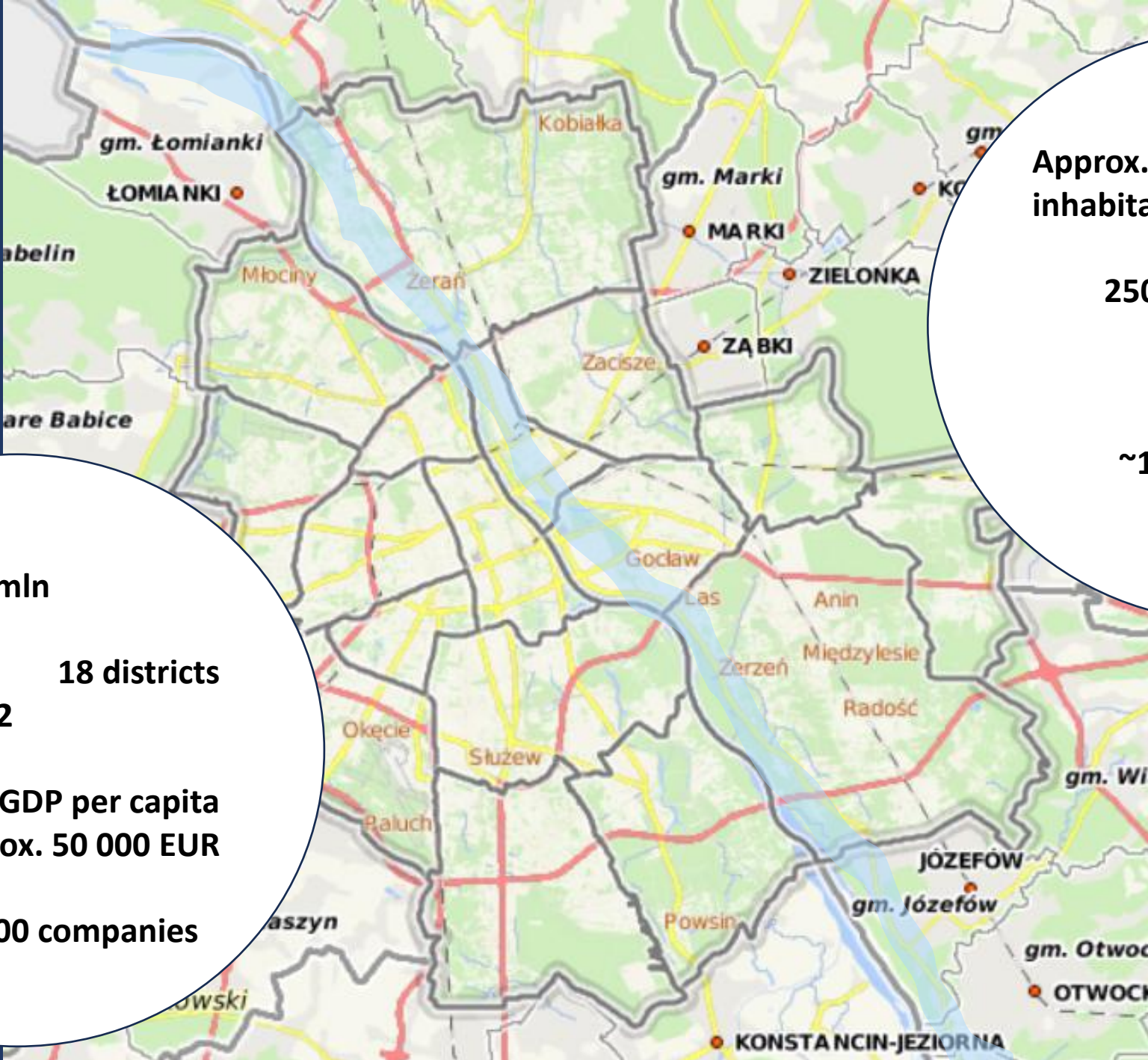
Wrong side of the river? Cultural institutions as agents of social cohesion in Warsaw

SGH

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Context and content

- **Location:**
 - Warsaw, capital city of Poland, divided into two parts
- **Timeline:**
 - Century-long path-dependence and contemporary challenges
- **Cohesion:**
 - Institutional perspective
- **Research:**
 - CLiViE EU funded project (2024-2027) SGH
- **Future:**
 - Role of culture in just society



Warsaw:

Approx. 1,8 mln
inhabitants

18 districts

517 km²

GDP per capita
approx. 50 000 EUR

~ 550 000 companies

„Praga”:

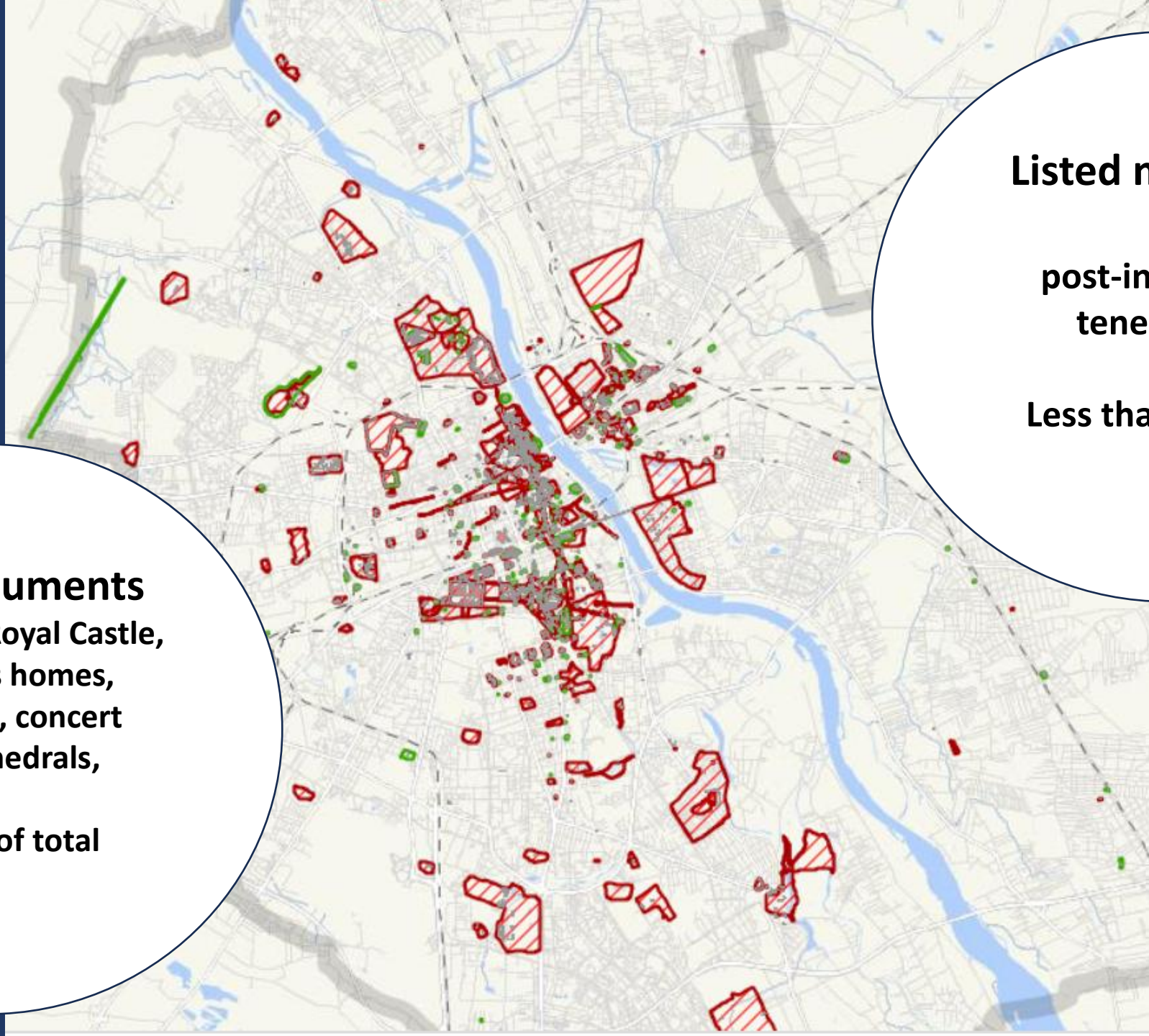
Approx. 0,7 mln
inhabitants

7 districts

250 km²

GDP per capita ?

~145 000 companies



Listed monuments

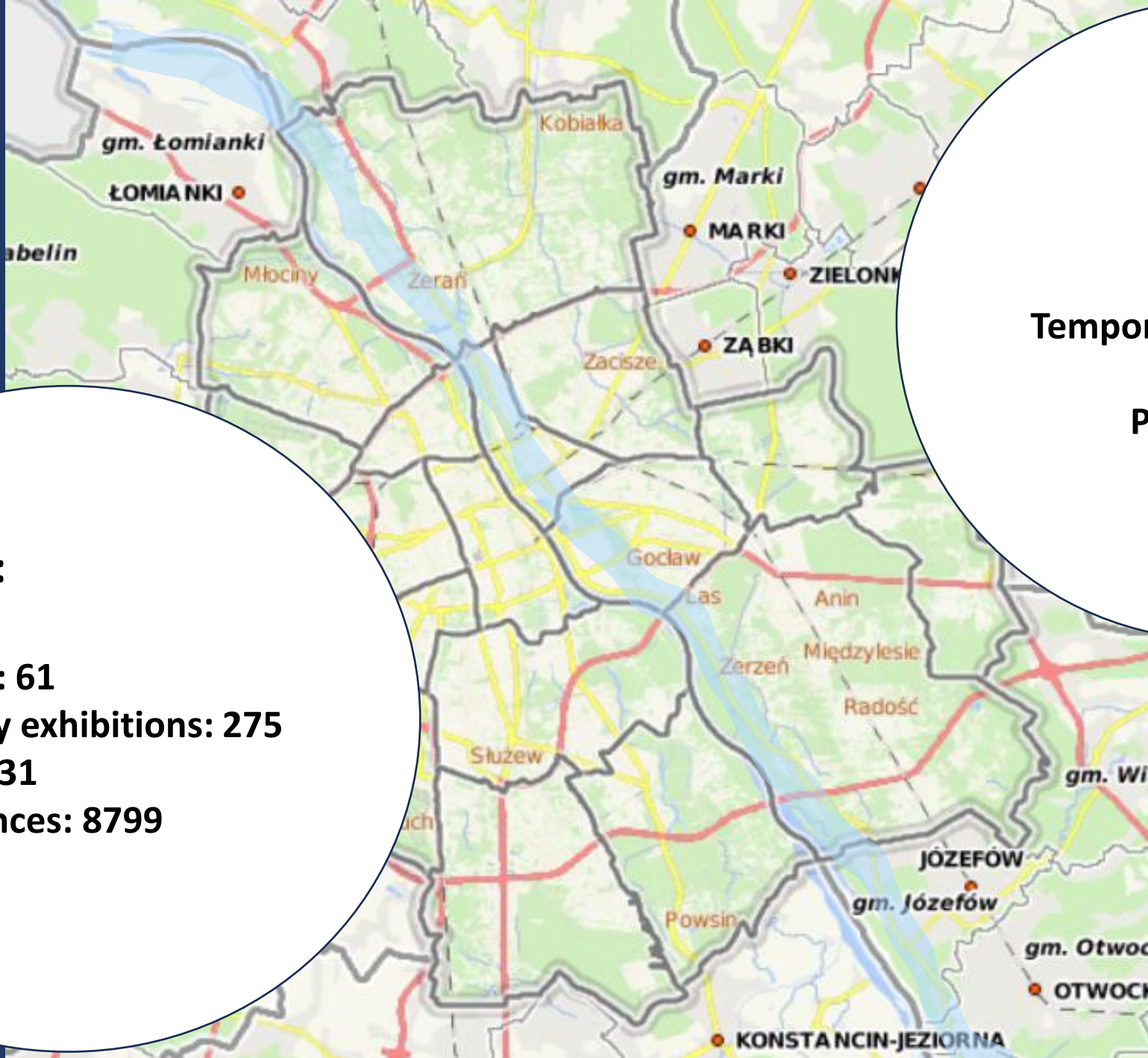
Palaces, Royal Castle,
bourgeois homes,
museums, concert
halls, cathedrals,
churches
Over 2/3 of total
(> 3000)

Listed monuments

Praga:

post-industrial sites,
tenement houses,
churches

Less than 1/3 of total



Warsaw:

Museums: 61
Temporary exhibitions: 275
Theatres: 31
Performances: 8799

Praga:

Museums: 5
Temporary exhibitions: 4
Theatres: 4
Performances: 859

Cohesion and society

- **UN**

- the glue that holds society together (Perspectives on social cohesion, 1992). „A cohesive society is one where people are protected against life risks, trust their neighbors and the institutions of the state and can work towards a better future for themselves and their families.”

- **The Scanlon-Monash Index of Social Cohesion**

- Australia, first launched in 2007. Five criteria: belonging, worth, social justice, participation and acceptance.

- **E. Durkheim**

- social cohesion is maintained through shared values and mutual interdependence (The Division of Labour in Society 1893).

Cohesion and economics

- **Convergence theory:**

- R. Solow and neoclassical economics: growth model (income and rate)
- Industrialization: catching up with the technology, GDP and wages
- Trickle-down effect: deregulation

- **Critics:**

- E. S. Reinert „How Rich Countries Got Rich... and Why Poor Countries Stay Poor” 2007
- D. Acemoglu, J. A. Robinson „Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty” 2012

Paths toward cohesion

- **Public sector interventions**
- **Regulations**
- **Institutions**
 - **Role of culture and education?**

Sinfonia Varsovia

- **Internationally recognized orchestra**
 - 40th anniversary
 - New seat in Praga South (Praga Południe)
 - New vision, new mission
 - Part of the revitalization programme
 - Case studies in CLiViE project: (Not) Out of Place and Mad About Music



<https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/sinfonia-varsovia/o-nas/>

Sinfonia Varsovia

- **Cohesion in practice:**
 - „Music is for everyone”
 - Diversed programme
 - Active participation
 - Educational programmes
 - Spatial design



<https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/sinfonia-varsovia/o-nas/>

Dom Kultury Praga

- **Established in 2002**
 - Four locations in Praga North (Praga Północ)
 - Institutional roots: socialist state and the 1920s and 1930s
 - Local level (district)
 - Part of the revitalization programme
 - Case study in CLiViE project: Sewing Machine



<https://dkpraga.pl/o-nas/>

Dom Kultury Praga

- **Cohesion in practice:**

- „There is no place like Dom Kultury”
- Open door policy
- Diversed programme
- Cooperation with schools



<https://dkpraga.pl/o-nas/>

Findings and further questions

- **Role of institutions**

- Cultural institutions have (limited) potential to transform the identity of the area
- Economic and infrastructural investments were leaders in closing the gap between two parts of the city
- Cultural investments follow and may use the delay rent
- Risk of the „island effect”

- **Case studies from CLiViE**

- Art-based education needs tailoring to bring social effects
- **Role of local identity in local and supra-local networks?**

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