



TERCER EJERCICIO PROMOCIÓN INTERNA

PARTE B

CULTURE IN CRISIS

Have you seen the phrase “Culture in Crisis”?

It’s certainly true that cultural heritage is in danger of destruction, looting, or illicit trafficking in many places around the world. It’s also true that new types of threats to cultural heritage have developed in the last few decades.

Some regions — most recently the heritage-rich areas of the Middle East — have certainly experienced a marked increase in illicit trafficking in the context of ongoing political changes and conflicts.

But usage of the term “crisis” to describe the destruction of cultural heritage around the world is perhaps a misleading one. “Crisis” is a term that indicates a problem that has an urgent, yet temporary quality. However, the loss and destruction of cultural heritage is not new in human history and is not restricted by the duration of political instability in faraway lands. Many regions of the world, including the United States, face a longstanding and ongoing struggle to protect heritage in the face of numerous challenges, regardless of political, social, or economic security. It may be worth considering that the idea of “crisis” deceptively frames the destruction of heritage as a product of temporary instabilities that cease to be a problem once conflicts are over. In reality, conditions of “crisis” only really provide new opportunities for heritage destruction processes that were already happening and will continue happening after the “crisis” is over.

In wartime, destruction of heritage sites can be a result of collateral damage, for example, when a bomb targeting one location inadvertently hits another; or it can be the result of intentional damage, aimed to demoralize and insult the values and religious and cultural symbols of an enemy. It is often difficult to distinguish between collateral and intentional damage, and perpetrators may claim deliberate destruction was an accident in an attempt to avoid prosecution.

The long history of the destruction of heritage shows us that the elimination of culture has always been viewed as a powerful tool of domination and as a key strategy for eliminating



the value humans accord to their lives. In recent years, the destruction of heritage — whether through war, commercial exploitation, and/or looting — has been defined by UNESCO as a form of cultural cleansing. In taking human lives, oppressors erase the existence of individual people: but in destroying culture, the memory and identity of entire peoples are erased. It is not surprising to note, therefore, that the destruction of heritage is often a precursor to genocide. This is because in denying people their past, perpetrators also deny them a future.

Nevertheless, wartime destruction of heritage is only a small fraction of the overall loss of cultural heritage around the world. Much more significant and long-lasting is destruction due to urban development, mineral and resource extraction, climate change, tourism, and even natural disasters.

Although many heritage sites are preserved in order to encourage tourist revenue, tourism can also cause massive destruction because of the large numbers of people it can attract and also because transforming a site into a tourist-friendly locale often profoundly transforms its meaning for local people, who may find their connections to a place have been erased.

Looting

If destruction of heritage during wartime is similar to a relatively sudden death, looting is like a cancer that slowly erodes it. Looting is the theft of heritage items for sale on the antiquities market, most often to wealthy private buyers in the United States and Europe. As art history professor Nathan Elkins has shown, the consequences of purchasing even small items like coins can be devastating for our knowledge about the past. Once an object is removed from its original environment, it instantly loses much of its ability to convey information about how people once lived.

Archaeologists call the environment in which an object is found, its context. Context is the object and its relationship to all the other objects and material in an archaeological site. The relationships between these objects is what enables archaeologists to recreate the past.



1. What phrase is commonly used to describe the situation facing cultural heritage in various regions around the world?
 - A. "Destruction in History".
 - B. "Cultural Erosion".
 - C. "Cultural in Crisis".
 - D. "Heritage Dilemma".

2. Threats to cultural heritage ...
 - A. Have evolved through time.
 - B. Prevent illicit trafficking.
 - C. Only occur in developing countries.
 - D. Have been curbed in the last decades.

3. What specific region has experienced increased illicit trafficking in cultural heritage due to ongoing political changes and conflicts?
 - A. South America.
 - B. Sub-Saharan Africa.
 - C. Southeast Asia.
 - D. The Middle East.

4. Why does the speaker argue that the term "crisis" might be inaccurate when discussing the destruction of cultural heritage?
 - A. It suggests that the destruction is temporary and not long-lasting.
 - B. It indicates that heritage destruction only occurs during political instability.
 - C. It implies that heritage loss only happens in certain regions of the world.
 - D. It considers the ongoing struggles faced by various regions to protect their heritage.

5. Why is the US mentioned in the text?
 - A. It has been accused of perpetrating looting.
 - B. It has been thriving to protect its cultural heritage.
 - C. It has been feeding its museums thanks to local political instability.
 - D. It has eventually halted their longstanding struggle to protect heritage.



6. According to the text, the term crisis is used _____ when referring to destruction of heritage.
- Decently.
 - Decisively.
 - Deceptively.
 - Deceased.
7. In what ways can the destruction of heritage sites occur during wartime?
- Only as a result of intentional damage.
 - Solely as collateral damage from intentional attacks.
 - Both as a result of accidental collateral damage and intentional destruction.
 - Exclusively as a result of bombs targeting specific locations.
8. What does the speaker suggest is the impact of destroying cultural heritage on a larger scale beyond wartime?
- Erasing the memory and identity of entire peoples.
 - Erasing the existence of individual people.
 - Eliminating cultural ties but preserving identity.
 - Providing future development.
9. According to the text, what could be an example of collateral damage?
- When a bomb hits the concrete location it aimed at.
 - When a bomb aimed at a location hits another one.
 - When a perpetrator tries to hide a deliberate destruction
 - When a prosecutor chases a perpetrator for the destruction of heritage sites.
10. According to UNESCO, how is the destruction of heritage defined in recent years?
- As a form of historical preservation.
 - As a form of cultural enrichment.
 - As a form of cultural cleansing.
 - As a form of political representation.



11. What are some of the most significant causes of destruction to cultural heritage apart from wartime?
- A. Religious changes.
 - B. Natural disasters, climate change, and mineral extraction.
 - C. Political discrepancies.
 - D. Restoration of heritage sites.
12. In what way does the destruction of cultural heritage differ during wartime and looting?
- A. Wartime destruction is more like a natural disaster.
 - B. Looting is deliberate, while wartime destruction can be unintentional.
 - C. Both forms of destruction have the same underlying intentions.
 - D. Wartime destruction is slow, while looting is quick and severe.
13. Which of the following statements is false:
- A. Cultural heritage sites are protected.
 - B. Cultural heritage sites are a source of income for residents.
 - C. The more visitors a cultural heritage site has the more preserved it is.
 - D. Tourism can have both an impact on local inhabitants and cultural heritage sites.
14. What impact does tourism often have on heritage sites?
- A. Transformation into tourist-friendly locations, erasing local connections.
 - B. Preservation of the site's historical significance.
 - C. Enhancement of local community ties to the heritage site.
 - D. Minimal change to the site's original meaning for local people.
15. What is likened to a "cancer" that slowly erodes cultural heritage?
- A. Urban development.
 - B. War.
 - C. Looting.
 - D. Climate change.



16. What is the primary consequence of looting on cultural heritage, according to the text?
- A. Loss of financial value.
 - B. Erosion of historical significance.
 - C. Devaluation of artifacts.
 - D. Reduction in the ability to understand the past.
17. How does the removal of an object from its original environment impact its significance, according to the text?
- A. It loses its monetary value.
 - B. It gains historical significance.
 - C. It retains its original context.
 - D. It loses its ability to provide information about the past.
18. Who is Nathan Elkins?
- A. An archaeologist.
 - B. An art history professor.
 - C. A looter.
 - D. An art collector.
19. What does the term "context" refer to in the field of archaeology?
- A. The historical significance of an object.
 - B. The object's relationship to other artifacts in an archaeological site.
 - C. The location where an artifact was initially found.
 - D. The financial value of an artifact.
20. Why is context so relevant in archaeology?
- A. It provides archaeologists information about how relevant an artifact is.
 - B. It provides archaeologists background of an artifact regarding time and place.
 - C. It provides archaeologists a way to determine how much an artifact is worth.
 - D. It provides archaeologists prestige and wealth.