

Spring 2-8-2017

Tomb Raiders: Who's to Blame?

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Recommended Citation

Dixon, Susan PhD; Gallego, Karen; Holochwost, Catherine PhD; Moriuchi, Mey-Yen PhD; and Pomales, Aurora, "Tomb Raiders: Who's to Blame?" (2017). *Explorer Café*. 53.

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لحظة تفجير معبد (بعلمين) الوثني في مدينة تدمر



Tomb Raiders: Who's to Blame?



Dr. Dixon, Dr. Holochwost, Dr. Moriuchi

Karen Gallego and Aurora Pomaes

2/8/17

Explorer Café



What is cultural heritage?

- An expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions, and values.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- Tangible cultural heritage
 - Movable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, and so on)
 - Underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins and cities)
- Intangible cultural heritage: oral traditions, performing arts, rituals
- Natural heritage: natural sites with cultural aspects such as cultural landscapes, physical, biological or geological formations

What are Conflict Antiquities?

- Illicit antiquities trading in economic crisis, organized crime, and political violence.

What is Cultural Genocide?

- The systematic eradication and destruction of a community or culture's traditions, values, objects, artworks, and structures.

Historical Case Studies

Egyptian Tombs



Parthenon (Elgin) Marbles





Grave robbing in Egypt is as old as the pharaohs. The tomb of Ramses V and Ramses VI in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor was plundered about 3,000 years ago.

Egyptian Tomb Robbing Continues Today

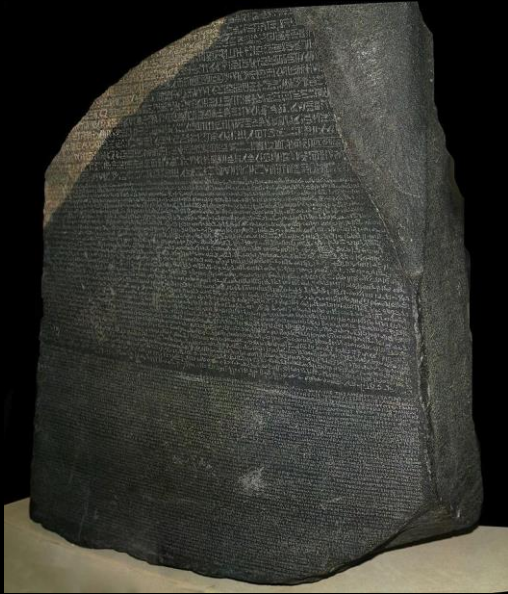


Seized by federal agents, an Egyptian coffin sits in a secret warehouse in New York.



Nile boatmen that once accompanied an Egyptian in his afterlife were looted from a grave around 2009.

Prized Egyptian Artifacts Egypt Wants Back



The Rosetta Stone, 196 B.C., British Museum, London



Bust of Nefertiti, 1345 B.C., Neues Museum, Berlin

The Parthenon Marbles: Lord Elgin, British Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, took about half of the Parthenon sculptures to England in the 1800s when Greece was under Ottoman rule. Greece wants them back. Should the Parthenon Marbles be returned?



The British Museum, London



The Acropolis Museum, Athens

The British Side:

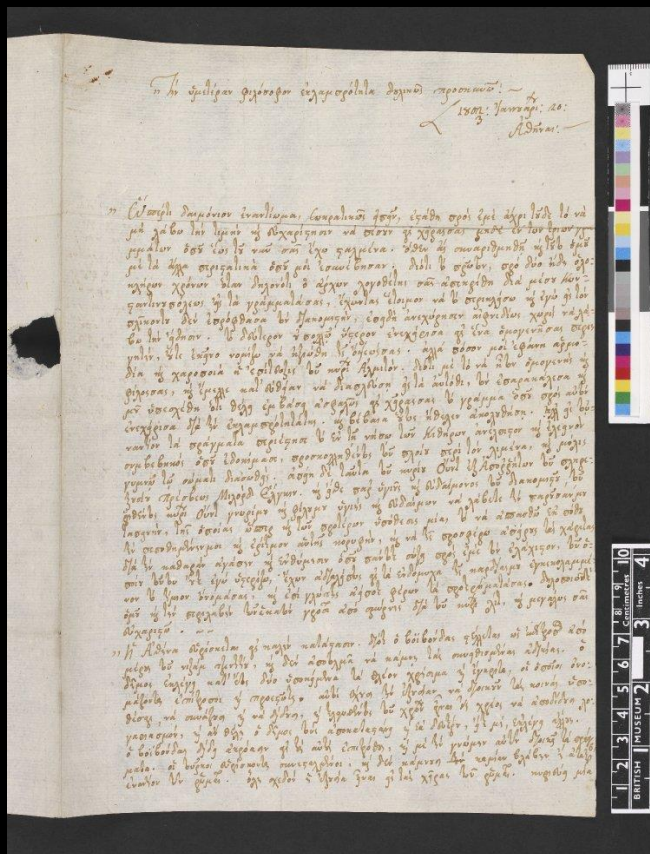
“The Museum is a unique resource for the world: the breadth and depth of its collection allows the world’s public to re-examine cultural identities and explore the connections between them.” - British Museum, London



Lord Elgin, the 7th Earl of Bruce



Parthenon frieze



The firman, signed by the Ottoman Emperor, allowing Lord Elgin to . . . well, we don't know what it allowed since we don't have the original

The Greek Side: “The return of the Parthenon Marbles is a fair request of all the Greeks. It is a request of all the people, regardless of nationality, who visualize the reunification of a mutilated monument belonging to the world’s cultural heritage.” -Prime Minister Karamanlis



Iraq, 2003



Modern-day Iraq occupies Mesopotamia,
the cradle of civilization (3000 BCE)



US-led coalition invaded
Iraq in spring 2003 to
topple government of
Sadam Hussein

1. Coalition forces use ancient sites as temporary bases during invasion

Here: Ur and its Ziggurat

Also: Babylon



2. Iraq's National Museum in Baghdad looted from April 8-13, 2003

Conflicting Stories about the looters:

Iraqi soldiers?
petty thieves?



3138 works stolen; 3037 recovered -- from above ground
10,686 works stolen; 2307 recovered -- from underground
Therefore 8500 works missing (as of 2009)



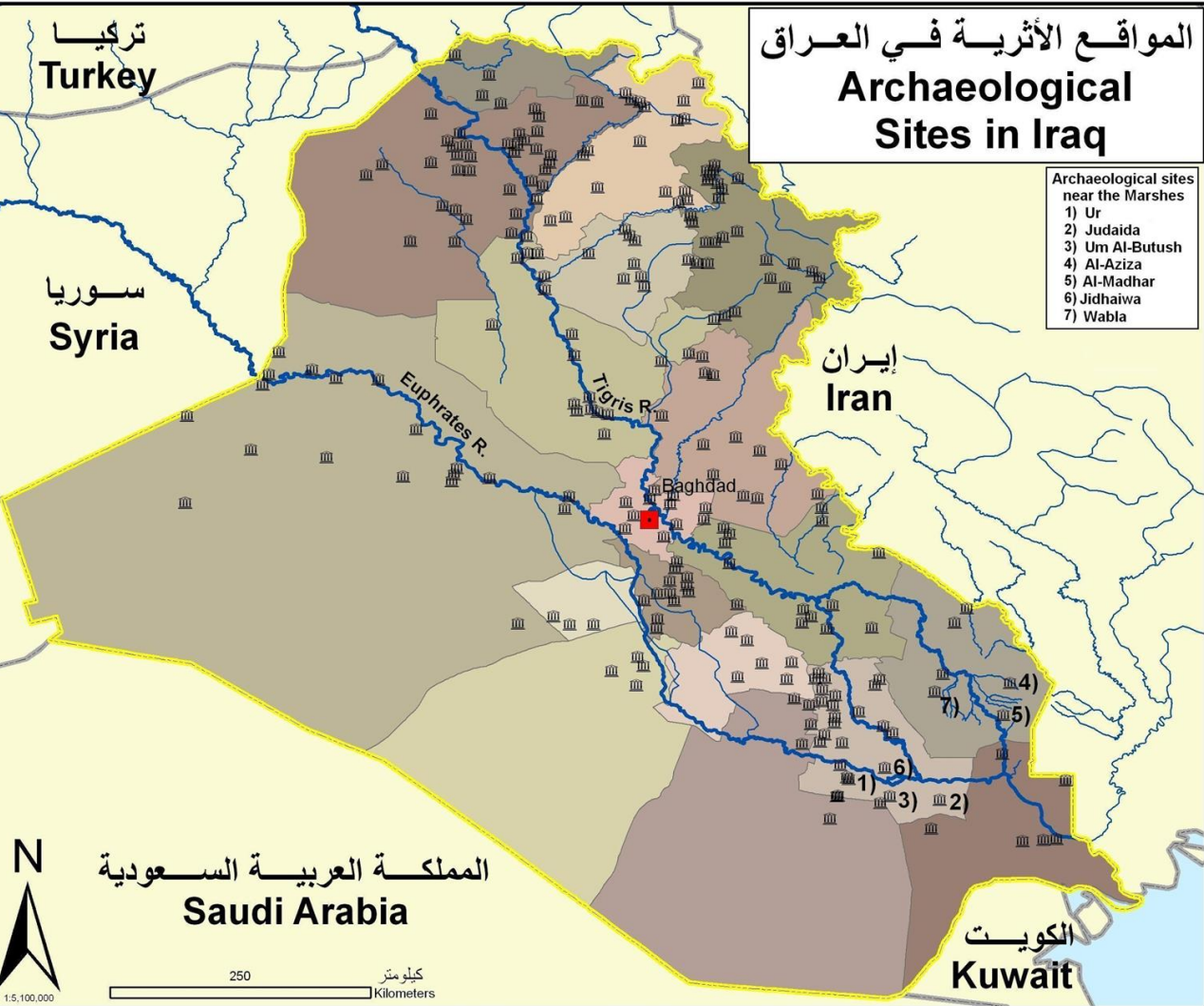


Sumerian: Bull-headed
Lyre



Sumerian: Warka
Vase

Damage done



3. Looting of unsupervised archaeological sites in Southern Iraq (land of Shi'ite tribes)

From 2003 to 2009
 (and beyond?)

Umma, before 2003 (to left),
and after 2003 (below)



- Who was looting? **Southern Iraqis**
- Why loot? **Antiquities markets**
- What circumstances allowed for the looting?
Ways of making a living destroyed by invasion



- Is it right or wrong?

Discussion question:

- When (if ever) is the looting of a country's antiquities and artifacts justified?

ISIS

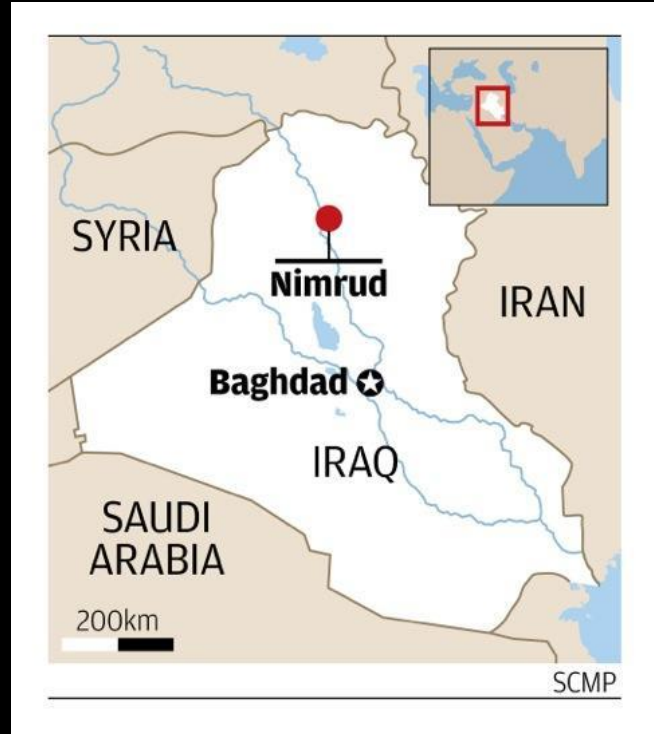
“The deliberate destruction of cultural heritage is a war crime — it is used as a tactic of war, in a strategy of cultural cleansing that calls on us to review and renew the means by which we wish to respond and to defeat violent extremism.”- Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO



Destruction of Assyrian sculptures in the antiquities museum in Mosul



Assyrian civilization





<http://www.metmuseum.org/metmedia/video/collections/ancient-near-eastern-art/northwest-palace-nimrud>

Relief from the Palace of Ashurnasirpal II, Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Lamassu, Metropolitan
Museum of Art, New York.



Lamassu, Oriental Institute at the University
of Chicago.



ISIS attack on Nimrud and Assyrian panel reliefs, April 2015

ISIS with Nergal Gate Lamassu in 2015



Nimrud: Feb. 26, 2015



Nimrud: March 7, 2015



Nimrud: April 1, 2015



Nimrud: April 17, 2015

Monumental arch



Temple of Bel



Temple of Baalshamin



Tetrapylon

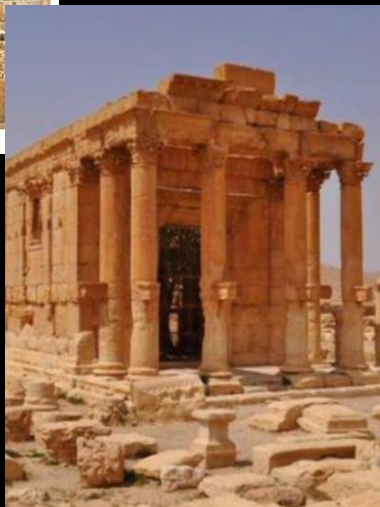


Theatre



Detail of eaves

Destruction of ancient Roman temples in Palmyra (now Syria)



What is the rationale?

- “Whenever we take control of a piece of land, we remove the symbols of polytheism and spread monotheism in it,”

-- ISIS representative, online video distributed in April, 2015

“Their primary target is what they refer to as the ‘near enemy,’ being anyone other than Salafist Sunni Muslims. After that they target pre-Islamic Heritage.”

-- Michael Danti, professor of archaeology at Boston University and director of the Syrian Heritage Initiative at the American Schools of Oriental Research

Sunni vs. Shia

- Roughly 85% of the world's Muslims are Sunni
- According to a Pew Research poll, roughly 40% of Sunni Muslims don't even believe that Shiites are "real" Muslims

- ISIS issues permits for looting
- Generates money for their terrorist activities
- Western collectors buy them



Discussion questions:

- Is there any justification for destroying antiquities if they conflict with your beliefs?
- Should soldiers risk their lives to protect cultural heritage?

Dakota Access Pipeline



- \$3.8 Billion dollar fracked-oil pipeline
- Owned by Texas based corporation *Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.*
- Stretches from Bakken shale fields of North Dakota to Peoria, Illinois
- Brought thousands of construction jobs to the state
- Millions of dollars in investment in heavy equipment
- Corporate sponsors include Wells Fargo, Sunoco, Citi Bank



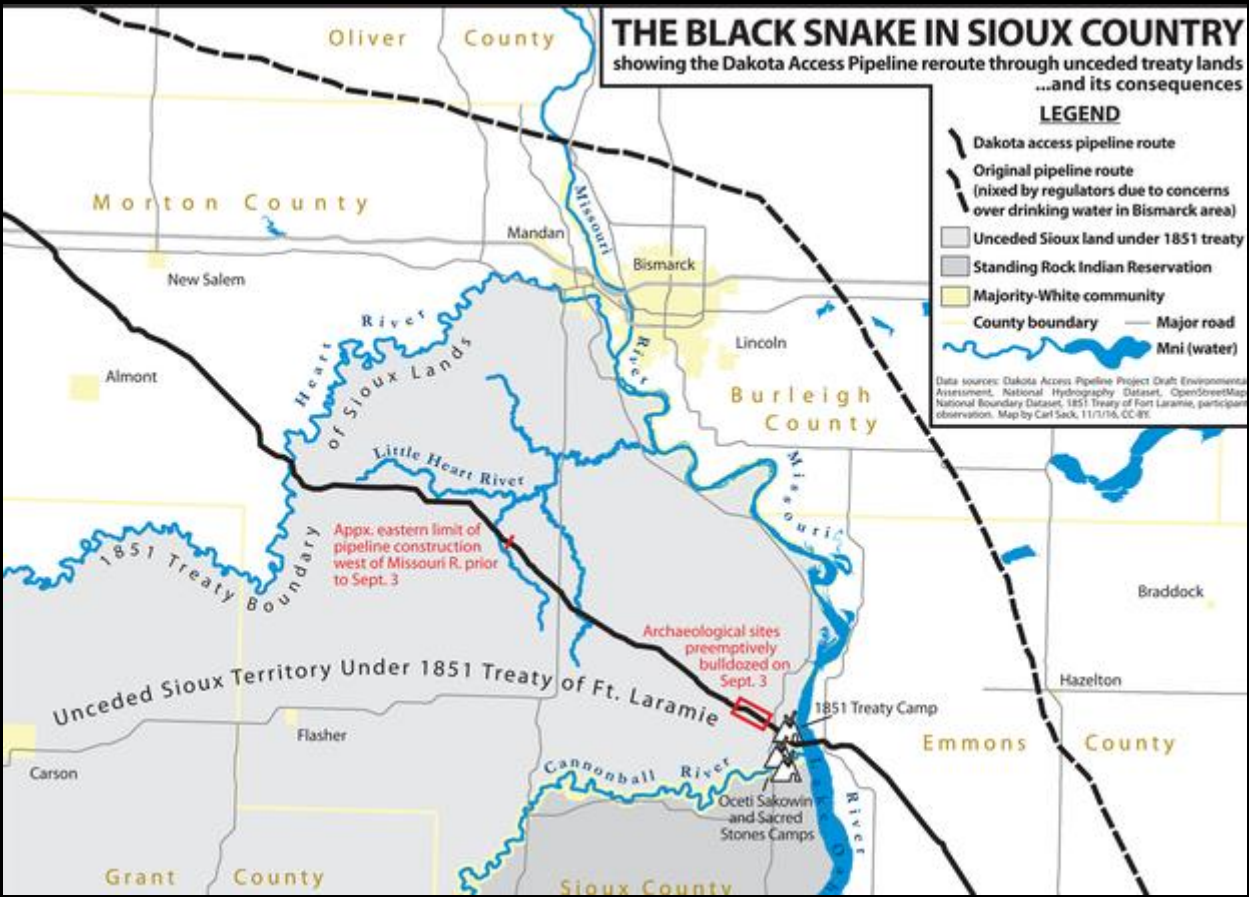
THE BLACK SNAKE IN SIOUX COUNTRY

showing the Dakota Access Pipeline reroute through unceded treaty lands ...and its consequences

LEGEND

- Dakota access pipeline route
- Original pipeline route (nixed by regulators due to concerns over drinking water in Bismarck area)
- Unceded Sioux land under 1851 treaty
- Standing Rock Indian Reservation
- Majority-White community
- County boundary
- Major road
- Mni (water)

Data sources: Dakota Access Pipeline Project Draft Environmental Assessment, National Hydrography Dataset, OpenStreetMap, National Boundary Dataset, 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie, participant observation. Map by Carl Sack, 11/17/16, CC-BY





- Proposed route includes areas of cultural, spiritual, and environmental significance. (ex. historic burial grounds, village grounds, and Sundance sites)
- Goes through an important location for the Mandan origin story (sacred site).



- Violates the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, United Nations Declaration of Universal Human Rights, and Fort Laramie Treaties of 1851 and 1868.



“It is crucial that people recognize that Standing Rock is part of an ongoing struggle against colonial violence. #NoDAPL is a front of struggle in a long-erased war against Native peoples — a war that has been active since first contact, and waged without interruption”.

“We die, and have died, for the sake of expansion and white wealth, and for the maintenance of both.”

—Kelly Hayes

Sacred Stone Camp

The camp dedicated to the preservation of Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota cultural traditions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuZcx2zEo4k>

In what ways is the destruction of sacred sites, burial grounds, and artifacts a form of genocide?

Do we have an ethical obligation to act? What can we do?

- Follow Sam Hardy's Conflict Antiquities blog and keep abreast of the latest news. Tweets by [@conflictantiq](https://twitter.com/conflictantiq) / <https://www.facebook.com/ConflictAntiquities/>
- Get involved with the Penn Cultural Heritage Center- <http://www.pennchc.org/page/blog>
- Connect with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs- @HeritageAtState
- If you have information about the illicit trade of cultural property or art, call the HSI Tip Line, 1-866-DHS-2-ICE or [report tips online](#) at the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement website.
- To learn how to help the Standing Rock tribe visit <http://www.ocetisakowincamp.org/getinvolved>
- Join the Philadelphia Solidarity group at <https://www.facebook.com/phillyNoDAPLsolidarity/>

For more information, visit our Libguide at

<http://guides.lacalle.edu/c.php?g=6184128;p=4252122>