Marie-Theres Albert
Culture, Heritage and Identity

Series of lectures on Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century - Opportunities and Challenges

Institute Heritage Studies Berlin, March 2020, Beijing Institute of Technology, China, September 2016, International Cultural Centre, Krakow, Poland, May 2010
**Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972**

Focused on the Recognition of inherited Treasures from manifold Peoples of the World

Reflects the need to safeguard Cultural Diversity

**1972**

*Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*

*entry into force 17 Dec. 1975*

First ratifying countries:
- USA (Dec. 1973)
- Egypt (Feb. 1974)
- Iraq (Mar. 1974)
- Bulgaria (Mar. 1974)

First instrument combining the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage

Most popular and most successful Programme of UNESCO
Further Conventions

1954
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention)

1970
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

1972
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

2005
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

2001
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

2003
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNESCO Conventions for the Protection of Culture and Heritage
"The best of the world is the diversity of the contained universes and the conservation of this diversity is the challenge of the future..." (Eduardo Galeano)
“No doubt thousands of statues will still remain to be unearthed at this archaeological site, which was not discovered until 1974. Quin Shihuang (d. 210 B.C.), the first unifier of China is buried, surrounded by the famous terracotta warriors, at the centre of a complex designed to mirror the urban plan off the capital, Xianyang. The small figures are all different; with their horses, chariots and weapons, they are all masterpieces of realism and also of great historical interest.”

“The cultural landscape and archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley represent the particular artistic and religious developments from the 1st to the 13th centuries in ancient Bakhtria, integrating various cultural influences into the Gandhara school of Buddhist art. The area contains numerous Buddhist monastic ensembles and sanctuaries, as well as fortified settlements from the Islamic period. The site is also testimony to the tragic destruction of the two standing Buddha statues by the Taliban in March 2001, which shook the world.”

(www.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/doc/mainf3.htm)
Warsaw was destroyed at least twice by German Nazi troops. The first time: late in 1939, in the fascist attack on the country; then again during the Warsaw Uprising between October 1944 and January 1945.

Approximately 80% of the city had been destroyed. Around 700,000 citizens lost their lives.
Warsaw reconstructed

Historic centre of Warsaw

Category (ii), (vi)
listed since 1980

After the war, a five-year reconstruction campaign by its citizens resulted in today’s meticulous restoration of the Old Town, with its churches, palaces and market-place. It is an outstanding example of a near-total reconstruction of a span of history covering the 13th to the 20th century.

Source: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/30
Dresden in ruins

In 1945, Dresden was heavily bombed by the Allied Powers, and a large part of the Old Town was destroyed.
The Reconstruction of Dresden

After the war, as part of the German Democratic Republic, the destroyed areas were subject to restoration and reconstruction.

In 2004, the Dresden Elbe Valley was listed under criteria (ii), (iii), (iv), (v).

The nomination includes the Frauenkirche, the reconstruction was completed in 2006.

The Dresden Elb Valley was delisted in 2009.

Source: http://whc.unesco.org/archive/advisory_body_evaluation/1156.pdf
Current view on the historic city centre of Dresden

Source: Grüne Liga, Netzwerk Ökologischer Bewegungen, http://www.welterbe-erhalten.de/pict/foto/09.jpg, DOA 04.02.08
Dresden Elb Valley

View of the Cultural Landscape Dresden and justification for its inscription

Construction site of the Waldschloesschen Bridge in the Dresden Elbe Valley, Germany

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/onkel_thoms/6986070628/
Between 1910 and 1970, official policy in Australia allowed to take away half-blood Aborigine children from their families and to incarcerate them ‘for their own good’ in training schools. They were educated as servants for white families.

Source: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0252444/#comment
Herero and Namaqua Genocide in South-West Africa

Herero in chains during the 1904 rebellion in the German colony South-West Africa, before the Herero Genocide (1904-07). After WW1 the territory was ruled by South Africa. Namibia, as it is called today, became independent in 1990.

The Destruction of Cultural Identities Aims at Establishing New Systems

Surviving Herero (1907)

World Map of Colonies at the End of the Second World War in 1945.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonialism
The Berlin City Palace was situated in central Berlin. It was originally built in 1443 as a winter residence for the rulers of Brandenburg, then Prussia and finally it became the seat of the German Emperors. After the First World War, it was converted into a museum and its interior was destroyed during the Second World War. The Palace was completely demolished on the 7.9.1950.
In 1950, the communists in East Germany demolished the City Palace as a symbol of “Prussian militarism”. In its stead, they erected the Palace of the Republic, a modern socialist realist building.

After the German reunification, the Palace was found to be contaminated by asbestos. Despite local opposition, in 2003, the German parliament decided to demolish the Palace of the Republic and reconstruct the City Palace.
The Palace of the Republic destroyed

Virtual reconstruction of the Berlin City Palace

Current view on the site of the former Palace of the Republic, Berlin (2015)
Destroyed Heritage

The destroyed Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra, Iraq

Mosque before bombing in 2006

Mosque after bombing in 2006

The destroyed Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo, Syria

Mosque in 2009

Destroyed Mosque in 2016
Images


8.1) Reconstructed Old Town of Warsaw, https://www.flickr.com/photos/superman_ha_muerto/1639672507/, Raul Luna, (CC BY-NC 2.0)


10.1) Rebuilt Frauenkirche, https://www.flickr.com/photos/132646954@N02/24647846233/, dronepicr, (CC BY 2.0)


Images

13.1) & 13.2) Stills from the movie „Long walk home“ https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0252444/mediaindex (non commercial use)


