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**On Conflict
— Insights from Heritage Studies —**

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Structure of Presentation

1. Heritage Studies
2. Conflicts underlying International Heritage Legislation (IHL)
3. Conflicts resulting from IHL
4. Conflict Research and Heritage Studies

1. Heritage Studies

- It is a research platform, constructed through other disciplines
- “Heritage” signifies people’s attachment and will to preserve and transmit
- Heritage Studies developed from the research needs triggered by the UNESCO international conventions for culture and heritage



Some UNESCO International Normative Tools for Heritage Protection

1. Heritage Studies

- The World Heritage Convention as a main catalyst for the establishment of (World) Heritage Studies



Asante Traditional Buildings, Ghana

Source:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/133074>



Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

Source: http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/thumbs/site_0403_0001-750-0-20151105162509.jpg

Examples of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

- UNESCO is the most significant organization setting standards for heritage protection
- Almost all countries of the world are Member States of UNESCO
- An overwhelming number have ratified the World Heritage Convention (193 of 196 Member States)



Logo of UNESCO

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.1 Armed Conflict



Destruction of Warsaw, Poland, 1944

Source:

<http://www.ajaloomuuseum.ee/huvasticharlie/index.php?id=10789>



Destruction of Dubrovnik, Croatia, 1991

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bombardment_of_Dubrovnik_Croatia_by_Yugoslav_Peoples_Army_on_6_December_1991.jpg

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.1 Armed Conflict



Destruction of Timbuktu, Mali, 2012

Source:

https://www.islamicpostonline.com/opinion/2012/08/01/destruction_timbuktu_sufi_shrines_exposes_wahhabi_agenda/



Destruction of Palmyra, Syria, 2015

Source:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34051870>

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.1 Armed Conflict

Relevant Legislation:

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

“Damage to the cultural property of any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world.”

(1954 Hague Convention, Preamble)

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

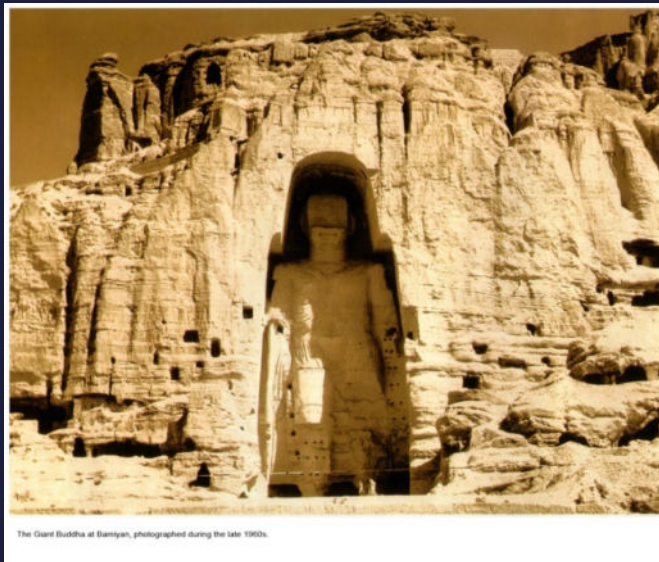
2.1 Armed Conflict

Relevant Legislation:

- 1954 - Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954 Hague Convention)
- 1999 - Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
- 2003 - Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.1 Armed Conflict



The Giant Buddha at Bamiyan, photographed during the late 1990s.



The bombing of the giant Buddha statues, Bamiyan Valley, Afghanistan, 2001

Source:

<https://www.cemml.colostate.edu/cultural/09476/afgh05-022.html>

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhas_of_Bamiyan#/media/File:Destruction_of_Buddhas_March_21_2001.jpg

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.1 Armed Conflict

“...cultural heritage is an important component of the cultural identities of communities, groups and individuals, and of social cohesion, so that its intentional destruction may have adverse consequences on human dignity and human rights”

Preamble
Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural
Heritage

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.2 Looting and Illicit Trade



Looted objects stored in a church by the Nazi, 1945

Source:

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/holocaust/images/204899-1.jpg>



National Museum in Baghdad, Iraq, after looting, 2003

Source:

<https://ancientart.as.ua.edu/category/looting/>

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.2 Looting and Illicit Trade

Relevant Legislation:

- 1954 - First Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
- 1970 - Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970 Paris Convention)
- 2001 - Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.3 Modernization Processes



Forest dieback as result of industrialization

Source:

http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/03277/DEFORESTATION_3277528b.jpg



High-rise buildings replacing historical ones

Source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brusselization#/media/File:20050918BruxellisationA.jpg>

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.3 Modernization Processes

Relevant Legislation:

- 1972 - Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)

“Noting that the cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions ...”

Preamble
World Heritage Convention

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.3 Modernization Processes

Relevant Legislation:

- 1972 - Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)
- 2003 - Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Intangible Heritage Convention)
- 2005 - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Cultural Diversity Convention)

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

2.3 Modernization Processes

“Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures. For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures. ”

Article 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity
2001 UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

2. Conflicts underlying IHL

- Conflict has shaped international heritage legislation
- UNESCO is an intergovernmental organization, composed of representatives of its Member States
- International heritage conventions of UNESCO are the result of political negotiations and consensus
- International conventions must be incorporated into national legislation, and implemented locally

3. Conflicts resulting from IHL

3.1 Conservation and Development

- Conflicts emerge between conservation regulations imposed by UNESCO and local visions of socio-economic development
- There is need to reconcile conservation requirements with development needs; this is especially pressing in Africa
- Many fear that conservation would block economic development and subsistence activities

3. Conflicts resulting from IHL

3.1 Conservation and Development

- The case of the nomination of the Barotse Floodplains in Zambia for the World Heritage List illustrates the challenges (as narrated by Kagosi Mwamulowe)



Barotse Floodplains, Zambia

Source: <https://alextdm.wordpress.com/2014/09/02/zambie-le-pays-de-la-verdure/>

3. Conflicts resulting from IHL

3.2 Displacement and Relocation

- Tourism is a double-edged sword; it may bring benefits, but has also led to the displacement of local communities
- Sometimes communities are removed from their ancestral lands so as to “preserve” the lands

3. Conflicts resulting from IHL

3.2 Displacement and Relocation

- The case of the inscription of the Tsodilo Hills in Botswana on the World Heritage List illustrates the challenges (as narrated by Webber Ndoro and Folarin Shyllon)



Tsodilo Hills, Botswana

Source: <https://alextdm.wordpress.com/2014/09/02/zambie-le-pays-de-la-verdure/>

3. Conflicts resulting from IHL

3.3 Commodification

- Through commodification heritage is attributed monetary value; it turns from a source of identity, community and social cohesion into an economic good
- Sites are nominated against the will of local communities, to reap financial gain from tourism
- Intangible heritage is staged for tourists and musealized

3. Conflicts resulting from IHL

3.3 Commodification

- The case of the Maasai from Kenya has been well documented by scholarship and offers useful insights into the impacts of commodification



Maasai of Kenya ... with tourists

Source: <https://tourismadventuresvsthemaasai.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/photo-3.jpg/>

4. Conflict Research and Heritage Studies

What can Heritage Studies contribute to conflict-related research?

- Helps us understand the nature of conflicts existing in the field of culture through case studies, critical-theoretical and methodological approaches, and conflict-mediation strategies
- Allows us to gain a better understanding of international normative tools, their potential and consequences at the local level
- Provides illustrations of the potential of culture for sustainable development and contributes to a better understanding of the place of culture in the SDGs

Thank you for your attention!