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The Rights of Solidarity
— Hopes, Challenges and Potential —

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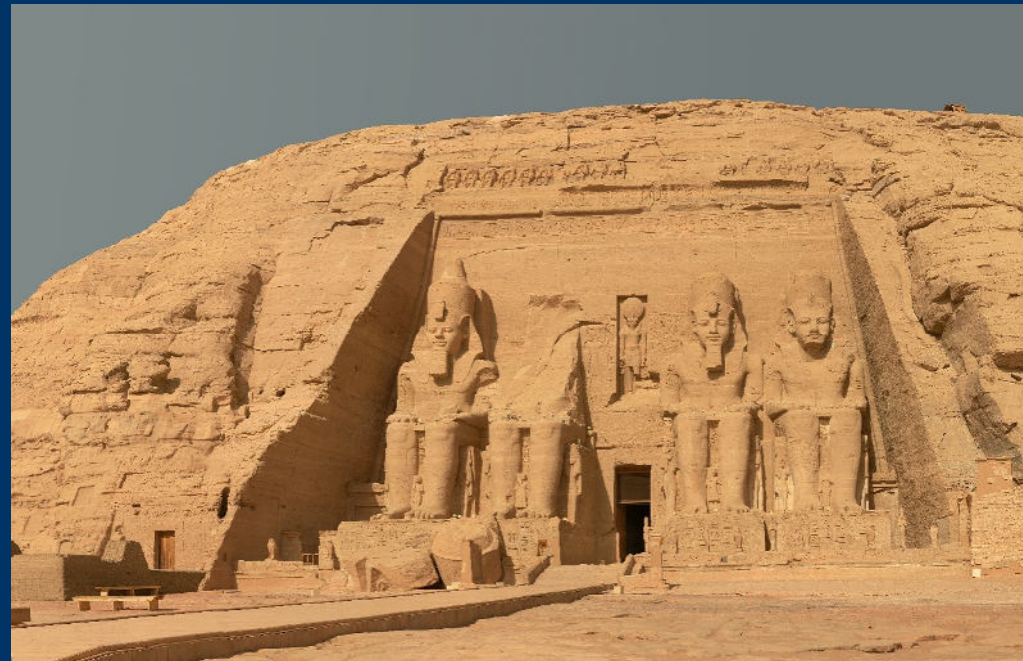
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The Nubian Monuments



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1. Solidarity and the Common Heritage of Humanity

Aswan High Dam and Lake Nasser



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https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assuan-Staudamm#/media/File:AswanHighDam_Egypt.jpg



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Message from the Director General of UNESCO

„An agonizing dilemma therefore faces the authorities charged with developing the Nile Valley: how are they to choose between the needs and welfare of their people and the treasures which belong not only to their country but to humanity as a whole?“

Vittorino Veronese

1. Solidarity and the Common Heritage of Humanity

Relocating the Temples



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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Simbel_temples#/media/File:Abusimbel.jpg



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<http://www.seos-project.eu/modules/heritage-conservation/heritage-conservation-c02-p01.html>

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Human Rights Instruments

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

- Solidarity rights emerged in the 1970s as result of a proposal by the General Conference of UNESCO to identify new human rights

Three Categories of Human Rights

1. Negative Rights (civil and political)
2. Positive rights (economic, social and cultural)
3. Solidarity rights (development, peace and security, healthy environment, communication, common heritage of humanity)

“... these rights reflect a certain conception of community life, they can only be implemented by the combined efforts of everyone: individuals, states and other bodies, as well as public and private institutions”

Karel Vasak

The Common Heritage of Humanity

- It is a legal concept that refers to international spaces and resources such as the high seas or the sky
- It is used in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982)



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“...the realization of a just and equitable international economic order which takes into account the interest and needs of mankind as a whole ...”
UNCLOS, Preamble

The Common Heritage of Humanity

- In relation to cultural resources, it implies some form of trusteeship, as in the World Heritage Convention
- Owners act as trustees, taking care of the resource for another beneficiary, namely humanity



The World Heritage Convention

- The core is the World Heritage List, featuring sites of outstanding universal value
- 1052 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List so far
- 192 countries, out of 196 members of UNESCO, have ratified it



3. Challenges of Heritage Protection

Mass Tourism at World Heritage Sites



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<http://www.thisworldrocks.com/17-bucket-list-items-ruined-by-real-images/>

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Mass Tourism at World Heritage Sites



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<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.de/2015/06/experts-to-meet-on-safeguarding-angkor.html>



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http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-2695876/Plan-extend-opening-hours-Machu-Picchu-DOUBLE-number-visitors-despite-concern-ruins-damaged.html

World Heritage Committee

- Composed of 21 Member States
- Are representatives of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention
- Meet once per year to select sites for the World Heritage List

World Heritage Committee

- There is a correlation between countries represented on the World Heritage Committee and the location of inscribed sites
- Securing a seat on the Committee raises a country's profile internationally
- Countries with arrangements outside the field of heritage tend to have similar votes

4. The Potential of Solidarity Rights

The Relevance of Solidarity

6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:

- **Freedom.** Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
- **Equality.** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
- **Solidarity.** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.

Proposed draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular the determination of States expressed therein to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,¹

United Nations Millenium Declaration

United Nations Human Rights Council

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A Question for Reflection

Do solidarity rights such as the common heritage of humanity have potential to bring the relevance of solidarity to the attention of the world communities? If yes, how?

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Thank you for your attention!