

The documents below consider issues related to endangered cultures. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Documents 1 and 2 are adapted from *Could the antiquities trade do more to combat looting?* The articles were published in *Apollo* magazine in 2015.

Document 1: adapted from the article written by Mark Altaweel, archaeologist and Senior Lecturer in Near Eastern Archaeology, University College London.

There is a debate between those who support a legal antiquities (ancient objects) trade, and those who are entirely against it. This debate is often focused on ethics: is it acceptable to buy and sell a country's cultural heritage? Are antiquities dealers encouraging looting (stealing) from archaeological sites by creating a market for ancient objects?

The conflicts in Syria and Iraq (two countries in the Near East) force us to take a different look at both legal and illegal antiquities trades. Antiquities have become a major source of finance for parties involved in violence.

I recently visited dealers of antiquities in London, to discover what objects from Syria and Iraq were being sold. I soon realised that many had probably come from this region. When I asked dealers, they were not sure when the objects left their countries of origin. Some dealers suggested they may have been obtained recently.

Soon, possessing such objects will be illegal. The UK Government will sign up to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property. This bans trade in antiquities that have been taken from conflict zones during the conflict. However, the provenance of antiquities (documentary proof of their history/origin) from these regions can be vague. These objects could have been obtained long ago.

There is a problem with looking at the trading of antiquities as just an ethical issue. This ignores much worse developments in the Near East. There is a strong suspicion that armed groups on all sides are selling antiquities to finance themselves. Therefore, the trade and market in antiquities from the region helps the conflict continue. This leads to more refugees and more deaths. We see the consequences close to home. Europe has its biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War. It is true that we have no accurate figures for how much funding armed groups are getting from this market. However, videos, photographs, and satellite imagery of recently looted sites suggest it is huge.

So how does this affect the legal trade in antiquities? The legal antiquities market should admit that it is involved in a trade that has global consequences. Experts from the region often cannot tell if antiquities were obtained legally. So how should we expect border officials and others to do so? If the legal antiquities market begins to obey present law and support future legislation, then at least we have a chance to stop this trade that keeps conflict going.

I believe that the legal antiquities market should ban sales of all objects from areas of continuing conflict. I also believe that a ban like this should be supported by national and international laws. Archaeologists, who know these conflict regions, can create a list of objects that might be looted. This list should be provided to border officials everywhere. Finally, the legal antiquities trade should reject conflict antiquities, just as 'blood diamonds'* are rejected by the diamond business. This would reduce the trade in such items.

Given the risks in buying antiquities, we should end all trading in antiquities which come from conflict regions, no matter when the objects were obtained.

* 'Blood diamond' is a term used for a diamond mined in a war zone and sold to finance an internal rebellion, an invading army's war efforts, or a warlord's activity. They are also known as 'conflict diamonds'.

Document 2: adapted from: *Could the antiquities trade do more to combat looting?* published in Apollo magazine in 2015. This article was written by James Ede, member of the International Association of Dealers in Ancient Art (IADAA), London, and Chairman of Charles Ede Ltd, a dealer of Greek, Roman and Egyptian antiquities in London, UK.

The greatest crisis facing world heritage is taking place in Syria and Iraq. The major causes of this are the shelling and bombing of war, and demolition of monuments. However, headlines suggest that the trade in looted antiquities is the main problem and can be blamed on the legal antiquities market. This is clearly not the case.

Many people believe that billions of euros' worth of antiquities are entering the market from Syria. They suggest that dealers arrange for objects to be stolen to sell to collectors. No one has ever produced any evidence of this. We do not doubt that there is looting. However, the legal market is small and most antiquities have a low value: the global turnover for all antiquities is less than €200 million (\$220 million) a year. Objects from Syria are probably less than 10% of this, of which illegal material might amount to €5 million (\$5.5 million) – a lot of money, but not by art-market standards.

However, we cannot be self-satisfied. The antiquities trade has not always had a good record in dealing with smuggled material, or provenance of objects. The International Association of Dealers in Ancient Art (IADAA) was founded in 1993. One of its main aims was to change attitudes among dealers and things have improved dramatically.

We are working closely with the UK Government. We have listened to our critics and made huge progress. No association has a stricter code of ethics. No other area of the art market values provenance more than we do. The evidence is at auction: objects with good provenance sell at higher prices. But, however strong our rules are, information from the countries of origin is not always available.

So, can we help to save something from the disaster in Syria? No doubt illegal material is being hidden away and will come onto the open market sooner or later – it could be years from now. The help of the trade is going to be vital in facing this problem. Now, the technology exists to record objects cheaply. The IADAA suggests that UNESCO should support museums and storage facilities in photographing all their holdings. Once an object is recorded, the chances of recovery improve enormously. The same applies to archaeological sites above ground. This is of course no help in the case of secret excavation, but it is a start.

Most legally owned objects have no real provenance. The IADAA is working on a project to record objects that are on the market. This will also make life much more difficult for those who deal illegally. The success of this project will rely on support from all sides, including those who just criticise the trade. This criticism will have to stop.

The legal trade has no interest in the illegal traffic in stolen antiquities. Archaeology started with collectors; the first museums were founded by collectors. It is the job of museums to collect and conserve for the benefit of the public. This is impossible without the legal antiquities trade. So, at its best, the legal antiquities trade is a positive force, supporting conservation and research.

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