Looting & Napoleon

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Napoleon Bonaparte and his armies conquered Europe and displayed at the museum, including the Louvre. Napoleon’s process for looting was rigidly regulated; the Convention of Arts and Sciences followed the invading army to conduct inventories, pack, and then ship the art to Paris. After the defeat of Napoleon, the museums continued to display the looted art. In the early twentieth century, the Nazis collected masterpieces as they marched through Europe. What was considered desirable was collected and what was considered undesirable was destroyed. The destruction of cultural heritage, wherever such heritage is located. The name Blue Shield comes from the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The United States Committee of the Blue Shield was formed in 2006 as a nonprofit organization.

Nazi Looting

In their quest to build a new German Empire, Nazi Germany engaged in widespread looting and a hoarding of German cultural property for new collections in order to build the cultural prestige of the Third Reich. Postwar amendments of existing laws were enacted to return objects to museums and private collections across Europe. Works of art were confiscated from prominent private and public collections and never being returned through legal channels. \n
The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property outside of Armed Conflict ( Raphael and Julie J. Yildiz, eds.)

Cultural Property Protection

At the end of the 1960s, thefts of cultural and historical artifacts were being reported throughout the world. At the instigation of Dr. Alfredo Lopez of Mexico, a group of states met in Paris in 1970 to adopt the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The Convention entered into force in 1972.

Non Governmental Agencies Protecting Cultural Property

Outside of Armed Conflict

It is the context, and to address such situations, UNESCO created the UNESCO/International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1964. ICOMOS is a global organization that promotes the safeguarding of cultural heritage. It is composed of specialists from around the world who work to protect and preserve cultural heritage sites and monuments in a variety of ways. ICOMOS has chapters in many countries and works closely with governments, international organizations, and other non-governmental organizations to achieve its goals.
The Return of a Looted Buddha: the 25-Year Saga

This case is a legal procedure in the United States for litigating robbery and repatriation of the statue. In 1990, a statue was located by Richard Diran, a U.S. based art dealer, while he was in Myanmar. The statue, which dates back to the 12th or 13th century, was located in a temple. It was bought and sold as a piece of cultural heritage, but the buyer was unaware of its looted status. The case was eventually resolved in 2015, with the statue being returned to Myanmar.

Looting, Hoarding, Repatriation Defined

Looting is defined as the illegal taking of cultural property. Hoarding is defined as “to collect and hide a large amount of something valuable”. Repatriation is the process of returning something, or parts of something, to the country or community that owns it.

Looting, Hoarding, and the Collecting of Looted Objects by Museums

Museums are also concerned with the collection of objects which may have been stolen, thereby hoarding rather than preserving cultural property. Museums are responsible for the collection of objects, which may have been stolen, thereby hoarding rather than preserving cultural property. Museums are responsible for the collection of objects.

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