



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Post-Conflict archaeology in the Assyrian Capitals: reflecting on the international programs implemented in Nineveh, Nimrud, Assur, and Khorsabad.

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Abstract

As of October 2023, archaeological fieldwork has resumed in the four principal Assyrian capitals —Nineveh, Nimrud/Kalkhu, Assur, and Khorsabad/Dûr-Sharrukîn— marking an essential step to address how, four international programs developed different approaches to tackle the issue of extensive damage inflicted to ancient remains while navigating the ethics of post-conflict intervention. The ongoing work faces dual challenges: restoring heritage sites that have suffered severe destruction and renewing archaeological practice in the framework of cultural diplomacy.

This paper examines the evolving role of archaeology within post-conflict contexts, emphasizing how cultural diplomacy and careful international collaboration can support sustainable heritage reconstruction. By reviewing four distinct methodologies, best practices, and ethical frameworks – drawing from both literature review and firsthand insight at Khorsabad – it explores how these efforts navigate local narratives and promote cultural renewal. Ultimately, this study reflects on how archaeology, as both a scientific and diplomatic undertaking, can contribute to social and cultural reconstruction within a respectful and informed framework.

Keywords

Assyrian Capitals, Cultural Diplomacy, Heritage, Post-conflict

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