Charlie Nitschelm

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That Belongs in a Museum

Response to Cuno

Cuno began his presentation and talk with the discussion of Palmyra, an ancient city that separates the West from the East, bringing cultures across the Silk Road. It was an oasis town that presented travelers with water, food and vegetation. As a war zone in the past, many of its antiquities have been destroyed. The population has dropped by a factor of 10 and continues to be a front of war. He begins to show that failing states of the world hold a bigger threat to the country than evil states.

His presentation allowed me to question what a threat to humanity is. Culture is the remains and physical proof of what we have came from. Therefore, the destruction of culture that any people hold value to is a threat to humanity. UNESCO is a good step to hold people responsible for caring for all antiquities. We must also learn and understand that everyone plays a role into the preservation of culture. Cuno put it plainly when he said, “we must work together to build a common regard for cultural heritage is not of one or another nation’s cultural property to be used and misused modern nationalistic purposes but instead as to belonging to all humanity and which all humanity has collective stake in its preservation.”