

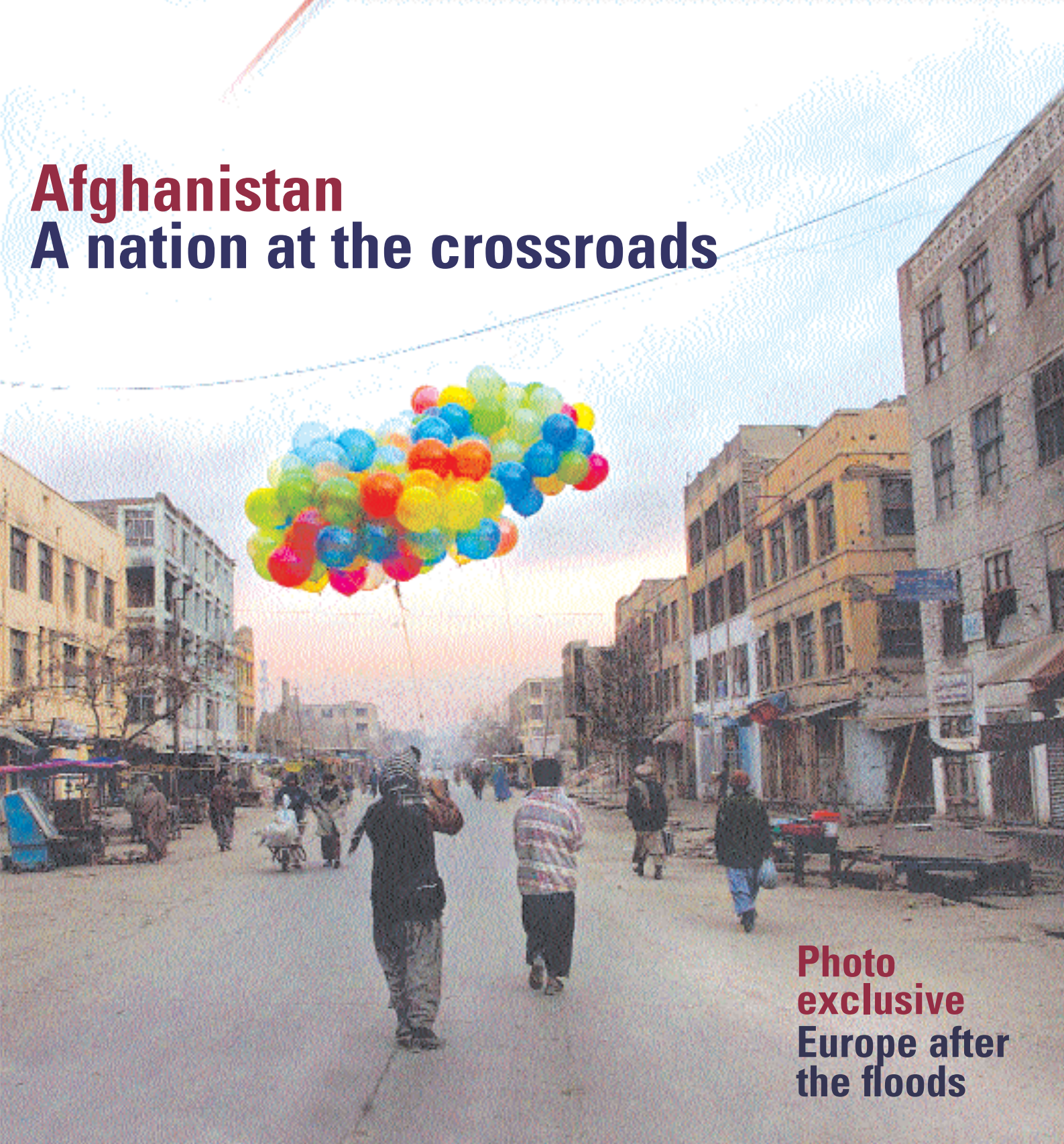


United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

the new Courier

OCTOBER 2002

Afghanistan A nation at the crossroads



**Photo
exclusive**
Europe after
the floods

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One year and one day after September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush announced

before the General Assembly of the United Nations that the United States would return to UNESCO after an absence of 18 years. A founding member of the Organization in 1945, the United States played a key role in helping to define its mission: the promotion of human rights, of the free flow of ideas and of information, of scientific and cultural cooperation, and of educational opportunities for all. None of these pursuits is less urgent today than was the case half a century ago. But none either is more important in the current international climate than UNESCO's overriding ambition: to mobilize States, but also academic and scientific institutions, schools, libraries, museums, enterprises and ordinary citizens in all walks of life who feel they share a common responsibility in laying the ground for a genuine and sustained dialogue between cultures.

A few weeks after 9/11, the General Conference of UNESCO – the first international gathering at ministerial level since that fateful day – unanimously adopted a Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*. Calling cultural diversity one of the roots of development, "as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature", the Declaration affirms "that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security". Adopting this ground-breaking text, the 188 member-States of UNESCO rejected the theory of the inevitable clash of civilizations and forcefully condemned all forms of fundamentalism.

Afghanistan – subject of the Focus section in this, the first full-fledged issue of the new Courier – is a land where war and the cult of ignorance, of segregation and of violence have brought ruin, despair and, today, a breath-taking task of reconstruction. It would be worthy of interest and active compassion for those reasons alone, but there is more. Afghanistan once was, and for centuries, the site of a most extraordinary fusion of cultures, perhaps without parallel in history. What little has survived gives special poignancy to the concept of "common heritage of humanity".

Michel Barton

*See full text online at <http://www.unesco.org/culture>

Africa: the deadly spiral of famine and AIDS

Southern Africa is living through its worse famine in a decade. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that seven million people in the region require food immediately, a figure that could rise to 14.4 million from December to March 2003. To cut short a humanitarian crisis, WFP has launched an appeal for emergency food aid to six hard-hit countries in

the region: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The operation targets the most vulnerable families, notably those hit by HIV/AIDS. Intricately connected, famine and HIV/AIDS "make the situation in several countries practically unmanageable," says Victor Angelo, UN

representative in Zimbabwe. He foresees an increase in HIV/AIDS mortality due to lack of food. The links between agriculture, food security and AIDS are clear. According to a UNAIDS study, households affected by AIDS spend half as much time on farm work as healthy ones. In Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, the epidemic



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has pulled about 20 percent of families away from the fields. In Tanzania, food consumption fell 15 percent following the death of adults who were food providers to next-of-

kin. In Zambia, households' monthly income plummeted 80 percent, while in Malawi, thousands of households are headed by orphans who have lost their parents to the pandemic.

Lightning strikes twice in Rome

When a bolt of lightning chipped the top off the Aksum obelisk at the Rome headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in the night of May 27, the Italian government didn't expect to be hit as well. This time round the bolt did not come from the sky, but from the Ethiopian government, that blames Italy for the damage. Addis Ababa has now complained to the Organization of African Unity, calling on Italy to return "its" monument.

In fact the clash is not new. In 1937 Mussolini's armies pillaged the 24-metre-high Yemenite-style funerary monument from the ancient kingdom of Aksum, where it had stood since the early 4th

century. In 1947, after the Second World War, Italy and the United Nations signed an agreement to give it back. But, despite repeated requests from Ethiopia, this costly and technically difficult operation has never been carried out. The damage caused by the violent storm has rekindled the debate.



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More black men in U.S jails than in higher education



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The number of black men serving time in American jails has grown fivefold over the past 20 years, to the point where more black men are behind bars than are enrolled in colleges or universities.

According to a recent study by the Justice Policy Institute, a Washington - based research and advocacy group, there were 791,600 black men in

prison in 2000, and 603,032 enrolled in colleges or universities. This is a dramatic reversal of the situation in 1980 when, reports the Institute, there were 143,000 black men behind bars but 463,700 enrolled in higher education.

Speaking to the *New York Times* newspaper (28.08.2002), Hilary O. Sheldon, the

director of the Washington Chapter of the Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, said "It is indeed a sad statement about our nation that it appears to be easier for governments to invest precious public dollars into the incarceration of African-American men that is for them to invest in higher education."



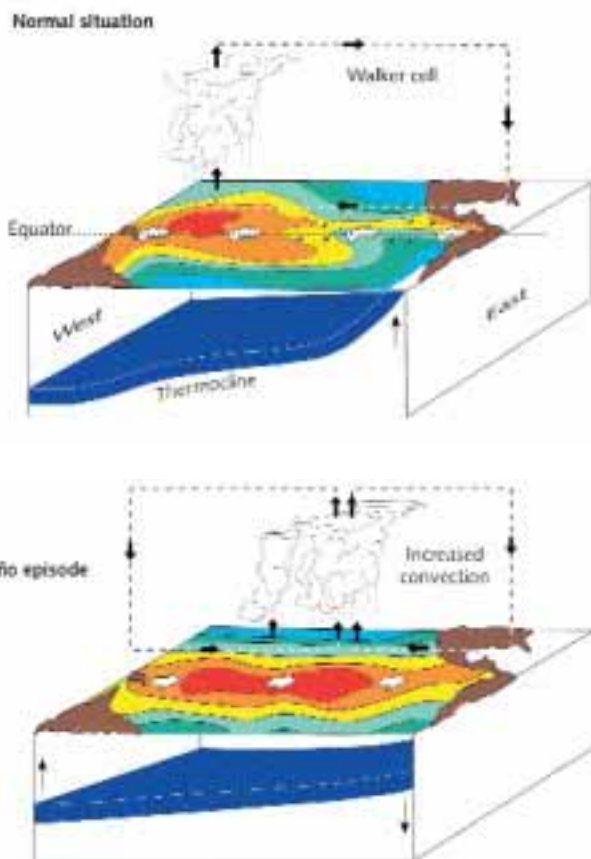
Birth of the ICC

After 50 years in the making, the International Criminal Court (ICC) came into force on July 1 2002.

The ICC is the first permanent international tribunal with the authority to prosecute individuals responsible for the most egregious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and once defined, crimes of aggression.

The tribunal, which will have a permanent seat in The Hague, has jurisdiction that is complementary to national laws. States have the primary responsibility and duty to prosecute the most serious

international crimes, while allowing the ICC to step in only if they fail or are unwilling to carry out their duty. This “principle of complementarity” should provide incentives to states to modernize their judicial systems, reinforce the independence of the judiciary and encourage cooperation between police and the judiciary. With the creation of the ICC, sexual violence and crimes (rape, forced pregnancies, sexual slavery) as well as persecution based on sex are for the first time recognized as war crimes. The first meeting of the Court’s governing body, the Assembly of State Parties, was scheduled for September 2002.



Floods, fires, drought, smog and ... El Niño

The scientists have confirmed what many suspected: El Niño - the cyclical warming of the tropical Pacific - is building up again. It seems that it is not as strong this time as in 1997-98, when the global weather disruptions it triggered caused damage estimated between US\$32 billion and US\$96 billion. Nonetheless, last July and August brought a bumper crop of natural disasters. Southern China, Nepal and South East Asia experienced torrential rain and mudslides. In Bangladesh half a million

people were stranded in floods, while a heavy monsoon in India's Assam State inundated over 1,000 villages, pushing 700,000 people out of their homes. Ironically, across the continent in Rajasthan and Punjab states, the monsoon largely failed for the fourth year running - possibly because of a three-km-thick smog cloud hovering over much of South Asia. Too wet in some places, too dry in others. A drought has been ravaging Mozambique, while exceptionally dry conditions in eastern and



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central Australia have cost the economy as much as US\$1.6 billion. Massive forest fires scorched parts of North America. While torrential monsoon rains are seasonal - and essential - in South Asia,

they are exceptional in Europe. But in August the worst rain for 200 years caused several rivers to burst their banks, putting the historic cities of Dresden and Prague under water.



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Fast-tracking education for all

Twenty three countries in sub-Saharan Africa, East and South Asia, Eastern Europe Latin America and the Middle East are the first beneficiaries of the World Bank's Education For All Fast Track programme, announced earlier this year. Eighteen of them will receive extra financing to strengthen their education systems to provide access to quality education for all children by 2015. The other five - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, which account for 50 million of the world's 113 million out-of-school children - will receive help to address the data, policy and capacity gaps that need to be resolved for them to

qualify for extra funding.

The 23 are among 88 low and middle-income nations which will fail to meet the 2015 deadline (set at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000) without a special effort from national authorities and the donor community.

At its June meeting in Canada, the G-8 countries promised to significantly increase bilateral funding for education in developing countries that demonstrated their commitment to universal primary education and those countries emerging from conflict.

<http://www1.worldbank.org/education/>

Death penalty abolished in Turkey

The Turkish parliament voted on August 3, 2002, to abolish the death penalty (except in time of war) in a bid to meet one of the main criteria for the country's admission to the European Union. In the same spirit, another law was voted granting cultural rights to the Kurds, who account for 12 million of the country's 60 million

citizens. "This courageous decision shows that the EU is right in being firm as regards human rights and the protection of minorities," said Günter Verheugen, the commissioner responsible for EU enlargement. "Our position is starting to pay off."

In March 2002, 124 persons in Turkey were on death row, while 1,467 other

cases were pending according to a study by the NGO Together against the Death Penalty. Within the Council of Europe, Russia and Armenia are the only two countries that have yet to abolish the death penalty.



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Africa on air

"Community Voice" is the name of the latest project from *Echo des Ondes Libres* (which means Free Airwaves Echo), an association of 60 local radio stations from 30 African countries. The

project was launched in September 2002 to produce a guide to setting up community radio stations in French-speaking Africa and to create a programme distribution

network. In exchange for a satellite dish, the 23 radio stations involved undertake to provide part of their monthly programme output on health, education and agriculture. These are then re-broadcast across the continent via the French-language educational channel of the Inter-governmental French language Agency.

For further information, contact Matthias Balagny on +33 (0)6 7944 7885 or see their web site www.ondeslibres.com



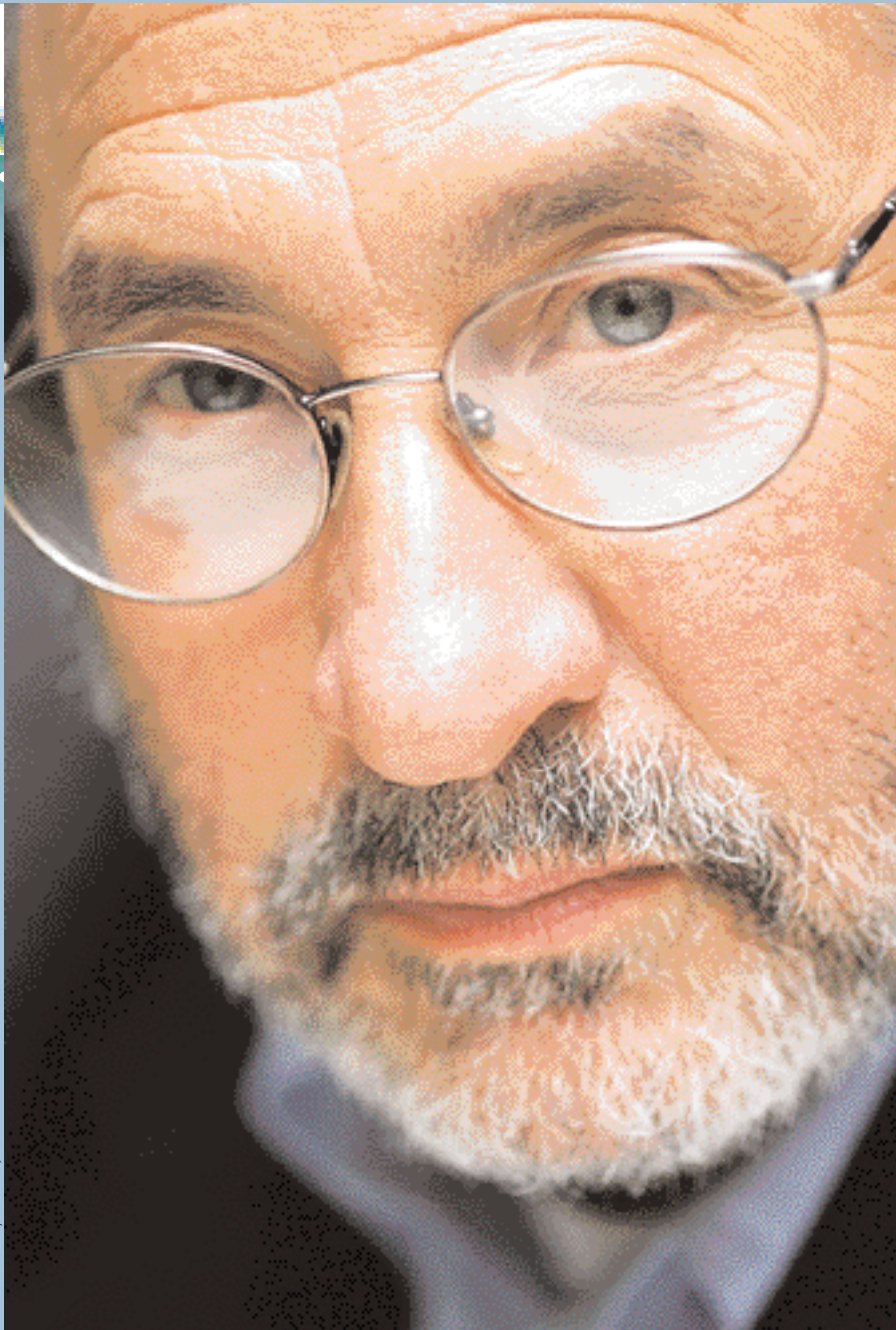
© L'Echo des Ondes Libres



Joseph Stiglitz

The subtle truth about globalization

He is the hero of the anti-globalization movement and the nemesis of market fundamentalists. “Joe” Stiglitz, the controversial winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics finds the world “unfair” and wants to change it



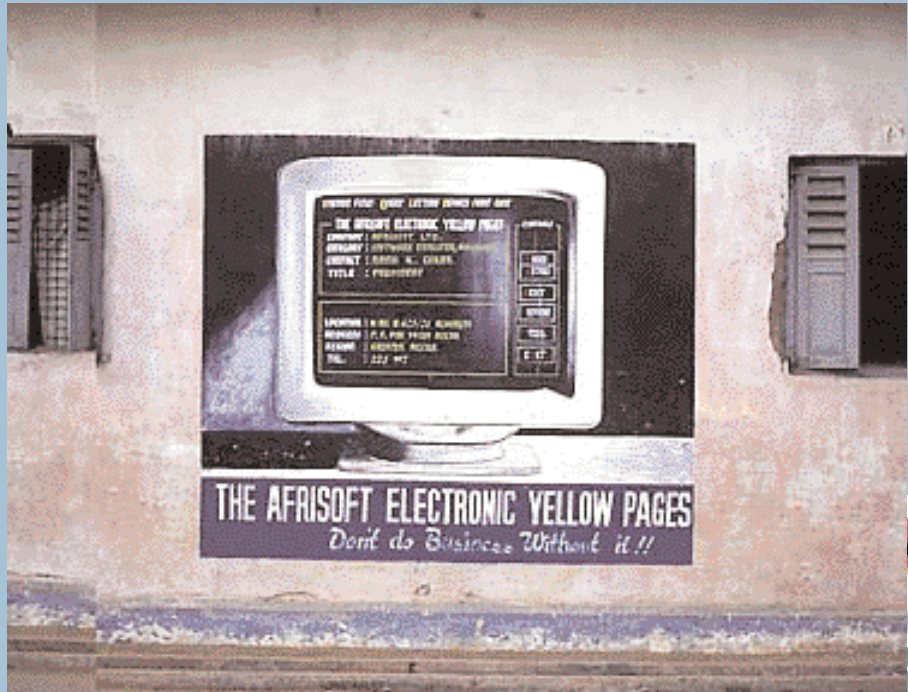
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In your latest book *Globalization and its Discontents* you affirm that globalization doesn't work. Why?

➤ Because globalization doesn't work for the benefit of everybody, even if some people and, in certain parts of the world, many people, have benefited from it. China and many other Asian countries have increased their exports. But in Latin America the reforms of the 1990s have resulted in instability. In many cases growth has been very limited and the benefits have gone disproportionately to the rich.

Do you think the crisis affecting financial markets in rich countries is linked to a dysfunctioning of globalization?

➤ Yes and no. The problem is not globalization itself but the international economic institutions, particularly the IMF that pushed a set of ideas, like market fundamentalism, a particular view of capitalism seen as the best possible economic system, the only economic system. The troubles and recent scandals in the United States and elsewhere have shown that there are some very serious problems with American-style capitalism. Secondly, it illustrates the link between politics and economics.



And this political link can be a problem even in the US and industrialized countries. When I was on the Council of Economic Advisers in the White House, we supported initiatives to change the accounting standards for executives' stock options. But Treasury, the financial community, the corporations resisted and succeeded in postponing the reforms for another eight years at great cost to the American economy.

Which specific interests does liberalization serve in the West?

➤ It does not serve only the interests of some people in the West but special interests within the Northern and Southern countries. For example, globalization of the capital market serves the interests of speculators and people who are interested in pushing short-term securities. Some of the unbalanced trade rules, such as the intellectual property regime, are pushed by drug companies and the entertainment industry over the interests of the broader scientific community, over those who are concerned by the health and care of the very poor.

But you don't believe in the "conspiracy theory" that is popular in Asia and in Russia. Why?

➤ Conspiracy suggests that people get together, conspire and actively coordinate working together. I think that's wrong. What I do think is that there are certain ways of thinking and certain political processes. The market fundamentalists' ideology is a

New technologies can reduce the gap between rich and poor, when the poor become rich enough to pay for it

An intractable witness

"I hope my book will spark debate." Loaded with degrees, honors and awards, including the 2001 Nobel Prize for economics, Joseph Stiglitz has once again achieved his goal. His book *Globalization and Its Discontents* (published by W.W. Norton, 2002) has sparked often passionate reactions the world over. It has also provoked some ferocious attacks from supporters of his *bete noire*: the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This neo-Keynsian has not stopped denouncing

the "market fundamentalists" of the IMF. The man who penetrated the circle of global decision-makers dared to speak out against their "grand hypocrisy." In short, he betrayed them. Born in 1943 in Gary (Indiana), Stiglitz is considered to be one of the most brilliant economists of his generation. During his university studies at Yale, Princeton, Oxford and Stanford, where he now teaches, he helped to create a new discipline: the economy of information. In 1993 he joined the ultra-

exclusive Council of Economic Advisers of the White House, where he became Bill Clinton's principal economic councillor. In 1997, he moved on to the World Bank as chief economist and vice president. But "Joe" Stiglitz hit the first bump in his career in 2000. In January, he caused an uproar by resigning, because he considered that the IMF did not give him enough elbow room to make the World Bank slogan - "Our dream is a world without poverty" - a reality.

Excerpts from *Globalization and Its Discontents*

"As I moved to the international arena, I discovered that [...] the decisions were made on the basis of what seemed a curious blend of ideology and bad economics, dogma that sometimes seemed to be thinly veiling special interests."

"Today, few defend the hypocrisy of pretending to help developing countries by forcing them to open up their markets to the goods of the advanced industrial countries

while keeping their own markets protected, policies that make the rich richer and the poor more impoverished – and increasingly angry." Speaking of the IMF: "The change in mandate and objectives, while it may have been quiet, was hardly subtle: from serving global economic interests to serving the interests of the global finance."

"The colonial mentality – the certainty of knowing better than developing countries

what is best for them - persisted."

"Globalization today is not working for many of the world's poor. It is not working for much of the environment.

It is not working for the stability of the global economy."

very strong force, the political interest in campaign contributions of the financial community is a very strong force. The problem is with the political process, which is in many ways undemocratic. It's not transparent and the voices of particular countries and of particular groups are more valuable than others.

What is the impact of globalization in the fields of education, culture and knowledge sharing?

➤ New technologies can support cultural diversity by making it easier for communities to express themselves. But globalization has sometimes been pushed too fast and in an inappropriate way, threatening the stability of existing cultures. Many societies have traditional ways of handling social support, but sometimes international institutions have come in with assistance programmes that undermine those local systems.

In your book, you insist on the tremendous impact that a good education policy can have on development.

➤ I would distinguish very strongly between the position of the World Bank and the position of the IMF. The World Bank actually supports educational projects in many countries around the world. I saw some very successful education programmes first hand for instance in Colombia, where they developed a curriculum that facilitated migrant workers' children. In Ethiopia they were thinking very hard how to redesign a curriculum to reflect the needs of people in that country. On the other hand, quite often, the austerity measures imposed as part of the IMF programmes, undermine education. The question is: are the austerity programmes excessively austere? From what I saw in Ethiopia I can say very clearly that they were. Educational expenditures are

investments in a country's future, so they need to be given special priority. But one has to look at how they spend the money.

What do you think of the increasing trend towards the privatisation of educational services?

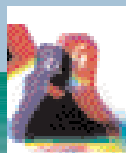
➤ In general, it can represent a very dangerous trend. In the US it often serves to enhance segregation, not so much racial segregation today but social segregation. The private schools often have better results because in many cases their students come from better backgrounds, with better home education and so forth.

There's a general belief in the power of ICTs to reduce the economic gap between rich and poor? What do you think?

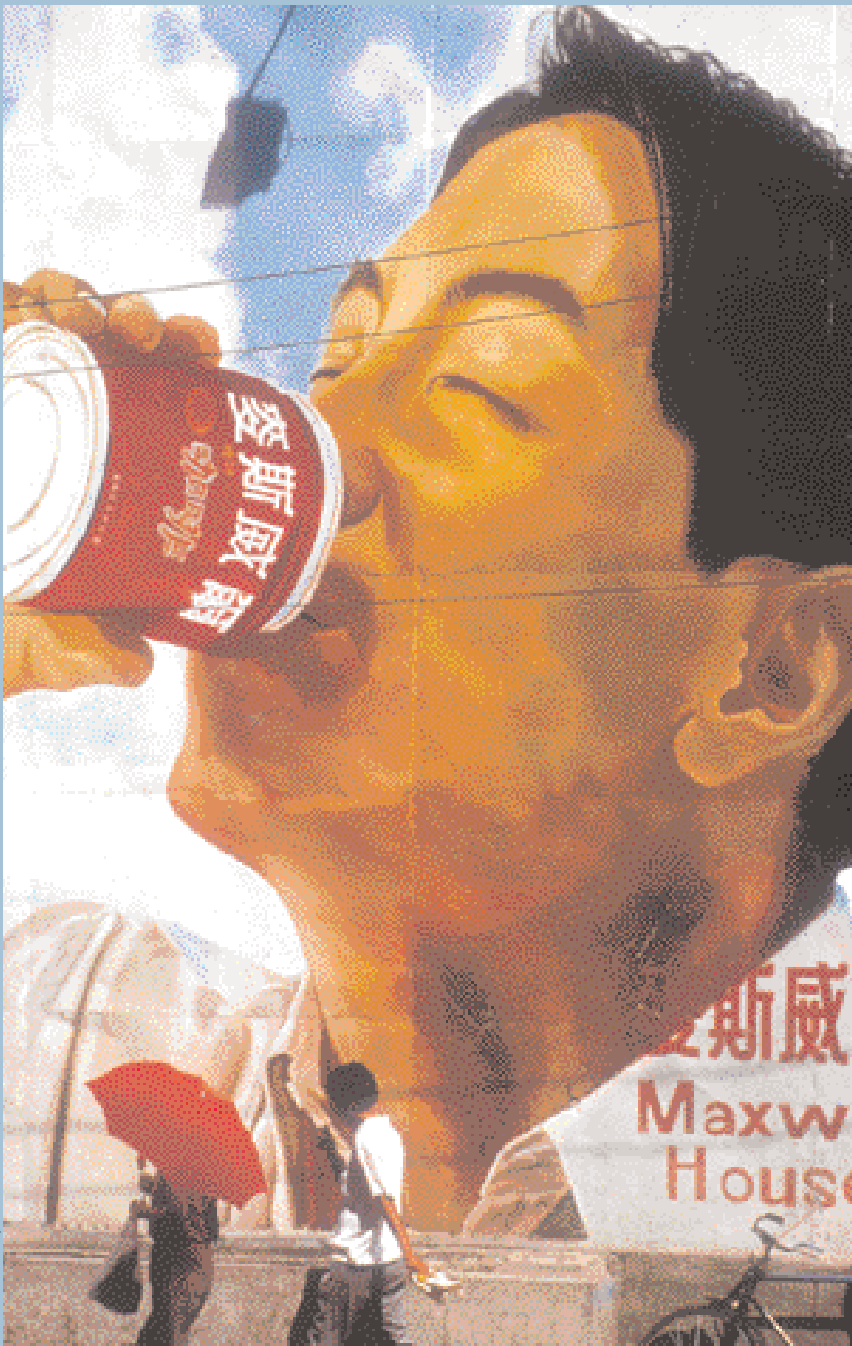
➤ The new technologies have the power to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor when the poor are rich enough to avail themselves of these new technologies. In countries like China it is almost sure that they will shorten the gap. But in Africa, where there is almost no access to NT, it would have the effect of increasing the gap.

Is it in the economic interest of the poor countries to develop their own intellectual property laws to protect their assets (their biodiversity for example) or is it better for them to let the piracy of western products grow as it is doing now?

➤ It is very important for them to develop their own legal framework to protect themselves against bio-piracy. The problem right now is that it is an unfair game because the developing countries do not have the legal resources to combat the expensive American lawyers who work for the firms engaged in this kind of activity. It is critical for developing countries to get together to have a concerted



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effort and to use Doha, the new round of trade negotiations, to say “we have to revise the intellectual property regime”.

You are convinced that globalization could be a force for the good of the poor. What kind of changes are needed to meet this goal?

➤ There has to be recognition, particularly in the North, of the nature of the inequities and of the nature of the problems. I think the majority of people in the North

believe in principles of equity and fairness. If they become aware of some of these issues they will begin to put political pressures on their governments to do something. That’s the explanation for the Jubilee 2000 movement for debt forgiveness. But there have to be longer-term institutional reforms in international economic institutions.

What reforms would you introduce?

➤ I would change the voting distribution because when one

“When foreign business come in they often destroy local competitors, quashing the ambitions of the small businessmen”

country, that is the US, has a veto power it is inevitable that the IMF is going to reflect the interests of the US. And when the US is represented by the US treasury it is inevitable that interests within the financial market are going to be heard more loudly. I would also change the representation. If the IMF was only engaged in technical matters like insurance, nobody would care that it is done by the financial community. But IMF policy is about education, health, every aspect of society. And those people who are affected have no voice, absolutely no voice.

What would you do now in Argentina for example?

➤ First, I would change from focusing on trying to get foreign money, which just goes into paying foreign debts, and ask: “what can I do inside the country? What is the problem?” The problem is that human resources, for example, are not being used. How to get them to be used? What you need is a market, demand and working capital for the firms, to get the system going again instead of paying foreign creditors. I would try to cultivate a special arrangement on a temporary basis with all of my trading partners so that they would take more of my goods and that they would provide firms with working capital. It is all about restarting the engine.

*Interview by
Sophie Boukhari*



Feast and famine for world

The World Heritage Convention is celebrating 30 years of uncontested success. But there is still much to be done to make the World Heritage List truly representative of global cultural diversity, and to reinforce protection of heritage sites



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Birthday bash

There will be a smart crowd around the birthday cake when, from November 14-16 2002, some 600 heritage experts, artists, businessmen and politicians meet in Venice (Italy) to blow out the 30 candles celebrating the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. During this international conference on "Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility" participants will debate

- various key questions such as: how to increase the scope of the convention, how to involve NGOs and the private sector in the sustainable management of cultural properties? What future is there for world heritage?
- On November 11 and 12, some other Italian towns will host a series of seminar-workshops on various related themes. The conclusions will be presented at the Venice meeting.

Above: The Ifugao rice terraces have graced these mountain slopes in the Philippines for over 2,000 years. Included on the World Heritage List in 1995, they also joined the list of endangered sites in 2001.

Top right: the ruins of the Abomey Palace, built in Benin between the 17th and 19th centuries - also on both lists.

heritage



© UNESCO/B. Mondichao

When UNESCO's General Conference adopted the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on November 16, 1972, the event went largely unnoticed. Rather, interest in UNESCO that year was focused on the spectacular salvaging of the Philae temples in Egypt. Yet, 30 years on, the Convention stands as one of the Organization's greatest achievements: it has been ratified by 175 states, of which 125 boast properties on the World Heritage List. Tourists flock to these star destinations, comprising 730 sites "of outstanding universal value."

"It's an unquestionable success," says Léon Pressouyre, a cultural advisor to UNESCO who has followed world heritage protection for 25 years. He points to the "important evolution in the philosophy of the Convention, which at first, merely took up the old idea of 'the

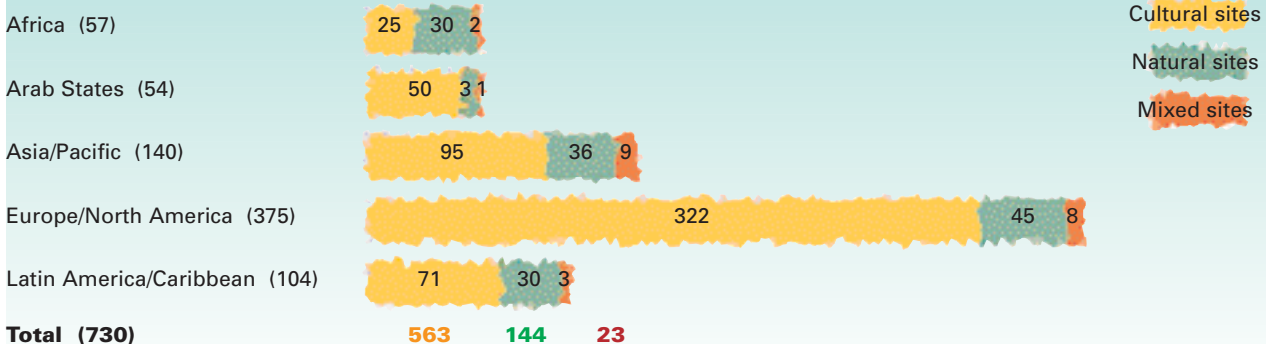
wonders of the world'." For a long time, this meant that a "monumental" vision of sites prevailed, in line with the aesthetics of western art.

It is hardly surprising then, that historic city centres and religious buildings, especially Christian ones, are over-represented. A revision of criteria in 1994 led to the recognition of new types of properties, more attuned to the cultures of developing countries. Cultural landscapes and non-built sacred sites are prime examples, such as the rice terraces of the Philippines or the Maoris' sacred volcanoes in New Zealand.

Despite these adjustments, Africa, Oceania and to a lesser extent Asia and Latin America are given short shrift by the List (see table). Of the 175 State Parties to the Convention, 50 still have no properties on the List. Furthermore, in some States, heritage that is not considered "culturally correct" is ignored: sites of marginalized minorities or monuments testifying to periods deemed inglorious like the 12th century Castle of the Knights in Syria are not given adequate recognition. "The current list is not yet representative of the heritage of humanity," says Pressouyre, who considers that the 1972 Convention has widened the gap between North and South. "The problem is very difficult to resolve," admits Francesco Bandarin, the director of the World Heritage Centre, "because there is no self-regulation." Tempted by the tourism windfall, states compete to



Regional distribution of the 730 world heritage sites



nominate as many sites as possible, which has led to inflation in the number of properties inscribed over the past decade. But poor countries are severely handicapped by the lack of the funds and expertise needed to put together their applications for nominations and to safeguard their heritage. To limit the lead taken by heritage “champions” such as Spain (36 sites), Italy (35 sites) and China (28), the World Heritage Committee, an inter-governmental body that meets annually to approve new additions to the List, decided that only one site per country and year would be accepted from 2003.

A LACK OF RESOURCES AND SANCTIONS

Lack of resources also looms when it comes to protecting sites endangered by war, natural catastrophes, pollution, urbanization, pillaging, tourism and other threats. With a budget of four million dollars per year and five million in extra-budgetary resources, the Centre cannot be present on all fronts. Recent initiatives to mobilize funds from non-governmental partners and to encourage twinning projects between sites in the North and South attempt to bridge the gap.

Lack of money, however, cannot be invoked every time states fail to fulfil their obligations.

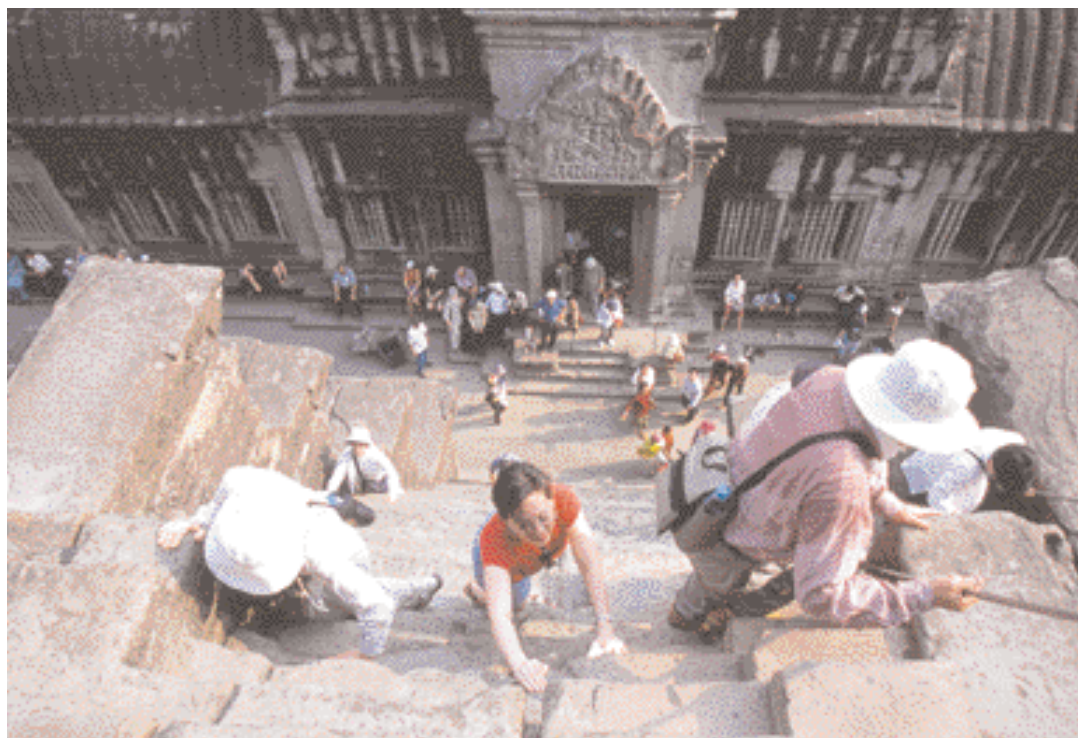
Quarrels over Islamic

But what is UNESCO doing? This is a time of worry for lovers of Islamic Cairo, a site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979. The most virulent critics claim that authorities are waging a “disastrous” restoration campaign in a quarter packed with some 600 historic monuments. The first phase of work began about three years ago. Endowed with a \$19 million budget, the plan focused on 47 monuments out of the total 157 targeted by the campaign. “It’s time to stop the massacre,” rails the Egyptian Saïd Zulficar, secretary general of the French NGO *Patrimoine sans frontières* (Heritage without borders) and a former UNESCO official. “Under the guise of restoration, the culture ministry pays public construction companies with no experience to restore monuments over 1,000 years old, as if they were simply run-down apartment buildings.”

The controversy has attracted

extensive press coverage ever since some 30 Islamic art experts sent a petition to the first lady Suzanne Mubarak on June 8, 2001. They protested against the violation of international norms regarding world heritage conservation and the use of inappropriate materials like cement. Critics also denounced plans to push out the neighbourhood’s small trades in order to create a type of open-air museum aimed at tourists. Furious Egyptian officials insist that they are struggling to save an extremely degraded site from falling into ruin, especially after the 1992 earthquake. In August 2001, an expert mission dispatched by UNESCO recognized these considerable efforts while underscoring in its report the mediocre quality of work undertaken on certain sites. To calm these troubled waters, UNESCO and Egypt held an international symposium in February 2002. Participants

Tourists clambering over the Bayon Temple on the Angkor site in Cambodia



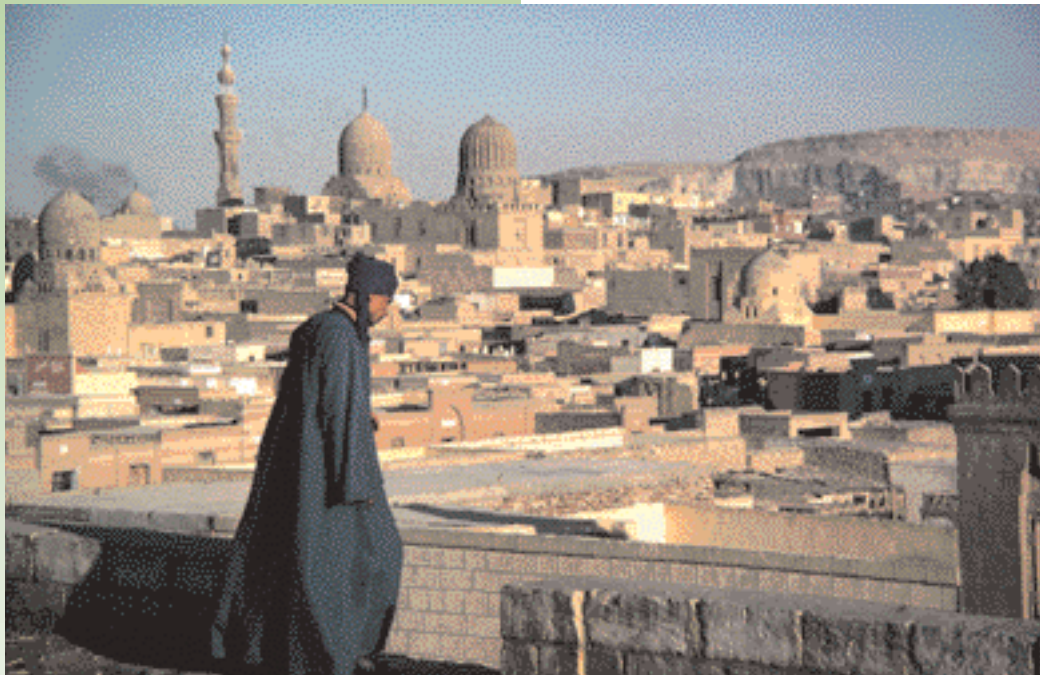
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Cairo

recommended improvements in the quality of interventions and reinforced coordination between the various actors involved. They called for better training of professionals in restoration techniques and suggested regular meetings between local and international experts.

Some judged the recommendations too harsh, others complained they did not go far enough. Ultimately, it's up to the Egyptian authorities to act.

UNESCO can only report on the state of the site and offer assistance. The Organization could supply Egypt with a conservation manual with safeguarding methods adapted



© UNESCO/M. Spier Donati

to Islamic Cairo. As the restoration goes on, so does the negotiating.

S. B.

A view of Islamic Cairo. In the background stands the Ibn Tulun mosque (11th century). Its recent restoration has been roundly criticized.



Cambodia: manna that doesn't come cheap

Krack Chi, who wears a red and white krama around his waist, has a remarkable tattoo across his entire chest. "They're the temples at Angkor," he says. "They're magical drawings." The 51-year-old chief of Sra Srong North, a village near the site's most visited monuments, explains that the tattoo protected him from both the Khmer Rouge and stray bullets. Today, it still brings him good luck. The lives of the 144 families in his village "changed a bit because of tourism," which

has boomed since the site's inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1992. From 1993 to 2001, the number of foreigners visiting Angkor jumped from 7,638 to 239,091. The residents of Sra Srong don't always have electricity, but nine of every 10 children go to the village's new school, built in 1999, according to Krack Chi. Some of the older villagers who "know things" about the temples have become guides, and youths sell souvenirs or

drinks. "With the money, people buy rice and necessities for their homes." But what the village chief fails to mention is that this *manna* comes at a price – the explosion in the sexual exploitation of women and children. In Cambodia, some 30 percent of prostitutes – male and female – are between the ages of 12 and 17. In recent years, the Khmer empire, especially the region around Angkor, has become a choice travel destination for pedophiles

from around the world. According to a study conducted in 2001 by the non-governmental organization World Vision, more than 70 percent of children polled in and around Angkor admitted foreign tourists had solicited them for sex. One of every five tourists in Cambodia is there looking for sex, the NGO says. But foreigners are not the only ones to blame for the prostitution boom – it's primarily fed by local demand.

S. B.

Protecting a paradise

Located in the Pacific Ocean about 1,000 kilometres off the coast of Ecuador, the Galapagos Archipelago was one of the first sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978. Six years later, it became a Biosphere Reserve, and in December 2001, the World Heritage Committee extended the site to include the Marine Reserve, a 64-kilometre area off the coast.

All these measures make the 19 volcanic islands that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection one of the most protected sites on earth. Investment continues to shepherd the protection process: the Inter-American Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility have respectively allocated \$13 million and \$18.3 million to Strategy 2010 for the Sustainable Development of the Islands, a plan encompassing measures to conserve marine and terrestrial biodiversity, control invasive species, and promote human development and capacity building.

In the Galapagos, these moves are not to everyone's liking. Shortly before the site was expanded to include the marine zone, Ecuadorian president Gustavo Noboa travelled to the Islands in an attempt to quell the fears of fishermen who feared that excessive protection would cut into their income.

Tour operators, meanwhile, have welcomed the strategy and seized upon the occasion to demand more flights to the Islands, currently served by no more than one or two per week.

According to figures from the Galapagos National Park Service, 77,570 tourists visited the archipelago in 2001 – 10,000 more than the previous year. Currently standing at 18,000, the number of permanent residents is also on the rise. Attracted by potential revenue, a growing number of people are emigrating from the mainland to one of the four inhabited islands.

While over-fishing of species like lobster, shark and sea cucumber threatens the site, "one of the main conservation problems is the introduction of invasive species that are alien to the ecosystem, like wild cats, goats and pigs," says Maria Fernanda García, from the environmental NGO *Fundación Natura*. "These eat the local flora and attack turtle nests."

Protection measures were bolstered in 1998 with the passing of the Galapagos Special Law, which establishes a participatory management committee formed by representatives from government, the Charles Darwin Foundation (created in 1959 and invested with "full ecological powers"), local inhabitants, fishermen and tour operators. "Obviously there are conflicts of interest, especially when the fishing season opens and quotas are set for different species," admits Paola Díaz of the Darwin Foundation. "But the body sets up a process for collective negotiation. It's recognized as such by all partners and considered a model, including at the regional level."

"The Convention does not really foresee sanctioning mechanisms when the integrity of properties is not respected," explains Henry Cleere, of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The only available option is to remove them from the List, a measure the World Heritage Committee has never taken. Attempts at reform are met with iron resistance. "States parties have actually taken a step backwards since 1992," regrets Minja Yang, the deputy director of the World Heritage Centre. Back then, they accepted that in cases of emergency, a threatened site could be declared "in danger" without the consent of the state concerned. Today, more than ever bound to their "sovereignty," states oppose this measure, which would authorize the international community to attempt to save what can be. As a result, the List of World Heritage in Danger counts only 33 sites, even though dozens of other highly threatened ones continue to be damaged without any action to safeguard them. "I have in mind a black list of some 20 sites that are in very poor condition and should be removed from the list," affirms Cleere.

"In 1979, when Kathmandu (Nepal) was inscribed on the World Heritage List, it was a small paradise," recalls Bandarin. "Twenty years later, two million people have crowded into the valley and an anarchic conurbation has destroyed this paradise. What can we do in such cases?"

Sophie Boukhari



For more information:

An International Congress of experts will be held in Venice (Italy) from November 14-16, 2002, on the theme "World Heritage: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility;"

<http://whc.unesco.org>





© UNESCO

The monuments of Kazan are the result of multiple influences, especially Tatar and Russian, Christian and Muslim.



© UNESCO/V. Segueyev

Viewpoint: Adrian Phillips, director of world heritage at IUCN¹

The World Heritage List counts only 144 natural sites, against 563 cultural ones. Why this imbalance?

■ “We shouldn’t let figures mislead us. Natural sites on the World Heritage List actually cover a much greater surface area than cultural ones. That being said, it’s true that the latter far outnumber natural sites, for several reasons. Cultural specificities are easier to identify and to locate than outstanding natural spaces. Also, members of the World Heritage Committee who decide on new inscriptions tend to be from countries with a predominantly cultural heritage. Then, more applications are filed for the nomination of cultural properties: most natural sites are located in developing countries which present fewer nominations than developed ones” (see main article).

The World Conservation Union has a significant say on the inscription of natural sites. It appears to take a stricter approach than ICOMOS¹, responsible for evaluating cultural properties. Why?

■ “Generally, it is more difficult to prepare a credible management plan for a tropical forest, for example, than for a monument, chiefly because the surface area involved is so vast. This is reinforced by the fact that many natural sites are located in resource-strapped developing countries. As a result, we sometimes recommend that a nomination be postponed.”

Interview by S. B.

1. International Council on Monuments and Sites



“We’ve moved into the global cultural arena”

Located in the capital of Tatarstan (Russian Federation), the Kazan Kremlin was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000. The city’s mayor, Kamil Isxakov, explains the impact.

“**Since our site** was inscribed on the List, we’ve moved into the global cultural arena. We now benefit from international recognition and various forms of solidarity. For example, we are now

eligible for subsidies which hold a significant economic interest for our city.

“**Through** international seminars and UNESCO networks, inhabitants and site managers have learned about experiences carried out in other historic cities, enabling them to resolve problems more easily. Slowly, confidence has set in and tourism is developing.

“**But the fact** that we are now submitted to a form of

control by UNESCO has not pleased everyone. Some city representatives complain about constraints regarding the conservation of monuments. Reconciling heritage conservation and urban expansion is no easy job. Also, the restoration of Kazan’s historic centre has incurred considerable expense. As part of our conservation plan, 131 historic and cultural monuments are slated for restoration.

“**We are also** setting up the biggest programme in Russia to improve dilapidated housing. When we have to move families, we provide them with free accommodation in the new areas of the city. Overall, Kazan’s inhabitants support the projects underway, even if some are inconvenienced by new problems such as housing, transportation or communications.”

Interview by V.S

Our hidden

Phenomenal amounts of water lie hidden underground in layers of rock that pay no heed to national borders. UNESCO is drawing up the world's first map and inventory of these shared resources



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Children playing in the Jordan Valley (top). Carrying a precious load in the Sudan (left). "We can't help being thirsty, moving toward the voice of water" wrote 13th century Sufi poet, Jeladuddin Rumi.

According to legend, the pharaohs of Egypt used to send gifts up the Blue Nile to the Kingdom of Ethiopia, where 86 percent of the river water originates. The gifts were intended to curry favour with the king, lest he forget the hydrological needs of his downstream neighbours when praying to the gods for rain.

In modern times, the gift giving has given way to sabre-rattling. "The only matter that could take Egypt to war again is water," announced the country's president, Anwar

hydro-capital



© Ed Kashi/Rapho, Paris

Sadat, in 1979, in response to plans to build dams by drought-stricken Ethiopia. Despite the fact that no military force in the world has ever managed to “capture” a river basin and that the only full-fledged “war over water” dates back 4,500 years ago in Mesopotamia, the threat still echoes today. Indeed Ethiopia is preparing to tap the Nile, thanks largely to the World Bank, which is dangling packages of financial assistance to lure the riparian states, especially Egypt, to the negotiating table. This kind of high-powered diplomatic operation is

increasingly common for international rivers the world over. Yet the negotiations never get below the surface to reach another resource that thirsty nations increasingly compete for: groundwater.

More than half the world’s population depends on water that is pumped from the pore spaces of rock formations, known as aquifers, which lie hidden beneath the Earth’s crust. These formations can span thousands of kilometers and contain enough water to satisfy all of humanity’s demands for many decades. Imagine filling a pool the size of Germany, several hundred metres deep with some of the purest water in the world, to grasp the dimensions of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer (see box), for example, which lies under the desert sand of Libya, Egypt, Chad and Sudan. Despite its phenomenal supplies of water, you won’t find a trace of this aquifer’s existence on a standard map. Aquifers of all shapes and sizes are zigzagging across borders around the world, often unbeknown to the national leaders on the ground.

To better understand this mysterious global capital, geohydrologists from every country in the world are starting to draw up the first global inventory and map of transboundary aquifers, through a UNESCO project entitled Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources (ISARM), which involves several organizations, notably the International Association of Hydrologists, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Within six years, the project will map and assess the water quantity and quality of every aquifer shared by two or more countries in the world. The database will also provide detailed case studies and a “toolbox” of innovative techniques for managing these precious resources from a technical, socio-economic and legal perspective.

Like rivers, aquifers pay no heed to national borders. Unlike rivers, little is known about the water they contain. Substantial investment and



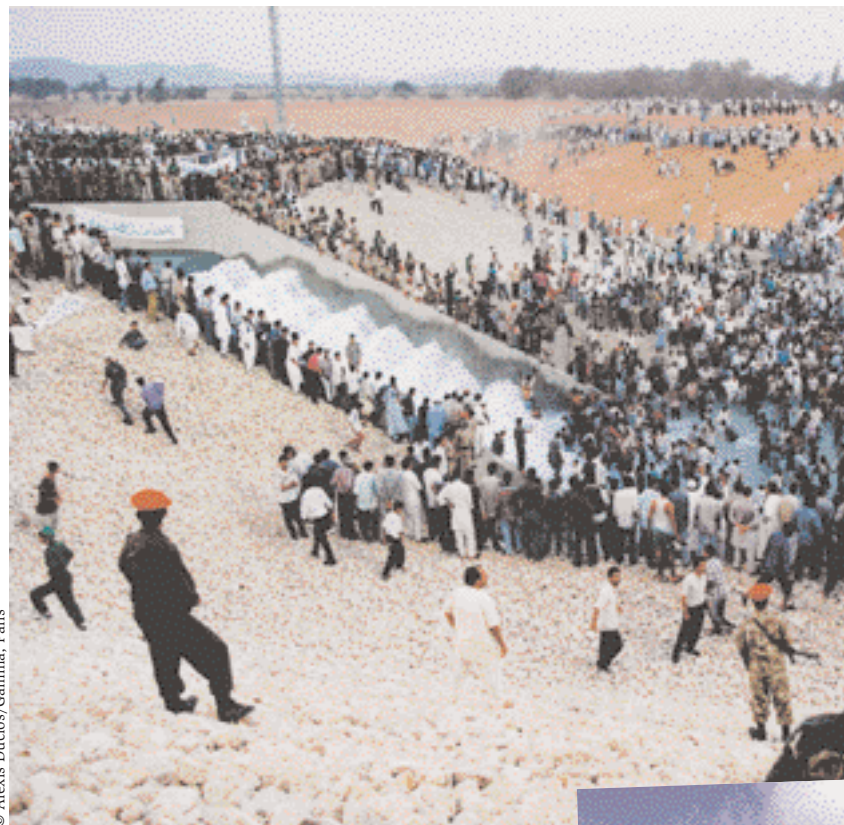
scientific expertise is required just to map the boundaries of an aquifer before beginning to accurately assess the quantity and quality of water it contains. Sometimes the aquifer is fed or “recharged” by recent rains seeping down through the soil. Others, like the Nubian, contain the rain of bygone geological eras, known as “fossil water”, which can be thousands and even millions of years old.

THE RACE TO THE PUMP HOUSE

Aquifers can be political dynamite. States are already reluctant to admit that they must share the waters of international rivers. But even the most recalcitrant government finds it difficult to deny the existence of a river flowing across its border. But when that water is invisible, percolating slowly deep underground, there is an undeniable temptation to put one’s ‘head in the sand’ and pump the shared resource without consulting a neighbour. The growing body of international rules and conventions concerning rivers don’t apply to aquifers, prompting experts like UNESCO’s Alice Aureli to fear a “race to the pump house” in which countries scramble to use as much water as possible out of fear that a more powerful neighbour will dominate an aquifer by virtue of its financial and technical strength.

For example, in the dusty borderland between Mexico and the US, both governments were simmering this summer, threatening and accusing one another over the dwindling supplies of the Columbia River. Yet neither side could simply do as it liked because of a formal treaty to share the river. Aquifers straddle that very same stretch of border, yet not a single agreement is in place to share them. So communities like Columbus (New Mexico, US) and Puerto Palomas (Chihuahua, Mexico) rely exclusively on the same aquifer system, known as the Mimbres. By pumping more and more water - 95 percent of which is used for agriculture - both communities risk their future.

To defuse this potential for conflict, ISARM brings together geohydrologists from the major regions to jointly study their shared resources. The survey of Africa, now being finalized, has



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revealed several major discoveries. Prior to this project, there was practically no documentation of transboundary aquifers in the continent. Groundwater studies are sorely lacking, despite the fact that some countries, like Mauritania, rely upon the resource for 80 percent of their needs. Even in humid countries, like Nigeria, many communities have no choice but to pump underground because of terrible pollution of rivers or surface waters. And when drought hits, a properly managed aquifer can serve as a kind of water bank, tiding over communities until rains return. Yet there is one major problem: pollution. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to clean an aquifer once it has been contaminated by sewage or chemicals seeping down from communities, factories and farms.

The African survey has mapped about 20 transboundary aquifers, five of which had never been identified before. For example,



The inauguration of the Great Man Made River in Libya, 1996 (top).
A village pump in Ghana



Libya's Great Man-Made River



Data-exchange is just the first step in the ISARM initiative, which aims to set up projects and commissions to jointly manage shared aquifers. The ultimate goal is to broker legal agreements to further protect the aquifers. This is the case for the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer, which spans Libya, Egypt, Chad and Sudan. The Nubian consists of four aquifers, which roughly contain about 120,000 cubic kilometres of fossil water, thousands and perhaps millions of years old. This is the liquid legacy of a bygone era, when the barren Sahara was a lush savannah. The rains that fed the region disappeared some 3,000 years ago,

leaving phenomenal but finite water supplies, which the Libyan government began mining in 1991 through the world's largest civil engineering project. The Great Man-Made River project delivers about half a million cubic metres of water a day to Libya's coastal cities (where the population lives) through a network of concrete pipes, four metres in diameter or the size of subway tunnels. This "river" lies hidden under the desert and covers a total length of 3,500 km. Considerable controversy surrounds the mining of fossil water and several environmental groups have condemned the Man-Made River. The project's supporters maintain that

countries like Libya have run out of renewable water and cannot solely rely upon the costly option of desalination. ISARM is now establishing international guidelines to manage this extremely rare resource. The challenge is to balance ethical, environmental and scientific concerns with the socio-economic needs of the current generation and those to follow. For example, many experts justify the use of fossil water for drinking needs but consider it unethical and economically wasteful to use such a precious resource for irrigation, especially in arid zones where half the water can be lost to evaporation.



© Caroline Perrin/Panos Pictures

geohydrologists from Benin learned that the aquifer providing water for the capital city, Cotonou, extends across the border into Togo. Both countries now plan to jointly manage the aquifer, which will come under increasing strain because of predicted climate change. Rainfall in the region is already declining at a rate of two millimeters per year, according to Félix V. Azonsi, director of the Water Resources Department of Benin. In another surprise development, geohydrologists from Ghana discovered that their country shares a major aquifer with Côte D'Ivoire.

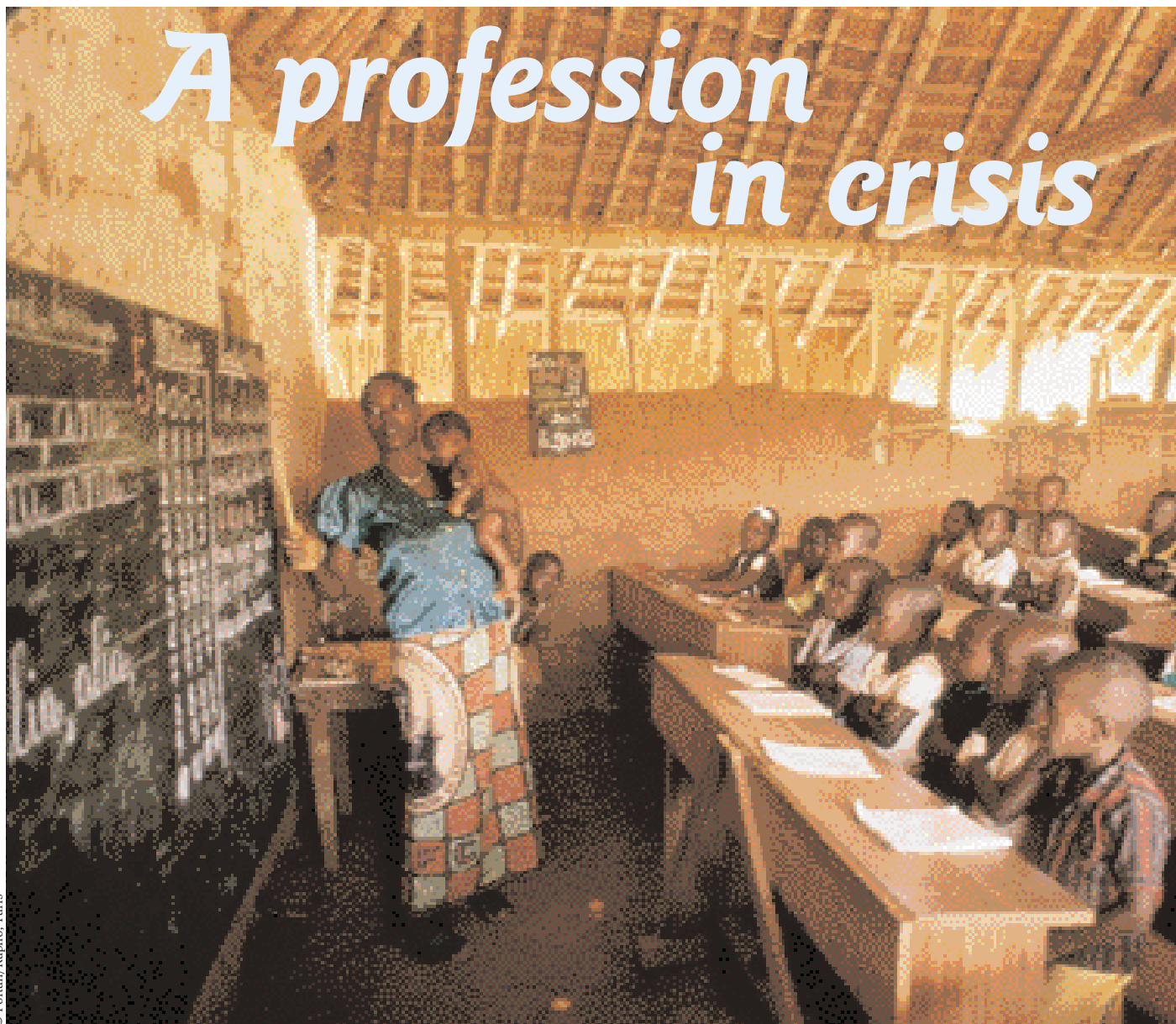
Similar surveys have already been completed for South America, Western Europe and the Euro-Mediterranean region, where water conflicts can be explosive. The Mountain Aquifer, for example, which straddles the West Bank and Israel, lies at the heart of the water dispute between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government. In a nutshell, Israel

consumes about 85 percent of the yield even though most of the rain and surface water replenishing it originates in Palestinian territory. However, geological conditions make it extremely difficult and expensive to tap into this water on the Palestinian side. In fact, most of the good quality water naturally flows into Israel, where it is relatively easy to access. The Mountain Aquifer had been the subject of intense negotiations, which collapsed after the outbreak of the current intifadah. Despite the violence, geohydrologists from both sides met earlier this year and exchanged water-related data through ISARM. The meeting was in many ways symbolic—both sides are fully aware of the pressures straining the Mountain Aquifer. But by taking part in ISARM, they sent a critical message: the goal is not just to study a transboundary aquifer, but to share and protect a resource no-one can live without.

Amy Otchet



A profession in crisis



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Relentless population growth and declining working conditions are creating a severe shortage of teachers in the world's classrooms, which may lead to a slide in educational standards according to a new global survey of teaching conditions

“Teaching?” Out of the question.” For Jerome Damien, a 27-year-old Parisian “teaching is too hard. Teachers are expected to fill roles they are not trained for. It’s also a profession with limited career possibilities, and early burn-out. And the pay is lousy given the job’s demands.” Jerome’s attitude is shared by 16 year-old Franco-Australian student Raphaëlle Prikosh who would “never, never” consider becoming a teacher. “Have you seen how kids and parents treat teachers these days?” she adds. The attitudes of Jerome and Raphaëlle are shared by growing numbers of young people in the rich North, who’re seeking more lucrative, exciting jobs, and consider teaching as a profession of last resort.

In the developing countries of the South, the reasons are different, but the teaching profession is equally in trouble.



Doing two jobs at once in Congo, where there are some 70 primary-age children for every teacher in the country and classrooms of up to 100 pupils

Young people are still becoming teachers, but the number of new recruits to the job cannot keep up with population growth, and, especially in Africa, the profession is being decimated by AIDS and conflict.

Unless something is done quickly to turn the situation around, say the experts, the world will have to deal with an acute teacher shortage at a time when demand for education is growing exponentially.

Such are the conclusions of a survey published by UNESCO and the International Labour Office, released on October 5 (World Teachers' Day). Based on the most extensive set of data ever gathered on the teaching profession, the survey found that the growth in the number of school-aged children had outpaced the growth in the number of teachers worldwide in the 1990s, packing

classrooms with as many as 100 students per teacher in some developing countries.

At the same time, the survey showed that in industrialized countries, an aging teaching force and a dearth of new recruits discouraged by declining status and low pay threatens to diminish the quality of education, just at a time when the need for new knowledge and skills is growing dramatically.

The number of women teachers increased throughout the 1990s, but still remains well under 50 percent of the total in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where the presence of more women teachers could help increase the access of girls to schooling. The report notes that the "glass ceiling" remains a reality for women in the profession who're still seriously under-represented in management jobs.

The *Statistical Profile of the Teaching Profession*, looks at how many teachers there are, who they are and what training they have received, their working conditions and how much their governments invest in them. It clearly links the status of teachers with the quality of education: in those countries where teachers enjoy relatively good employment conditions, education tends to be given high priority and is of higher quality.

The data, drawn from a range of sources, show that a concerted effort has been made in many developing regions where two thirds of the world's 59 million teachers live and work. The number of primary teachers in these countries increased by almost nine percent between 1990 and 1995. But the population of primary school age children there rose by the same amount.

At secondary level, the number of teachers grew substantially faster than the secondary school age population in developing countries (14.3 percent and 6.0 percent respectively). In the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) the difference was much less marked (16.4 percent and 13.9 percent). However, the study notes that almost half (228 million) of the total youth population of secondary school age in these countries is out of school. As more of these young people get into school, demand for teachers will increase dramatically.

* "A Statistical Profile of the Teaching Profession", by Maria Teresa Siniscalco, UNESCO/ILO, 2002. The report draws on information from various sources including the European Network for Information in Education (Eurydice), the International Labour Office (ILO) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNESCO's International Bureau of Education and its Institute for Statistics. This latter is monitoring teacher shortages globally and will release a detailed report on this issue early in 2003.



Teachers' Rights and Responsibilities

In 1966 UNESCO and the International Labour Organization adopted the Recommendation concerning the status of teachers. The recommendation covers all school teachers from pre-primary to secondary level whether in private or public institutions, providing definitions of their responsibilities and rights. It can also be used as the basis for the development of a code of ethics for the teaching profession, or for

the development of national laws and practices concerning teachers. Some of its key provisions include:

Professionalism:

"Teaching should be regarded as a profession: it is a form of public service which requires teachers or expert knowledge and specialized skills, acquired and maintained through rigorous and continuing study; it also calls for a sense of personal and corporate sense of

responsibility for the education and welfare of the pupils in their charge."

Rights: "Both salaries and working conditions for teachers should be determined through a process of negotiation between teachers' organizations and the employers of teachers."

Hours of work: "In fixing hours of teaching account should be taken of all factors which are relevant to the teachers work load".

Salaries: "Teacher salaries

should (a) reflect the importance to society of the teaching function and hence the importance of teachers as well as the responsibilities of all kinds which fall upon them from the time of their entry into service [...] (d) take account of the fact that certain posts require higher qualifications and experience and carry greater responsibilities."



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The full text is available on the internet at <http://www.unesco.org/education>

Angry teachers in the United States



© AP/Sipa, Paris

Such growth means that the ratio of pupils to teachers remains three times higher in the LDCs than in developed countries. In Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal, for example, the study reports more than 50 primary-age children and often as many as 70 for every teacher in the overall population. This compares with an average of 16 pupils for every teacher in developed countries.

Developing country teachers also tend to be very young and inexperienced. In many of these nations more than 30 percent of teachers are under 30 years of age: in Indonesia, the under 30s account for more than 52 percent of primary school teachers. Although most teachers have the national academic qualifications to do their job, these qualifications vary widely, and in many of the LDCs the majority of primary teachers have, at most, a lower secondary qualification, and frequently no professional training at all. This is the case for almost 50 percent of teachers in Uganda, 40 percent in Togo and some 35 percent in Cape Verde.

The rich countries are also facing a difficult future. Although there seem to be plenty of teachers, the majority of them are older. In Germany and Sweden for example, more than 70 percent of primary teachers are over 40. This means that the majority of teachers in developed countries received their initial training 15 to 20 years ago, but the knowledge and skills needed by students has changed dramatically since

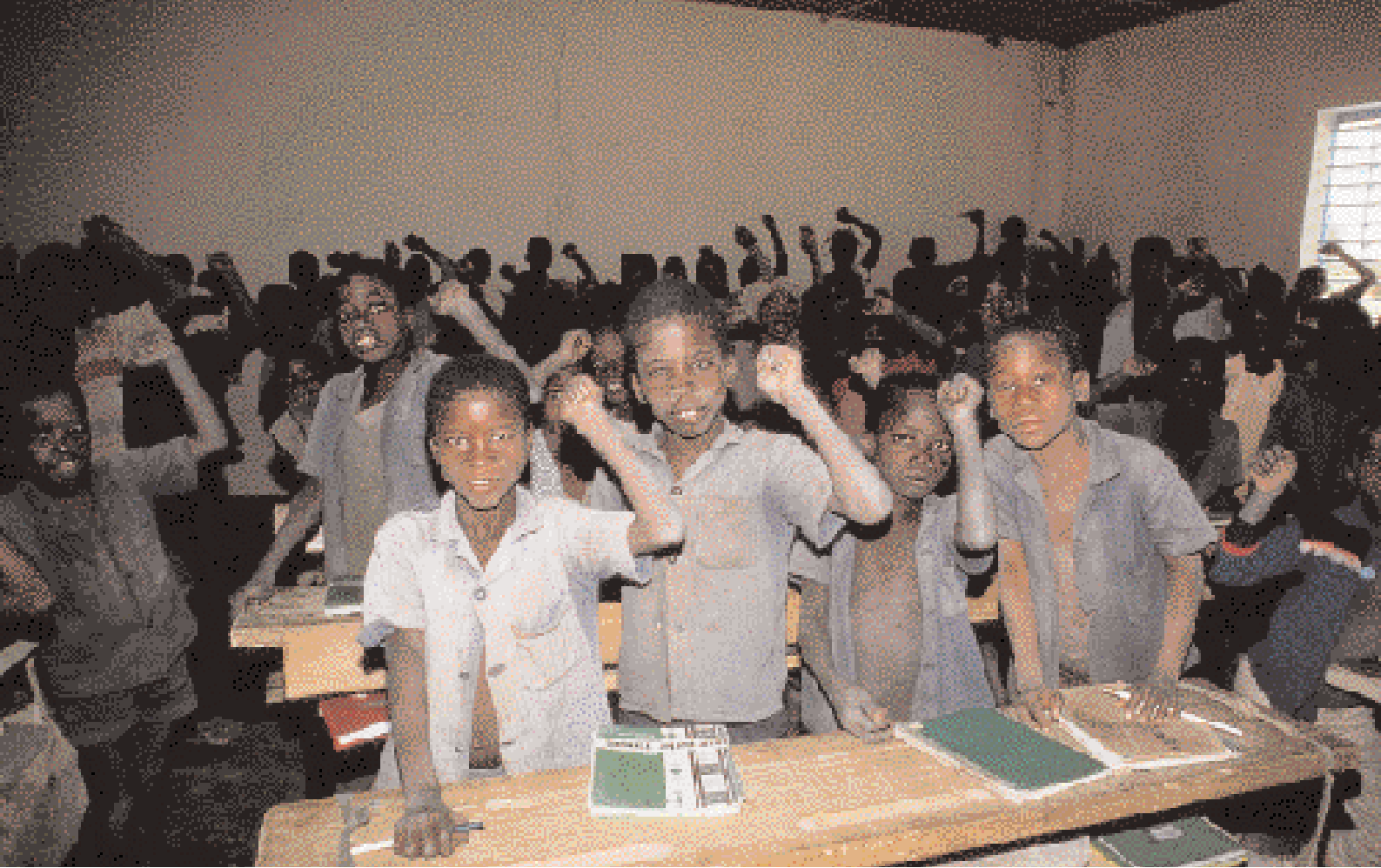
then. The report notes that in-service training is offered in many countries, but questions its quality and relevance.

Research indicates that low salaries may be partly responsible for lack of new recruits: teachers with 15 years experience in the OECD countries for example, earn an average of US\$27,525 annually, or significantly less than equally qualified professionals in other fields. This is still several times the earnings of teachers in developing countries, where salaries fell steadily throughout the 1990s. In Peru, all teachers, regardless of the level they teach or their experience, earn little more than US\$4,700 a year.

The report analyses the trade-offs made by governments to maximize the efficiency of their education systems. In some countries, such as Peru, teachers' low salaries are partly compensated by a relatively light teaching load of about 648 hours annually. In the Philippines, teachers are paid more (about US\$10,640 annually), but work an average of 1,176 hours per year and teach classes of over 50 students.

Juggling these various elements is obviously a complex task, especially for poor countries. But getting the balance right is vital for building and maintaining a professional teaching corps.

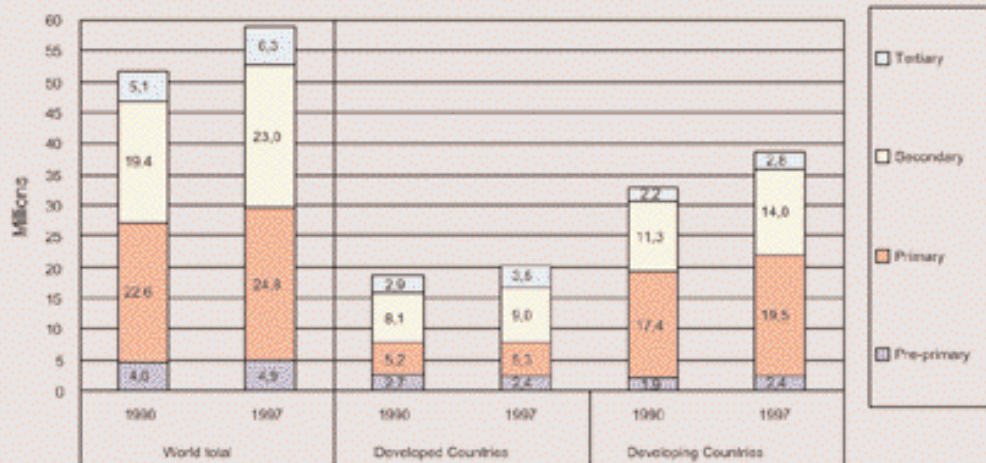
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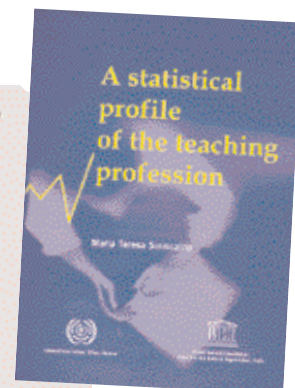
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Education for all cannot be achieved in countries like Burkina Faso (above) without more, trained, teachers

Figure 1. Number of teachers in the world's formal education system by level of education, 1990-97



Note: The number of teachers is estimated on the basis of headcounts. The number of teachers may be underestimated, as in some countries the data refer only to the public sector.
Source: UNESCO, 1999.



Drugs: societies under



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A new UNESCO report examines the economic and social impact of drug trafficking, an activity that has exploded around the world over the last two decades



Guajara Mirim! Until the 1970s, it was the end of the line for a train (powered by a wood-burning engine) known as the “Devil’s Railway”, an Amazon line that could have rivalled the tragically famous Congo-Ocean line for the number of workers killed per number of sleepers or ties put down. The train, which was never linked to the rest of Brazil’s rail network nor to that of Bolivia (on the other side of the Mamore river), was ordered out of service by the military, which preferred roads and independent truck drivers to the rails and unionized railway workers.

Guajara Mirim and its only hotel, The Jamaica, are not on the edge of the world but are nearly on the edge of Brazil, in the state of Rondônia. From there, you can take a boat – called a *voadeira* – to go to its equally rundown sister city of Guayaramerim in Bolivia. You can also – if you bring everything with you, including the 300 litres of petrol you’ll need – go as far as Costa Marques, a Brazilian village that is just as remote but not without a certain charm, with its ancient Portuguese fort on guard high above the dangerous rapids in low-water periods. During the two-day journey (220 kilometers), you will travel alongside an Indian

the influence



© Pascal Maitre/Cosmos, Paris

reservation and see hundreds of *jacarés*, local alligators, but practically no inhabitants. The *ribereños*, traditional inhabitants of the Amazon river banks, have moved to the cities, abandoning the area to drug traffickers and police officers who, with binoculars glued to their eyes, try to keep watch over the river, a river that forms a border but which is also the sole means of communication in the region.

It was in Guajara Mirim that the Machado family arrived from Lima in the 1970s. One of the Machado brothers, Nereu, started off as a simple worker on the struggling barge that carried goods from one side of the river to the

The river is sole means of communication in Amazonia. It's also the main route for trafficking of all types

other. Five or six years later, the same man owned not only the barge but a shipping company, a naval shipyard, the dredging company that had a stranglehold on the local market for sand and gravel used in construction, as well as the supermarket and the petrol pump in Guajara Mirim, four planes and dozens of farms – with runways – in the region and elsewhere. Building his networks on both sides of the river by currying favors, feeding corruption and sparking terror, Nereu became a major drug trafficker as well as a local force.

A “MIRACLE” STATE

Another trafficker in Rondônia, Jabes Rabelo, climbed even higher up the social ladder, getting himself elected to the federal parliament. From humble beginnings as a mere official for INCRA, the body tasked with managing settlement projects, Rabelo became a coffee buyer in Cacoal and in the 1980s launched the “coffee miracle”. Rabelo bought coffee bean harvests at a better price than his competitors and then resold them at a loss in other Brazilian states. His local competitors ended up either going out of business or becoming part of Rabelo’s operation. In reality, the “miracle” should have been called money laundering: Rabelo’s bad business deals allowed him to “clean” the money he earned from cocaine trafficking and another illegal activity, a vast car and truck theft network (vehicles were traded in Bolivia for drugs).

Rondônia state was also witness to other “miracles”, like the “toilet paper boom”: this precious household necessity flew off store shelves in Guajana Mirim by the cubic metre and ended up in secret laboratories, which use lots of filters. In Costa Marques, rice was the hot commodity, filling entire warehouses – and the pockets of local shopkeepers – before sales fell off, ruining those who had been made rich. Money laundering was hidden in the sales of coffee, precious wood and gold extracted from local rivers.



The example of Rondônia state says a lot about the interconnectedness of the drug economy with other sectors, about the links between several forms of criminal activity (in this case, drugs and car theft) as well as about the power of drug traffickers and their ability to infiltrate the ranks of those tasked with making laws. This is only one of numerous cases analyzed in the report published by UNESCO in August, entitled *The Economic and Social Transformations Connected to the International Drug Problem* (see box).

Until now, research conducted on the drug phenomenon has been mainly devoted to the problems caused by consumption, as well as prevention and treatment policies. Moreover, drug trafficking, as impenetrable as it is dangerous, was a subject that seemed destined to remain outside research circles. However, it is now much more important to have a better understanding of the profound effects trafficking had on economies and societies when it shot through the roof in the 1980s and 1990s, and of the involvement of huge criminal organizations now active in all corners of the globe.

CORRUPTION IS EVERYWHERE

One of the most serious problems posed by drug trafficking, and illustrated by states' lack of ability and/or willingness to apply laws to crackdown on the situation, is the problem of governance, as the report clearly shows. Impunity through corruption exists everywhere, in various guises, according to the authors, who write: "The form of corruption prevailing in a given country is strictly dependent upon the nature of the State and the balance of power that holds between State institutions and drug trafficking networks. In this regard, the case of Mexico, where the civil service remained for a long time under the *de facto* tutelage of a single party, may show a greater similarity to the case of China, than, for example, to that of Brazil or Colombia."

The existence of drug markets creates other serious problems, like the violent crime that is plaguing some large cities. In Rio de Janeiro, "One cannot understand the tremendous increase in violent crimes, especially homicide, without linking it to drug trafficking." But the



The scale of laundering the profits of illegal activities is such that the experts believe it has an impact on global financial markets and even played a role in some of the big financial crises experienced in recent years

same causes do not produce the same effects in Mumbai (Bombay), India, where local trafficking is "better organized", meaning it is better controlled by organized crime groups who reach agreements on sharing markets and turf. Another observation: "Everywhere, young people, and, more and more, very young people are the first victims, in a general context of poverty, unemployment and social marginalisation where ... young people are tempted to get to money to buy consumer goods by engaging in illegal activities."

Part of the report is devoted to the cultural and social aspects of drug trafficking. The reader can learn, among other things, how in India, traditional use of some drugs (opium and cannabis), as well as religious, social and medical use, was once controlled by the local community, but those controls have now disappeared since all drug use has been made illegal. Or how in Mexico, the drug trafficker has been incorporated into local folklore, becoming a character in the *corridos*, popular traditional oral history, as well as being used in idiomatic expressions and local symbols.





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Everything goes when it comes to laundering drug profits - the coffee trade, gold or exotic timbers.

Drug trafficking: the UNESCO report

The research goes beyond this local level to unveil the less obvious consequences of drug trafficking -- and the money laundering that comes along with it. It clearly establishes a link with other criminal activities, from São Paulo through Mumbai (Bombay) to China.

In a final observation and confirmation of the importance of the problem, the report notes that: "If the illegal traffic of drugs represents only a small percentage of economic activity in comparison to the formal legal economy, nevertheless the money laundering of the profits from the totality of the illegal activities controlled by the criminal networks can have an effect on financial crises. This theory was proved by the Mexican financial crisis (1994-1995), and also in Thailand (1997) and Japan (since 1990)"

Future studies will perhaps show that this theory applied to countries like Turkey, Argentina or Nigeria in 2000-01.

Pierre Gaillard

The global report published by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) entitled "The Economic and Social Transformations Connected with the International Drug Problem", is the result of a research project led by a multidisciplinary team (sociologists, ethnologists, anthropologists, economists,) from 1996 to 2002, with the backing of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

Researchers focused on four large countries in Latin America and Asia: Brazil, China, India and Mexico. The report allows readers to better understand how drug trafficking works and the criminal activities associated with it, as well as the economic, social and political repercussions of national and international efforts to stem the drug trade. It aims to help policymakers develop initiatives that take into consideration these economic and social dimensions, as well as cultural aspects. Beyond the report, the project generated the publication of numerous articles, a thematic

issue of the International Social Science Journal (September 2001) and a book, "*Les Prospérités du Crime*" (forthcoming in English). It also led to the creation of two university chairs on the drug trade in Mexico and Brazil to be sponsored from 2002 to 2004, as well as the creation of networks of researchers specializing in the drug trade in various regions around the world.

M. P.-L.



The report is available on CD-Rom and on the MOST programme website:

<http://www.unesco.org/most/drugs.htm>



SOS Media



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UNESCO supports independent media in conflict and post conflict areas, to provide the non-partisan information that is vital for reconciliation, reconstruction and democracy



© Giacomo Pirozzi/Panos Pictures, London

On 24 January this year, just weeks after the Taliban lost their 7-year hold on power, the *Kabul Weekly*, Afghanistan's first independent publication in as many years, hit the streets. This momentous and highly symbolic event was made possible by direct assistance provided by UNESCO as part of a global programme to support the development of editorially independent and non-partisan media in areas ravaged by conflict (see box). The 10-year-old programme, known as SOS Media, has achieved impressive results in Southeastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

As the media became instruments of war in the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, UNESCO sought to support non-partisan reporting. To this end, it provided print and

broadcast journalists with equipment and supplies, helped them communicate across lines of fire and organize distribution. With the World Association of Newspapers, the International Federation of Journalists and the Council of Europe, UNESCO helped set up the Independent Balkan Media Coordination Centre in Slovenia to keep track of press freedom violations in the former Yugoslavia. Diplomatic pressure to prevent regimes from suppressing the nascent independent media in the region helped the development of lively print and broadcast media which played a crucial role in the defeat of President Slobodan Milosevic in the elections of 2000.

Throughout the preceding years of conflict, UNESCO in cooperation with various NGOs

Humanitarian organizations use local media to transmit vital information to refugees, as in Macedonia (left). In Chad (bottom left), a journalist interviews a farmer for the community radio

helped to keep independent media alive in the former Yugoslavia (see box) often moving key equipment and supplies across battle-lines. In 1995, together with World Wide Television News (WTN), UNESCO helped to create a Satellite News Exchange which continued to make reliable information available to independent television broadcasters throughout the subsequent war years. UNESCO also supported the creation of an Association of Private Media (APM) which helped independent publishers to coordinate their responses in the

face of restrictions and government-induced shortages of material such as paper. The private Trans Press network laboured, with UNESCO assistance, to distribute independent newspapers as widely as possible in a difficult environment.

In the summer of 2002, UNESCO sent Nastasa Vuckovic Lesendric, General Manager of APM and of the Trans Press network in Belgrade, to Afghanistan. Her role was to share her considerable experience with media professionals of that other war-ravaged country.

Media development in Afghanistan

- Some 120 experts meeting in Kabul (Afghanistan, September 3-5) urged the Afghan authorities to enshrine the principles of free speech and free media in their country's new constitution.
- The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Information and Culture and UNESCO, with the help of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the NGOs Internews and Baltic Media Centre.
- The final declaration issued by participants recommended such far-reaching measures as an immediate review of the legal system concerning the media, so as "to promote freedom of expression, protect the rights of journalists, and guarantee their freedom to do their work in safety, including publishing critical reports and opinions."
- It also asked that "licensing provisions in the Press Law should be suspended immediately" so that "anyone can publish newspapers and periodicals", and called for "open government laws" giving the public and journalists access to information. Amongst the recommendations specifically concerning the audiovisual media, was a call for the transformation of Radio-Television Afghanistan into a public service broadcasting system, with an independent board of governors.
- Finally, the declaration recommended that "these plans be integrated as part of national policy, and that sufficient resources be allocated within the government's annual budgets, supported by international donors."
- The Kabul meeting is in keeping with UNESCO's work to promote and develop independent media in post conflict areas, and to advise governments on media legislation, as it has done, for example in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Indonesia.

PRESSURE FROM ALL SIDES

Back from her mission, Vuckovic Lesendric outlined the challenges facing the Afghan print media: "In just a few months, 90 different titles were established but none are economically viable. They must first establish the habit of reading newspapers, which is difficult because of very low literacy. I was shocked when one Afghan man told me 'I was born to be a warrior and all I need to read is the Koran which I already know by heart.' Printing presses were destroyed in the wars and there is the problem of distribution. It is really difficult to travel beyond Kabul, some areas are not secure and distribution there will depend on the cooperation of warlords who can put pressure on publishers in terms of contents."

Since 1994, SOS Media has been active in the Great Lakes region of Africa. With the non-governmental organization *Reporters sans frontières*, it set up *Agatashya*, a radio station in Rwanda run by independent Rwandan journalists. It broadcast survival information on drinking water, food and sanitation to more than 1.5 million refugees and helped them search for lost family members. UNESCO and the French NGO *Equilibre* furthermore sent some 3,500 radio sets to camps in the Kivu Lake area (former Zaïre). This illustrates the reliance of large-scale humanitarian assistance on the media and "it is essential that the populations concerned be able to trust the media which disseminate vital public service messages," says Antonella Notari, spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

UNESCO emphasized training a new



generation of journalists, after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. One hundred and ten media professionals were trained in Rwanda between 1997 and 2000, and the programme continues. UNESCO has been encouraging the exchange of news, and providing material help. It helped increase the number of independent newspapers in Burundi and Rwanda and set up

Press Houses in both countries. They provide independent journalists with infrastructure (i.e. computers, documentation and newspaper production facilities) and help them meet, exchange views and experiences. The Press Houses have also given Hutu and Tutsi journalists an opportunity to work together.

In Rwanda, UNESCO is funding the production

SOS media around the world

Selected other key projects of the Programme of Assistance to Independent Media in Conflict Areas:

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- ▶ The Alternative Information Network news agency;
- ▶ Helped create NTV 99, during the war, the first independent TV in the country;
- ▶ Emergency assistance – with the help of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and UNHCR, during the fighting – to broadcasters RTVBiH, Zid – and Studio 99, to ONASA news agency, and the newspaper *Oslobodenje*;
- ▶ Support to the TVCiak children's production company that co-produced programmes with European TVs;
- ▶ Journalist training at European TV stations.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:

- ▶ Supplies and equipment to six radio stations, to the last operating independent television station Studio B1, to Belgrade-based newspaper *Nasa Borba* and to the *Beta* news agency;
- ▶ Obtained UN Security Council waiver on paper imports for independent papers, to counter government's refusal to supply them with newsprint.

Croatia:

- ▶ Helped set up the *Midas* radio and TV production centre;
- ▶ Support to *Radio Labin* and *Radio 101*, and to *Feral Tribune* newspaper;
- ▶ Intervened in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia when the court ordered that the daily *Borba 1* and TV *Studio B* be brought back to state ownership;

- ▶ Intervened on behalf of imprisoned journalists and pressed for continued broadcasting by independent radio and television stations (Studio B and *B92*).

Indonesia:

- ▶ A network of dozens of community radios focusing on debate between voters and politicians in the countryside;
 - ▶ Helped radio stations launch a commercial network;
 - ▶ Technical help to radio stations, notably internet access and establishment of network allowing 25 local radios to exchange daily news;
 - ▶ Workshops on "openness", on how NGOs, voters and local officials use the media;
 - ▶ Seminar on media legislation.
- Recommendations were largely accepted by the government in September 1999.

East Timor:

- ▶ Helped set up Radio Los Palos and Radio Maliana, the first community radios in the newly independent state;
- ▶ Helped set up the country's first professional journalist organization, the Timor Lores Journalist Association.

Over the past 4 years, SOS Media channelled US\$ 9.2 million for activities in the field. Funding has been provided by Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland; and the European Commission. Although it is not a member of UNESCO, the USA has also been providing funds, as have a number of private donors.





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Working the mixer at a radio Hargeisa, in Somaliland (top). Participants in a live broadcast on radio *Vive le paysan* in Burkina Faso debate the links between football and sorcery

and broadcast of a daily radio programme on women's issues by the *Association Rwandaise Femmes et Médias* (Association of Women Journalists). Aid was offered to ten independent media outlets in Rwanda while, in Burundi, support was given to newspapers and associations promoting press freedom and human rights. Working with the NGO *Reporters sans frontières*, UNESCO helped the Burundian publications *La Semaine*, *Panafrika* and *Ijwi* (The Voice) survive and increase circulation. In both countries, UNESCO supported the creation of new press associations to replace those that disappeared in the violence.

In Angola, SOS Media has provided training to 80 radio journalists, including 27 women, since 1998 and helped them produce programmes on subjects such as unemployment, street children, health and women's issues. These programmes, broadcast by UN Radio and state broadcasters, are produced with a view to laying the ground for the creation of independent radio stations.



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Similarly, UNESCO is seeking to revive dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian media professionals on issues of common concern, encourage professional exchanges and improve professional standards. Such meetings, organized by the Israeli/Palestinian Media Forum, which UNESCO helped establish in 1998, stalled when the second Intefada flared up two years ago. Plans exist also to produce television programmes to be aired in both the Palestinian territories and Israel.

Roni Amelan

Human rights at university

Holders of UNESCO Chairs on human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance gathered for their biannual meeting in the Austrian town of Stadtschlaining last April. The 56 chairs have been established in universities on all continents. Most have designed specific curricula on human rights rewarded by diplomas as well as modules for students from other disciplines. Other chairs offer training for professionals including doctors, journalists, lawyers, police and armed forces. Some chairs have also developed curricula for primary and secondary schooling in their respective

countries. Pierre Sané, the assistant director general for social and human sciences, told participants that UNESCO relied on them to relay the organization's human rights strategy, which has been developed around three priority areas : economic, social and cultural rights; women's rights and the fight against racism and discrimination. Three new chairs are currently being set up in Egypt, Ecuador and Malta.

Books made in Cambodia

Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and UNESCO's Phnom Penh Office recently published five books in Khmer in a country that has yet to develop its book publishing industry.

The books are: *Golden Ideas in Literature and The Famous Playwrights* by Kim Pichpinun; *Khmer Salutations*, by Sam-Ang Sam and Sam Ath Nguon; *The Art of Writing Khmer Poetry*, by Pich Tum Kravel; and *Khmer Art's History*, by Seng Kimly, A total of 4,500 copies of these titles

have been printed, thanks to the Japanese funds-in-trust to UNESCO. They are to be used by teachers and students at the Fine Arts University and artists of the

National Theatre, as well as libraries, universities, ministries and other cultural institutions in the country.

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Conservation pays off in Swiss Alps

The Alpine region of Entlebuch in the canton of Lucerne has become Switzerland's second UNESCO biosphere

reserve. The site joins 139 other UNESCO Man and Biosphere reserves in mountain areas, out of a total of 409 in 94

countries. With the year 2002 designated UN International Year of the Mountain, the Entlebuch initiative helps focus attention on the critical role that mountains play for life on this planet. Despite initial scepticism in Entlebuch, a high level of involvement of local farmers and residents in the project has produced a unique mix of economic development, ecological and cultural conservation initiatives. Local farmers and craftspeople can apply for a "biosphere reserve" quality label for

their products, a guarantee that they have been made in a sustainable manner with respect for the environment. This kind of "eco-labelling" is becoming an increasingly popular way to promote sustainable local development while raising awareness about conservation and good practice.



© Peter Coles, Paris

SESAME opens door to Middle East co-operation

UNESCO is backing a science initiative that could help promote peaceful co-operation in the Middle East, by constructing an international synchrotron radiation centre in Jordan. When completed, the facility, baptised SESAME (International Centre for Synchrotron Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) will become the first regional centre for co-operation in basic research in the Middle East. The project was born in 1997, when Germany decided to decommission its \$60 million BESSY 1 synchrotron and offered it to the Middle Eastern scientific community free of charge. A 13-member Interim Council is overseeing the transfer,

installation and upgrading of the facility in Jordan, with another eleven Member States as observers. When UNESCO's Executive Board approved the initiative last May, the Chairman of the Programme and External Relations Commission, Professor Kenneth Wiltshire, described it as a "quintessential UNESCO project," combining science and education in the fields of international cooperation for development and peace. See: www.sesame.org.jo/



© AP/Sipa, Paris

Restoring Afghanistan's cultural heritage

Participants at a UNESCO-organized meeting in Kabul last May decided not to give priority to reconstruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas, which were dynamited in March 2001.

Instead, the experts and representatives of several countries and international NGOs preferred to concentrate on places that had not yet been

damaged beyond repair, and promised seven million dollars to help finance the work. Sites chosen include the Kabul Museum, Babur's Moghul Gardens also in Kabul, the Minaret of Jam, and sites in the cities of Herat and Balkh. At Bamiyan, some 600 caves and the remains of murals painted on the cliffs will be protected and

restored and new archaeological digs started. The main partners involved in these projects are the governments of France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Japan, along with the Aga Khan Foundation, the Hirayama Foundation and the Society for the Protection of Afghan Cultural Heritage (SPACH).



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A prize for the DG



© UNESCO/Niamh Burke

The Director-General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, has been awarded the International Prize for St. Andrew for 2002, for his "outstanding contribution to the development of dialogue between civilizations". The prize is presented

annually by the Centre of National Glory of Russia to "individuals who, through their action have upheld the values of civilization and pursued policy in favour of peace and mutual understanding among peoples and countries".

An exceptional effort

The City Montessori School (CMS), founded in 1959 in Lucknow in the state of Uttar Pradesh, is a school unlike any other. With 25,000 pupils from kindergarten up to high school level, it figures in the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest private school in the world, and its students systematically score higher on exams than the national average. But it also stands out because of its philosophy: for more than 40 years it has educated students to respect the values of tolerance and

peace and sought to make them citizens of the world. In recognition of this remarkable achievement, and the school was awarded this year's UNESCO Prize for Peace Education.



© CMS, Lucknow

Nine new World Heritage sites

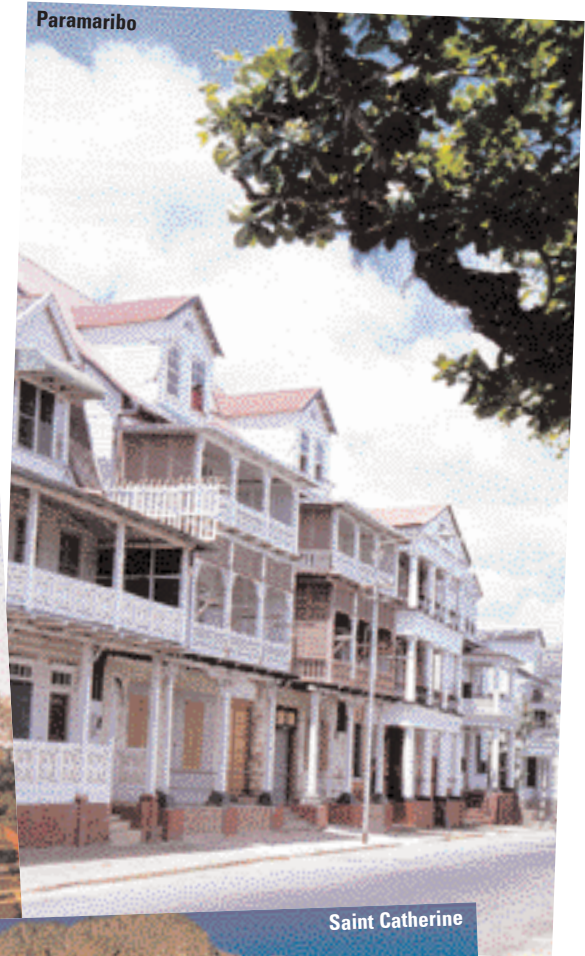
Nine new sites, all cultural, were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List last June, including: the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan, see page 43), the Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany), the Historic centres of Stralsund and Wismar (Germany), the Saint Catherine Area (Egypt), the Tokaji Wine Region Cultural Landscape (Hungary), the Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya (India), the Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto (Italy), the Ancient Maya City of Calakmul (Mexico), and the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Surinam,). The additions bring the total number of sites on the List to 730. Meantime, the List of World Heritage in Danger has swelled to 33 sites, with the inclusion of Jam, (Afghanistan) which needs consolidating and has been

regularly pillaged, and Tipasa (Algeria), where unbridled urban development is encroaching on archaeological remains which have also suffered from vandalism.

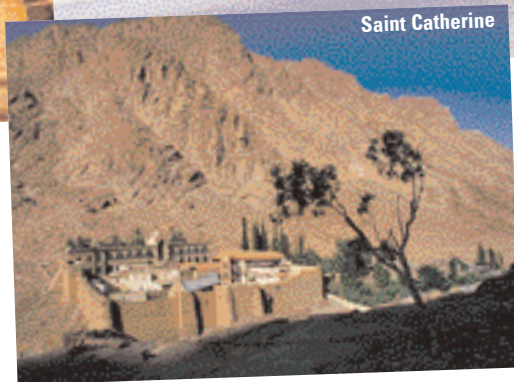


Bodhgaya

© UNESCO



Paramaribo



Saint Catherine

Timor's cultural heritage

When East Timor became independent last May 20 – the world's newest country – UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura appealed to governments to contribute to a special fund to preserve its cultural heritage. Since the end of 1999, in

cooperation with the World Bank, the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the Portuguese government, UNESCO has provided technical aid to restore *Uma Fukum*, the oldest colonial building in Dili, the capital.

After it has been restored, *Uma Fukum* will become the country's national museum, mainly housing items rescued from the old one, which was looted and badly damaged in the war of independence. Helped by Australia's Darwin Museum and Melbourne

University, UNESCO has salvaged and repaired a collection of 476 unique items, including ancestral wooden statues, china and fragments of Neolithic pottery. It is hoped these will soon be joined by Timorese artwork currently held abroad.



Literacy: slow progress

Almost 80 percent of the world's population aged 15 years and over is now literate according to new figures from UNESCO released on International Literacy Day (September 8). The new estimates show a steady fall in the number of illiterate adults from 22.4 percent of the world's population (872m) in 1995 to 20.3 percent (862m) in 2000. The figures also show that although women still make up two thirds of the world's adult illiterates, they are gaining access to education and literacy at a faster rate than men. This was most evident in Africa, where, for

the first time, the majority of women are now literate. However, progress remains excruciatingly slow and meeting the goal set by the World Education Forum (Dakar, April 2000) to halve adult illiteracy by 2015 will clearly be an uphill battle. Unless an extraordinary effort is made, the percentage of illiterate adults will fall by only another five percentage points by that date.



© UNESCO/Dominique Roger

Interactive atlas of the oceans

Amid mounting concern over continuing deterioration of marine and coastal ecosystems, several of the world's foremost ocean agencies have created the first on-line, interactive atlas of the world's oceans. The goal is to reverse the decline and promote sustainable development of oceans. Over-fishing, destruction of coastal habitat and pollution from industry, farms and households are endangering

marine life and even the global climate. The Atlas spotlights these and other acute marine issues. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has been the lead agency responsible for coordinating this project. The atlas was launched at the annual meeting of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee in Paris, in May.

Consult the atlas at: <http://oceansatlas.org>



Teaching science with zest

Science and technology are all around us, all the time. Yet, young people everywhere are losing interest in these fields, which are too often badly taught or hardly taught at all. Most secondary school teachers in developing countries never receive proper training in scientific, technological and environmental

subjects. So it is hardly surprising that their students tend to express little interest in these critical issues. To reverse this trend, UNESCO has developed a series of six pedagogic posters in collaboration with the Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (Chandigarh, India). The posters use bold graphics and succinct

English texts to explain basic scientific principles, new technologies and methods of investigation. They are designed to help teachers teach the sciences better. They also focus on issues that young people are sensitive to, like biodiversity, pollution and the importance of recycling.



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Mobilizing to safeguard intangible heritage

On September 17, representatives of 100 countries, among them 72 culture ministers, decided to develop "policies which aim at the identification, safeguarding, promotion and transmission of the intangible cultural heritage, particularly through information and education." This heritage consists of languages, social and religious rituals, songs, dances, plays and unique crafts, all of which are key elements in cultural diversity. In the Istanbul Declaration, adopted at the close of a round-table

chaired by UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, governmental representatives pledged to pay special attention to countries, such as Afghanistan, and territories suffering from poverty, conflicts or crises. They called upon UNESCO "to examine the possibility of establishing a special fund" to safeguard intangible heritage in danger

of disappearing. According to the Istanbul Declaration, "an appropriate international convention [...] could be a positive step" in pursuing this goal. An intergovernmental expert meeting has been scheduled to prepare a preliminary draft convention.



© UNESCO/Jane Wright

Afghanistan

A nation at

A fragile peace p.41

*Under threat: the
Minaret of Jam p.43*

Retracing the Silk Road p.44

*Roads
of Dialogue p.46*

*A crime against
culture p.48*

A historical junction p.50

*Keeping Afghanistan's
culture alive p.51*

*Fine arts
and crafts p.53*

*Restoring Babur's
Moghul Gardens p.55*

Return to learning p.58

*Women reclaiming
their lives p.60*

Speaking out .. p.61

Nurturing Afghanistan's free press.. p.58

Even though the war has subsided, the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is far from over, and the task of rebuilding the war-ravaged nation has hardly begun. Little has arrived of the \$4.5 billion reconstruction aid pledged to Afghanistan in January. Millions of Afghans continue to live in squalid poverty, and many are getting impatient - both with their own leaders and the international community that supports them.



focus

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the crossroads



focus

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© UNESCO

Written by special correspondent,
JOHN LAWTON, a journalist
and television producer specialized
in Central Asia and the Silk Roads.

Afghanistan



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The People

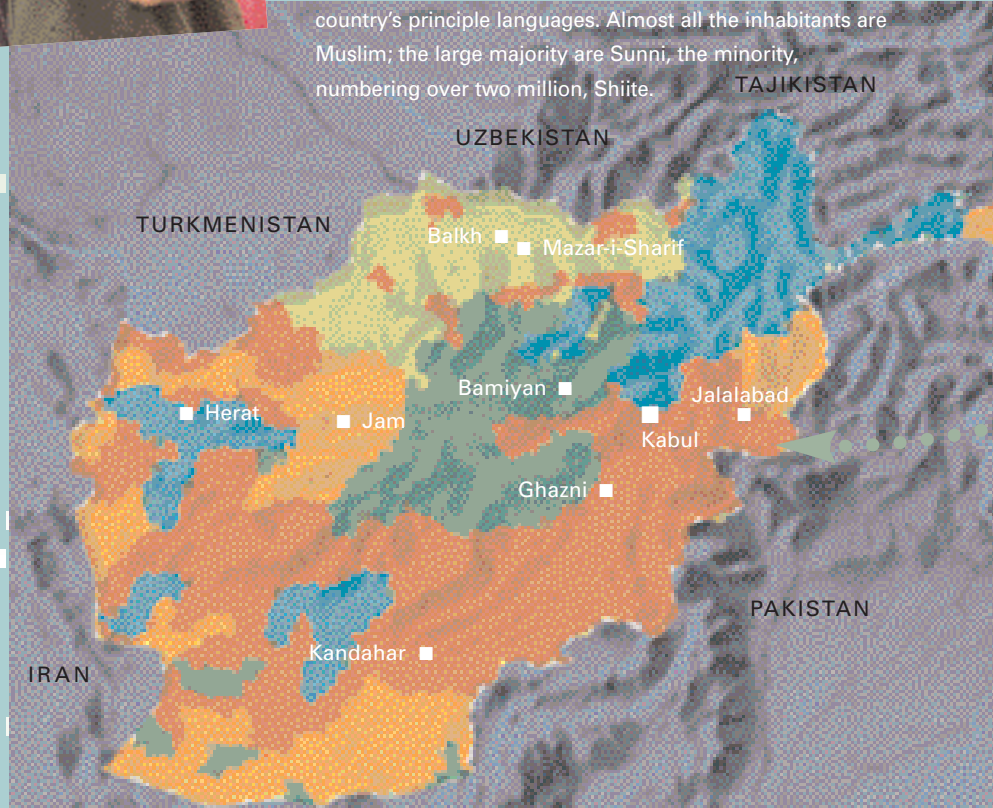
Although the continuous state of war in Afghanistan from 1979 onwards has caused substantial population displacement, regional ethnicity is still generally the same. Tajiks live around Herat in the northwest, Uzbeks live in the north, the nomadic Turkmen live in the Vakhani in the northeast. In the central mountains are the Hazaras, of Mongolian origin. In the east and south are the Pashtuns, the country's largest ethnic group in a total population of about 22 million. Pashto and Dari (Afghan Persian), plus various Turkic tongues, mainly Uzbek and Turkmen, are the country's principle languages. Almost all the inhabitants are Muslim; the large majority are Sunni, the minority, numbering over two million, Shi'ite.

How it is

The United Nations estimates 1.5 million Afghans have died, two million have been wounded and five million more made refugees in fighting that started in 1979 with the Soviet invasion. From 1992, when the Soviets withdrew, until 1996, rival war-lords fought a civil war. The chaos this caused allowed the Taliban to take over until they were driven out last December by U.S.-led forces.

How it was

Afghanistan has a long history of invasion and instability. Its location astride the land routes between Iran, China, Central Asia and the south Asian subcontinent has always enticed conquerors. One of the first was Alexander the Great in the third century BC. His successors created wealthy kingdoms in Afghanistan that bridged the civilizations of East and West. In the early centuries of our era Afghanistan was the centre of the vast Kushan empire which acted as intermediary in trade between India, China and Rome. The Kabul Valley was birthplace of Gandharan art, beautifully blending Greek stone-carving skills with Buddhist themes, while in the 15th century Herat, in northwestern Afghanistan, was capital of the Timurid Empire and a verdant centre of art and learning.



How did it get so bad?

In the early 1970s Afghanistan was beset by serious economic problems, including long-term drought. Maintaining that King Muhammad Zahir Khan had mishandled the economic crisis and was stifling political reform, a group of young military officers overthrew the monarchy in July 1973 and proclaimed a republic. Lt. Gen. Muhammad Daoud Khan became president and prime minister, but in 1978 was himself deposed by a group led by Nour Mohammed Taraki, who aligned Afghanistan with the Soviet Union. In the late 1970s the government faced increasing popular opposition to its social policies, and by 1979 guerrilla opposition forces, popularly called *mujahedeen*, were active in much of the country. In September, 1979, Taraki was killed and Hafizullah Amin took power. Shortly thereafter, the Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan, Amin was executed, and the Soviet-supported Babrak Karmal became president.

Pashtun
Tajik
Uzbek
Hazara
Others

focus

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A fragile peace

focus

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CHINA

Khyber Pass

Throughout history Afghanistan served as a springboard for the conquest of the south Asian subcontinent, and the Khyber Pass, which links the two, was the gateway through which these invaders - Persians, Kushans, Turks, Timurids and Moghuls - poured. In recent times it was the main escape route for millions of refugees fleeing the fighting in Afghanistan. Now it is the main artery for aid to Kabul.

Source : CNN

The Future

The *Loya Jirga*, or grand council of tribal elders, meeting in Kabul in June, elected Hamid Karzai, the aristocratic Pashtun tribal leader as president of the Transitional Administration that will lead Afghanistan until elections in 2004. Outside of Kabul, however, the government's writ does not run strong. Warlords, whose private armies control huge swathes of the country, pose perhaps the gravest danger to the fragile transitional government.

The Great Game

For almost a century Afghanistan was a pawn in the 'Great Game' played by European imperial powers as they vied for influence in Central Asia. Napoleon's intrigues in Persia prompted the British in India to first open official relations with Kabul in 1809. Russia's steady expansion southwards across Central Asia deepened their concern. Acutely aware of Afghanistan's age-old position as a highway from Persia and Central Asia to India, the British took an active interest in the seating and unseating of princes on the throne of Kabul during the remainder of the 19th century. Twice this interest led to war: first in 1838-42, and again in 1878-80. Attempting to free Afghanistan from British influence, King Amanullah invaded India in 1919. This third Afghan War was ended by the Treaty of Rawalpindi, which gave Afghanistan full independence.

Over two decades of conflict and three years of drought have devastated Afghanistan's agriculture, says the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As farming and related activities are the only means of livelihood for some 85 percent of the population, the country is being kept alive by international food aid. Delivering relief supplies to remote regions on a reliable basis, however, is difficult, and millions of Afghans - most of them children, says the UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) - remain at risk.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES

The Afghan government too is living hand-to-mouth. To meet its running costs, the government has received grants of as much as \$10 million each from India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which officials carried back in suitcases because there is no banking system in Kabul.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees have been returning to Afghanistan each week, putting the country's shattered infrastructure under even greater strain and stretching still further the government's meagre resources. Thousands of unemployed crowd ministries and United Nations offices looking for jobs. Beggars have staked out houses where foreigners live, and Afghans holding university degrees work as drivers for foreign aid agencies.

Many of Afghanistan's towns and cities are badly damaged, with only intermittent running water and electricity. Parts of Kabul lie buried beneath thousands of tons of rubble. While in the countryside

Afghanistan

roam 700,000 armed men who must be persuaded to give up their guns with aid, jobs and education.

Like much else in Afghanistan, however, the education system too is in shambles. Although more than 1.5 million children turned up at the start of the new school year, many more are still caught in displacement camps and refugee centers. Meanwhile, more teachers have to be selected and trained; textbooks printed, school supplies bought and distributed to meet the expected influx of children if peace prevails.

HUGE LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

These are huge logistical challenges in a country with a poor road network, shattered infrastructure and a heavy infestation of land mines. Close cooperation between national and local authorities, UN agencies and the myriad of non-governmental agencies (NGOs) is needed. "At present there is too much competition," says Cindar Isasac, programme officer for Focus, the humanitarian arm of the Aga Khan Development Network.

At last count, there were 18 UN Agencies, 83 international NGO's, and 111 Afghan NGO's active in Kabul. Competition among NGOs for funding and projects is fierce, while NGOs, which have been operating in Afghanistan for many years, accuse recently returned UN agencies, who pulled out during the fighting, of poaching their trained staff.

"Mending Afghanistan," says UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Mark Malloch Brown, "is a task for all of us, a historic wrong to be put right and an opportunity for North/South solidarity," Brown, who was named by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to head the recovery effort in Afghanistan, says developing countries, as well as the rich, can play an important role in the country's reconstruction.



© UNESCO

A camp some 30 kilometres east of Kabul (left and below) provides a temporary home for thousands of Afghan refugees. The minaret of jam, seen from the inside and outside (right)



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Under threat: The Magnificent Minaret of Jam

One of the few ancient monuments in Afghanistan to survive the wrath of war, the fury of the elements and acts of destruction by the Taliban, is the Minaret of Jam. None too soon, it has been placed on UNESCO's World Heritage List

The slender, tapering minaret soars to a height of 65 meters over the floor of a remote valley in western Afghanistan. Modern scholars only reached the site in 1957, when discovery intact of the enormous 12-century brick tower caused a sensation. It was a mystery to architects how such a structure stood for so long in one of the world's most active earthquake zones. And historians wondered why it was the only monument left standing by Genghis Khan's Mongol hordes, who devastated the region in 1221.

The Minaret of Jam is the second tallest brick tower in the world after the Qutub Minar in New Delhi. It is three-tiered and decorated with a variety of geometric and floral patterned bands and inscriptions in brick and stucco. Located east of Herat, the minaret stands on the site of what may be the capital of the Ghorid Dynasty, which ruled Afghanistan from 1148 to 1214. The site also includes

the ruins of a palace, fortifications, and a Jewish cemetery.

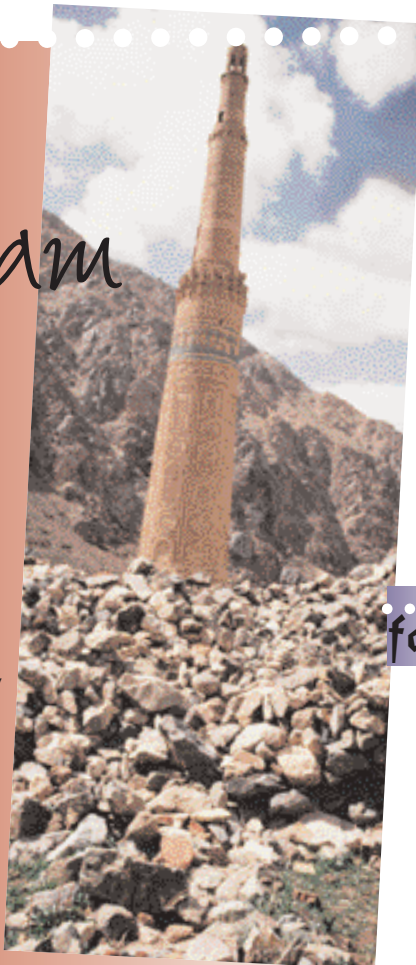
The Minaret of Jam is one of over 60 towers, dating from between the early 11th and mid-13th centuries, still standing in Afghanistan, Iran, and the Central Asian Republics. The special taste for towers in this period, is ascribed to the widespread recognition of the form as an appropriate symbol of the triumph of Islam in the region.

Some towers that appear independent today were once attached as minarets to mosques built of sun-dried brick that have since disappeared. Other towers, however, were conceived as independent, and also served as landmarks to guide caravans across the landscape, or watchtowers in times of war.

The most impressive of this latter type is undoubtedly the Minaret of Jam. Scholars speculate that it was because of its usefulness as a

watchtower that the Mongols spared it. They also believe that wooden beams inside the brickwork may have provided some of the necessary tensile strength for the tower to survive earthquakes.

The minaret is now threatened by water seeping from the two rivers at whose confluence it stands, by vibrations from a planned road-building project nearby, and continuing illegal archaeological digs. "It is vital that this monument and the whole archaeological site be placed under constant surveillance," says UNESCO consultant Prof. Andrea Bruno of Italy, who is also urging that the proposed road route be altered.



**Mending
Afghanistan is a
task for all of us
...an opportunity
for North/South
solidarity**

**UNDP Administrator,
Mark Malloch Brown**

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UNESCO projects in Afghanistan range from new initiatives to rebuild the country's education systems and academic life to restoring historical monuments and museums damaged by war. Some question whether historic sites should be a priority for rebuilding when so much of modern Afghanistan is in ruins. However, UNESCO's Pakistan representative Ingeborg Breines points out that: "In post-conflict countries it is extremely important



A suspension bridge in Nuristan

that people are rallied by something that can give them a national identity."

Much of the magnificent remains of Afghanistan's past have, however, already vanished, victims of either shelling, systematic theft or illegal excavations. Kabul Museum was looted, and many archaeological sites, such as Hadda, Ai-Khanoum and Tilia Tepe, were dug up and their treasures sold abroad. Finally, the decree of Taliban spiritual leader Mullah Omar on February 26 last year ordering "all non-Islamic statues and tombs" to be destroyed, led to the much-publicised demolition of the Bamiyan Buddhas.

One of Afghanistan's few ancient legacies still intact is the Minaret of Jam (see previous page). In June, the minaret was placed on UNESCO's list of historical monuments that should be preserved as part of the world's cultural heritage. It is the first Afghan site to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, earlier efforts by the Afghan government to get sites listed having been cut short by war.

AFGHAN JOURNEY

Retracing the Silk

Driving through the pulverized suburbs of Kabul, across the withered Afghan plains and over the war-debris-littered passes of the Hindu Kush, it is difficult to imagine this devastated land as it once was: a centre of great empires, an international crossroads of culture and commerce, and, in more recent years, a safe and peaceful stopover on the Asian "hippy trail."



Retracing this "trail" – which centuries before was part of the ancient Silk Road – we sped out of Kabul one recent dawn on a tour of Afghanistan's five central provinces within whose borders Asia's main overland trade routes once crossed.

Leaving the capital via the Koh Daman Valley we passed hundreds of abandoned villages, thousands of destroyed homes and millions of withered vines. Crippled tanks, burnt out trucks and twisted artillery pieces littered the roadside, which was lined by signs warning of landmines.

Koh Daman Valley was once one of the richest and most beautiful valleys in the country. It was noted mainly for its vineyards, but almond, pear, apricot, fig and cherry trees also flourished here. Not any more. For this was the line of attack on Kabul or – depending on which way



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Road across a devastated land

Crippled tanks, burnt out trucks and twisted artillery pieces littered the roadside

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A bactrian caravan

the war was going – retreat to the fastness of the Hindu Kush. Today most the Koh Daman Valley vines are dead and its orchards destroyed; their fruit trees stripped for firewood.

Because of its strategic location at the southern base of the Hindu Kush the once-fertile Begram plain, which we now crossed, was in recent years another virtual war zone. It guards passes through mountain ranges fanning out from the towering Hindu Kush across the centre of the country. In ancient times these passes were gateways to India, Bactria, and Central Asia, and Alexander the Great built a city here, which the Kushans later made capital of their vast empire. They called it Kapisa.

The Begram plain is desolate today, but in 1939 archeologists excavating the ruins of Kapisa discovered a treasure trove

testifying to the existence here, nearly 2,000 years ago, of a highly refined and cultured citizenry. In two small rooms in the royal city were exquisite Indian ivories and Chinese lacquers side by side with an infinite variety of objects from the far-flung reaches of the Roman Empire.

SIGNS OF CHANGE

Overlooking Kapisa is a low hill celebrated in Muslim legend. It is said that the Imam Hannifa Ghazni has lived inside this hill, known as Reg Rawan or Moving Sands, for the past one thousand years and that one day he will emerge to bring peace to the region. His failure to appear during the recent years of conflict, said our guide, has somewhat shaken his reputation.

Three important caravan routes from China, India and Central Asia met at

Kapisa. We took the one along the Ghorband Valley, which once led to Central Asia. In recent years, the valley was a front line between the forces of the Taliban and their opponents of the Northern Alliance, and signs of fierce fighting were frequent: burnt out armoured cars, broken bridges, and more abandoned homes.

There were signs too, however, that life in the valley was slowly returning to normal. It was early morning as we climbed the stepped-sided valley, and hundreds of children were hurrying to school. Among them were groups of laughing girls, many of them attending classes for the first time in six years. “It’s the first time I’ve seen smiles on their faces in years,” said Sean McQade, an engineer with more than ten years work experience in the region.

Crossing the Shibar Pass, we stopped at Eljanak village where 60-year-old Hussain Ali was rebuilding his house with the help of his neighbours. The wooden beams supporting the house had been removed after Hussain and his family fled, causing the roof to collapse and most of the mud walls to cave in. A neighbouring house

The Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue

Long before the beginning of East-West trade the geographical traces that later formed the Silk Road were ancient pathways of profit. An early urban bronze-age civilization that arose in northern Afghanistan developed an active caravan trade linking the civilizations of the Indus Valley and Mesopotamia. The finest lapis lazuli in the world was brought west from the Afghan highlands of Badakhshan to Sumer and Egypt 5,000 years ago by this route. Later, ancient Bactria, in northern Afghanistan, was joined to India by a 4,200-kilometer road built by Indian's Maurya dynasty, and was linked to Central Asia and the Middle East by the imperial highways of the Persians.

The formal opening of the Silk Road to China is usually placed in the late second century BC, when Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty, expanded his empire into Central Asia, where his imperial routes and agents connected with the existing routes to India, the Middle East and Rome. The Kushans, a dynasty of nomadic kings, who, from their center in Afghanistan, controlled a

vast empire reaching from China to the Caspian Sea, acted as intermediaries between the Roman West and the Chinese East, issuing gold coins on the model of Roman *denarii* to facilitate trade.

The extent of international trade at this period is best exemplified by the discovery of the so-called Begram Treasure, found at Begram, the site of one of the ancient capitals of the Kushan Empire, north of Kabul. It contained Indian ivories, Chinese lacquer-ware, and a bronze statuette of a deity from an eastern province of the Roman empire.

In the following centuries, the names of the leading actors changed but the basic roles remained the same. A final dramatic chapter in the history of the Silk Road was written in the 14th century by the Turco-Mongol Timurids. Timur, the dynasty's founder, known in the West as Tamerlane, was one of the most successful warriors the world has ever known. In a series of military campaigns, he conquered all of Eurasia from the Great Wall of China to the Urals. Trade revived, and

Herat, the capital of the empire in the 15th and 16th centuries, became a centre for painters and craftsmen from all over the Middle and Near East.

Timur's successors, however, lacked the authority of their ancestor, and were unable to hold together the vast steppe empire he had created. Tribes revolted and political instability set in – followed by economic depression and cultural decline. Weak and disorganized, Central Asia was no longer capable of playing the role of intermediary vital to continued East-West trade.

Meanwhile, in 1426, in an effort to expunge long years of foreign influence and resuscitate traditional Chinese values, the Ming Dynasty closed China's borders. After 1,500 years as a main artery between East and West, the Silk Road was finally cut, preserving during the following centuries only the romance of its name and the vague memory that somehow, long ago, it had been important.



The Silk Roads



Covered bazaars like this bear witness to the extraordinary trade routes that continue to criss-cross Central Asia

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was blackened by fire but was relatively intact. In fact, although most damage we saw in urban areas was caused by fighting, in rural areas it seemed to result from the removal of wooden beams: the only thing of value left in the house after families fled.

Millions of refugees, who fled to neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, and to a lesser extent Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, are now being urged to return home. Many, however, have no homes to return to, while others are deterred by uncertainties.

“They want to be sure that when they return they have food, water, and security. Even though the refugee camps are primitive they do have these here,” said Shahnaz Akhtar of OCKENDEN International, an NGO involved in repatriation. Others, she said, are reluctant to return because they are afraid they won’t be able to get out again if things turn sour.

From Eljanak village we drove down the steep Shibar valley to Bamiyan. The town is dominated from the north by high sandstone cliffs in which are cut two enormous niches. Now eerily empty they once contained two of the world’s tallest standing Buddhas (see page 48) – demolished in 2001 by the Taliban. Today, all that remains are forlorn piles of rubble at the bottom of each niche covered by UNESCO with protective fibreglass.

Caves in the cliff face that once served as cells for Buddhist monks are now home for families from nearby villages destroyed by Taliban forces. And at the base of the cliff what was once a thriving bazaar lies devastated by civil war.

Many refugees have lost all, others are too frightened to return

Bamiyan was once mainly populated by Tajik, but they fled when Taliban forces, who were mainly Pashtuns, occupied the town. Later, Hazaras from surrounding villages moved in. “There was a lot of movement of refugees internally as well as externally,” explained agriculturalist Karim Dostyar, at whose aid outpost we spent the night sleeping round a warming stove. “And this is now causing tensions.”

FOOD FOR ALL!

Later we saw first hand what these tensions were. Stopping off at Samangan, so our translator could visit the home his family fled to escape the fighting, we found it occupied by complete strangers. It was a tense meeting, and Afghan officials acknowledge that reclaiming lost assets could take years.

Driving through rivers where bridges had been blown up to halt the enemy’s advance, we reached Wadou. Here we faced an impromptu assembly of angry village elders, who crowded into the house of a former commander who invited us for tea. As we sat cross-legged on cushions and sipped the sweet green liquid they complained that although neighbouring villages had received food aid their village had not.

At the next village – where sacks of World Food Programme wheat were being distributed from the back of a truck – we discovered why. Wadou it seems had accidentally fallen between two distribution zones. Such administrative mixups create tensions between villages, which, although neighbouring frequently belong to different ethnic, tribal or religious groups.

At least most of the food aid now seems to be getting through to the people who deserve it. In the past, some 50 percent of it went to the warlords. Now, a senior Afghan aid worker in Pol-i-Kumbri told me, they get only ten percent.

Dusk was falling as we drove into the once bustling industrial centre of

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Buddhas of Bamiyan A Crime Against Culture

The Valley of Bamiyan lies at the heart of the Hindu Kush Mountains about 150 miles northwest of Kabul. During the early centuries of our era endless caravans of luxury-laden camels plodded along the Silk Road, passing through the valley. Later, Buddhist monks joined these caravans and a great religious center burgeoned in Bamiyan.

About 400 AD the pilgrim Fa Hsien came to Bamiyan from China, and described a sumptuous assembly attended by such large numbers of monks that they came, it seemed, «as if in clouds.»

The great wonders at Bamiyan were two monumental Buddhas carved into the face of the sandstone cliff dominating the town from the north. The eldest of these two statues, was 38 meters tall. The other measured 55 meters.

Around and between them a maze of cells and sanctuaries were painstakingly cut out, their ceilings and walls smoothed over with mud-and-straw plaster and then painted with inspirational scenes. The Buddhas were probably executed during the 3rd to 4th centuries;

the murals mainly during the 7th.

The encounter between Buddhism and Islam did not result in the immediate decline of the monasteries of Bamiyan. Although the local ruler embraced Islam during the late 8th century, Buddhism and Islam existed side by side for at least another hundred years. By the 9th century, however, Buddhism had faded from the valley, to be replaced by Islam.

The Buddhas continued to survive invasions, for another thousand years. They could not, however, survive the Taliban, which last March, reduced them to a pile of rubble.

UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura said it was abominable to witness the cold and calculated destruction of cultural properties that were the heritage, not only of the Afghan people, but the whole world. "The Buddhas of Bamiyan were not inscribed on the World Heritage List but deserved to be and their destruction represents a true cultural crime. The loss is irrevocable."

The question of whether to reconstruct the destroyed giant Buddhas of Bamiyan is very



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controversial. However, all involved are agreed that the cliffs of Bamiyan and the 600 caves and remains of the mural paintings with which they are decorated, should be protected and restored.

UNESCO proposes to shore up the cliffs at Bamiyan, conserve *in situ* the remains of the statues, and make archeological test probes to find new caves. A small museum will also be created and new excavations undertaken to try and locate a giant reclining Buddha several hundred meters long said to be buried somewhere in the Bamiyan Valley. The \$700,000 project will be financed by Japan through their Funds-in-Trust at UNESCO.



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The Buddhas survived a thousand years of invasions, but could not survive the Taliban



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Pul-i-Khumri, its cement and textiles factories now largely silent because of lack of spare parts to mend broken plant, and not enough raw cotton to feed them. The factories now employ only a fraction of their former thousand-strong workforce, and recent returnees told us it was pointless even going to ask for their old jobs back; yet another source of tension between those Afghans who stayed and those who fled and are now returning.

That night I had dinner with a group of young aid workers in their compound. The foreigners talked mainly of the fun they would have when their stint in Pul-i-Khumri was over. The Afghans talked only of staying and of the prospects of permanent peace. "This time there will be peace," said one young Afghan. "People are tired of the fighting".

Older Afghans I talked to, however, were not so sure. "Things haven't changed," a middle-aged engineer told me next day. "The mullahs (Muslim clerics) and the commanders (warlords) are still in control. Every family still has a weapon, and 40 percent of Afghans earn their living from their guns."

Some things, however, are changing. Evidenced, for example, at a school we visited at Pul-i-Khumri. Here hundreds of eager boys and girls were squatting in the playground, while their classrooms were being refurbished. As we were leaving lorries laden with new desks and chairs rolled in through the gates.

Returning to Kabul via the Salang Pass, the road climbed by the side of the Khinjan River through numerous mulberry groves, then rose steeply across rugged slopes sprinkled with Asian conifers. At an altitude of 3,363 metres is the Salang Tunnel, built by the Soviet Institute of Techno Export and the Afghan Ministry of Public Works to link the

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On the road to the Salang Tunnel which stands at 3,000 metres altitude (above), the Bamiyan valley with its giant buddhas was a source of wonder for tourists until the destruction of the giant statues in march 2001 (left).

northern Afghan plains with the valleys of Koh Daman and Kabul.

Opened in November 1964, the 2.7 km tunnel took six years to build. An additional 5.4 km of galleries have been constructed to keep the approaches free of snow. Today the tunnel is in a dangerous state of disrepair. Snow has gathered and frozen in the damaged galleries reducing traffic to one-way on alternate days – at least in theory. On the day we drove through it was coming from both directions, causing total chaos.

Stalled at the mouth of the tunnel, aid workers posed for photos on top of an abandoned bulldozer, once used to clear away the snow. We gave one of them a ride, through the tunnel, down by the Salang River and back to Kabul along more roads littered with the endless debris of war. As we approached the capital, I asked our passenger, Deborah Storie, a six-year veteran of the International Assistance Mission (IAM) to Afghanistan, for her impression of recent developments.

"There is a veneer of change, but it does not go very deep," she said; which seemed to sum up much of what I had been told on our journey through this devastated land.

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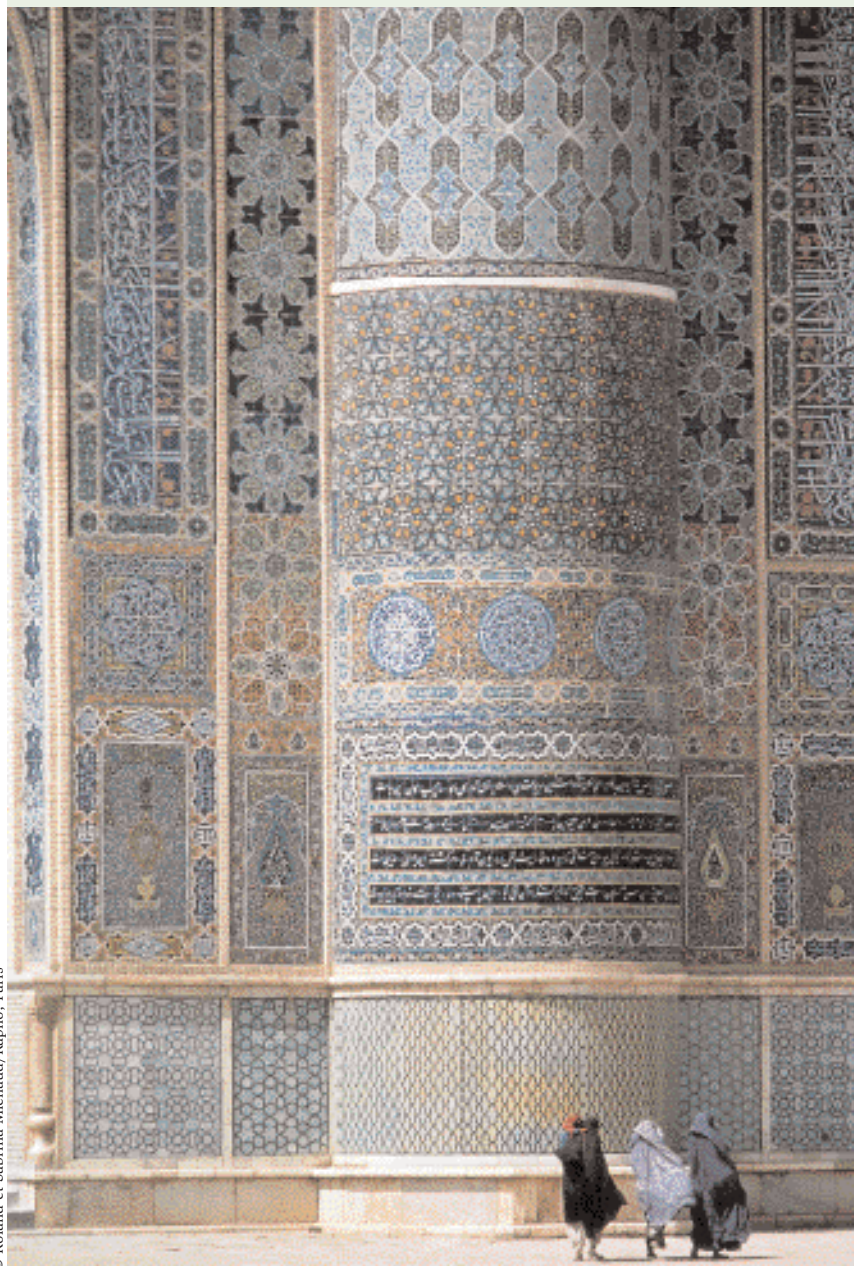
CULTURE

A historical junction

Afghanistan's strategic position at the junction of China, India, Central Asia and the Middle East, made it a meeting point of culture, commerce, conversion and conquest. Its art, architecture and archaeology bear witness to this extraordinary past.

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The Grand Mosque in Herat

Traces of intense cultural activity once marked the routes that centuries ago joined east and west, north and south across Afghanistan. Ruins of ancient cities, such as Kapisa, in the heart of Afghanistan, and Ai Khanoum and Yemshi on the northern Afghan plains told a story of complex exchanges with other lands.

At Ai Khanoum, archeologists discovered an orientalized Greek city; at Kapisa they unearthed a treasure trove of Indian ivories, Chinese lacquers and Roman art, and at Yemshi they found motives reflecting the disparate artistic styles of India, Greece, Iran, China and the nomads of Central Asia.

War, theft and acts of destruction by the Taliban have, however, devastated much of Afghanistan's rich and varied heritage, which vividly illustrated several high points in the history of civilization over the past 2,500 years. And although efforts are now underway to protect what remains, much of what was destroyed is irreplaceable.

THE LEGACY OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

The Achaemenid Persians were the first to include Afghanistan in their empire in the 6th century BC, but a few coins found at the foot of Tepe Maranjan in the centre of Kabul were the only surviving evidence of their presence. These have now been stolen.

Kabul Museum: Keeping Afghanistan's culture alive

A banner hung over the entrance of Kabul museum earlier this year proudly proclaimed: "A nation stays alive when its culture stays alive." Inside, however, tells a different story.

Once one of the cultural icons of Kabul, the museum was repeatedly hit by rockets during the 1991-96 civil war, and two-thirds of its unique collection systematically looted. Many irreplaceable items, such as the Begram ivories (right), the entire numismatic collection, and fragments of Buddhist wall paintings from the Bamiyan Valley disappeared. Later, the Taliban smashed many of its Greco-Buddhist statues.

Of two nearly 2,000-year-old statues – one believed to represent the Kushan King Kanishka I, the other a Kushan nobleman - that once graced the entrance hall, nothing is left but the feet. The fragments of these and other smashed statues are piled in crates in the museum, in the hope that experts, using digital and virtual assembly techniques, can reconstitute some of them. It is also hoped to bring back items taken abroad illegally as soon as the museum is secure.

With the help of Greece, the museum building, which is situated in the war-ravaged suburb of Darulaman, some eight

kilometres from the centre of Kabul, is to regain its roof and windows. Efforts to restore the museum's collection have already begun, with CEREDAF, a French NGO, furnishing the required materials, and the *Musee Guimet* of France, the British Museum and the SPACH (Society for the Protection of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage, an NGO) contributing to the inventory and training of personnel.

"We must hurry, for 15 years the artifacts have not been treated and many have defects" said the museum director as he showed a recent visitor around the dark, dusty museum, which six months after the fall of the Taliban was still without water or electricity.

The first museum in Afghanistan was established in 1919 in the Bagh-i-Bala palace overlooking Kabul, and consisted of manuscripts, miniatures, weapons and art objects belonging to former royal families. A few years later the collection was moved to the king's palace in the city centre and in 1931 was officially

installed in the present building, which King Amanullah had originally intended to be the Municipality of a new capital area on the outskirts of Kabul.

The original collection was dramatically enriched, beginning in 1922, by the first excavations of the Delegation Archeologique Francais et Afghanistan



© Andrea Bruno, Turin



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(DAFA). Through the years other archeological expeditions added their finds to the museum until the collection spanned 6,000 years, including the Prehistoric, Classical, Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic periods.

From top to bottom: Begram glass and ivory; the empty, roofless shell of the Kabul Museum

© Richard Lambert/Réunion des Musées Nationaux, Paris

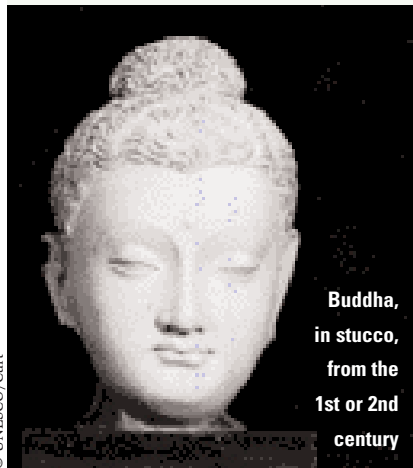


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Alexander the Great, having crushed Achaemenid power, was the next to invade Afghanistan in 328 BC. A Macedonian who became steeped in Greek culture after his conquest of Greece, and then an oriental monarch captivated by the idealism of the East, Alexander was himself the embodiment of cultural intermingling.

Unable to quite conquer Central Asia, because of fierce resistance, Alexander colonized it. He founded several new cities there and his men intermarried, introducing Hellenism but at the same time becoming thoroughly Asianized and integrated into the local population. This cross-fertilization of cultures resulted in a multinational kingdom that bridged the disparate cultures of India, Iran, Greece



Buddha, in stucco, from the 1st or 2nd century

© UNESCO/Cart

and China. It's name was Bactria and one of its cities was at Ai Khanoum, at the confluence of the Kokcha and Amu Darya (ancient Oxus) rivers in northern Afghanistan.

Ai Khanoum was the easternmost Greek city ever discovered in Asia, and before their work there was interrupted by the Soviet invasion in 1979, French archeologists uncovered a triangular metropolis with sides 1.6 km long. Inside it were many typical Greek monuments, including a gymnasium, a 6,000-seat theatre, a stadium, public baths and temples. Its Hellenistic architecture incorporated the three classical styles:

Ionic, Doric and Corinthian. Some of its shrines, however, were more Persian than Greek.

The past five years have been fatal for Ai Khanoum. "The site has been ravaged by clandestine diggings," says Afghan archeologist Zemaryalai Tarzi. "And what was left of the ancient ruins, including stately columns, their shafts, capitals and bases, have been transported for use as ordinary building materials in neighbouring villages."

Alexander's conquests took place at a time when Greek art and thought were in fullest flower and the peoples of Asia were quick to adopt – and adapt – the aesthetics of Greece. A single example speaks volumes: statues at Tepe Shotor near Jalalabad, in southern Afghanistan, represent Alexander, Heracles and Dionysos as acolytes of Buddha. Tepe Shotor, which, transformed into an open-air museum, was one of the brightest jewels of Afghan archeology, has also been destroyed.

THE NOMAD INVASIONS

No fully satisfactory explanation has ever been offered for the periodic explosion of nomadic peoples from – or through – Central Asia, but the pattern is clear: the region's sedentary peoples were repeatedly overrun by mounted nomads, and its cities repeatedly razed and rebuilt with each successive invasion. The invaders pitched their tents and settled down, adopting the civilized ways of those they had conquered. And, having become soft themselves, they submitted in turn to a new wave of hardy warriors.

Thus, in the first century BC, the Greek kingdom of Bactria was conquered by the Scythians, who, one hundred years later, were overrun by the Parthians. Hard on their heels rode the Kushans, nomads of Central Asian origins, who at the beginning of our era settled astride the Hindu Kush. From their centre in Afghanistan the Kushans, pushed their frontiers across what is now Pakistan,

The treasures of the Afghan people have been wantonly pillaged and destroyed



© Reza/Webistan, Paris

Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan, eventually taking in the whole of northern India and parts of northwest China.

Having no traditions on which to build a settled way of life, the nomadic Kushans adapted what they found in ways best suited to their own personality. What emerged was a vibrant indigenous culture born of the fusion of western oriented Greco-Bactrian styles with those from eastern-oriented India and interpreted by the forceful character of Central Asia.

The result was vital and dynamic and is best illustrated by the Golden Hord of Bactria: a treasure trove of Kushan art discovered at Tillya Tepe in the vicinity of the city of Shibarghan on the northern Afghan plain. Archeological excavations, began there in 1978, revealed six tombs dating from the 1st century AD, the zenith of Kushan power in these regions. The excavators speculate that the burials, five of them women, were of the nobility of the nearby ancient city of Yemshi, perhaps even the rulers.

The corpses were draped in cloth shrouds decorated with hundreds of gold and silver disks reflecting the many traditional art styles of Central Asia. Indian, Greek, Iranian, and Chinese motifs are readily perceptible, but perhaps most interesting is the influence of the animal art of the pastoral nomads. The infusion



The “Titanic” market in Kabul (above). Ceramic art reached new heights in Herat between the 15th and 16th centuries (below).

of this pastoral style gave life to an art that was fast becoming static, as the hybrid traditions from which it derived lost their vigor.

Another eloquent example of the encounter of civilizations on Afghan soil is the Treasure of Begram discovered in the ruins of the Kushan summer capital of Kapisa, 60 kilometers northeast of Kabul, on the fertile Begram plain. French archeologists excavating the site shortly before the outbreak of World War II found a treasure trove of precious objects from the eastern Mediterranean, India and China. Hidden in a chamber of the royal city, they found hundreds of plaster moulds of Greco-Roman medallions, painted glassware from Alexandria in Egypt and Chinese lacquered furniture encrusted with Indian ivory. The ivories were divided between the French *Musee Guimet* and the Kabul museum. Those in Kabul have long since disappeared.

BUDDHISM AND GANDHARAN ART

It’s difficult to say how early Buddhism entered Afghanistan. According to legend it arrived from its homeland in India via Trapusa and Bhallika, two merchants who were the first lay followers of Buddha. This story is based on popular etymology



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Fine Arts and Crafts

Afghanistan’s figurative artists and sculptors are getting back to work. At the Academy of Fine Arts in Kabul a wooden figure of a woman, unthinkable under the Taliban, was being carved this summer. While exhibits at the newly-opened Gallery of Fine Arts and Traditional Afghan Crafts included figurative works of over 20 known Afghan artists, plus many new ones.

Under the Taliban’s strict interpretation of Islam all figurative art and sculpture was banned. Even today some conservatives still oppose it. “The long war, and especially the last five years, was especially difficult for Afghan artists,” says the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), which after three years in exile in Pakistan recently opened a gallery in Kabul.

Although fine ceramic art no longer flourishes in Herat, UNESCO-supported craftsmen still produce glazed brick and

slab for restoration of the city’s ancient Muslim monuments.

The preparation of glazed brick is simple: the baked brick is dipped into, or painted with, coloured glazes mixed from seven ingredients, including pigments. It is then fired for one day or more – depending on the colour – at 1000 degrees centigrade, in a process which has remained virtually unchanged for centuries

The Mesopotamians were the first people to use glazed brick as a construction material. They used it to make mud walls water resistant rather than as decoration. But glaze allowed the introduction of colour, and these colourful surfaces, decorated with beautiful geometric and floral forms, arabesque panels and elegant bands of calligraphy, eventually became an indispensable element of Islamic architecture, absorbing the creative genius that, in the Christian West, went into frescoes and sculpture.

Afghanistan

identifying the name Bhallika with the town of Bahlika (Balkh) in northern Afghanistan. It is more probable, however, that it was at the time of the 2nd century AD Kushan king Kanishka I that Buddhism spread from northwest India through Afghanistan to areas further north and east.

At the same time, Buddhist art also crossed the borders of its land of origin penetrating the cultures it encountered. A curious hybrid art form emerged combining Western Classical elements with those of Central and southern Asia. It carried the name of the region where its famous workshops flourished: Gandhara, an area comprising the Kabul Valley and adjacent areas.

Gandhara subjects reflect not an intermingling or proper synthesis but the often awkward coexistence of disparate stylistic influences that have – for that reason – made Gandharan sculpture so distinctive. These influences are Greco-Roman, Indian and Parthian.

It was also at Gandhara that the Hellenistic concept of personality combined with religious influences from India, to bring about one of the turning points of Buddhist art. Up to this point the Buddha himself had not been represented in person. Instead, symbols such as an empty throne, a horse without a rider, a parasol, a *bodhi* tree or footprints had been used to indicate his presence. But at Gandhara the image of the Buddha appears in human form for the first time.

This notably gave rise to giant statues of Buddha at Bamiyan (See page 48), in the heart of the Hindu Kush, which were demolished in 2001 following a decree by the Taliban's spiritual leader Mullah Omar ordering "all non-Islamic statues and tombs" to be destroyed.

In the 6th century, Turkic tribes began a westward wave of migrations from their original homeland in Mongolia that ethnically swamped Central Asia. While in the 8th century, Muslim Arabs swept



© Aga Khan Trust for Culture

east decisively altering the strength and distribution of its religions.

Afghanistan was affected by both of these developments. Visiting Kabul in 644, Chinese pilgrim Hsuen-tsang noted: "The king is Turk, the men naturally fierce and impetuous."

THE GROWTH OF THE ISLAMIC EMPIRE

Not only did the Turks of Central Asia embrace Islam, they became its new cutting edge. By the end of the first millennium, the military manpower and fighting skills of Turkic steppe nomads had taken over the role played by the desert Bedouins during Islam's first extraordinary period of expansion through the Near East. And a second era of Muslim expansion began.

From the final decades of the 10th century through the 11th and 12th centuries Afghanistan was the seat of powerful Muslim kingdoms: first the Ghaznavid Dynasty, then the Ghorid dynasty. During this period Islam became firmly established in Afghanistan, which became a springboard for the islamization of northern India.

The Ghaznavids, in 1008, defeated a confederacy of Hindu rulers at Peshawar, annexed the Punjab, and extended Muslim influence as far south as Lahore. Then came the Ghorid conquests which, by the end of the 11th century, had expanded Muslim rule over most of northern India, adding Delhi and Ajmer to the Islamic realm in 1192, and two years later Bihar and Bengal.

The spread of Islam brought profound changes in the art and culture of Central Asia. In the 9th to 13th centuries, figurative fresco and sculpture – forbidden by Islam – disappeared, and was replaced by non-representational art. Four main styles of decoration: floral, calligraphic, geometric and arabesque dominated all other art forms.

Despite the dominance of common Islamic values each region preserved essential individual features of its art and culture. Among these were the miniature paintings of the School of Behzad in Herat, which continued to represent human images.

In the field of architecture, Muslims allied the traditions of the past with scientific and mathematical precision and

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The gardens of Babur, the first Moghul emperor, are today surrounded by urban sprawl (above). His modest tomb (below right) was badly damaged during the long years of conflicts

By the final decades of the 10th century, the country had become the seat of powerful Muslim kingdoms

Restoring Babur's Moghul Gardens

Babur's tomb is a modest structure in comparison to the elaborate edifices built by his descendents in India. It was once surrounded by the beautifully landscaped gardens know as Bagh-e-Babur. But decades of neglect, 23 years of war and four years of drought have seen the gardens perish and left their historical buildings decayed. At walking distance from the city centre, they are now surrounded by urban sprawl climbing up the hillside into which they are set.

Babur, who claimed direct descent from both Genghis Khan and Timur, seized the throne of Kabul after being ousted from his own in the Ferghana Valley. From Kabul, in 1525, he launched his invasion of India and became the first of the Moghul emperors with his court at Agra.

Babur, however, never forgot Kabul, and when he died, in 1539, he was buried there, according to his wishes, in Bagh-e-Babur. A century later

Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal, constructed a small marble mosque in Babur's Garden, close to the simple tomb of his forefather. In the late 19th century Amir Abdur Rahman built a elegant pillared pavilion whose veranda looked out over terraced gardens dotted with fountains, magnificent stands of *chinar* (plane) trees, and a profusion of sweet smelling wild rose and jasmine to the city beyond.

According to researchers, the Bagh-e-Babur gardens were laid out between 1504 and 1528. They were damaged by an earthquake in 1842 which ruined many parts of Kabul. The gardens were restored by the Afghan ruler Amir Abdur Rahman in the late 18th century and again by King Nadir Shah in the 1930s.

But both men were influenced by European gardens and the Islamic tradition of the garden was ignored. Later the gardens became a public playground with the construction, during Communist rule, of a swimming pool.

A multi-year renovation project will restore the shrine and mosque according to their original design, and if feasible the pavilion, which was severely damaged, then partially restored. Neighbourhood residential dwellings will be rehabilitated, and the gardens replanted with trees, flowers and other ornamentation appropriate to Moghul tradition. Walkways and benches will be constructed for public use so that residents of Kabul may enjoy the gardens again.



© Aga Khan Trust for Culture

developed new forms in building and new tastes in decoration. This produced a large number of masterpieces of architecture and art, including the early 12th century Tower of Masud III, at Ghazni in central Afghanistan, whose plan is an eight-pointed star with seven bands of ornamental brickwork, terra-cotta panels and stucco decorating its shaft; and the late 12th century Minaret of Jam which soars to a height of 65 meters over the western Afghan plains (See page 43).

THE TIMURID RENAISSANCE

This fruitful cultural development was interrupted by the devastating invasion of Central Asia by the armies of Genghiz Khan. Only in the 14th and 15th centuries with the emergence of the Timurid Dynasty did Central Asia have the opportunity for a renaissance of culture.

In a succession of 15 military campaigns in 23 countries lasting 50 years, Timur, known in the West as Tamerlane, carved out an empire stretching from the Indus River to the Black Sea. By 1370 the Turco-Mongol warrior was undisputed leader of the steppe, and in 1380 defeated the Il Khans to become master of Persia. In 1398, Timur stormed through the Khyber Pass, devastated Sind and Punjab and sacked Delhi. In 1399 he invaded Georgia, and in 1401 stormed Baghdad and Damascus. In 1402 he defeated the Turkish Ottomans in Ankara. Had he not died of pneumonia in 1405, as he was leading his armies against China, Timur may even have conquered that too.

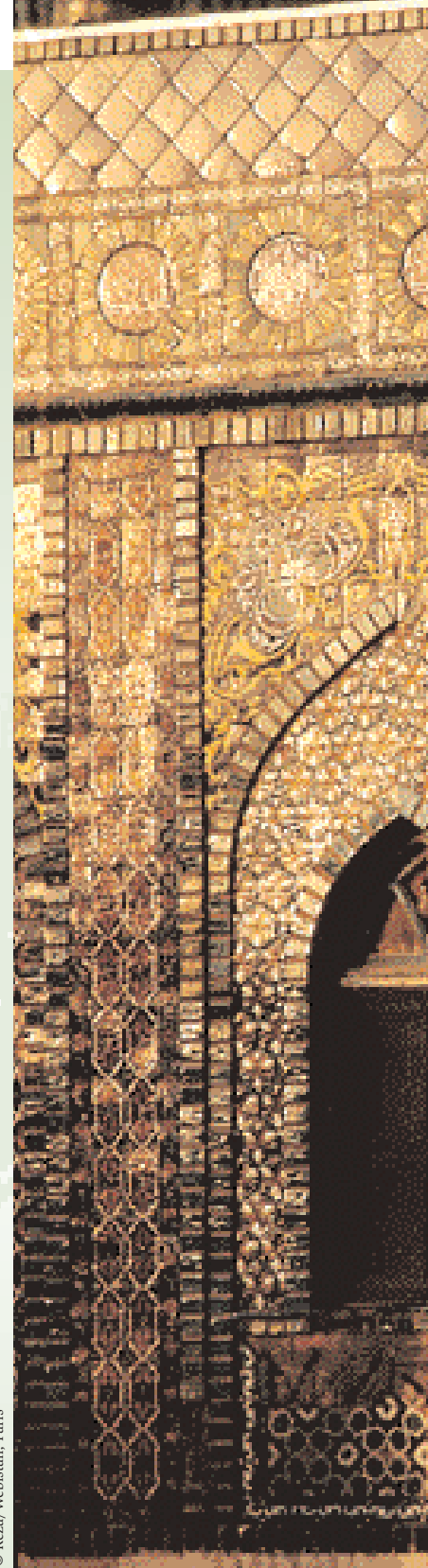
Timurid art forged a new aesthetic by linking the cultural traditions of the many lands they conquered with their own Turkic origins. From conquered territories in Persia, India and the Middle East, Timur plundered both talented craftsmen and treasures to enhance the cities of Central Asia. What they created was neither Persian, Indian or Arab, although

it reflected the influence of all three. Nor was it modeled on the old Central Asia. Instead, these captured architects embellished Timurid cities with buildings possessing a new and dazzling Tatar concept.

The 40-year rule of Timur's son, Shah Rukh, a devout Muslim and a man of peace, saw the transformation of the restless nomad empire into an orthodox Sunni Muslim state with Herat, in western Afghanistan, as its capital. Although Herat is also known for its monuments dating from the powerful Muslim Ghorid dynasty – including the 12th century Great Mosque, which was reconstructed in the 14th century in all its blue and turquoise-tiled splendor – the city's real treasures are its monuments from the 15th and 16th centuries, when the art of Timurid ceramic revetment reached its height. Even after the collapse of the Timurid Empire, the faience mosaic and blue tiles that were its hallmark continued to exert strong influence on later flowerings of ceramic art in Iran and Turkey.

The court of Shah Rukh and his successor Husayn were verdant centers of art and learning. The enlightened sovereigns protected such creative personalities as the poet Djami and the miniature painter Behzad. During their rule Herat became one of Asia's most important literary, artistic and cultural centres.

One of Herat's favorite sons was Mir Ali Shir Nava'i, a venerated 15th century poet, known as "the Chaucer of the Turks." As Chaucer had done in English, Nava'i revolutionized a national literature by becoming the first outstanding writer to use the Turkish vernacular in his works. In Nava'i's hands, Turkish, a language traditionally regarded by medieval men of letters as uncouth and plebeian, achieved recognition as a graceful medium for poetry and prose of the highest order.



© Reza/Webistan, Paris

In the Middle Ages Herat was a cultural heart of Asia



In front of the mosque at Mazar-i-Sharif (left). The esplanade of the same mosque (below)



© Reza/Webistan, Paris

Born in Herat in 1441, Nava'i added the Turkish language to the roster of the world's major literatures. One of his best-known verses is:

*Since the best of men must pass through Death's portal,
Happy is he who makes his name immortal.*

One man who did, was Timur's great-great-grandson Babur, who seized Kabul and carved out a kingdom in Afghanistan, from where he launched his invasion of India to become the first of the Moghul emperors.

At Kabul, Babur built a beautiful landscape garden (See page 55) that was the predecessor of many famous imperial gardens in the South Asian sub-continent. Babur's garden was damaged by internal fighting between 1992 and 1995, as were many other cultural icons of Kabul, including the museum (See page 51).

With the help of UNESCO and other organizations active in the restoration process, including the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Development and Humanitarian Services of Afghanistan, this and historical sites elsewhere in Afghanistan are to be restored.

Meeting in Kabul in May, Afghan authorities and international organizations seeking to rehabilitate Afghanistan's cultural heritage, mandated UNESCO to establish an international committee to undertake operations concerning the safeguarding of the Afghan cultural heritage. A similar type of structure has already been successful in Cambodia, where it has been working since the end of that country's war.

EDUCATION

Return to learning

The thirst for education and knowledge in post-Taliban Afghanistan is enormous. After years of denial, Afghans are reaching out to embrace new ideas, technology and expertise. School buildings are bursting with children eager to learn from a handful of teachers determined to teach.

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The country requires educated and qualified Afghans

In Afghanistan's native languages, they call the start of the new school year "Sabak," meaning the "return to learning." This year "Sabak" took on special significance. For many of the 1.5 million boys and girls who reported for school were entering a classroom for the very first time, following years of school closures and exclusion of girls from formal education.

In what it described as its largest-ever logistical exercise in support of education, the UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) delivered more than 7,000 tonnes of learning materials to virtually every elementary school in the country. The supplies included textbooks, blackboards, pencils and notebooks. Teaching aids, tents for use as makeshift classrooms, and other teaching and learning materials.

It was just one component of an Afghan back-to-school campaign led by the new administration that mobilized teachers, registered children, readied elementary school facilities, and reorganized a curriculum from scratch.

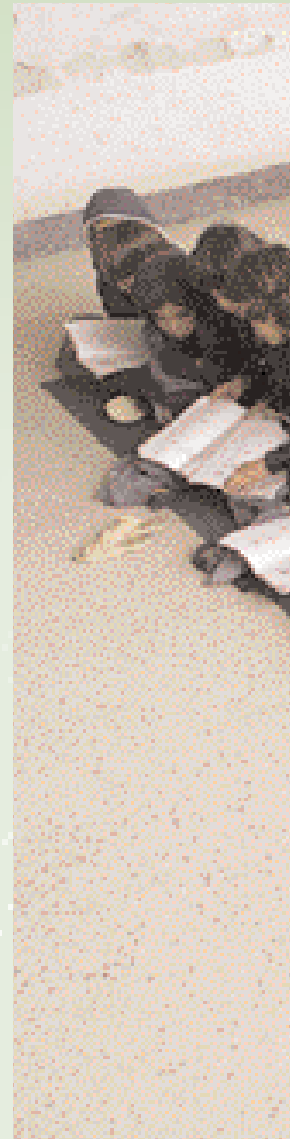
UNESCO for its part focused its efforts on assisting in the creation of an efficient

education ministry, the improvement of teacher training, and the development of curricula and textbooks not only for primary schools, but also for secondary, technical and higher education.

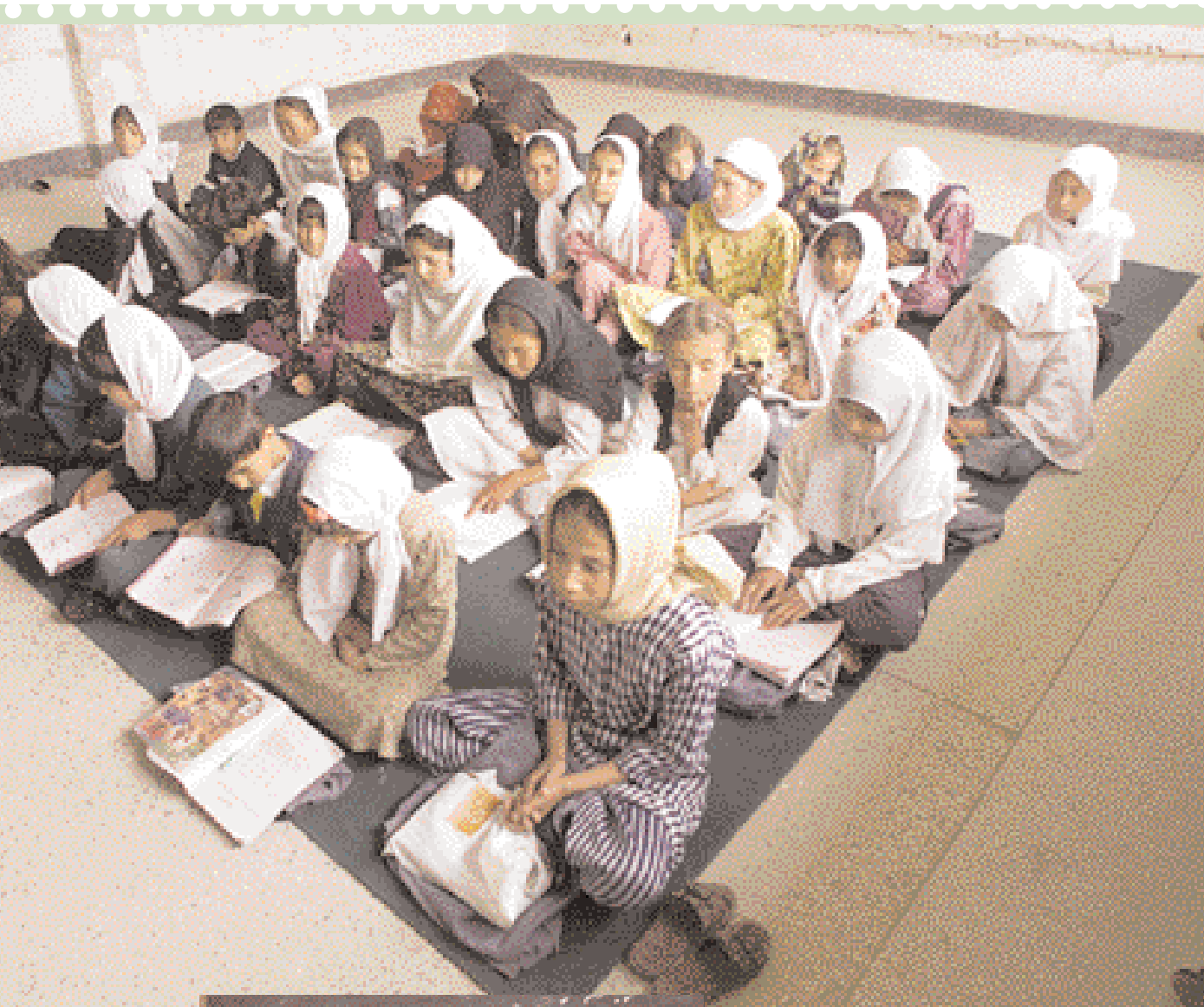
Earlier this year, UNESCO funded nationwide university entrance examinations, covering the expenses of professors to travel to provincial cities to supervise the exams as well as the cost of printing examination papers and answer sheets. The examinations were a huge success with 20,000 candidates participating, of whom 16,400 – many of them women – were admitted.

JUMP-STARTING HIGHER EDUCATION

Another UNESCO-funded initiative enabled the Ministry of Education to bring together more than 91 Afghan educators from some 26 different provinces to talk about educational issues. This workshop was the first occasion in more than 20 years that the directors of education offices throughout Afghanistan met to share views on how they foresaw the education system in the future.



After years of exclusion under the Taliban, girls are now back in school (above). However, the education system needs a complete overhaul, and decisions made on such complex issues as the role of religion in schools. Right, young boys attending a religious class



© UNESCO

© UNESCO

“A massive effort has already been made over the past few months (...) to enable children to get back into class,” says UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura. “This first phase must now be followed up by long-term activities to rebuild the education system.”

To this end, UNESCO and the Afghan authorities have drawn up a series of projects aimed at developing a national education strategy, UNESCO is seeking \$27 million from donors to meet the country’s most urgent education needs, in particular the rehabilitation of Kabul University to jump-start higher education, training for education managers and teachers, and the development of non-formal and distance education to tackle one of the world’s highest rates of illiteracy.

Restructuring the country requires educated and qualified Afghans. Over the past two decades, however, Afghanistan lost an estimated 200,000 teachers and academics and its 17 universities and institutes were left devastated by war.

"The immediate priority is to upgrade and pay present teachers – some of whom have been cut off from developments in the outside world for many years and haven't been paid for months," says UNESCO Kabul education coordinator Professor Lutfulla Safi. "Next we must hire and train new teachers, and replace outdated curricula and text books."

Major questions to be addressed in the long term, says Safi, include the choice of teaching languages, defining the contents of school textbooks and curricula, co-education and the place of religion in education. On these, he warns, "we must move carefully."

A vital part of the learning process for many Afghans is the gaining of foreign language expertise and the development of new technology applications, such as computers," says UNESCO's Kabul Education consultant Professor Ed Burke. To meet this need, it is proposed that UNESCO and UNDP, in collaboration with international partners, establish a Knowledge and Language Center in Kabul.

UNESCO is also planning the launch of a major community radio programme to provide basic education for those who for nearly 25 years have been excluded from all types of educational systems, women in particular.

Women reclaiming their lives

Women face a complex web of challenges as they seek to rebuild their role in Afghan society. Despite the fall of the Taliban, deeply conservative values towards gender still dominate Afghanistan's social structure. Few women yet feel confident enough to walk the streets without the Burka.

Afghan women, who make up an estimated 60 percent of the population, are "the highest stakeholders of peace, stability and development," says Dr. Noeleen Hayzer, executive director of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). "They have the most to gain from new opportunities and also the most to lose if fragile communities breakdown."

Fundamental issues faced by women include: severe food insecurity - their removal from the economic sphere by the Taliban meant that many women without male breadwinners were reduced to beggars; one of the poorest healthcare systems in the world; the need to make up for years of limited or no access to education; and widespread fear of violence.

The Chair of the human Rights Commission, Dr. Sima Samar, says that "security is not only about ending the war and silencing the weapons, but it is about ensuring women and girls can live in safety and dignity." She emphasized the need for national identification cards, which would ensure women's right to engage in the political process as voters and representatives. At present, only one to two percent of women in Afghanistan have identity cards, meaning that almost 98 percent of women are people without citizenship or identities, and therefore could be excluded from participating in elections due in 2004.

The unprecedented step of setting up a Ministry of Women's Affairs for the first

time in Afghan history was a start to addressing the grave situation of women and the inequities that developed between the genders under the Taliban. But advancing the cause of women within the context of current conditions will take time and require fundamental changes in the social, economic and political areas.

The MoWA must walk a fine line, balancing traditional values towards gender issues with modern perspectives that advocate pushing forward quickly to address gender inequities. Thus, in order to make advances, MoWA will move incrementally rather than taking an overt and accelerated approach.



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Only one or two percent of women in Afghanistan have identity cards

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Speaking out

A professional association of women media workers has been established in Kabul with support from UNESCO. The new Afghanistan Women in Media Network, involves 60 women media professionals, and will enable Afghan women to link with their colleagues all over the world. "The spirit of these women is remarkable," says Martin Hadlow, the director of UNESCO's Kabul office. "They have lived through a lot, and now it is their turn to speak out."

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Above: daily chores in rural Afghanistan.

Above: a drawing of an Afghan woman, blinded and silenced.

Left: in the streets of Kabul, few women have given up their *burka*

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COMMUNICATIONS

Nurturing Afghanistan's fledgling free press

© Webistan/Manochoer/UNESCO



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In the offices of the NGO AINA, the team of the *Kabul Weekly* put the final touches to the newspaper, which is sold on the streets of the capital

Although the government controls the five major newspapers, there are over 85 independent publications in Afghanistan. In view of its importance in promoting good governance and democracy in post-conflict zones, UNESCO is helping to nurture this fledgling free press.

UNESCO helped re-launch *Kabul Weekly*, the first independent publication to appear in Kabul following the fall of the Taliban. The newspaper returned to the streets on January 24, five years after it disappeared when the Taliban seized power.

Funding support has also been provided by UNESCO for several other independent publications in Kabul, including *ARIA Press*, *Malalai* women's magazine, *Seerat* newspaper for women and the *Zambil*

Eran satirical cartoon magazine. Funds have been provided to AINA, a French non-governmental organization for the development of independent media, to enable it to assist these newspapers and magazines to print and distribute.

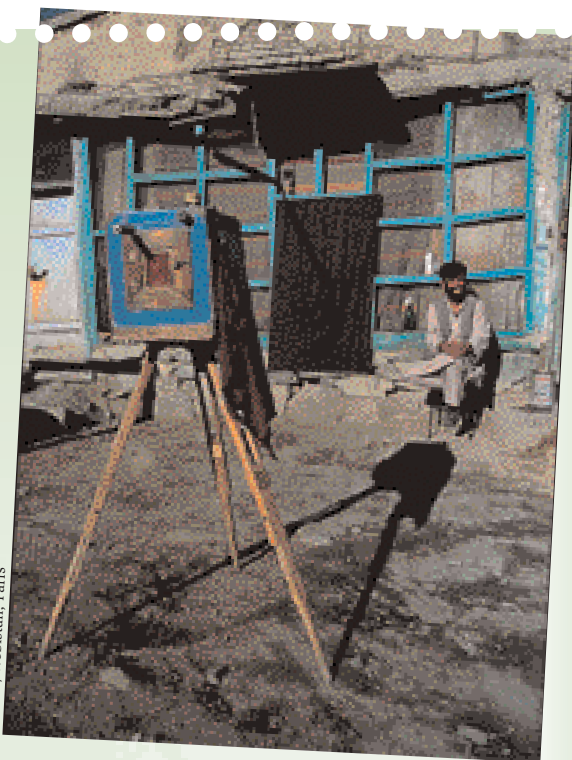
UNESCO has been a funding supporter from the outset of the independent Media Resource Centre being developed by AINA. It will be equipped with radio, television and print training facilities. UNESCO is also assisting in training the personnel of the national television broadcaster Kabul TV, and providing a digital cameras and an editing suite for use in developing newsroom capacity.

UNESCO is helping to modernize the Afghan national news agency, *Bakhtar*, installing computers and an internet link

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AFGHANISTAN ON THE WEB

This list is not exhaustive; but it features sites which include a wealth of information and links to other sites dealing with political, cultural, institutional and humanitarian issues.

To find out about UNESCO's activities in Afghanistan and the United Nation's involvement in the country's reconstruction, in

English:

http://portal.unesco.org/ev.php?URL_ID=1259&URL_DO=D_O_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

The Afghan Portal provides a wide range of feature articles and news stories about Afghanistan, as well as links to international organizations active in Afghanistan:

<http://www.afghaninfo.org/>

For more news from and about Afghanistan, World News Network has a dedicated site:

<http://www.afghandaily.com/>

The host site (<http://www.wn.com/>) offers some of the Afghan articles and resources in other languages, including French

and Spanish.

<http://www.afgha.com/> is a particularly rich website devoted to Afghanistan. It was created as a non-profit undertaking by students in 1998.

For cultural information about Afghanistan, including information about sites and cities, biographical data on major cultural figures as well as information - and pictures - of a range of subjects, even of the ancient game of Buzkashi (goat killing):

<http://www.afghan-network.net/Culture/>

World-newspapers.com hosts interesting links to various Afghan and Afghanistan-related sites; including the websites of Afghan media and political organizations:

<http://www.world-newspapers.com/afghanistan.html>

Poetry, cooking, and music are among the wide range of subjects covered by

<http://www.Afghan-web.com>

which also deals with current events and provide links to the gamut of political groups active in Afghanistan today.

for the agency's network, and computerizing its considerable archives.

A computer centre has been set up at Kabul University Faculty of Journalism, installing ten computers and a satellite Internet system. The centre, which is entirely funded by UNESCO, provides basic information and communication facilities, including access to the internet and will offer training in communication skills for the students, especially women.

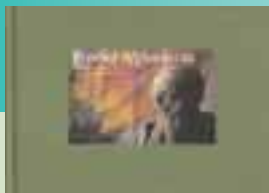
There is also a project to create community multimedia centres to provide access to information needed for development projects and provide distance learning facilities. UNESCO's Community Multimedia Centres combine community radio by local people in local language with community telecentre facilities: computers with the internet and email, phone, fax and photocopiers enabling even the most remote village to communicate and exchange information with the rest of the world. Local people can create their own community database, storing up local and external information for educational and developmental needs. Even the illiterate can participate by identifying information required and responding to information gathered on 'radio-browsing' programmes when the community radio presenter searches the internet on behalf of listeners.

In Kabul, a photographer awaits a wedding party.

Read

► *Eternal Afghanistan*

A selection of magnificent photographs by Reza, with text by Olivier Weber. Editions du Chêne/ UNESCO Publishing, 2002.



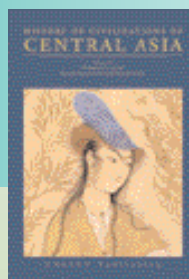
► *History of Civilizations of Central Asia*

Series devoted to the history, cultures, arts, religions of a vast region which stretches from Iran to China and from the Central Asian Republics to the North of India.

Volume V: Development in contrast:

from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century

Forthcoming beginning 2003 UNESCO Publishing



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UNESCO and Afghanistan

Afghanistan became a member of UNESCO on May 4 1948. Already in December that year an agreement was signed between the Government of Afghanistan and UNESCO, setting out the terms under which the Organization engaged to send expert consultants to Afghanistan, competent to study the educational problems of that country and to report on them. The experts stayed in Afghanistan from August 20 to October 28, 1949. During their mission they visited schools in most districts of the country. The final report was published in English and French in 1952. Special emphasis was given to the education of girls and women.

In the years following this first educational mission an extensive

collaboration between UNESCO and Afghanistan took place, in particular in the educational field but also in culture and science. In 1962 a team of five UNESCO experts wrote "A Survey of Education" in Afghanistan in which they summarised the development and progress in the field of education since 1949.

1962 : medical students at work in the library of Kabul University.



© UNESCO/Jack Ling



"The (1949) Mission, wishes at the beginning of this report to present its views on a question which it regards as being one of transcendent importance. It believes that the education of women is a matter for first consideration in attempting to set up a truly modern school system in Afghanistan. The Mission cannot mince words on this issue and still discharge its duty faithfully to the Royal Government of Afghanistan. Either the country must educate its girls in

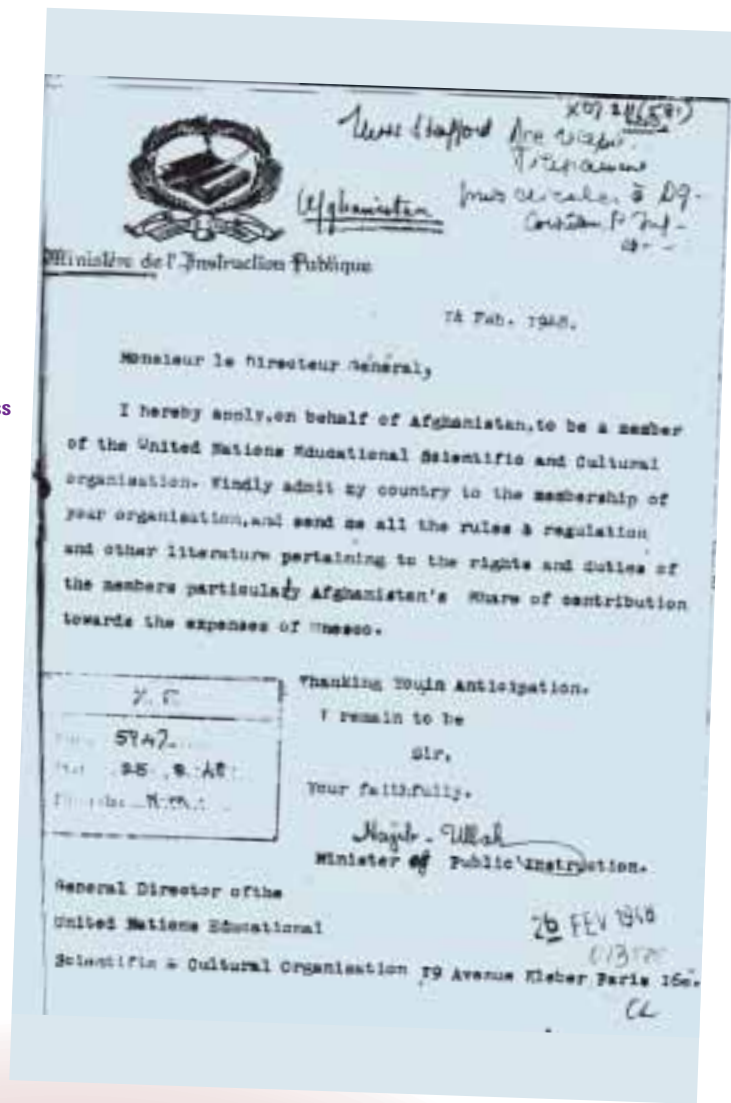
elementary and secondary schools, must train women teachers, must provide adult and technical education for women, and must give some of its outstanding women university education at home or abroad; or it must resign itself to a backward status economically, socially, and culturally, in relation to its near neighbours, to other countries of the Islamic world, and to modern States everywhere. There is no other other solution."



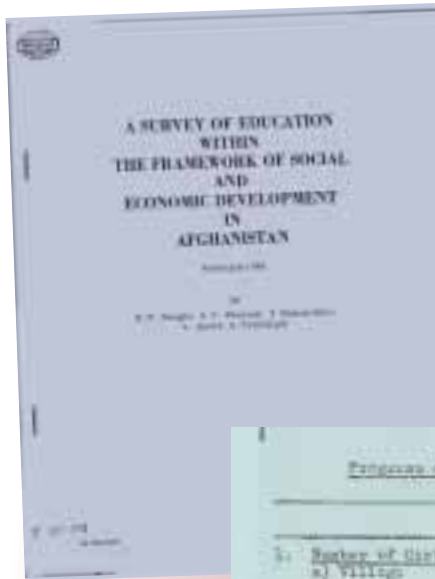


A primary school class in Kabul, 1955.

© UNESCO/Marc Riboud



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In the report from the 1962 mission (left) the authors note that “progress made since 1949 is

illuminating” (see table below).

The report continues: “perhaps the most pleasing and encouraging feature is not revealed by the statistics at all; and this is the quality of the work in girls’ schools, even in remote provincial areas. There was a fresh keenness in the approach to learning, a proper pride in the excellent results achieved for example in reading, writing, arithmetic and needlework, an awareness of the significance of environment, including cleanliness and order, all reflected in the girls’ obvious love of school and eagerness to attend regularly. The young women teachers, untrained as they were, had achieved quite remarkable results and clearly have natural ability, which, if properly developed and mobilised, could change not only the education for girls, but primary education as a whole, and within this generation.”

Table I
Progress of Girls' Education (1949-1961)

	1949	1955	1961
1. Number of Girls' Schools			
a) Village	—	—	39
b) Primary	4	13	59
c) Middle	—	2	1
d) Secondary	2	2	6
2. Enrollment			
a) Village			4,700
b) Primary	3,000	5,000	24,000
c) Middle			800
d) Secondary		124	600
3. Enrollment as % of Age Group			
a) Primary	0.56		2.08
b) Secondary			
4. Teacher Salaries	811	811	811
5. University Students	811	48	236
6. Proportion of Girls to Total Enrollment			
a) Primary		88	148
b) Middle		146	326
c) Secondary		126	224
d) University		88	126

Action, rolling!

“I remember: we left Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation) during the winter. I was afraid of what awaited me in my new home country. At first, it was the heat in Israel that surprised me, and the children who spoke a language I couldn't understand. Then I learned the language and made friends.”

Iliya is nine years old. Like thousands of children aged from nine to 15, he participated in a writing contest for aspiring short film (10-15 minutes) and cartoon makers sponsored by television channels from around the world — from Chile to China, passing through Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Israel and Italy.

The winners gathered in Treviso, Italy, from May 27 to June 2 to present their works at the international CIAK* Junior Festival. Created by the Alunci group, a cultural association that produces youth programming, the event is sponsored by UNESCO and the International Council for Cinema, Television



© CIAK

and Audiovisual Communication (CICT).

The children's works were judged by groups made up of directors, psychologists and teachers. Some 6,000 scripts were received in Italy, while 20,000 entries came from China. In Israel, "Moving", Iliya's film, was selected. At the festival, his work received the prize for best group of actors and UNESCO's Fellini medal.

But the work of two classes of students from the Belgian city of Bruges took home the festival's prize for best film. "Shadows" tells the story of Hanne, a teenager who goes blind. The issues confronted by the

students are serious but their message remains positive: make peace, protect the environment...

This festival — where children get to be creators, actors and spectators at the same time — highlights the educative role that television can play in children's lives. For Damir Djakovic, from UNESCO's Venice office, the CIAK Junior festival has become "a place where those who want television to be instructive can brainstorm."

Cristina L'Homme

* Ciak is the Italian equivalent of "Action-rolling" on a film set.



© CIAK

Radio Bamiyan on the air

The people of Bamiyan in northern Afghanistan now have their own radio station. Located in the government guesthouse, it has no studio facilities. Rather, broadcasting takes place by connecting tape recorders directly into the transmission equipment.

US Coalition forces in Bamiyan supplied the transmitter and UNESCO, working closely the Voice of Afghan Women in Global Media — an NGO — is helping Bamiyan women to prepare programmes. The station goes on air between 6p.m. and 7.30 p.m. each day.



Cubes and spheres

The Earth Institute at Columbia University (USA) and UNESCO have teamed up in a new project to assist local communities around the globe to adapt to rapid environmental and social change. Called CUBES (Columbia Earth Institute/UNESCO Joint Programme on Biosphere and Society), it will focus on five key issues: water, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity.

In one of the CUBES projects, the practices of pastoral Masai herdsman from the grassland plains of Kenya will be compared with those of ranchers from the borderlands of Arizona and New Mexico in the USA. Like many of their American counterparts, the Masai are slowly abandoning their pastoral way of life and turning to sedentary ranching. But there is some evidence that when herders switch to sedentary cattle farming, the local grasslands cannot sustain the increase in grazing intensity, while farmers abandon their cultural traditions and drift to the towns. Meanwhile, others blame pastoral grazing for desertification, following the destruction of forest and thicket.

CUBES is initially running five other projects. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) the programme will work with the UNESCO-sponsored Regional Graduate School of Tropical Forestry at the University of Kinshasa in a "knowledge-networking" initiative on malaria prevention, conservation and reducing poverty. In another project, the Tonle Sap Great Lake area (Cambodia), a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, is the focus of a strategy to reduce conflicts over natural resources. The other sites for the moment are the Amazon floodplain of Peru, Cape Floral Kingdom Urban ecosystem in Cape Town (South Africa) and New York, where discussions are continuing on developing the city as a prototype urban biosphere reserve (see *New Courier*, 4 May 2002).

Columbia set up its Earth Institute in 1996 with a palette of programmes geared towards global sustainability. The aim was to find a new way to practice science for the benefit of both rich and poor, by bringing scientific knowledge and technology to bear on problems as diverse



© Ben Lane/Cube, New York

as the impact of *El Nino* on Peruvian anchovy fishermen and arsenic contaminated water in Bangladesh.

In May 2001 Columbia and UNESCO jointly held an international conference in New York on Biodiversity and Society that paved the way for CUBES one year later. The nine case studies presented at the meeting looked at new forms of partnership to resolve the conflicting

interests of stakeholders in fragile environments, such as grasslands in Chihuahua (Mexico) and tropical mountains in Yunan (China). The meeting also launched the controversial idea of New York as an urban biosphere reserve.

P.C.

Alicia Alonso named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

In June, Cuban ballerina and choreographer Alicia Alonso was appointed a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for her "outstanding contribution to the development, preservation and popularization of classical dance" and her "devotion to the art-form, through which she has promoted the ideals of UNESCO and the fellowship of the world's peoples and cultures."

Alonso spoke of her nomination as a "great honour, but also a great responsibility." She promised to work ceaselessly to promote

UNESCO's message, particularly in the areas of basic education, and protection of cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible.



© UNESCO/Niamh Burke



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Young people rally to fight AIDS

On September 13, UNESCO signed an agreement to conduct a joint campaign for peace, understanding and cultural diversity with the International Youth Hostels Federation, which has some 3.2 million members. The Federation is one of a network of about 60 major youth organizations working in partnership with UNESCO's Youth Coordination Unit*: they include national, regional and international federations; student, professional, religious, and rural associations; as well as "heavyweights," such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies; Christian youth groups such as the YMCA and the YWCA. Together they have hundreds of millions of members, all potential bearers of UNESCO's message and news of its work.



© Promvit Klampaiboon

The Thai Youth Hostels Association (TYHA) for example, has joined in the 2002-03 World AIDS Campaign, whose youth activities are coordinated by UNESCO. As every year, people thronged the streets of Thailand's towns and cities to celebrate the Queen's birthday on August 12, which, for the last three years, has also

been World Youth Day. On this occasion, TYHA members marched through the streets on Bangkok and handed out information leaflets to passers by. "We organized two marches and I think at least 40,000 people got our message," said Promvit Klampaiboon, assistant director of the Association and a regional official of the Asia-Pacific youth hostel movement.

of all new HIV infections – or about 6,500 new infections every day. Ignorance and prejudice concerning the disease are serious obstacles to treatment and prevention, which is why information is so vital.

The website of UNESCO's Youth Coordination Unit* provides access to practical proposals for action based on a cultural approach and respectful of human rights in fighting the disease. The site also serves as a permanent clearing-house for organizations belonging to the Youth Network and frequent and brief messages, "infopills", keep them abreast of the latest developments.

UNESCO's ties with youth organizations are not new. In 1993, it signed a cooperation agreement with the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC), which issues an International Student Identity Card recognized by more than 100 countries. Since then, UNESCO's logo has featured on the card, held by some 4.5 million students worldwide. Working with another major NGO, UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura will open the Global Development Village at the World Scout Movement annual Jamboree in Thailand on December 28.

*www.unesco.org/youth
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Tel: (+33) (0) 1 45 68 16 53/54.
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An artist for peace

Guinean singer and *griot* (traditional storyteller) Sayon Camara was named a UNESCO Artist for Peace by the Organization's Director-General, Koïchiro Matsuura on Friday, June 21. Sayon Camara, who is considered to be among the great *griots* of the Mandingo

civilization of western Africa, is the first African woman to be named a UNESCO Artist for Peace by Mr Matsuura. She will strive to serve the Organization by drawing attention to the different activities undertaken in its fields of competence.



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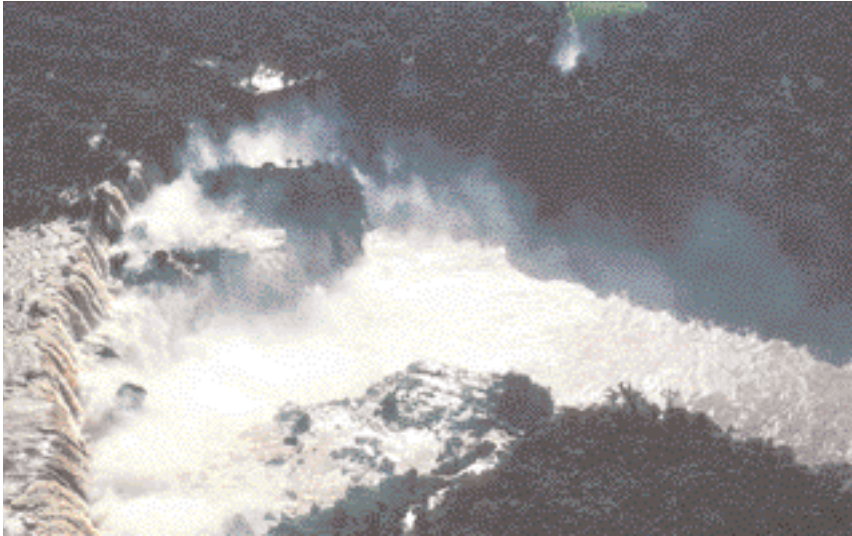
"INFOPILLS" ONLINE

In Bangladesh on the same day, dozens of youth association leaders attended a conference on the role of young people in HIV/AIDS prevention planning, held with the participation of the country's education and youth ministers. In Nigeria, the Aba-based NGO Eziukwu 2 Community Partners for Health provided prevention training to 150 young people who will in turn train others. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, TOMISA, an information and help centre for young people, has launched a counselling service to encourage people to get tested for the disease.

Young people aged between 15 and 24 account for about half



Protecting biodiversity



UNESCO/M. Battise

The United Nations Foundation (UNF), in partnership with UNESCO's World Heritage Center, has undertaken to free up more than six million dollars to help maintain biodiversity in the world. These funds will be added to the 5.41 million dollars pledged by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help conserve natural world heritage sites in Brazil and central Africa.

The 10-year world heritage development programme in Brazil - aimed at preserving

exceptionally rich ecosystems at 38 protected sites across the country - will be launched in early 2003. The Brazilian government has invested one million dollars in the project. This initiative will notably affect five sites on the World Heritage List: Iguaçú National Park (pictured above), Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves, Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserves, the Pantanal Conservation Area and Jau National Park. The programme's NGO partners include the Nature Conservancy, Conservation International

(CI), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The initiative for the forests of central Africa aims to improve the management of three national parks in the Congo River Basin. These protected woodlands, home to rich ecosystems with numerous types of primates, are located in Gabon, the Central African Republic, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The goal is to improve park management and to crack down on bushmeat poaching, while getting local residents involved in forest conservation efforts.

90 PERCENT LOST BY 2030

According to a recent study published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), more than 90 percent of natural habitats for large primates will disappear by the year 2030 if road systems, mining infrastructure networks and poaching continue to grow at the current pace. Five NGOs and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are participating in the initiative, along with several African governments and UNESCO's World Heritage Center.



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Michael Schumacher, a UNESCO champion



© UNESCO/Niamh Burke

German Formula One racing driver Michael Schumacher was named a UNESCO Champion for Sport on April 15 by Director-General Koichiro Matsuura, who paid tribute his role in "the

promotion of sport, his contribution to UNESCO's educational action in favour of young people all over the world, and his dedication to the Organization's ideals."

The five-time world champion (1994, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002), who has headed the Ferrari team since 1996, has put his sport to work for children in distress since 1995, when he donated to 250,000 DM (127,822 Euros) to UNESCO. Why? To help put children "on the right track". Because "if they take the wrong road, if they don't have any opportunities, they'll have a difficult life and cause trouble for everyone around them."

The solution?

Sport is certainly one. "Kids love to play - football, anything. Sport lets them have a good time and also gives them an aim, a chance to respond to challenges, to win, to achieve something."

The champion has contributed a total of 1.5 million euros to several UNESCO projects, including: the construction of a school in Dakar (Senegal) and improvements to the

"Baraka" slum in the city, carried out with the NGO Enda Third World; support for a clinic for child victims of war in Sarajevo, and a "Palace for the Poor" in Lima (Peru). "Nowadays, certain projects attract lots of donors," he says. "Then there are others you never hear about. Those are the ones I'm interested in."



Numerous manuscripts and works of art stored in the basements of the Semper Opera in Dresden (Germany) suffered severe water damage

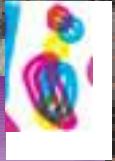
In the wake



In the historic centre of Prague (Czech Republic), which was included on the World Heritage List in 1992, the force of the floodwaters caused the collapse of several buildings

of the floods





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Several monuments like this church in Prague's historic centre suffered badly

Restoration began in Prague's Smetana Museum as soon as the floodwaters began to subside



“In Dessau (home of the Bauhaus School), where the Mulde and Elbe Rivers come together, we’re used to floods. But this year was catastrophic,” says Christine Lambrecht, the vice-president of the Association of German World Heritage Sites.

Response to the disaster was immediate: “the solidarity was incredible”. Thousands of firemen and citizens, of all ages and from all walks of life, worked side by side to evacuate the basements of the city’s monuments and pile sandbags to hold back the raging waters.

This spontaneous and generalized mobilization saved Dessau from the worst.

However, other European cities hit by last August’s floods, did not fare so well. Despite the valiant efforts of the inhabitants, many places – particularly in the Czech Republic – were severely damaged.

From the outset, UNESCO called on the international community to help reconstitute and restore the archives, libraries and other cultural properties that had been devastated.

To facilitate the task, an information site has been opened on the internet to guide those who wish to offer their support to the worst hit cultural institutions. It can be visited at:

<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/index.shtml>

A few days after the flooding had reached its height, UNESCO’s photo bank sent photographer Niamh Burke to record the damage at sites included on the World Heritage List, and some that would like to be.

All photos are free of copyright restrictions for non-commercial use, provided that UNESCO and the name of the photographer are mentioned. To obtain these photos contact Ariane Bailey at a.bailey@unesco.org or Niamh Burke at n.burke@unesco.org.



Harald Marx, the director of the Old Masters’ Gallery at the Dresden Museum, shows how high the water reached

Volker Butzmann, the technical director at the Semper Opera, assesses the damage

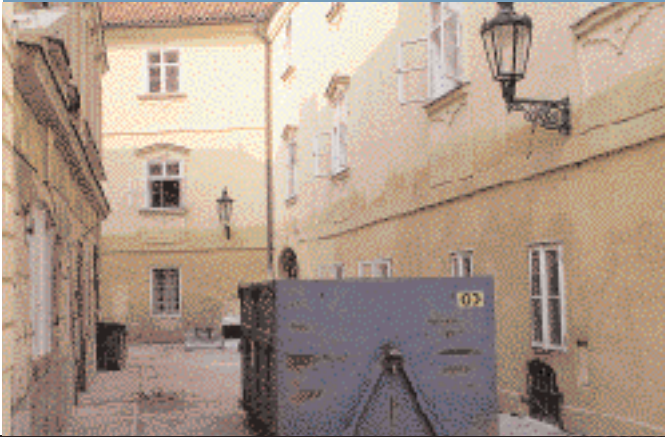


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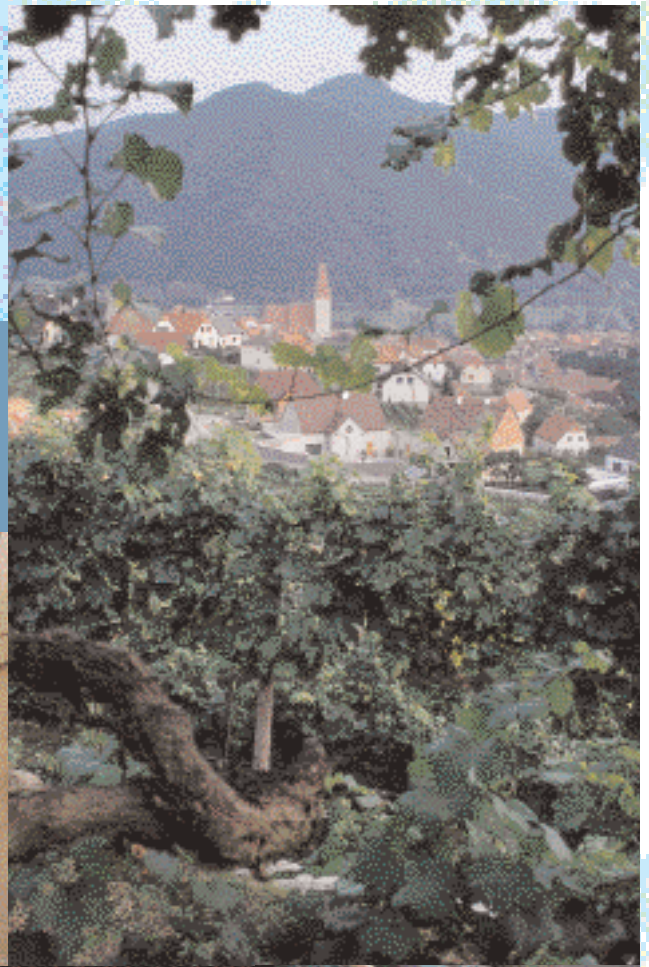


© UNESCO/Niamh Burke

The high water marks are still visible on the walls of this tiny Prague street, close to the Charles Bridge



The mediaeval Wachau cultural landscape in Austria was included on the World Heritage List in 2002



A piano in the basements of the Semper Opera in Dresden, damaged by the floodwaters of the Elbe River



A ruined grape harvest in Austria's Wachau area which runs parallel to the Danube



The UNESCO photo bank is online: www.unesco.org/publications/photobank.asp



Many of the works in Dresden's Museum were saved just in time by being transported to the building's upper floors

This work was found some 30 kilometres from its home in Prague's Kampa Museum of Modern Art, which, on the banks of the Vltava River, was especially hard hit



Harmony in the shape of a garden



© UNESCO/Nina Levinthal



Just at the foot of the building dedicated to it, peace has its garden. It was built by sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904-88), who has given what he called “a personal twist” to the principles of Japanese gardening, because “the Japanese tradition allows for the greatest latitude.”

“This is an ambulatory garden,” said Noguchi. “To truly enjoy (it), you must walk around it.” Strolling around its 1,700 square metres, the visitor will discover a rich counterpoint of recurrent motifs: a pond in the middle shaped as an ideogram signifying a “pure heart”, a footbridge bordered by flowers straight out of *kabuki* theatre, a place for open-air tea ceremonies, granite cobblestones, a stream and a lantern providing

symbolic light that protects and purifies.

The artist went to the Japanese island of Shikoku to select the rocks for his work. He tested his design there – the stone sides of the lake, the bridge and the lanterns, before shipping 88 tonnes of rock to Paris. Three Japanese gardeners were sent to UNESCO to set them in place. “Any gardener will tell you it’s the rocks that make a garden,” said Noguchi. “They call them its bones.” Cherry trees, bamboo, camellias and ornamental maple trees were planted.

Inscribed on the fountain – which is the highest stone, chosen for its

beautiful shape – is the word “peace” (*hei wa*) in Japanese characters, written back-to-front so it can be read as a reflection in the water. The Angel of Nagasaki, a sculpture from the city’s Urakami church that survived the atom bomb attack, watches over this magical spot.



Make a virtual visit

www.unesco.org/visit/jardin/



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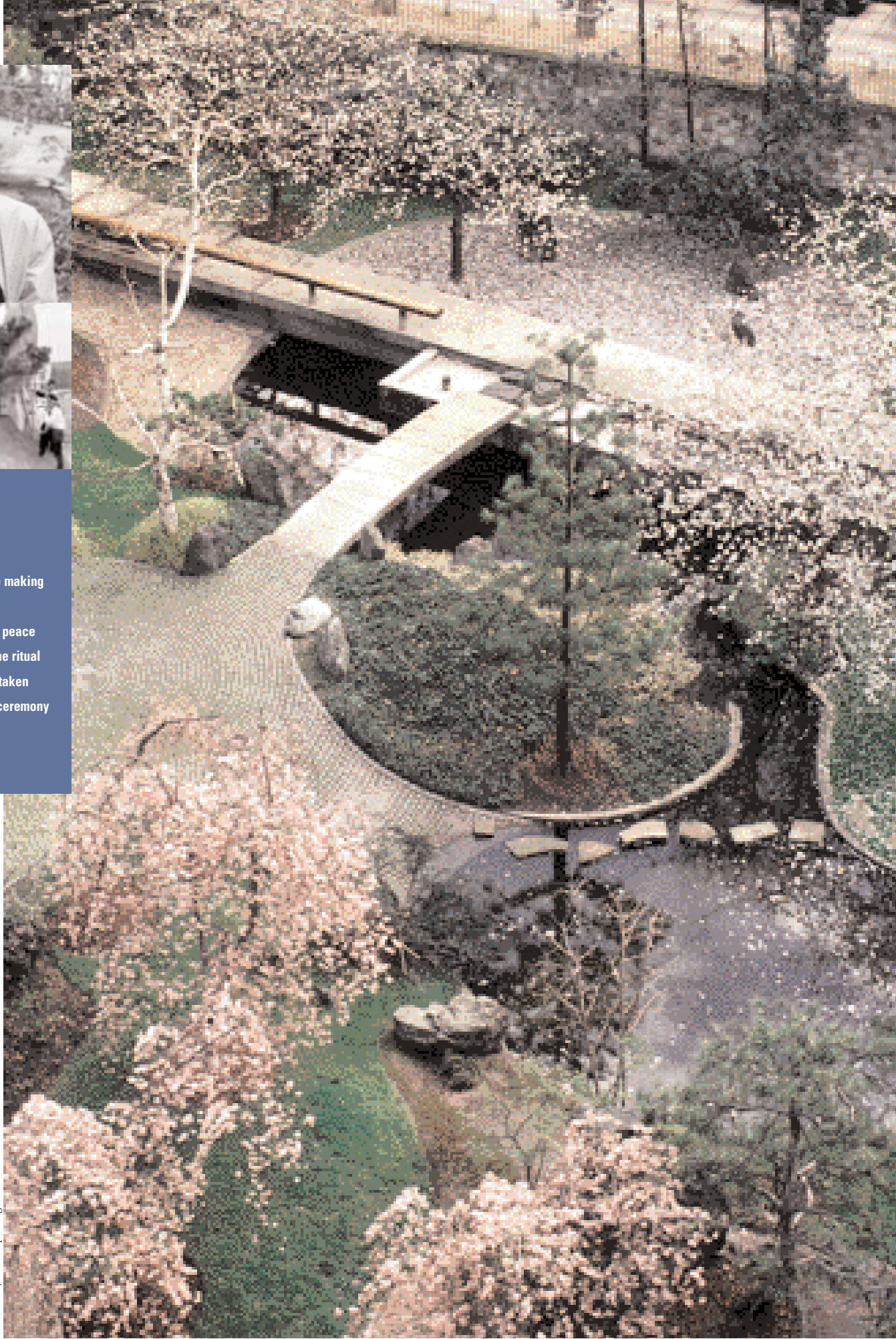
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- ↑ Isamu Noguchi
- ↑ A garden in the making
- ↗ The footbridge
- ↖ The fountain of peace
- ↖ The basin for the ritual washing undertaken before the tea ceremony



Sustainable Development from A to Z

*“Only after the last tree has been cut down,
Only after the last fish has been caught,
Only after the last river has been poisoned,
Only then will you realize that money cannot be eaten.”*



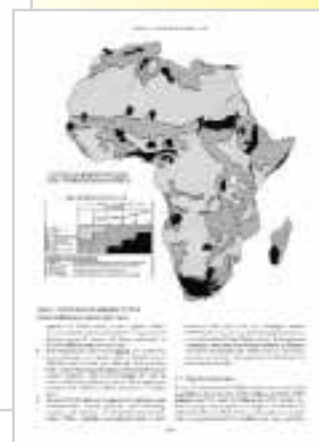
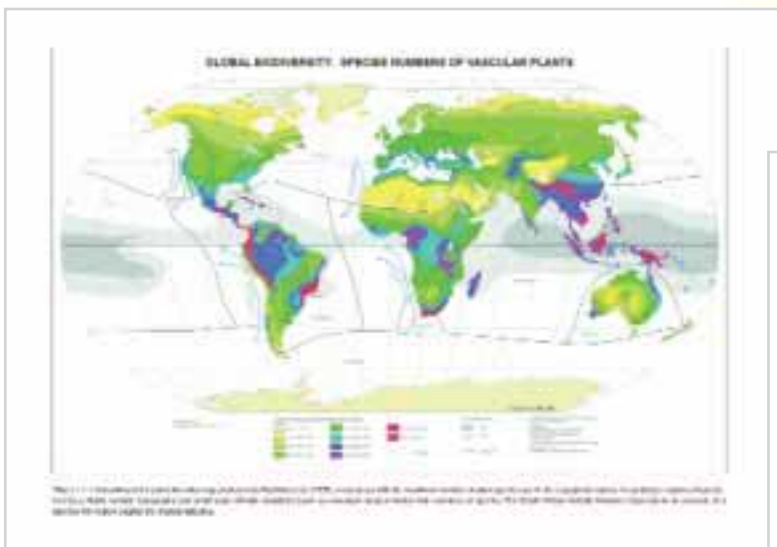
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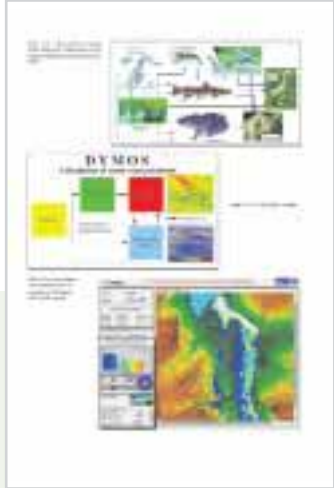
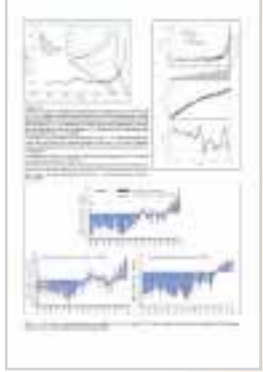
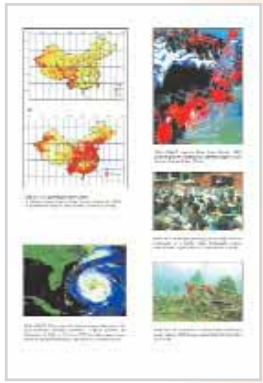


This Cree Indian prophecy opens the three-volume *Knowledge for Sustainable Development*, which accompanies the gigantic web-based *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems* (EOLSS) - the largest and most comprehensive publication to date on sustainable development.

Ten years in the planning, the online encyclopedia is the only series to comprehensively examine the origins and threats facing all of the systems that support life on Earth - from the climate to the world's oceans, forests, water cycle and atmosphere. Contributions from 5,000 scientists in over 100 countries offer step-by-step explanations on techniques for applying abstract or pure sciences, such as mathematical models to assess environmental pollution or to predict food consumption patterns. However, technical solutions alone won't resolve the current ecological crisis. EOLSS therefore covers a diverse range of social issues - from international human rights law and poverty eradication to the psychology of religion.

The aim is to offer a guide and reference for a wide range of users: from natural and social scientists to engineers, economists, educators, university students and

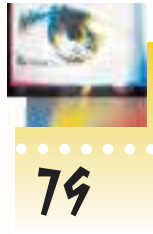




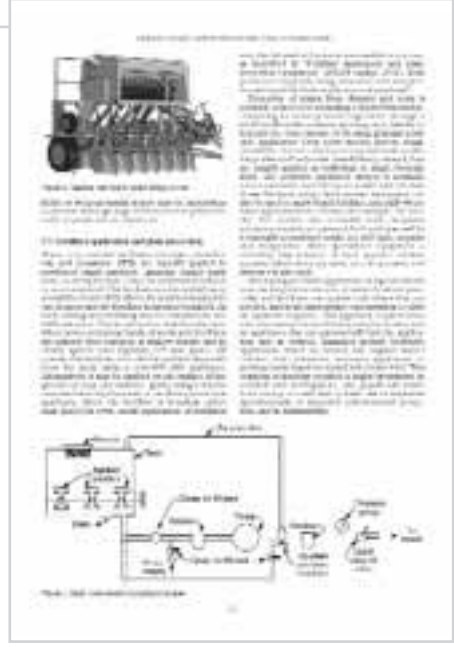
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20,5 x 29,7 cm, 3562 pp.
560 € (volumes not sold separately)
UNESCO Publishing / EOLSS, 2002
<http://www.unesco.org/publishing>



professors, conservationists, entrepreneurs, law and policy-makers. EOLSS goes beyond the raw information and data to serve as a kind of expert advisor. The various chapters are divided into different levels of specialization to cater to a diverse readership. General readers might turn to EOLSS for summaries on nuclear energy, for example, while university students focus on explanations of related principles as policy-makers turn to the future perspectives and related recommendations. UNESCO organized the project with EOLSS Publishers, based in Oxford (Great Britain). It already contains about 25 million words, equivalent to about 50,000 standard pages, and several thousand tables, graphics, boxes and photographs. Within the next two years, it will mature to its full size of about 70 million words (equivalent to about 150 volumes) through regular updates as often as once every three months. The three printed volumes *Knowledge for Sustainable Development* was released simultaneously with the online version of EOLSS. They present a selection of articles written for a broad readership along with an overview of the main issues dealt with in the encyclopedia. Beyond this introductory insight, essential to grasp the global relevance of each main theme, each article provides a listing of its specialized in-depth treatment online.



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Lacquerware in Asia, Today and Yesterday

Dating back several thousand years in Chinese history, the art of lacquer can claim to be one of the most ancient and venerable expressions of Asian culture. But this traditional knowledge, so firmly rooted in people's daily life, is under threat. Over the past decades, the number of people employed in the lacquerware workshops, and particularly the younger generation, has fallen dramatically all over Asia. This book offers a comprehensive picture of both lacquer creative arts and craftsmanship, allowing the reader to compare the different methods and materials used in Cambodia, China, India, Korea, Japan Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. It underlines the importance of documenting past and modern procedures, including knowledge of raw materials and techniques.

Edited by Monica Kopplin

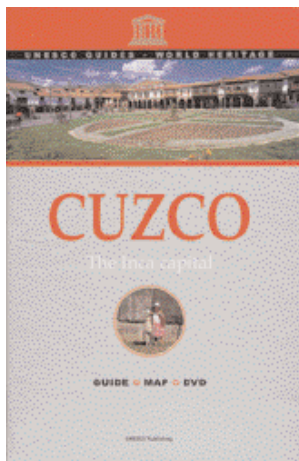
38 €

240 pp., 27 x 21 cm

UNESCO Publishing, 2002



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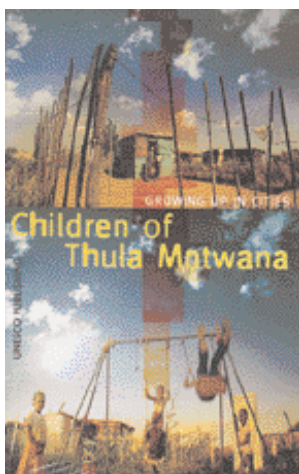


Cuzco - The Inca capital (Guide + Map + DVD)

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By Manuel Jesús Aparicio Vega
30 €
UNESCO Publishing /
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Planeta De Agostini, 2002



Children of Thula Mntwana

Growing up in cities

Like people in 13 percent of all homes in South Africa, thirteen-year-old Sukiswa lives in a shanty settlement. She explains how her family became squatters in Thula Mntwana near Johannesburg. Despite the daily struggle for survival and an exposure to violence, Zukiswa and other children try to live like any other children in the world. She tells of how she and other children learned, through the UNESCO-MOST “Growing Up In Cities” project, to identify problems in their environment and of their invitation by the mayor to present their insights to public officials.

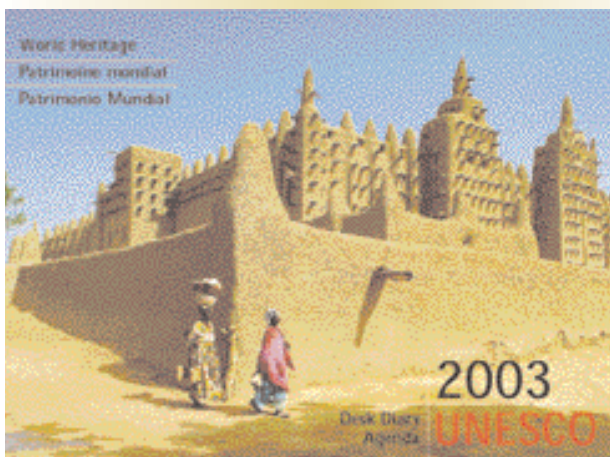
This video is a companion of two books: *Growing Up In An Urbanizing World* and *Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth* (UNESCO Publishing).

Director: Shaun Cameron
11.43 €
Video, PAL, 26 mins
UNESCO Publishing /
Jill Kruger Research CC,
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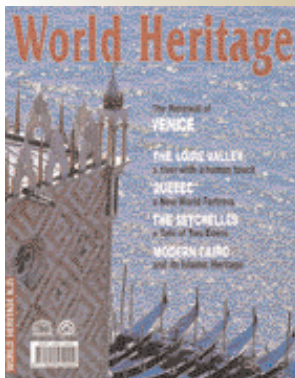
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