

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN HERITAGE.

Contested Heritage

Whose Heritage is it????????????

Contested Heritage :

- ▶ "All heritage is someone's heritage and therefore logically not someone else's: the original meaning of an inheritance [from which 'heritage' derives] implies the existence of disinheritance and by extension any creation of heritage from the past disinherits someone completely or partially, actively or potentially. This disinheritance may be unintentional, temporary, of trivial importance, limited in its effects and concealed; or it may be long-term, widespread, intentional, important and obvious."

G. Ashworth and J. Tunbridge, *Dissonant heritage: The management of the past as a resource in conflict* (Chichester 1996).

- ▶ Oftentimes, different groups (communities / sectors) can interpret a site in contrasting terms .
- ▶ This can lead to historic quarrels / protestations - particularly dependant on whether the heritage presented is considered defamatory / derogatory.
- ▶ Where there are two or more ‘presented’ history heritage stories, this can lead to “Created Anachronisms”.

Heritage (particularly Heritage tourism) should be a positive concept - - however it is NOT always so (**Blurred Lines**).

Examples of Dissonant Heritage:

- Regions / Countries in political turmoil.
- Religious conflicts.
- Industrial Heritage Tourism.
- Thanatourism.
- Fortification / Walled Towns.
- Cultural Differences.
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► Examples:

- Cyprus - North and South Divide.
 - Israel / Palestine Conflict.
 - Mining Heritage - Miners' strikes / poverty / accidents / fatalities....
 - Auschwitz.
 - Fortifications - East and West Germany / Northern and Southern Ireland...
 - Australian / Aborigine Histories.
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- TASK: Students are to research one example of modern day dissonant / contested heritage and discuss this within the modern complexities / issues of contemporary heritage and culture.