

ABSTRACT - 4. CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN HERITAGE DISCOURSE - A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF THE ART IN HERITAGE DISCUSSIONS, CONSIDERING THE EVOLVING PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES THAT HAVE EMERGED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE VENICE CHARTER. EXAMINING THE RELEVANCE OF THE VENICE CHARTER IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT, WITH A FOCUS ON CHALLENGES POSED BY THE WESTERN DIVIDE BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE, THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF METROPOLISES, SOCIAL INEQUITIES, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES, DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS, AMONG OTHERS.

THE VENICE CHARTER IN THE AGE OF EXTINCTION AND RESTORATION

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In assessing the Venice Charter, readers should remember that it was its (from today's perspective) weaknesses that were the source of its success: the elitist selection of “monuments” constituted

a clearly defined object of interest, and the modernist fear of restoration and revivals led to a clear distinction between good and evil in its objectives and methods. The Charter emerged from the Congress of architects and technicians of historic monuments and targeted primarily these mentioned professions. It can be perceived as Eurocentric because, for example, in Asia or Africa, large ancient cities still existed in 1964, as yet little affected by modernisation, and so the Charter did not seemingly address their problems. The Venice Charter intended to protect the testimonial value of monuments, not all “heritage” from dilution and Planet Earth from destruction.

This paper offers an analysis of the Venice Charter from two perspectives:

(1) Given the known scope and objectives of the Charter, are some of its articles downright outdated or represent a dead end in heritage conservation?

(2) How (if at all) could the Venice Charter's vigilance towards restoration be reconciled with a situation where even supranational legislation seeks to "restore" the environment as a whole (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework from 2022, or European Union Nature Restoration Law, adopted in 2024)?

Palavras-chave: venice charter; kunming-montreal global biodiversity framework; eu nature restoration law; heritage conservation; ecological restoration; reconstruction.