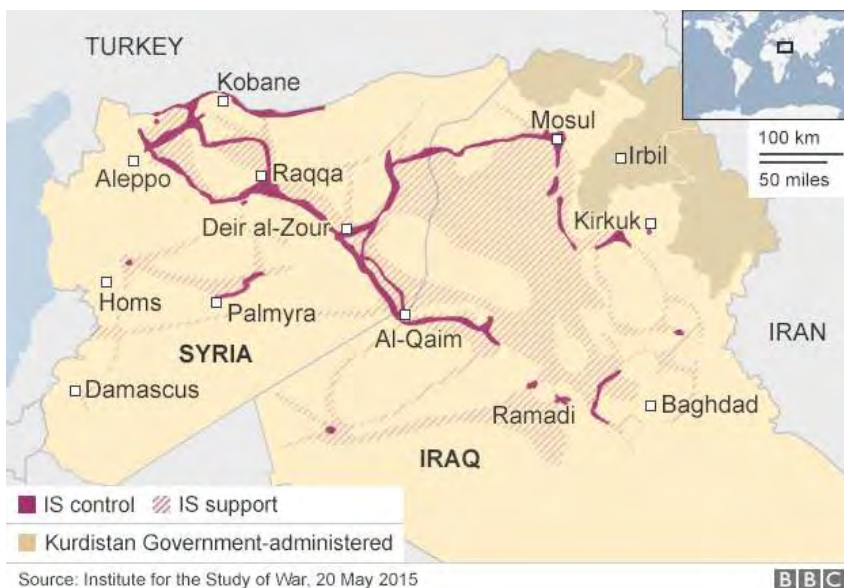


Palmyra and beyond

Derek Dey
May 21, 2015



Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has dealt a savage blow to the Middle east including its archaeology and artifacts dating back thousands of years. Destruction of entire cities like Nimrud, the Mosul Museum, Jonah's Tomb and so on. The basic idea is that God has a different plan, wishes to promote a different culture and sites like these do not conform to their beliefs; so as an affront to God they must go.



Right now Palmyra has been taken by ISIL and faces a similar fate. In many ways Unificationism points to a similar set of beliefs when it proclaims a new lineage, new tradition and new culture. If Unificationism becomes well rooted globally will it take the same path by obliterating what is essentially viewed as a fallen cultural record or will archaeological sites, artefacts, and the arts, be preserved as a record of a rise in human consciousness and elements tied to dispensational history?

Will artworks be destroyed? Leonardo's paintings are compromised by homoeroticism (Look at John the Baptist). Michelangelo was likewise homosexual and angry, so exaggeration in his work opened up to Mannerism which ended the high Renaissance. The Renaissance itself was largely based on enduring universal principles and the idea that beauty led us to transcendent realms -healing and redemption on a good day.

Mannerism gave us Caravaggio who replaced religious ecstasy with erotic ecstasy and rage (Caravaggio is known for his perfidious life including prostitutes, murder and all this woven into his works which disturbed the Catholic hierarchy and the Jesuits who detested him for this reason). Van Gogh struggled with insanity (something the founder noted) and on it goes into the contemporary field including forms of music, poetry and architecture which reveal fragmentation rather than harmony and proportion. Anyway you take my point. So are we looking down the road at a massive Unificationist Bonfire of the Vanities or not?