

ID 028 *Cultural and environmental heritage amid conflicts, climate change and overexploitation: an unsustainable and often underestimated cost for the future*

Caterina MELE
*DISEG, Polytechnic of Turin,
Turin, Italy*

Unfortunately, today we add to the climate vulnerability and the dangers of overexploitation of environmental resources the effects of conflicts fought with increasingly devastating weapons. Alongside the dead and injured in the disastrous toll of wars, there are silent victims: monuments, landscapes, urban and building fabrics, environmental ecosystems, water and natural resources of territories and places. On the other hand, although the 1954 Hague Convention imposes measures for the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict, this is often disregarded. In the Middle East, the wars fought in recent decades, from the Gulf War onwards, to which were added the destruction of the so-called Islamic State of Jihadist groups, have plundered and destroyed forever a thousand-year-old heritage belonging to all of humanity. In Europe itself, during the conflict in Yugoslavia in the 1990s, sites of great material cultural value were deliberately bombed, in Dubrovnik, Vukovar, Mostar to name a few, probably because attacking the identity and memory of a people means contributing to their annihilation. Six years separate us from 2030, the year towards which the sustainable development objectives of the UN Agenda 2030 aim. Objective 16 Peace, justice and solid institutions seems utopian and distant but pursuing it with tenacity is the main hope for the future of humanity.