Heritage in Peril: Syria and Iraq

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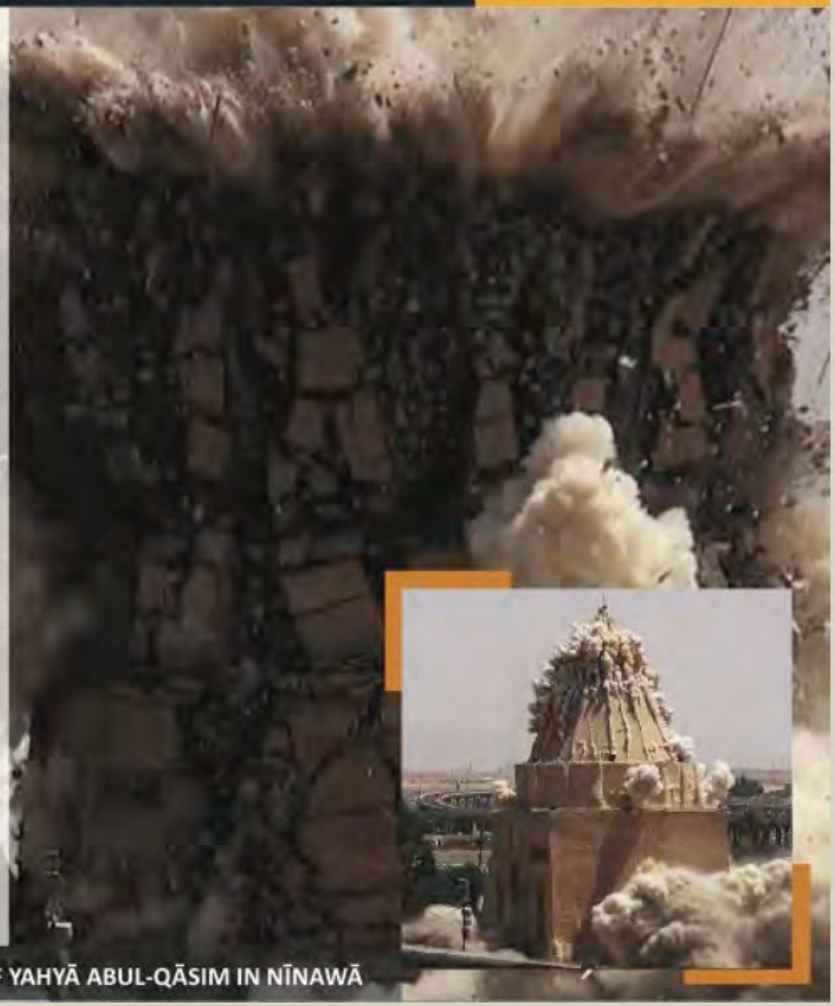
both their religious and social needs are met. For what good is there in liberating a city only to leave its inhabitants steeped in misguidance and misery, suffering from ignorance and disunity, and disconnected from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam).

As such, the Islamic State actively works to educate its citizens, preach to and admonish them, enforce their strict adherence to Islamic obligations, judge their disputes, implement the shar'ī hudūd, eradicate all traces of shirk and heresy, incite the people to jihād and call them to unite behind the Khalīfah, Ibrāhīm Ibn 'Awwād Al-Husaynī Al-Qurashī.

These pictures are a window into the various hisbah (commanding the good and forbidding the evil) and da'wah related events and activities taking place within the Islamic State.



DESTRUCTION OF THE TOMB OF YAHYĀ ABUL-QĀSIM IN NĪNAWĀ

ISIL publication *Dabiq* Vol. 3, p. 17
"Destruction of the Tomb of Yahya Abul-Qasim in Ninawa [Iraq]"

The ASOR Syrian Heritage Initiative (SHI)

DOS Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)

American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)

Cooperative Agreement NEA-PSHSS-14-001

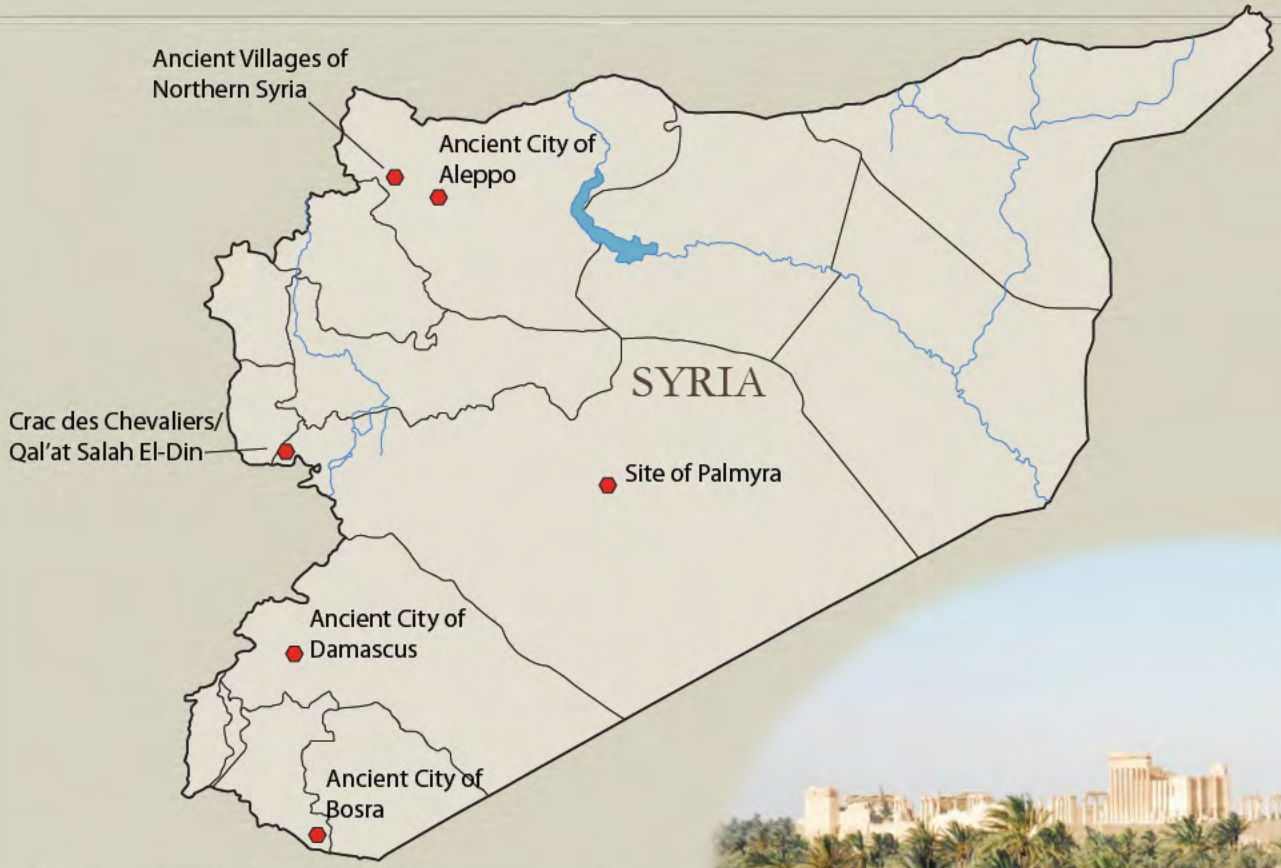
DOS Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

International Partners

The ASOR Syrian Heritage Initiative (SHI)

- **SHI Website**: www.asor-syrianheritage.org
  - Project information and updates
  - Weekly Reports

- **Cultural Heritage Monitor**: www.heritagemonitor.com
  - An anonymous online site in Arabic/ English for reporting heritage incidents



UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Palmyra, Syria

Mosul, Iraq: Nebi Yunus Mosque / Prophet Jonah Shrine

Satellite Image Before ISIL Destruction

Mosul, Iraq: Nebi Yunus Mosque/ Prophet Jonah Shrine

Satellite Image Before ISIL Destruction

Satellite Image After ISIL Destruction

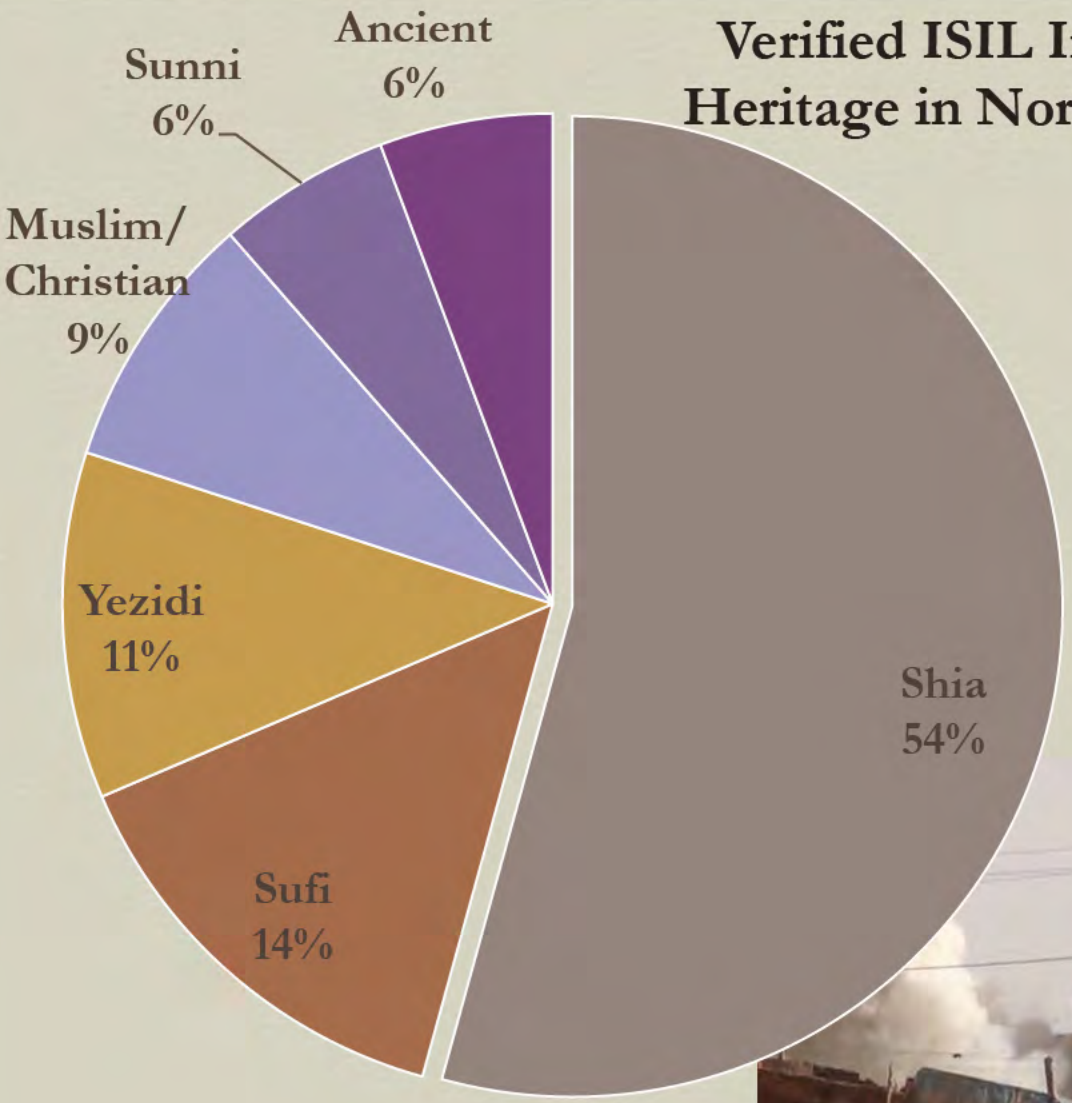
After ISIL Destruction of July 24, 2014

Mosul, Iraq: Imam Yahya Ibn al-Qasim Mosque (1239 AD)

Satellite Image Before ISIL Destruction

Satellite Image After ISIL Destruction

Verified ISIL Intentional Destructions of Heritage in Northern Iraq and Syria (n=36)



ISIL promotes its intentional destructions of cultural heritage — they have publicized over 50% online or in print.

Raqqa, Syria: ISIL Destruction of the Arslan Tash Lion

1

2

3

4

Dura Europus, Syria: Large-Scale, Systematic Looting

Satellite Image from June 28, 2012

Dura Europus, Syria: Large-Scale, Systematic Looting

Satellite Image from April 2, 2014

The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs

Satellite Image from February 6, 2014 — Before Tunnel Bombs

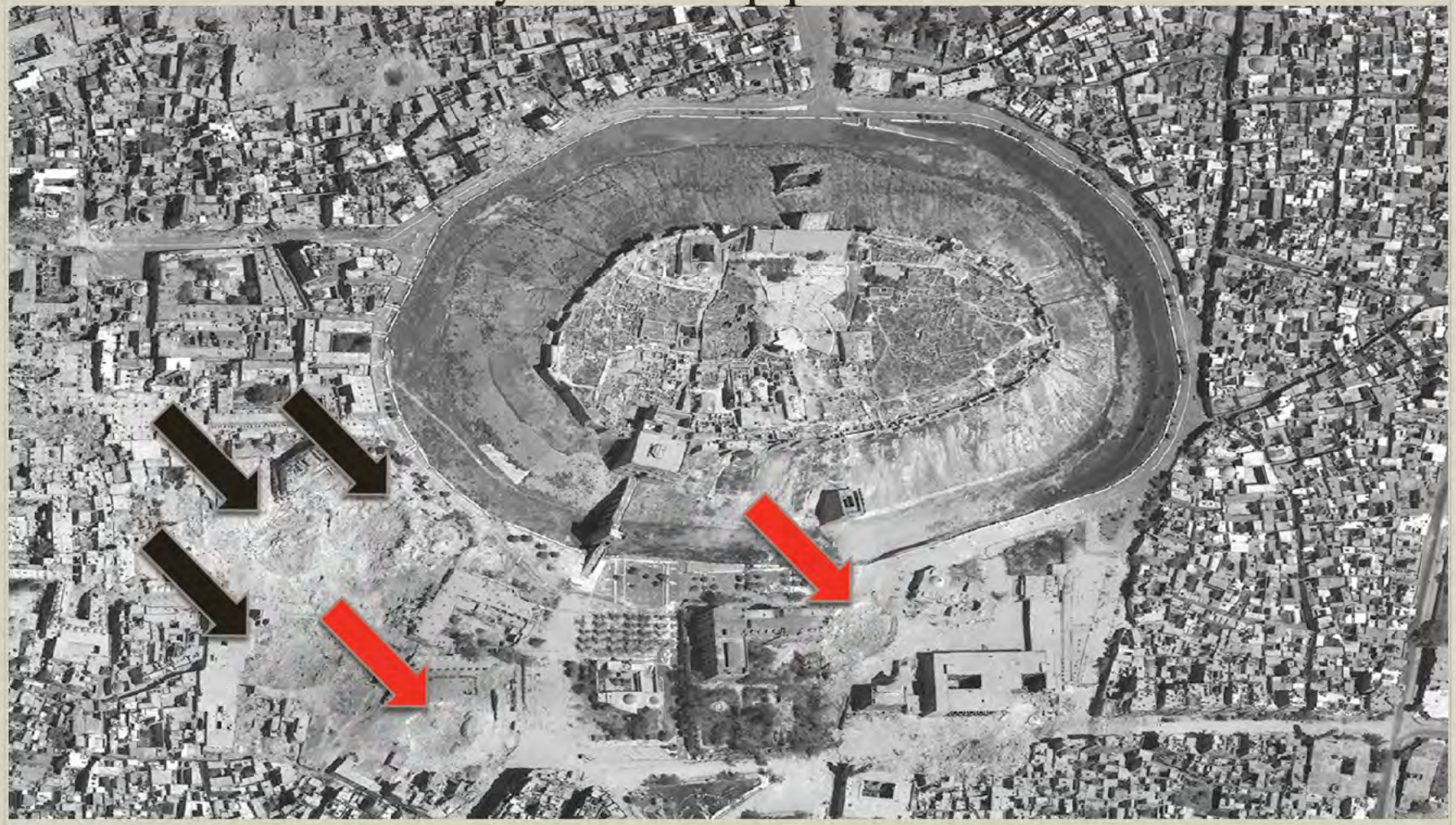
The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs

Satellite Image from February 22, 2014 — Episode 1

The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs

Satellite Image from May 23, 2014 — Episode 2

The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs



Satellite Image from August 10, 2014 — Episode 3

The Aleppo Citadel Area Today

www.asor-syrianheritage.org

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SYRIAN HERITAGE INITIATIVE

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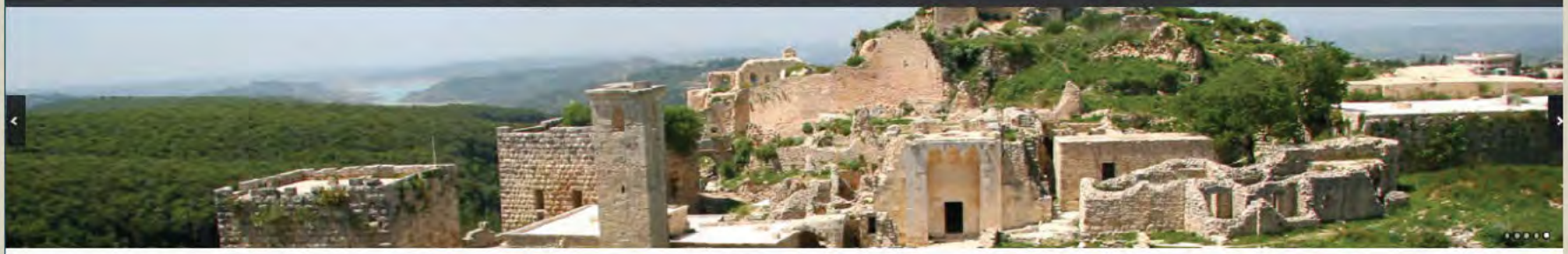

Our Mission

The Department of State and the American Schools of Oriental Research have established a 12-month, multipronged program — the Syrian Heritage Initiative (SHI) — to plan and implement cultural property protection and preservation projects in Syria in the short- and long-term to address the ongoing crisis and to prepare for the inevitable reconstruction process.

Learn more ›

Who We Are

We have assembled an unrivaled team of specialists with professional connections to leading academic and cultural institutions in Syria, the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Lebanon, and Jordan. Groups of concerned citizens in Syria are already taking action, and our international team has contact with these groups and has already formed alliances and partnerships.

Meet the team ›

Weekly Reports

Learn about the latest developments of the Syrian Heritage Initiative by reading our weekly project reports, including new discoveries, research, and events.

Read the reports ›

CURRENT NEWS ABOUT THE SYRIAN HERITAGE INITIATIVE

SHI Weekly Report 5 (September 8, 2014)

SHI Weekly Report 3 (August 25, 2014)

SHI Weekly Report 2 (August 18, 2014)

SHI Weekly Report 1 (August 11, 2014)