

Global trends, International Politics and Heritage Management in Sri Lanka

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The Heritage Management, though it concerns remnants of the past, is very much a contemporary phenomenon. Therefore, it cannot be excluded from the influence of current global trends and international politics. The present paper is an attempt to grasp this situation in Sri Lankan context in view of understanding how external factors influence in local heritage when it comes to matters regarding its management.

Current global trends in social, academic, economic, technological and environment arenas will be surveyed in this regard. The emphasis will be given to trends in international politics over other aspects as politics cut across all the other fields and its influence has much greater impact on country's sovereignty, cultural identity and its foreign policy than other trends.

Global trends in last two decades or so will be considered broadly in this research. However, emphasis will be give to very recent trends and their influence in Heritage Management in Sri Lanka. Social trends such as migration, gender equality, social media, tourism and religious concern have been identified as some of the key social elements effect in Heritage Management. Economic trends such as free trade, poverty alleviation, new markets and bilateral trade agreements are seem to be

highly influential in Heritage and Its management either directly or indirectly.

The world politics will be assessed in various angles. The New World order and the rising of Asian Age, "Soft Power" usage in diplomacy, activities of international organizations, funding agencies and bilateral agreements will be studied in this regard.

The recent Heritage Management activities in Sri Lanka such as excavations, explorations, conservation and documentation projects, museum establishments, university courses, new institutions and legal enactments compatible with global trends and international politics will be discussed in this paper.