

Cultural Geology – a Tool for the World Cultural Heritage. Necessary Interaction Between History of Civilization and Geoscience

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The history of civilization in its classical sense is mainly based on objects of earlier civilizations originating in terrigenous material such as stone, ore, metal as well as the changes from a natural landscape into land developed and cultivated by man.

Cultural geology intends to establish a synthesis of interdisciplinary research and teaching. Cultural geology consists of two major units:

a) Historical cultural geology:

Geoscience and archeology aim at the study, maintenance, reconstruction and revitalization of old and newer civilizations based on cultural geology. Old technical knowledge (e.g. stonemasonry, metallurgy, the use of color pigments,), but also age dating, paleogeography, construction research, settlement history, and urban geology are part of this.

b) Modern cultural geology, which should cover more than the present environmental geology:

Problems with resources, settlements, nourishment for the future world population will soon become urgent and thereby, modern cultural geology should provide the necessary basis. The world cultural heritage must not only refer to historical objects of smaller or larger dimensions, but also has to concentrate on the near future of the new millennium. The rain forest or the tundra are world cultural heritage as well and must not be sacrificed to increasing preoccupation with raw materials, as long as enormous amounts of resources end up in the waste. All in all, cultural geology should provide food for thought for such urgent attempts, as the new millennium will demand them from the scientists in the near future.