



Cultural Security

Security risks of cultural property and the strategic potential of cultural intelligence

Problem:

Cultural Security – managing the risks associated with the tactical value of cultural property

Solution:

Cultural Intelligence – scholarly collaboration between cultural fields and security studies

Erik Nemeth

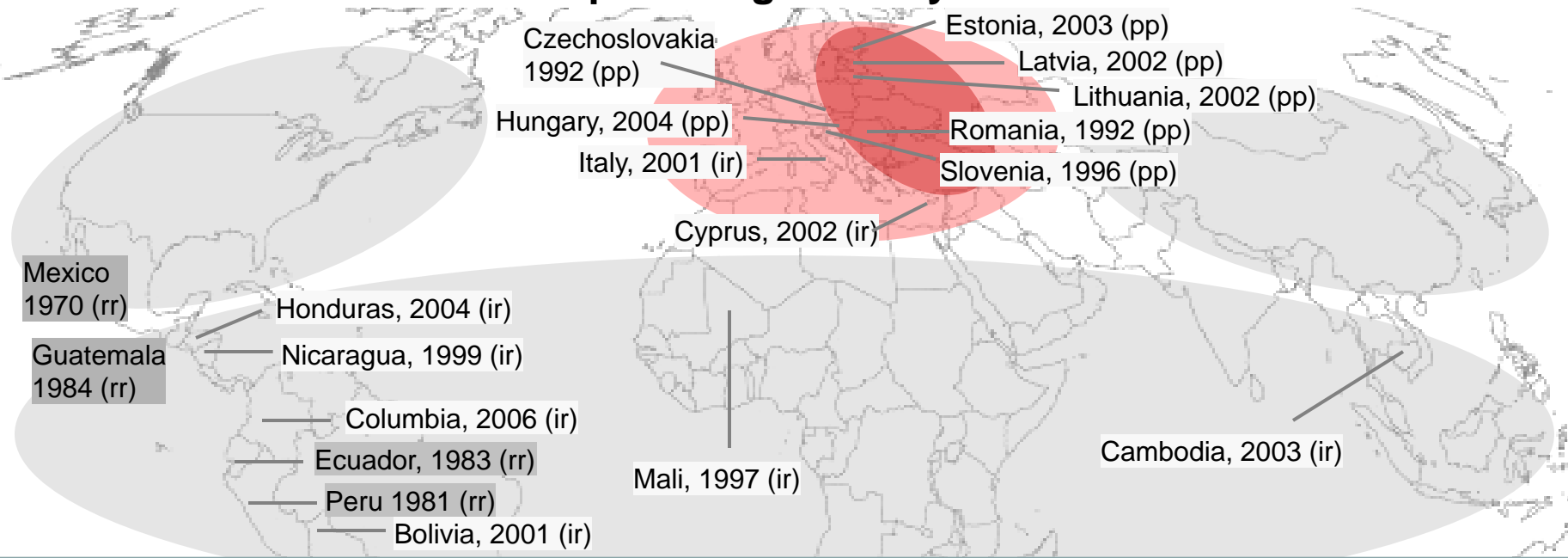
research@culturalsecurity.org

www.culturalsecurity.org

Department of State

9 November 2009

Compounding Security Risks



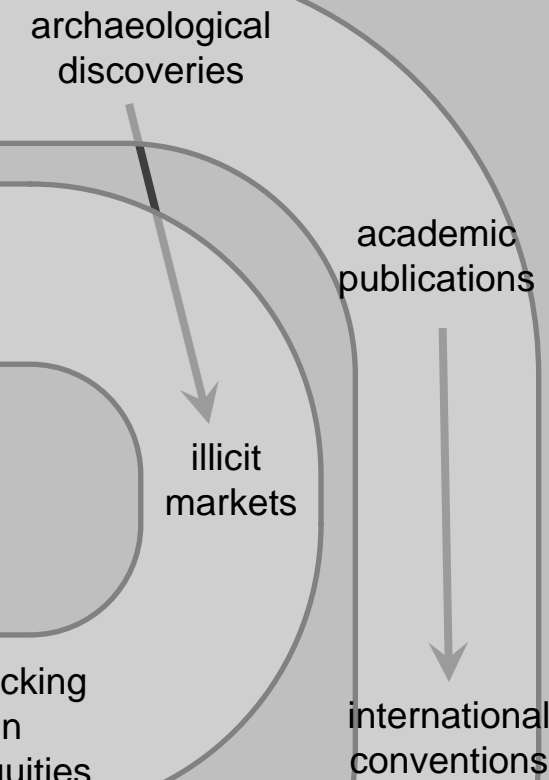
1. WWII – Art historians plunder and protect fine art.

2. Cold War – Archaeologists expose and track antiquities.

actor	tactic	significance	notion of victory
Allied MFAA ALIU	reactive protection	political goodwill	cultural awareness
Axis Gestapo SS	planned plunder	ethnic cleansing	cultural conquest

3. post-Cold War – Humanists explore the tactical role of cultural property.

actor	tactic	significance	notion of victory
insurgencies	political violence	cultural cleansing	cultural exploitation
organized crime	profitable looting	illicit markets	
academia	cultural intelligence	cultural security	cultural credibility
law enforcement military	reactive protection	political goodwill	





Cultural Security - Risks

threats

physical/economic risks

political liability

trafficking in:

antiquities and fine art

(transnational organized crime)



funding of insurgencies

collateral in narcotics deals

targeting of:

monuments
and
museums

(political violence)



cultural cleansing

destabilization of cultural identity

collateral damage of:

cultural heritage sites

(military intervention)



compromise of:

political goodwill

tourism revenues

bilateral
treaties



violation of:



international
conventions

Motivation for Trafficking in Antiquities



The dove of the Vucedol culture (present-day Croatia).

<http://www.ewwpp.org/>

Tall bronze bird seized at Heathrow and returned to the National Museum in Kabul.

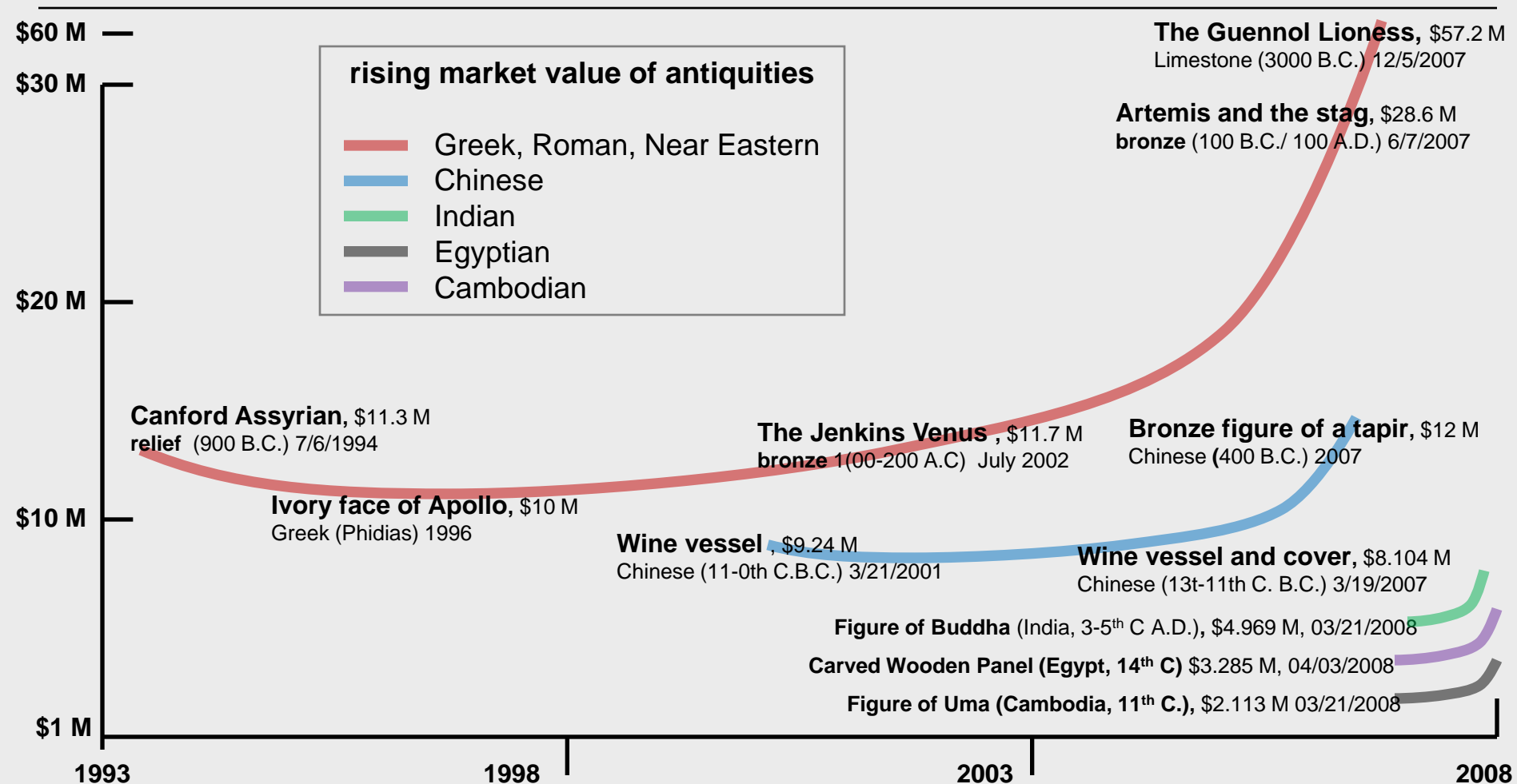
<http://2.bp.blogspot.com>



Iraqi antiquity returned to the Iraqi National Museum.



<http://insidethemiddleeast.blogs.cnn.com>

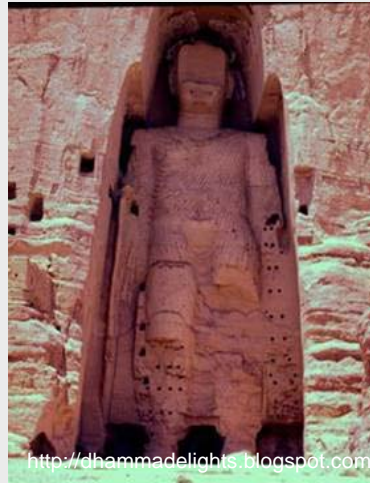


Targeting of Cultural Property in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq

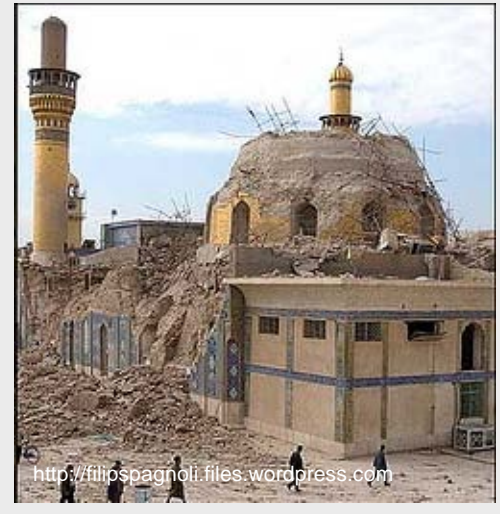
Mostar Bridge



Bamiyan Buddhas



Samarra Mosque

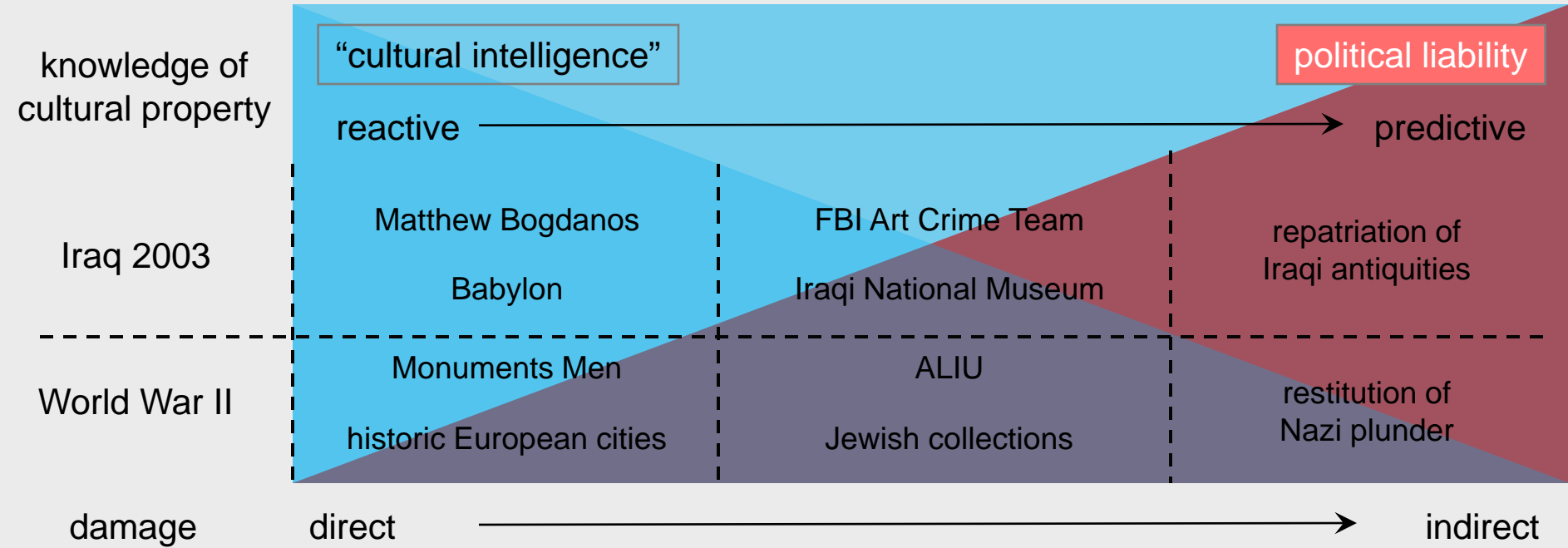


ethnic strife

religious violence

reprisals

Modern-day Damage in Conflict – Risks and Mitigation



loss of historic structures



2009

organized theft

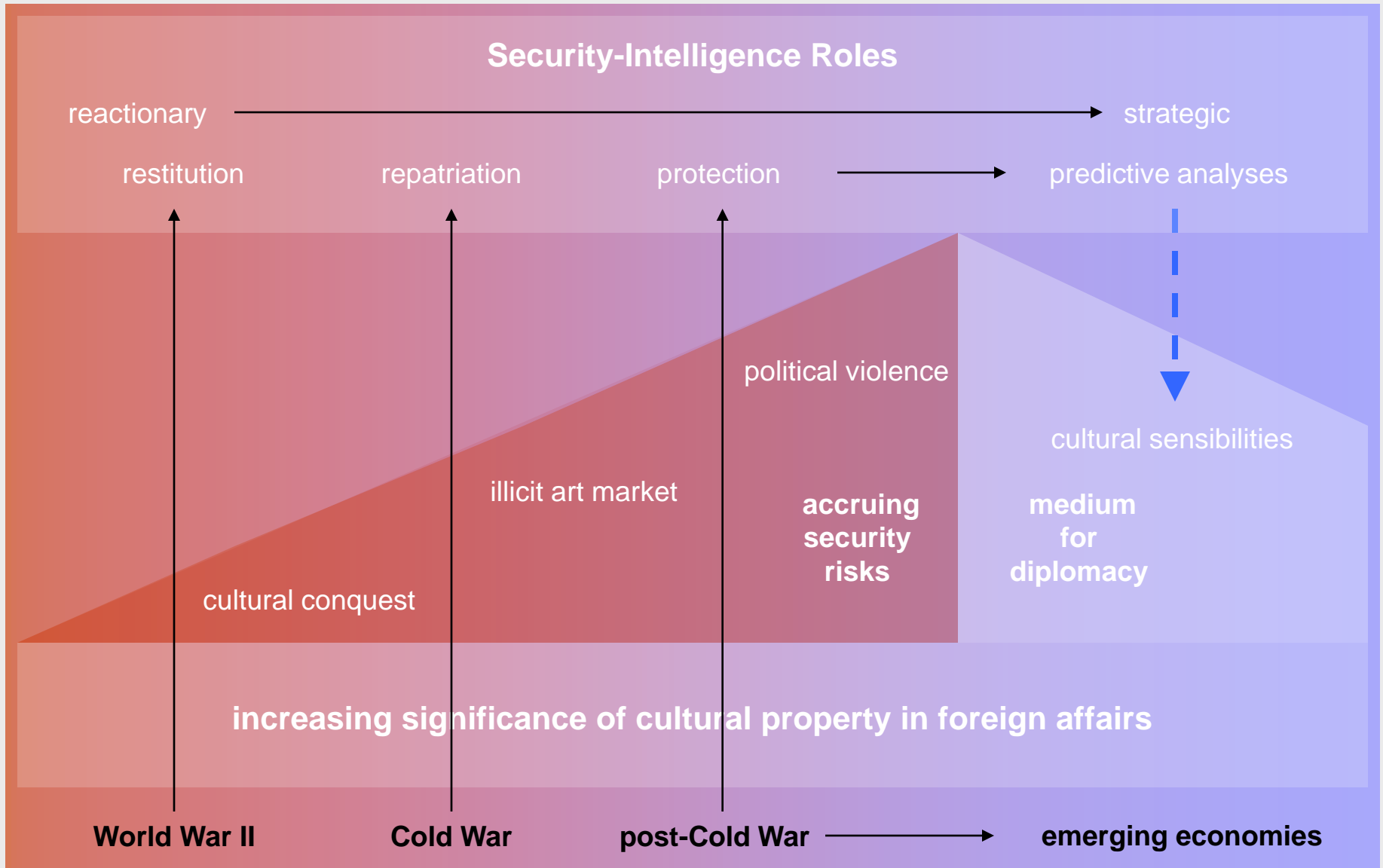


www.culturalsecurity.org

illicit market fallout



Reactive to Preemptive Protection of Cultural Property





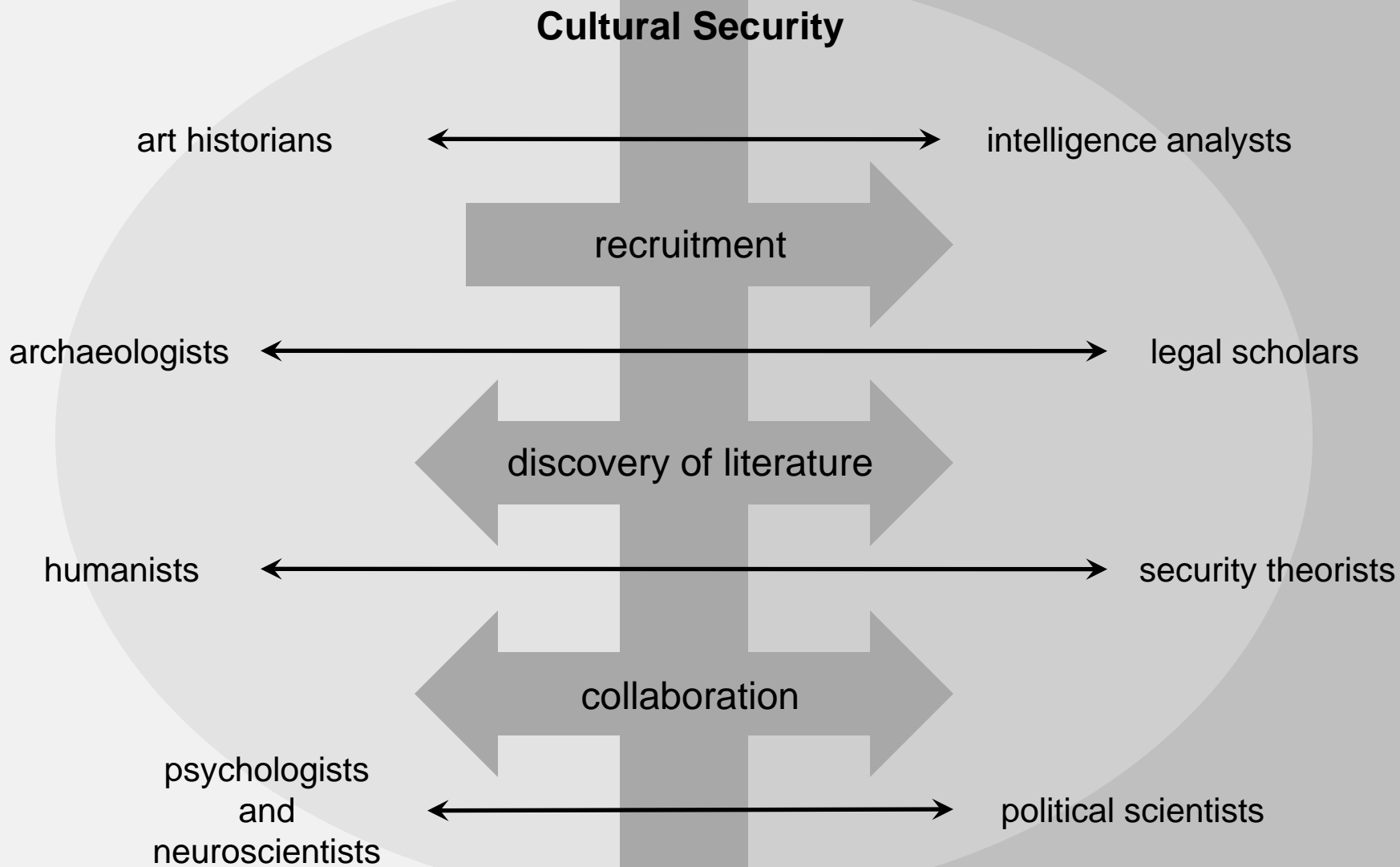
Potential for a Preemptive Strategy for Protection of Cultural Property

objective	process	benefit
<p><u>Combating organized crime</u></p> <p>Track looting of and trafficking in antiquities</p>	<p>Assess intersections of historical trade routes and looted sites.</p> <p>(e.g. anthropologists)</p>	<p>Identify overlapping illicit markets.</p>
<p><u>Forestalling ethnic strife</u></p> <p>Develop human networks for knowledge on cultural property.</p>	<p>Communicate with scholars who are integrated into local communities.</p> <p>(e.g. archaeologists)</p>	<p>Collect intelligence on cultural identity of volatile ethnic groups.</p>
<p><u>Countering political violence</u></p> <p>Qualify the emotional value of religious and historic sites.</p>	<p>Conduct collaborative studies of visual perception and security.</p> <p>(e.g. neuroscientists)</p>	<p>Predict targets of political violence.</p>

How to facilitate collection and analysis of cultural intelligence

cultural fields

security studies





Towards a Framework for Cultural Intelligence

