

Syria, and objects in conflict

Det nasjonale museumsmøtet

Dima Chahin

18.04.2018

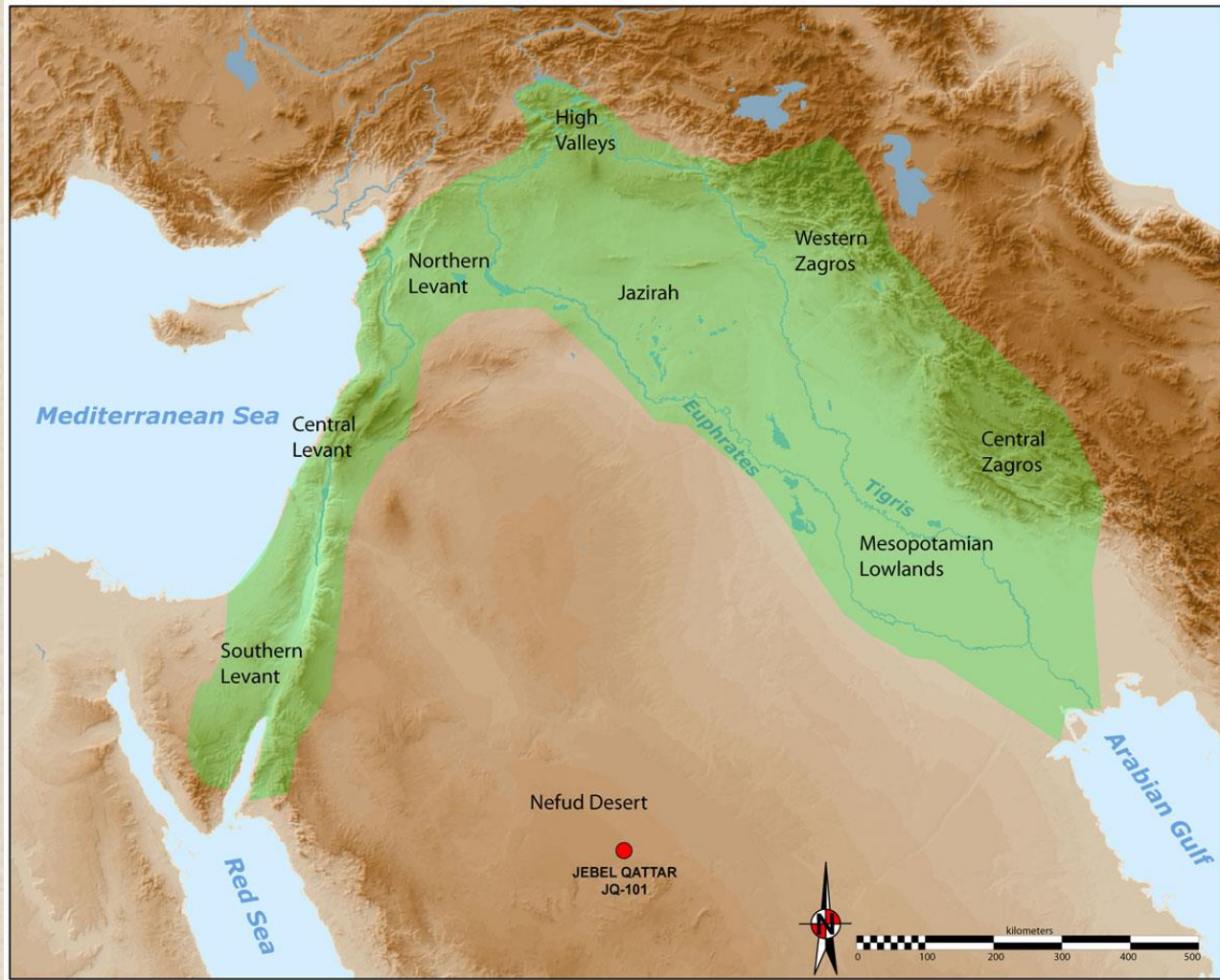
THE MIDDLE EAST





London, Published by Longman, Broderick, Green, Clarke & Co., Stationers' Row, 1855.

Drawn & Engraved by Wm. Hill, New St. Street, 1855.



The fertile crescent

History of Syria:

The oldest remains found in Syria was from the Paleolithic era in the Dederiyeh cave, a remains of a Neanderthal child about two years of age were found almost complete in the original burial state. And till the day civilizations sequenced after each other leaving tens of thousands of archaeological sites, many of them is still unexcavated. Akkadians, Amorites, Egyptians, Hittites, Sumerians, Mitanni, Assyrians, Babylonians, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Arameans, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and eventually the Ottomans.....



Damascou Old City

Aleppo Old City

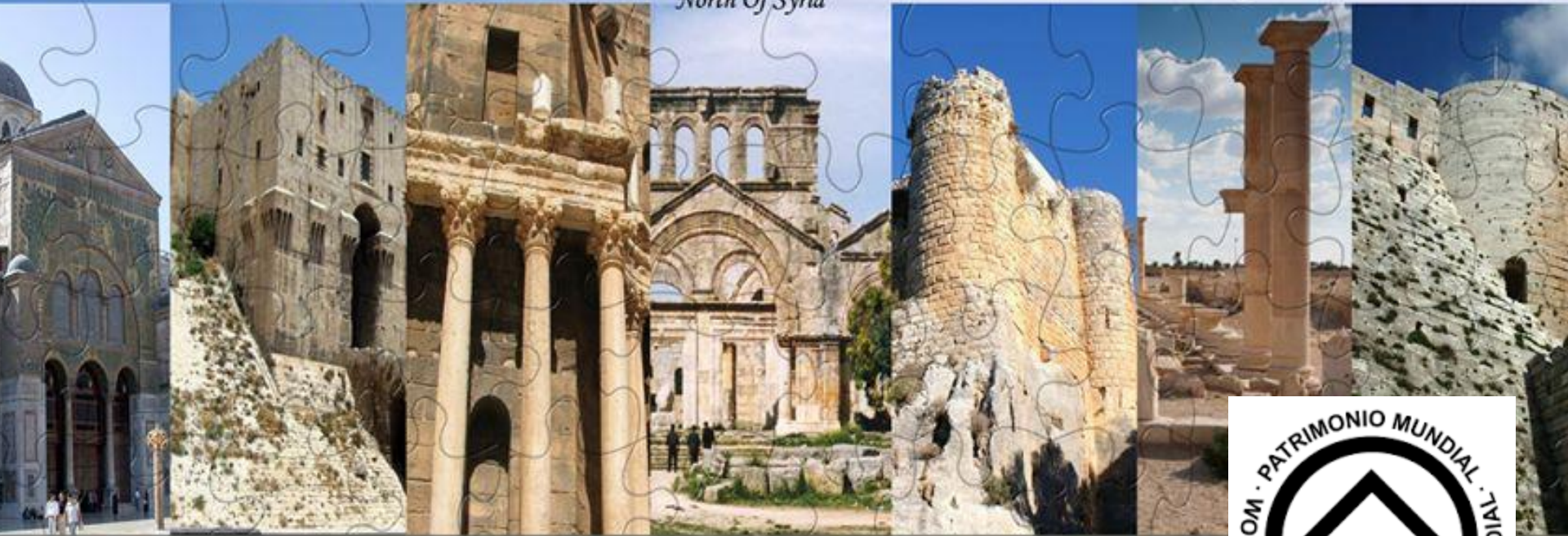
Bosra Old City

*Ancient Villages in
North Of Syria*

Salah Din Castle

Palmyra

Crac Des Chevaliers



Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Ancient City of Damascus (1979)

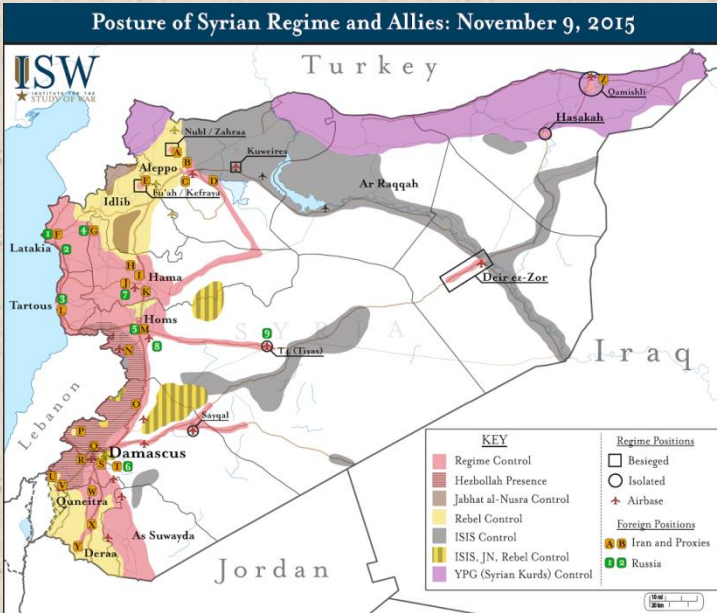
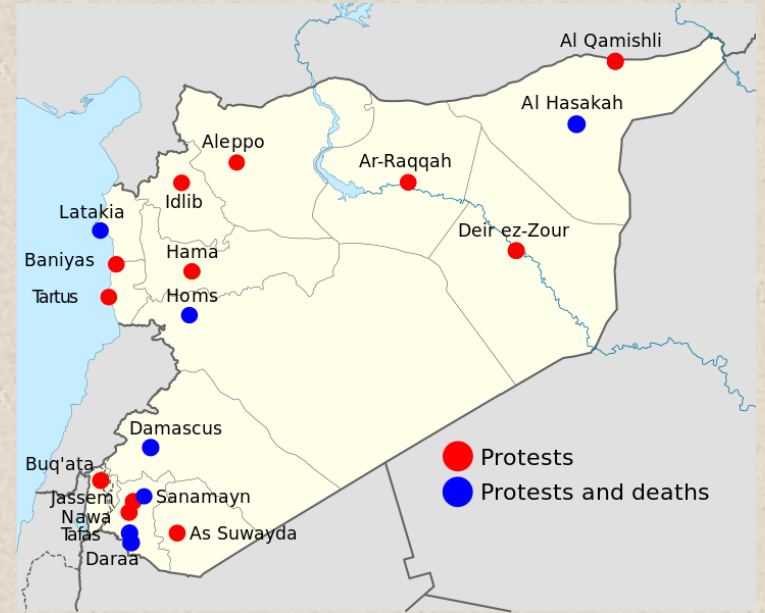
Site of Palmyra (1980)

Ancient City of Bosra (1980)

Ancient City of Aleppo (1986)

Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (2006)

Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (2011)



the Syrian conflict:

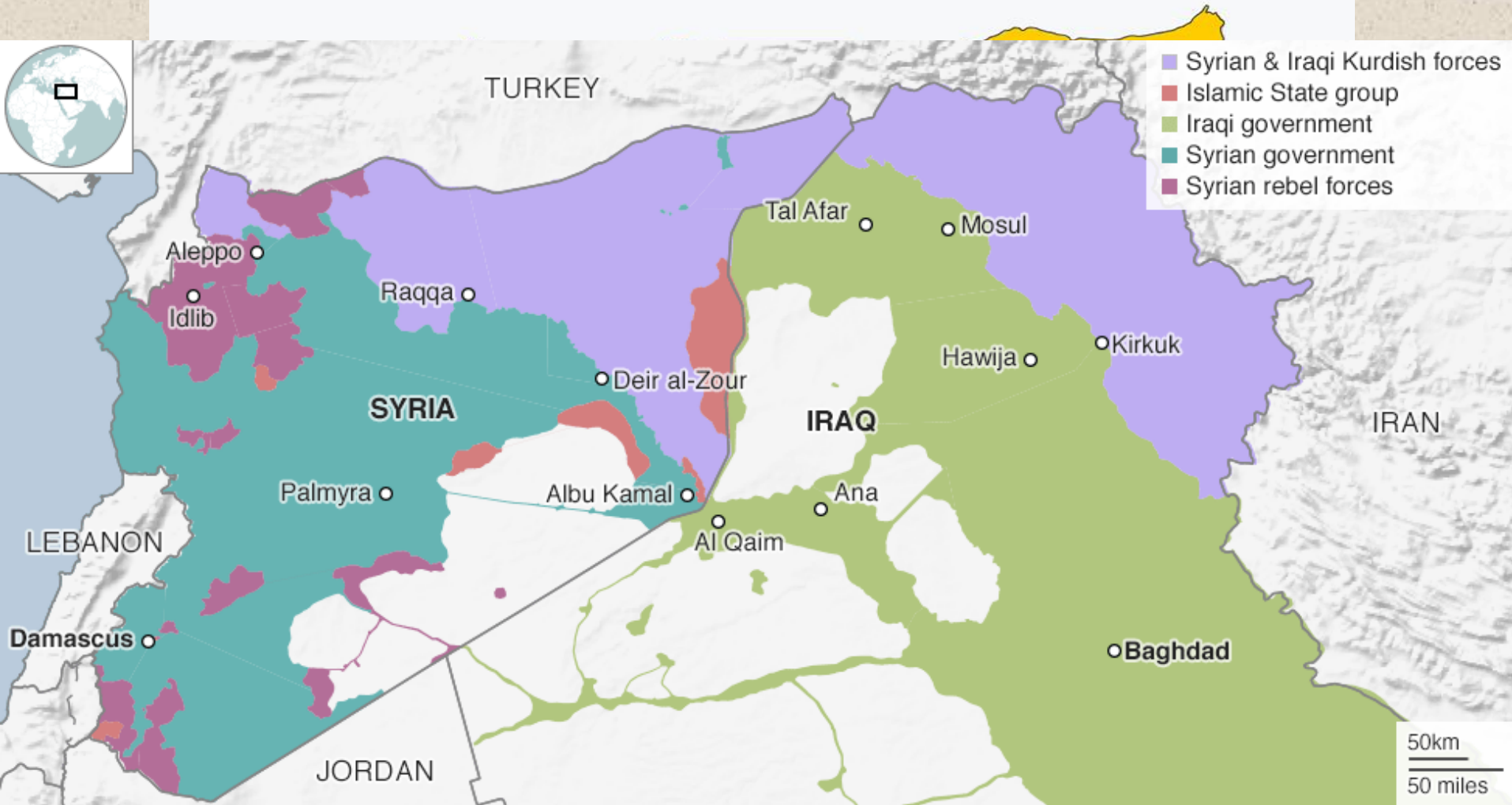
More than **520 000** Dead, half of them are civilians

54.3 % of the population lives in extreme poverty

64.8 % of labor force (**3.89 million people**) is unemployed

143.8 billion \$ is the economic loss / by the end of 2013

Syria: Who controls what?



Source: IHS Conflict Monitor (8 January 2018)



Source: Institute for the Study of War, LiveUAMap
Updated: February 9 2017

TURKISH CONTROL
Sparsely populated areas



BBC

The main dangers facing the Syrian cultural heritage

The fighting

Fights between regime and rebel forces is the first and largest cause of the destruction, as in the old city of Aleppo.



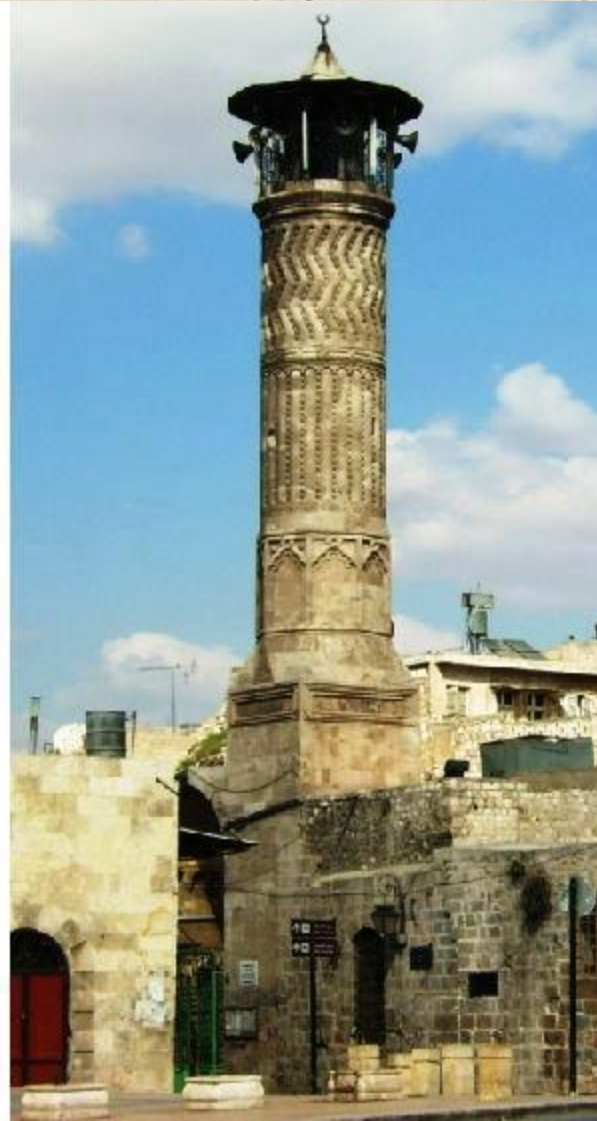
Aleppo: Sniper Mosque Omyad قناص في مأذنة الجامع الاموي حلب



The bombing

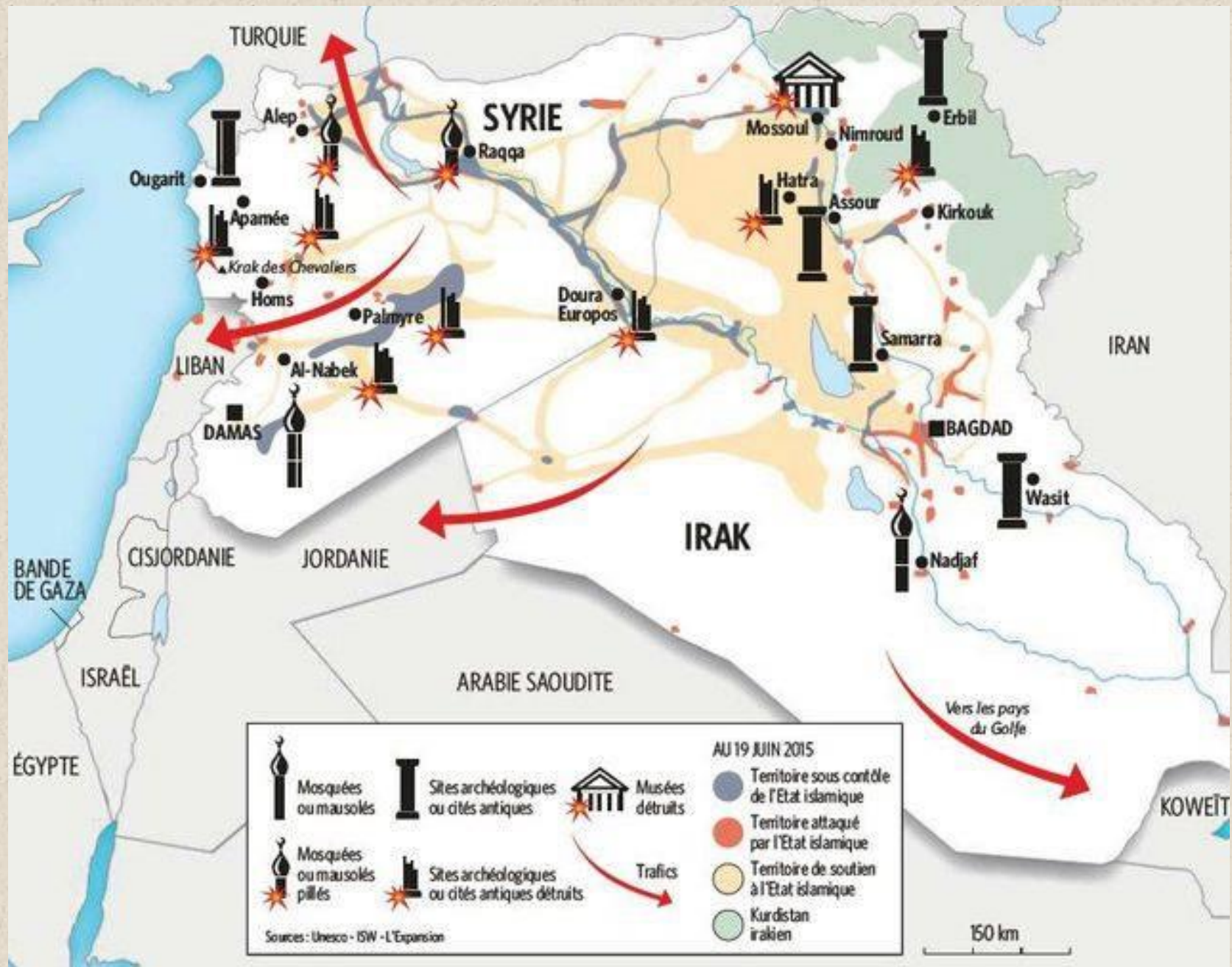
Regime airstrikes
unimaginable
Fortress (Deir

e caused
at Rahba



Destroying Syria's cultural landmarks have been used tactically by both sides to decrease the country's internal cohesion and identity, undermine the opponent's power, and "rewrite the History" of Syria for the future by removing all reminders of the





land use

Destruction by land use of local inhabitants, as building new building inside archaeological sites and areas, like what happened in the old city of Bosra.



archeological remains and caves as shelters

Using some archeological remains and caves as shelters by displaced people especially in the area of the ancient villages in the north of Syria.



Theft

son
fin
con



Illegal excavation and looting

Large scale excavations are taking place in many archaeological sites, mostly those in the opposition areas, Some of the most damaged sites are Mari, Dura Urbos, and Apamea. Where artifacts trade became one of the main resources to finance the armed groups.



Deir ez Zor- Tall Taboos

What was
done till
now ?

```
graph TD; A((What was done till now ?)) --> B(Few in site preventive measurements.); A --> C(Documentation); A --> D(Archive works); A --> E(Training); A --> F(Raising local awareness);
```

Few in site
preventive
measurements.

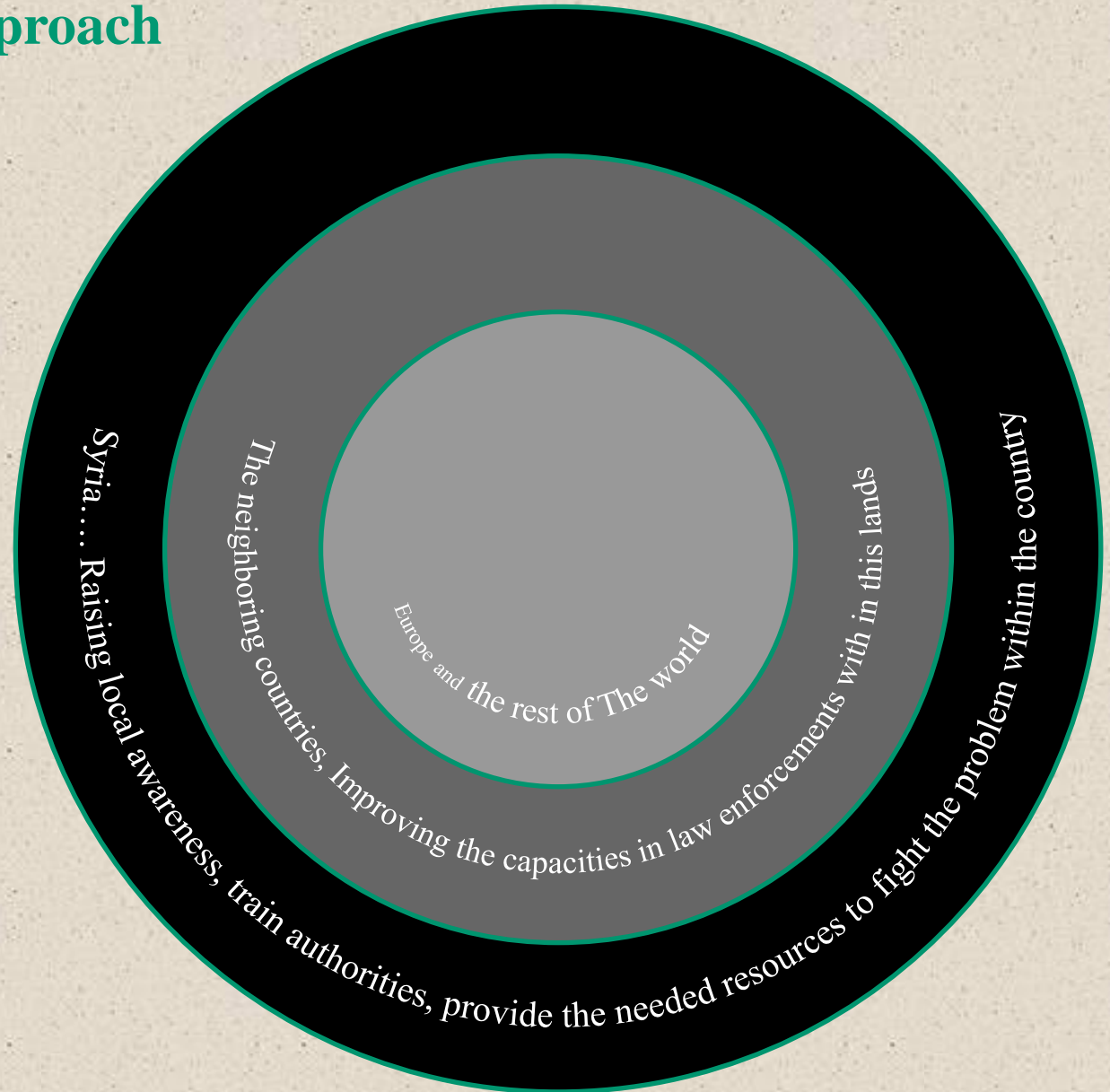
Documentation

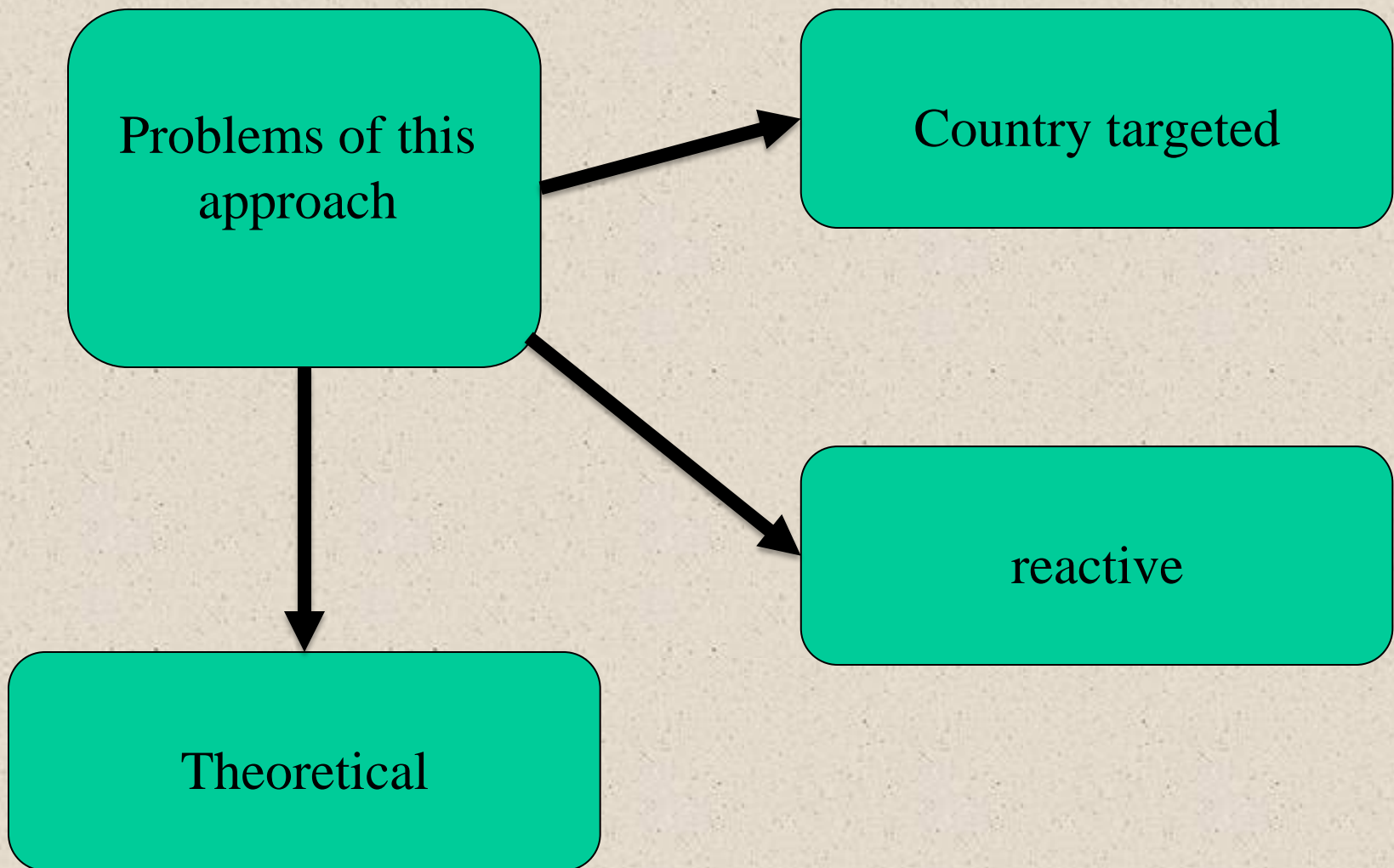
Raising local
awareness

Archive
works

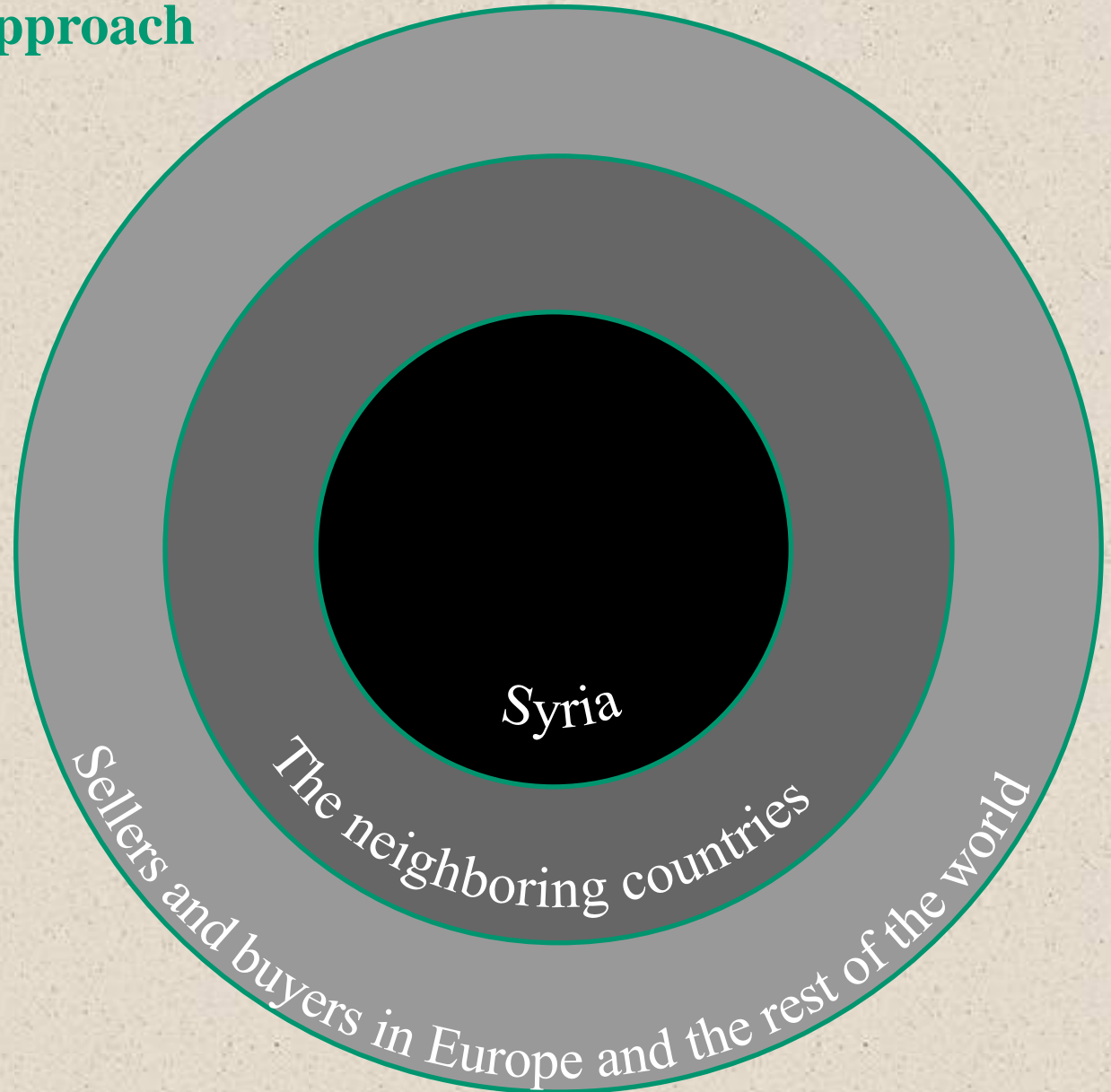
Training

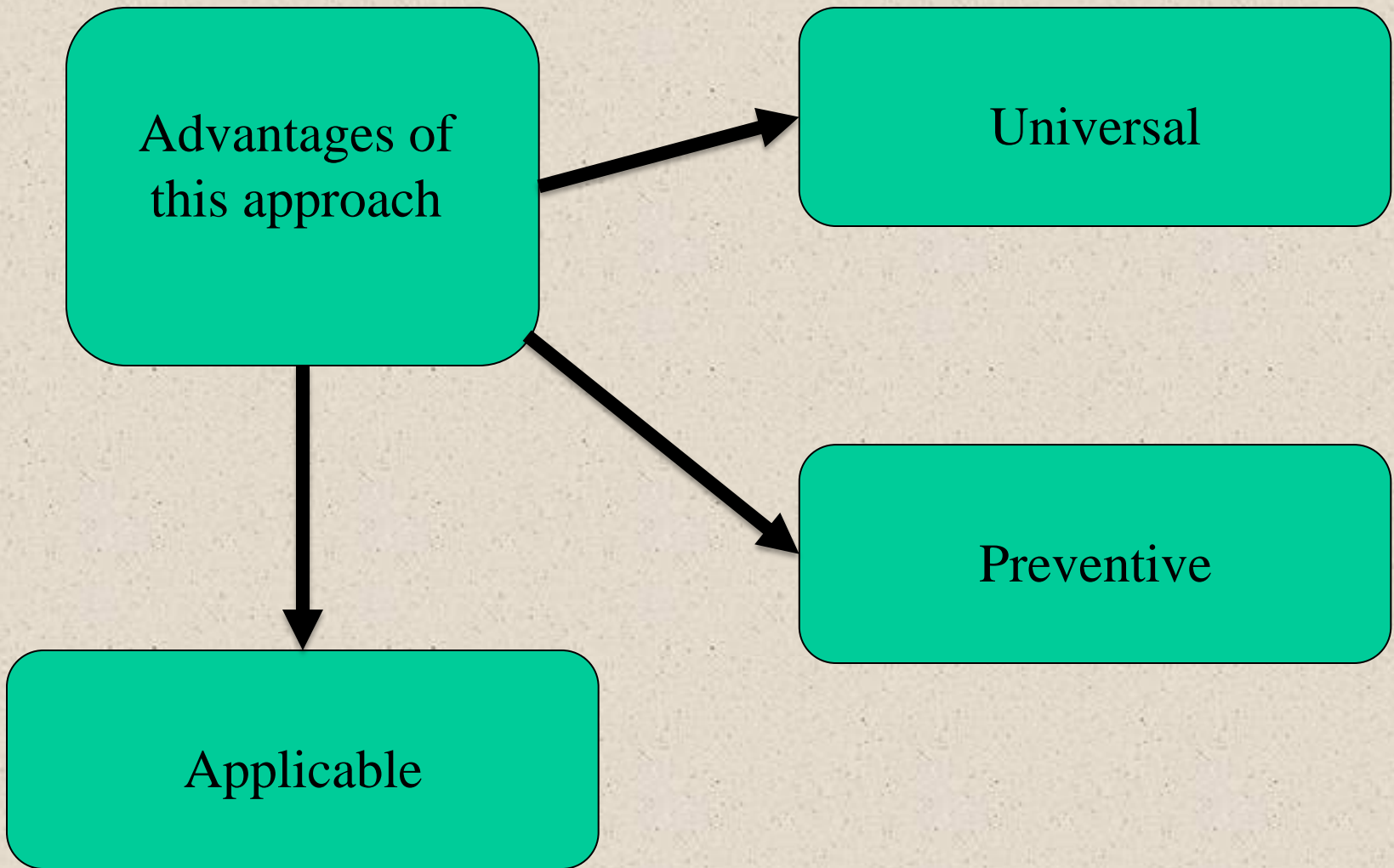
The Traditional approach





The Untraditional approach





Raising awareness

Creating a
coordination
core

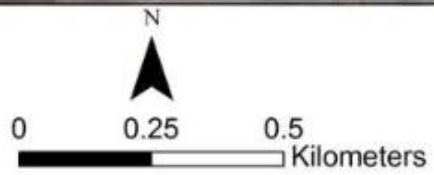
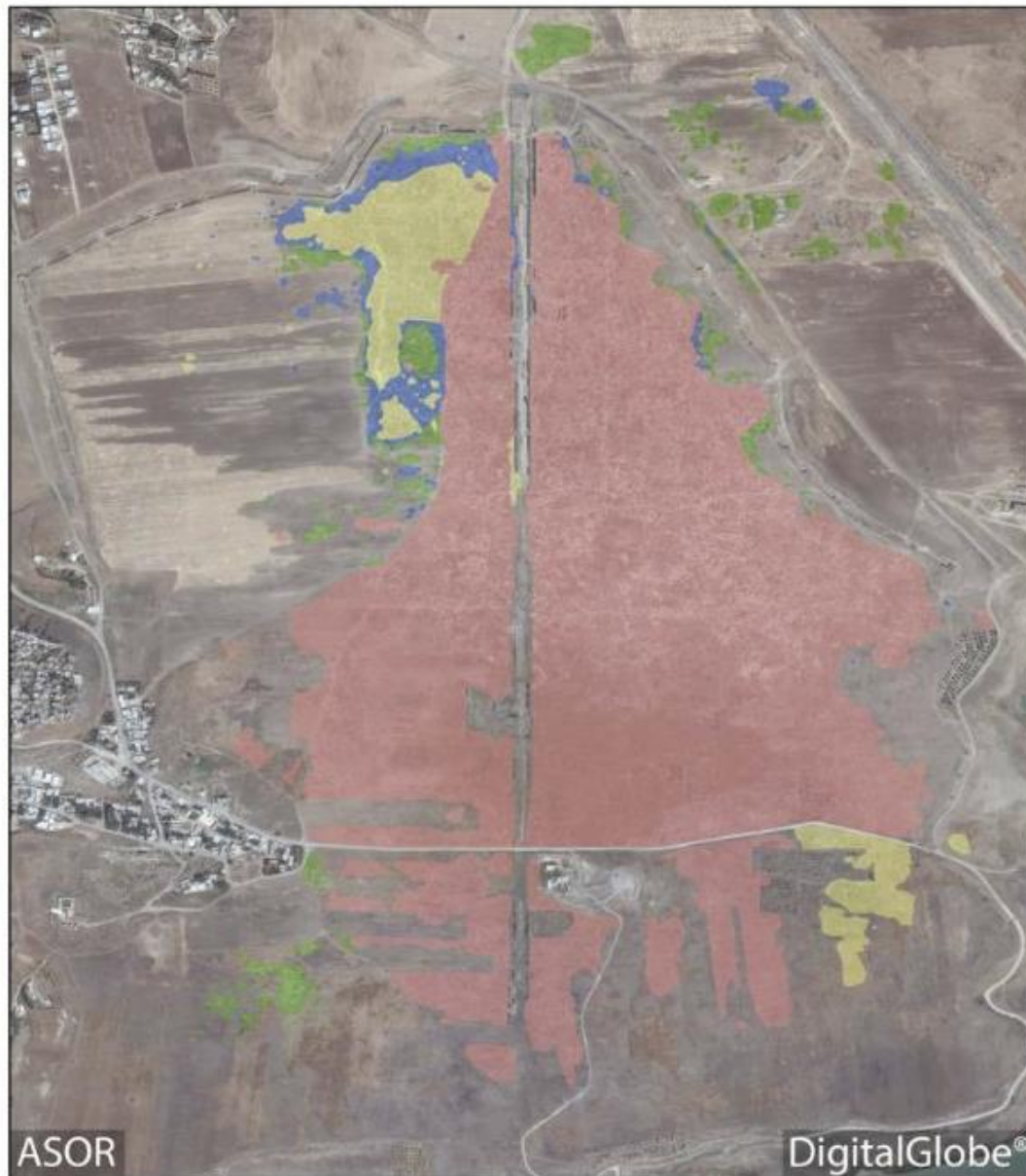
Archiving works

**What can
be done ?**


Preparing qualified
manpower

Fighting trafficking
and trading





Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
|  4/3/2012 |  11/28/2013 |
|  12/15/2012 |  8/24/2015 |

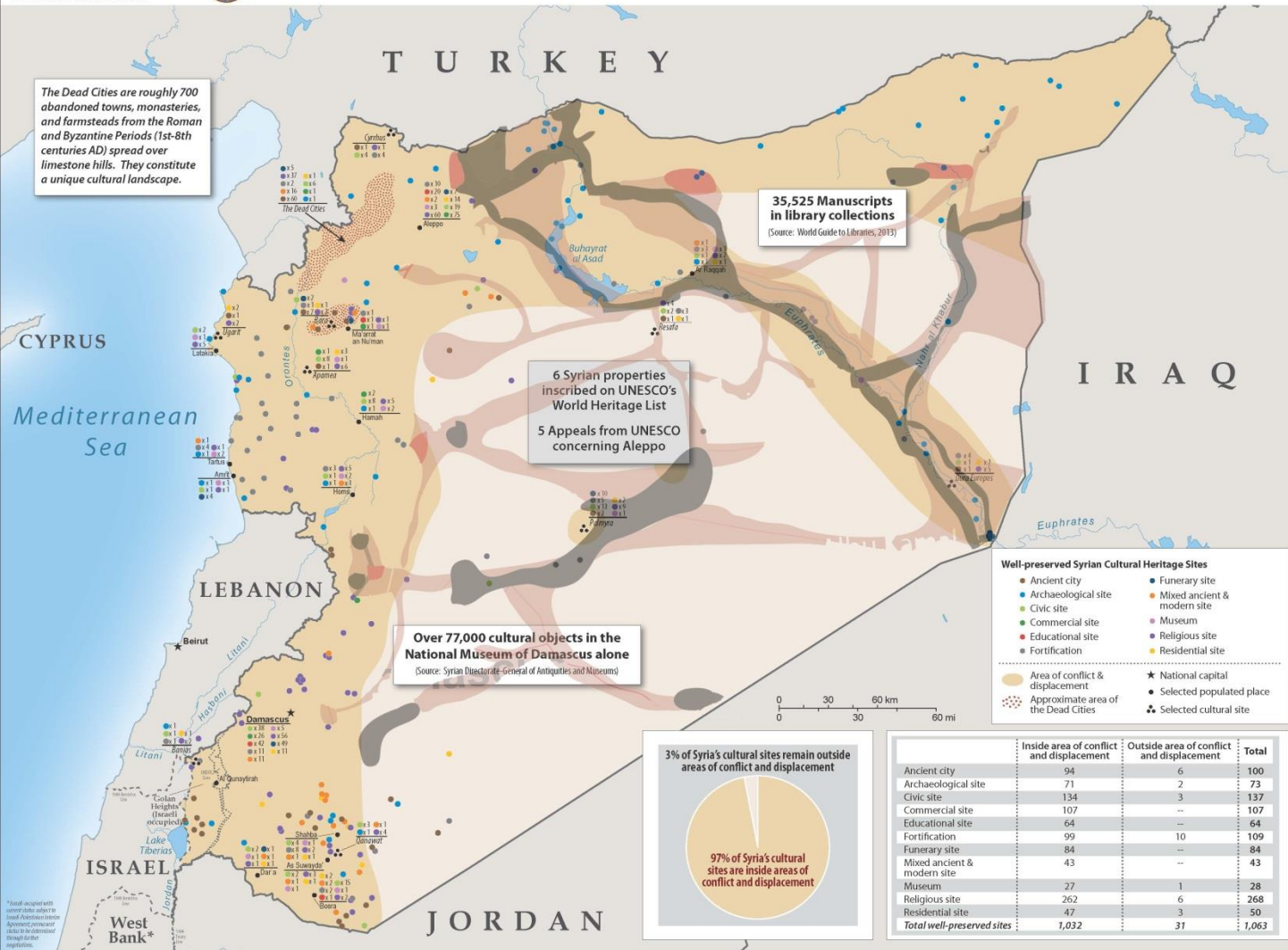
Syria: Cultural Heritage Sites at Risk

The Dead Cities are roughly 700 abandoned towns, monasteries, and farmsteads from the Roman and Byzantine Periods (1st-8th centuries AD) spread over limestone hills. They constitute a unique cultural landscape.

35,525 Manuscripts in library collections
(Source: World Guide to Libraries, 2013)

6 Syrian properties inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List
5 Appeals from UNESCO concerning Aleppo

Over 77,000 cultural objects in the National Museum of Damascus alone
(Source: Syrian Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums)

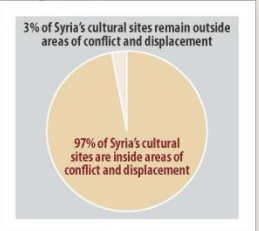


Well-preserved Syrian Cultural Heritage Sites

- Ancient city
- Archaeological site
- Civic site
- Commercial site
- Educational site
- Fortification
- Funerary site
- Mixed ancient & modern site
- Museum
- Religious site
- Residential site

★ National capital
 ● Selected populated place
 ✪ Selected cultural site

■ Area of conflict & displacement
 ■ Approximate area of the Dead Cities



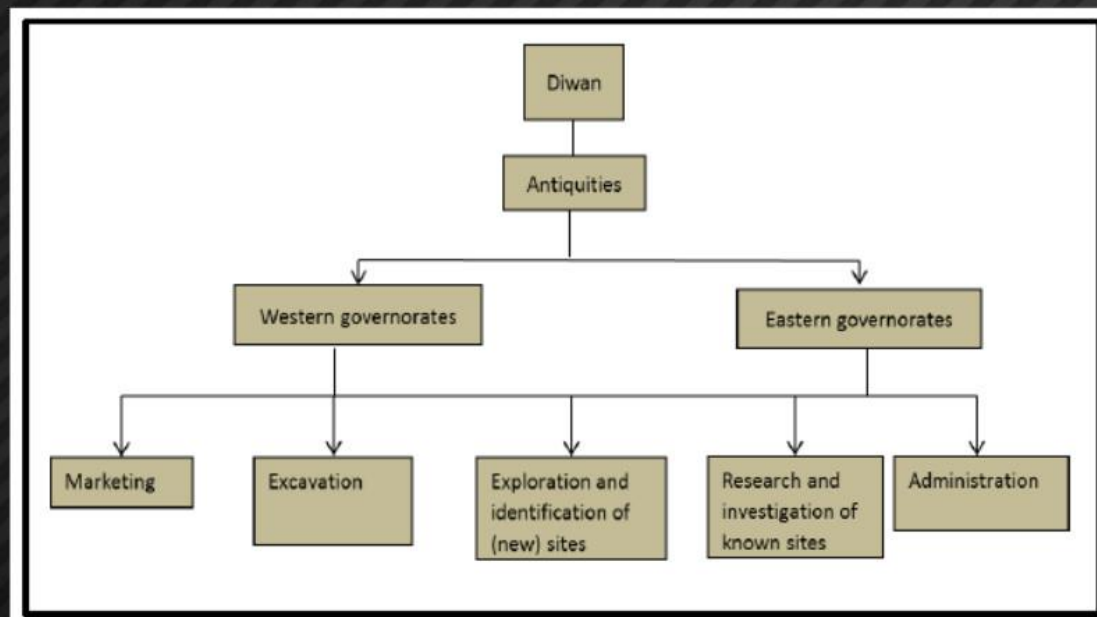
	Inside area of conflict and displacement	Outside area of conflict and displacement	Total
Ancient city	98	6	100
Archaeological site	71	2	73
Civic site	134	3	137
Commercial site	107	--	107
Educational site	64	--	64
Fortification	99	10	109
Funerary site	84	--	84
Mixed ancient & modern site	43	--	43
Museum	27	1	28
Religious site	262	6	268
Residential site	47	3	50
Total well-preserved sites	1,032	31	1,063

*Israel occupied with settlement under the 1949 Armistice Agreement. Government claims to be de facto sovereign. Occupation is not recognized internationally.



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative



Totaling all the receipts indicates ISIS has collected \$265,000 in taxes on looted antiquities, indicating the value of trafficked antiquities from ISIS-controlled territory is at least **\$1.25 million**.



Organizational Structure



Receipts

The Islamic State Diwan of Natural Resources Antiquities Division		In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate  Collection receipt		Date: 11 DEC 2014 Number 102
I, the below signed:		<i>Abu-Sayyaf al-'Traqi</i>		
Received from the brother:				
The amount:	2,152,000 SYP	Written:	<i>Two million one hundred fifty-two thousand SYP exactly</i>	
Notes:	<i>1/5th the value of the Antiquities Sold in Al Khayr governorate</i>			
Recipient signature: [Signature]		Submitter signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of Antiquities]		

The Islamic State Diwan of Natural Resources Antiquities Division		In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate  Collection receipt		Date: 15 DEC 2014 Number 103
I, the below signed:		<i>Abu-Sayyaf al-'Traqi</i>		
Received from the brother:				
The amount:	191,560 SYP	Written:	<i>One hundred ninety-one thousand five hundred sixty SYP exactly</i>	
Notes:	<i>1/5th the value of the Antiquities Sold in Al Khayr governorate</i>			
Recipient signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of the workshop]		Submitter signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of Antiquities]		

The Islamic State Diwan of Natural Resources Antiquities Division		In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate  Collection receipt		Date: 06 DEC 2014 Number 101
I, the below signed:		<i>Abu-Sayyaf al-'Traqi</i>		
Received from the brother:				
The amount:	2,960,000 SYP	Written:	<i>Two million nine hundred sixty thousand SYP exactly</i>	
Notes:	<i>1/5th the value of the Antiquities Sold in Al Khayr governorate</i>			
Recipient signature: [Signature]		Submitter signature: [Signature] [Seal of the Diwan of Natural Resources, head of Antiquities]		



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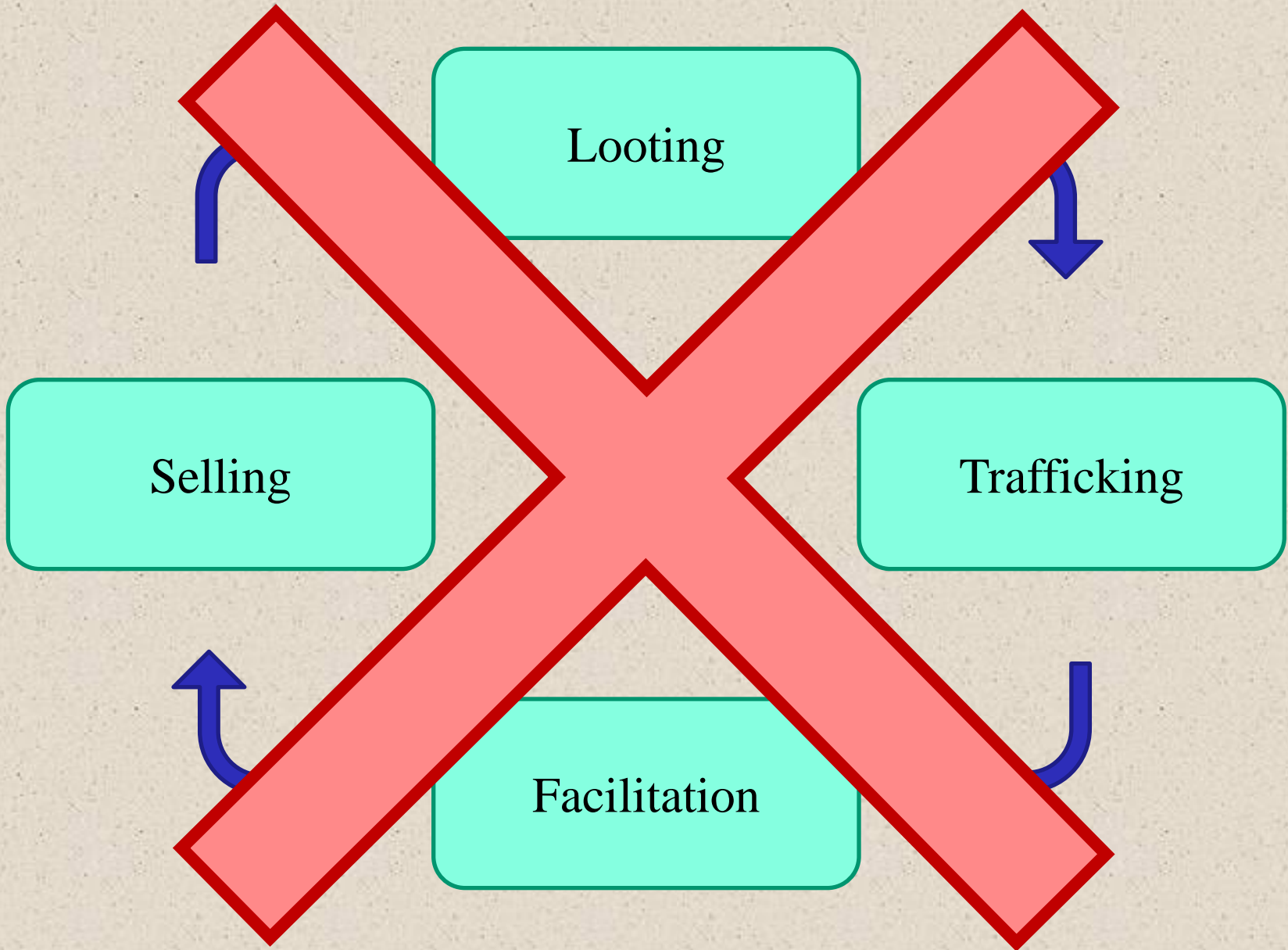
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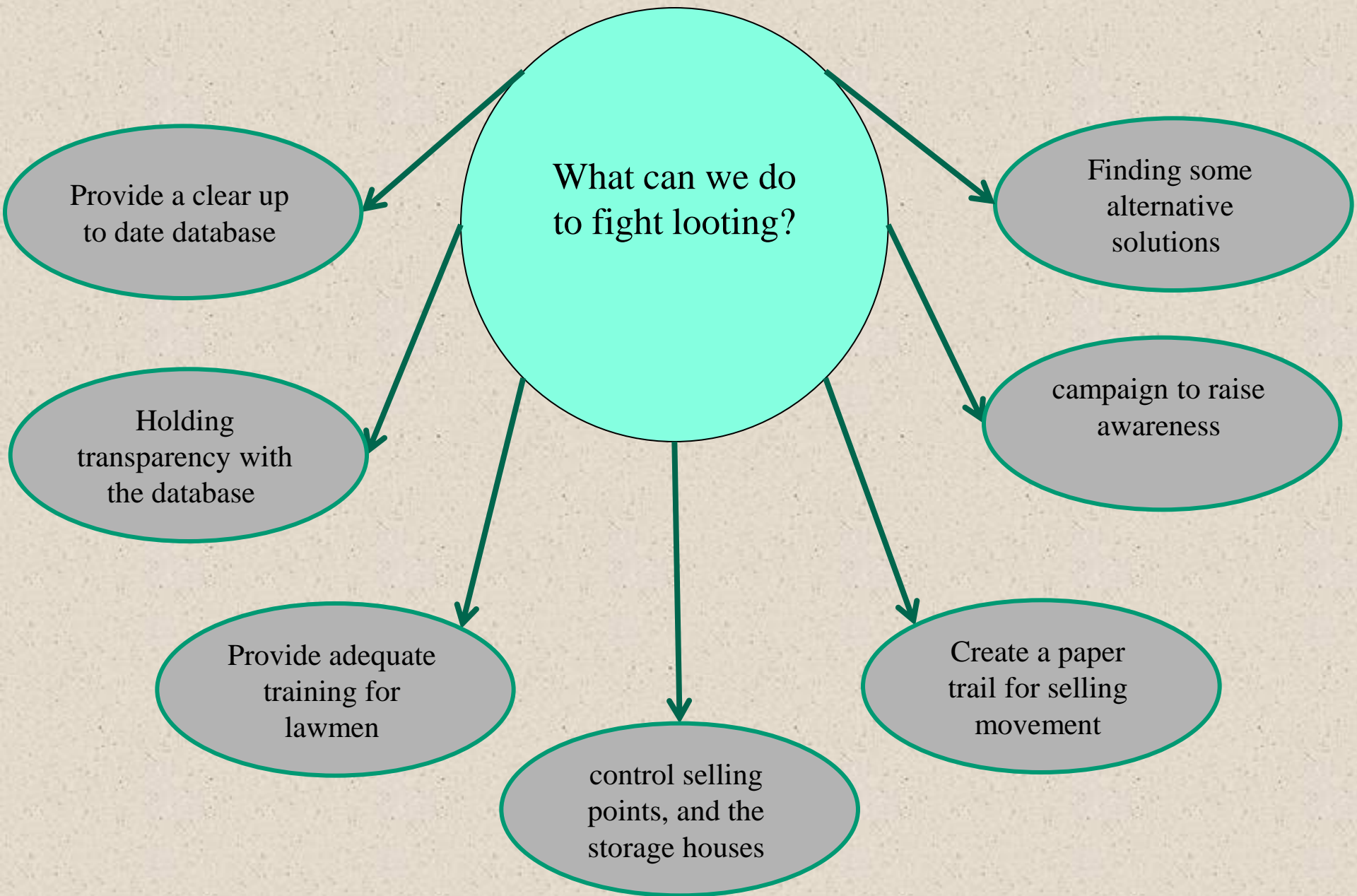


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Thank you....