



# Ethical Dilemmas in Archaeological Excavations and Repatriation: An African Perspective in Egypt

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## Abstract

Archaeological excavations in Egypt have long been a subject of debate regarding their ethical implications, particularly concerning repatriation efforts aimed at returning artifacts to their place of origin. The analysis will draw upon existing literature, historical accounts, and contemporary policy documents related to archaeological practices in Egypt. A qualitative approach will be employed to explore ethical debates and decision-making processes within these contexts. Findings indicate a significant disparity between the number of artifacts repatriated compared to those that remain in foreign museums or institutions, suggesting ongoing challenges in implementing effective repatriation strategies. The article concludes by highlighting the need for more comprehensive and equitable repatriation policies that consider local cultural heritage rights and community involvement. Recommendations include the establishment of a transparent framework for artifact repatriation decisions, fostering greater collaboration between international archaeologists and local communities, and enhancing public education on these issues.

**Keywords:** *African, Ethnohistory, Heritage, Negotiation, Power Dynamics, Relics, Sustainability*

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