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Selective Remembrances: Archaeology in the Construction, Commemoration, and Consecration of National Pasts

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When political geography changes, how do reorganized or newly formed states justify their rule and create a sense of shared history for their people? Often, the essays in *Selective Remembrances* reveal, they turn to archaeology, employing the field and its findings to develop nationalistic feelings and forge legitimate distinctive national identities.

Examining such relatively new or reconfigured nation-states as Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, India, and Thailand, *Selective Remembrances* shows how states invoke the remote past to extol the glories of specific peoples or prove claims to ancestral homelands. Religion has long played a key role in such efforts, and the contributors take care to demonstrate the tendency of many people, including archaeologists themselves, to view the world through a religious lens—which can be exploited by new regimes to suppress objective study of the past and justify contemporary political actions.

The wide geographic and intellectual range of the essays in *Selective Remembrances* will make it a seminal text for archaeologists and historians.

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