

### Assignment 3 Option Number 2

There are many aspects used by archaeologists to attempt to reinforce and legitimize state authority and control in past civilizations. These aspects could consist of: artifacts, graphic expression, architecture, ephemeral display, ritual, or any other form of communication. There are many examples of these aspects that are discovered still to this day about past civilizations that shed light on what meant the most to them and somewhat humanize them when we can see pictures of them in action. We have numerous things around right now that could be seen as more modern versions of things we have uncovered from past civilizations. Things such as Camp Randall, the State Capital Building, and the East Town Mall. Camp Randall to Wisconsin is one of the most important places in the world to us. This is where our Wisconsin Badgers play football and where around 70,000 screaming fans are held on those unique football Saturdays. In some ways, this can be compared to the Mesoamerican ball game court, which in theory gave rise to all ball games played today, where fans would squeeze together to cheer on their favorite athletes. The capital building, is where our governor as well as a lot of our state legislature work. In the past, the capitals were usually seen to show power and a king or some other form of authority would live there. This building is where our state's power comes from, and answers to the higher authority being the White House, where the President of all Americans lives. East Town Mall represents a type of market where people go to exchange money for items. Types of markets are seen in the past as a way for people to barter things like chickens for things like clothing. People came from all over the place to these markets, just like people come from all over Madison to places like East Town Mall. All three of these things are

prime examples of architecture looked for in state level societies. Public architecture was a very important aspect of these societies because it gave the people something for them to be a part of, for it was paid for and created by the people. If our species would somehow just end right now, all of our buildings and belongings would remain still here untouched to a certain extent. Depending on what was our demise, these structures would still be standing if space travelers in the distant future were to somehow manage to find our planet and explore. The stone and metal portions of the architecture should definitely still be there for several thousands of years, unless it corrodes away from weathering. The wooden portions would be around for a certain amount of time before fading away as do most organic things unless somehow preserved in a good way. Synthetic materials could last quite a while but it all depends on the circumstances, we should have just stuck with the classic rock buildings like our ancient ancestors. If I were to be a space traveler landing on this planet in a previously inhabited area in the distant future, I would probably be somewhat impressed with what humans have accomplished here. That being said, being from a different planet and probably different solar system all together, I would probably see our world as primitive. I would probably already know a lot about how a society functions and try to make connections with my surroundings as best that I could. I would make connections about Camp Randall, it is a big stadium like complex with tens of thousands of places to sit, so I would assume it was a massive gathering area for people to socialize. I would see the enormous area in the center and interpret that the people probably watched some form of entertainment down there. If my planet had some form of sport, I could use that connection when I see the remnants of the scoreboard and possibly realize that the stadium was once used for some form of sporting event. I may see statues or inscriptions on

walls of famed players and seeing the sport in action, and figure out that it is a form of ball game, similar to how we have discovered that the Mesoamericans played a ball game through sculptures and written and graphic examples. I would gaze upon the capital building as if knowing that it must have been of some importance to the people that once occupied it. With the glorious design and statue on top, hundreds of special rooms, and beautiful murals, I would think of how much work would have been put into that and how people wouldn't put that much work into one building unless it was important in some way. I would look at other big cities and compare it, trying to connect it to what I know about my own society, and interpret it as a building of importance to a certain group of people and that it signifies some form of power. Approaching the mall, I would see the massive stature, and whatever signs may remain on the outside of the building. I would enter the building and see scattered remains of boxes and old devices amongst shelves and on the floors. I would see all of the big rooms with remains of signs out front, and see all of the kiosks scattered around. Assuming I am from a great civilization back on my home planet, I would know that commerce is an essential for any complex society. I would see this as a form of marketplace by using whatever intuition I had and assume many people visited it to barter or buy things they desired. I would assume that this society had a great deal of technology to be able to create such intricate and stable structures. Judging by the size and work done on these structures, I would assume that they were very important to this society. I would know that from my society back home, it takes many aspects to form a complex society, aspects that I have seen from exploring the various pieces of evidence that still exists in this new planet. The public architecture seen shows what citizens of this society really valued and how they spent their spare time. The capital like building shows

how they had some form of government or hierarchy that separated the people and showed that there was some form of power holding the people together. These are ways that I would interpret whether or not a complex society once existed in a place that I knew nothing about, and in some ways this is exactly how archaeologists interpret things. They take what they know, and take what they are given, and try to make connections, and usually the most simple answer is often correct.