

IS militants “bulldoze” ancient Iraq city

Islamic State (IS) militants have bulldozed the ruins of the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud, one of Iraq’s renowned archaeological sites

NIMRUD HISTORY

■ **1,250 BC:** Nimrud, known by ancient name of **Kalhu**, built by King **Shalmaneser I** during Middle Assyrian Empire

■ **875 BC:** King **Ashurnasirpal II** makes Kalhu capital of Neo Assyrian Empire – world’s most powerful state at that time. City had population of up to 100,000 people, and contained lush gardens and sprawling parks

■ **612 BC:** City largely abandoned after Assyria’s destruction by Medes (Iranian people) and Babylonians

■ **1840s:** First major excavations by European archaeologists unearth range of treasures, including royal palaces, statues and smaller artifacts

■ **20th century:** Fresh excavations begin in 1949. Discovery of hundreds of treasure items in Nimrud’s royal tombs during late 1980s regarded as one of century’s most significant archaeological finds



Ashurnasirpal palace gate

Many surviving monuments – including huge winged-bull statues known as **lamassu** – were removed years ago by archaeologists, but ruins of city remain. Extent of IS damage not known

