

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington and the American Research Center in Egypt's Northwest Chapter are pleased to announce the following event:

## ***CONTESTED HERITAGE:*** **ANCIENT EGYPT AND THE PARADIGM OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

**Monday, November 16, 2009**  
**6:30 - 8:00 pm**  
**University of Washington**  
**Communications 120**  
**Free admission**



Photo by Carol M. Highsmith. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

A lecture by Dr. Donald Reid, Professor Emeritus, Georgia State University, and Affiliate Faculty, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington

In Edwin Blashfield's painting "Evolution of Civilization" in the dome of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress (inaugurated in 1897), figures representing ancient Egypt and modern America sit side by side-- the presumed beginning and culmination of civilizational progress. Reading around the dome, the intervening figures round out an early version of the intellectual construct that became canonized in American universities and colleges between the two world wars as the Western Civilization course. Focusing primarily on Egypt, the lecture considers the strengths and weaknesses of the Western Civilization paradigm, with particular attention to Western imperialism and Egyptian nationalism over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Donald Reid** is the author of *Whose Pharaohs? Archaeology, Museums, and Egyptian National Identity from Napoleon to World War I* (2002), *Cairo University and the Making of Modern Egypt* (1990), and other works on Egypt and the modern Middle East.