



Book review

Tourism, Terrorism and Security: Tourism Security-Safety and Post Conflict Destinations, Maximiliano E. Korstanje, Hugues Seraphin (Editors), Bingley: Emerald, 2020. ISBN 978-1-83867-906-4 (print), ISBN 978-1-83867-905-7 (online)
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With tourism increasing constantly worldwide (at least until 2019), the risks and dangers in this field increased as well, with tourists and other categories of travellers being “easy targets” for crimes of different types and terrorism. Risks and dangers in the field of tourism are present as in many other fields, and, although the image of dream vacations is not usually associated with unwanted events (such as crime and disasters), research related to these issues should also be done to understand and prevent such events, the final goal being the preservation of the security and safety of tourists and tourism.

“Tourism, Terrorism and Security: Tourism Security-Safety and Post Conflict Destinations” is the first of the seven volumes published by Emerald within the book series “Tourism Security-Safety and Post Conflict Destinations”. This series explores tourism issues related to comparative cross-cultural perceptions of risk and threat, natural and human-caused disasters, post-disaster recovery strategies in tourism and hospitality, crime and security issues in tourism and hospitality, the effects of global warming on tourism destinations, virus outbreaks, and tourism mobility, disasters, trauma and tourism, and more. This series has as purpose “to create a critical platform which not only explores the dichotomies of tourism from the theory of mobilities but also provides an insightful guide for policy-makers, specialists and social scientists interested in the future of tourism in a society where uncertainty, anxiety and fear prevail” (p. ii).

Terrorism has the particular property that, in addition to human and material destruction, it also determines the reputational destruction of the destinations, sometimes for a long time. In the Foreword, Dr Peter Tarlow states that research in this field must be done with responsibility, because it deals with issues of life and death, so there is no place for errors; also, he states that there are multiple challenges (such as the changing nature of the field and the need for the researcher to remain objective) and gives, from his own experience, a very interesting list of the difficulties

encountered when studying the interaction and intersectionality between tourism and terrorism: international terrorism is not locale-specific, nor is it time specific, and research is confronted with cultural differences; documents or materials must be consulted with a great amount of caution; language barriers are important, so the researcher should also know the actor's language and thought pattern; governments unnecessarily classify many documents as 'top secret', and this hamper the researchers to understand the phenomenon; the tourism industry reacts in the same manner as the governments, in order to not affect the destinations' image.

Although the tourism industry has been subject to countless risks and dangers, both natural and manmade, "the needs of mitigating (imagined) risks without a coherent evaluation may very well lead to a state of disaster" and "the over-exposure to the precautionary principle predisposes public opinion to panic and inaction" or to exaggerated reactions, such as tourism-phobia (p. xi); also, "the culture of fear, which is revived by the rise and expansion of terrorism within the United States and Europe, is substantially mutating the democratic institutions towards more autocratic forms of government" (p. xi). As a consequence, "the urgency is not given to how the notion of security should be thought, but in the fact that we have to revisit the current understanding of tourism security" (p. xii); due to new morbid forms of consumption, disaster zones are disposed to receive dark tourists, and between the precautionary principle and the post-disaster consumption is a gap which this book attempts to fulfil.

To attempt this scope, the book is structured based on two goals. The first focuses on the limitations of tourism security, while the second focuses on the importance of post-disaster or post-conflict consumption "making from the atrocity and sadness a criterion of attraction" (p. xii). The content of the book is then structured directly in ten chapters, each of them being independent, without obvious connection with each other; this structure, which could create the impression of heterogeneity, is made "according to the axiom that tourism security and dark tourism [viewed] as two sides of the same coin. While the notion of tourism security plays a preventive role, moving resources and time, to protect the destination, dark tourism – instead – operates once the risk has been materialized" (p. xii). So this book is not about tourism risk only, as the title suggests, but also about dark tourism and post-conflict tourism, which "act as a mechanism of resiliency which helps the community to be on feet again" (p. xii).

The first chapter, *Tourism Security: A Critical Insight*, which constitutes also the

introduction of the book, presents the theoretical framework and gives some evidence on the leading research focused on risk perception and security as the main fields. Chapter 2, *Overtourism: A Merry-Go-Round of Security Issues*, focuses on the hostility against tourism through the concepts of overtourism and tourism-phobia, and argues that they should be studied together to ensure the stability of the tourism system. The third chapter, *Sensitivity Analysis of the Colombian Tourism Market: Natural National Parks in a Context of Armed Conflict*, is a case study on Colombia after the treaty of peace between guerillas and government, analysing the correlation and variation of different variables to the perception of security. Chapter 4, *The Territory of the Country as an Object of Tourist Safety: Global Practice and the Case of Russia*, is also a case study (on the Russian Federation) that promotes the idea that tourism security is individually internalized but culturally determined, in this case by the stereotypes dating from the period of the Cold War. In chapter 5, *Safety, Fear, Risk and Terrorism in the Context of Religious Tourism*, the authors present the situation of places of worship affected by touristification and discuss the crisis leadership ideas for religious tourism management, in the context of the importance of religious faith for society.

Chapter 6, *Making Sense of Dark Tourism: Typologies, Motivations and Future Development of Theory* focuses on dark tourism and dark consumption, providing a model to understand these activities during globalization. In chapter 7, *The Interface between Dark Tourism and Terrorism in Africa: The Case of Kenya and St Helena*, there is evidence of the negative impacts terrorism can have on the image of a destination, and also on its resiliency; however, it is also shown that developing countries have more difficulties to recover than developed economies. Chapter 8, *The Dark Tourist: Consuming Dark Spaces in the Periphery*, is also welcome because it analyzes the controversies, the challenges, and the motivations of dark tourism as an emerging object of study, in a context named by the author as 'Thana-Capitalism'. In chapter 9, *Tourists: Duty of Care*, the author highlights the need of adopting qualitative-related methods to enhance tourism security and to discover whether hospitality organizations were regularly security vetting their staff.

The book ends directly with chapter 10, *Tourism and Terrorism: Terrorists' Threats to Commercial Aviation Safety and Security*, in which the author warns on the need to protect the airplane, airport terminals, and associated facilities such as car parks from terrorist attacks because the sources of threats could be also the many processes that support the airport activity, such as catering, maintenance, cleaning, ticketing, baggage handling, parking, and others.

Despite (or due to) the different content of each chapter, the book offers an overview of the risks related to terrorism in the field of tourism, and dark tourism, as a new tourism consumption form of the distress of others, making it an interesting read.

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