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War and tourism: An American ethnography

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Abstract

War is a major modern security issue, distinguished from crime and terrorism by its deep societal penetration and long-term consequences. As an important cultural time-marker, populations segment their history in three phases, "before the war", "during the war" and "after the war". The interrelationships between war and tourism have been minimally investigated, but the literature to date indicates that war negatively affects tourism. This ethnography examines the sequential development of the United States tourism from World War I to the present, and the impact of World War II in laying the foundations for modern mass and charter tourism. The data suggest that war stimulates promotional, emotional, military and political tourism, and that war-related tourism attractions are the largest single category known.

Résumé

La guerre et le tourisme de masse: une ethnographie américaine. La guerre est distinguée du crime et du terrorisme par ses conséquences sociales profondes et

distinctive of crime and terrorism by its consequences: social, political and economic. In the long term, a war is an important temporal marker: history is segmented into "before-war", "war-time", and "after-war". Little has been examined on the relationship between war and tourism; the literature speaks of the negative effects of war on tourism. The present ethnography examines the development of tourism in the United States since the First World War to the present, and the impact of the Second World War on the foundation of modern mass tourism. It suggests that war stimulates promotional, military and political tourism, and that war tourism is the largest category that exists.



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Keywords

war; time-markers; military; aviation; World War II; intervention

Mots-clés

guerre; jalons temporels; militaire; aviation; Deuxième guerre mondiale; intervention

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An American pioneer in tourism research, she is best-known as editor of *Hosts and Guests: The Anthropology of Tourism*, and edited four Special Issues of *Annals of Tourism Research: Tourism and Development* (1980), *Domestic Tourism* (1986), *Pilgrimage and Tourism* (1992), *Antarctic Tourism* (1993).

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