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Tourism, Development, and Terrorism in Bali

This work illustrates the historical backdrop that led Bali to be an international tourist destination. Alternating convincingly arguments with case-study methodology, this book provides a coherent analysis of impacts generated by tourism in these types of peripheral paradises. From the Dutch intervention towards the current Bali, Hitchcock and Darma-Putra present valuable research that helps readers understand the complex connection between terrorism and tourism. The primary goal of *Tourism, Development and Terrorism in Bali* seems to be re-discovering to what extent the introduction of tourism in a post-colonial place exerts influence on the heritage of the place. Using a multidisciplinary perspective, the reading of the successive chapters will wake up intriguing and striking questions in readers.

Bali is a small-island (5.632 square km) situated between Java and Lombok. Now, the island belongs to the Republic of Indonesia. Even though the majority of the population dwells in the south-central region, Bali is densely populated with more than 3 million inhabitants. Tourism has gradually transformed the economy of this island and is now one of the most important industries. Particularly characterized by a high degree of dependency on tourism and hospitality, tourism not only revitalized part of the material ways of production but also Bali's heritage, identity and relationships with other nations, Bali is notably distinct from the rest of Indonesia. Qualitatively different in many aspects, this island grew exponentially thanks to foreign investment. Based on its rich historical legacy, heritage and ethnic tourism emerged as two of the primary aspects that attract visitors to this destination.

The stock market-led crisis from 1997 to 1998 ended Suharto's Regime. The main thesis of this book is that the bombing in 2002 led to the implicit return to such older repressive practices based on authoritarianism. This means that the fragility of Indonesian institutions and democracy are an unquestionable reality. By explaining the motives of the bombers as well as by giving an all-encompassing examination of how the development cycle functions this book establishes itself as a very recommendable source for practitioners, scholars and policy makers in tourism and hospitality.

Balinese culture and natural attractions have been charted in many travel-writings and guide-books. Transformed into one of the wealthiest Indonesian provinces, one might speculate that this destination was of interest to international terrorist cells simply because of the attention it received worldwide. The bombings in 2002 represented in this vein a serious challenge for the economy but first and foremost, a clear message. After all, *“at the start of the 21st century, the name Bali remains as potent as ever, but has acquired a more sinister association, namely as setting of the bombing of 2002 and 2005 ... the name Bali continues to be associated with the rich and glamorous, not least because of wrangles between Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall in 1999 concerning the legitimacy of their balance marriage a decade earlier”* (p. 25).

The main findings of this book can be summarized as follows:

- a) As a global tourist destination Bali engenders a long-simmering but pervasive encounter between opposed forces such as modernity/tradition, masculinity/femininity, and colonialism/nationalism.
- b) Tourism served not only to build nation-hood but also created a sentiment of brotherhood throughout the archipelago.
- c) Tourism revitalized the local economy and pushed Bali to the top of international demand.

- d) Religiosity and unresolved inter-ethnic disputes in Bali paved the way for the advent of terrorism, which became a real obstacle for the advance of economic development through tourism in the region.

Basically, tourism harnesses and improves the conditions in some developing countries, but their dependency engenders counter-effects that increase the risk to suffer a profound collapse due to terrorism. For some scholars, in last decades, this was an important point of entry into the debate to what extent tourism works as a fertile source for terrorism. The general assumption is that lesser dependence leads to greater resilience. In this context, the book, structured in 13 sections, seems to be one of the best works that describes how the historical background of a tourist destination influences vulnerability to terrorism. Originally developed in five papers, previously published between 2001 and 2006, Michael Hitchcock and Inyoman Darma-Putra wrote a well-written and insightful book.

One of the weakest aspects throughout this book seems to be the overemphasis of historic and economic factors. Under this view, terrorism would be an aftermath of trade and globalization based on previous local unhappiness which drives people towards resentment and hate. To some extent, the authors leave out the anthropological and sociological roots of terrorism. Secondly, terrorism represents one of the most pervasive acts of political violence circumscribed often to an unmet need or claim. It is important to clarify that terrorism is not a simple consequence of resentment but an issue connected to the development of trade and tourism within the overall goal of nation-building. Despite this shortcoming, *Tourism, Development and Terrorism in Bali* is a masterful piece useful for those concerned with the aftermaths of terrorism in tourist industry.

Tourism, Development, and Terrorism in Bali. 2007. Michael Hitchcock and Inyoman Darma-Putra. Hampshire, Ashgate Publishing Limited. ISBN 978-075464866-6, pp. 201.