

Tourism Issues

The global climate is changing, and this is having significant effects on tourism, while tourism is contributing to climate change. The combination of climate's effects on tourism and tourism's effects on climate may mean a very different geography of tourism by the end of the current century. Disasters and crises have significant effects on tourism. With natural processes, such as earthquakes and volcanoes, where crises and disasters could happen are generally well known, but precisely when and how damaging they will be is far less predictable. Since the beginning of this century a relatively new form of crisis that affects tourism has occurred – major global pandemics. In 2003, the world was hit by a new virus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). In addition to killing large numbers of people, SARS affected tourism activity significantly and was itself spread around the world on tourism routes. In late 2019, a new virus, related to SARS, but much more deadly, COVID-19, had even more impact. For global tourism this was far more devastating than SARS. Human activity can lead to crises and an increasingly common and worrying trend is the growth of terrorism, as terrorists have frequently targeted tourists in the last 25 years or so. Despite such problems, over the past 50 years, tourist numbers have continued to grow with only occasional 'blips' such as the effects of COVID-19. This growth has put increasing pressure on the environment. As a result, some areas are being protected, so that they can act as locations of conservation of flora and fauna, and continue to offer spaces for recreation and tourism. These two aims can be in conflict, creating a major global issue. The overall setting for many of the world's human-induced issues is a context of uneven development, with global inequalities in wealth, health, education, access to clean water and adequate food supplies. Tourism is a part of this unbalanced world, contributing to it and being affected by it, and global development and the role of tourism within this, is the first issue discussed in this section.



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Global Development

Introduction

Global development is a process that has been occurring since human history began. However, a key aspect of this development, particularly within the last 250 years is that it is not even development in all places. Some countries developed manufacturing industries over 100 years before others. Many countries now have more important service sectors of their economies than manufacturing industry sectors. Nevertheless, a number of countries, even today, have developed relatively little in the way of manufacturing industry or services. This has resulted in a very uneven balance of development in global terms. This chapter looks at the processes that have led to global development, as well as important theories about this complex process. It also locates tourism within the context of global development.

Defining and measuring development

Definitions of developing countries are usually based on economic measures, in particular GDP or *per capita* income (Lea, 1988). Using such measures means that some countries will be labelled 'high-income countries' others as 'low-income countries'. The low income countries (the poor ones) will then be considered to be 'developing countries' and in the past, until relatively recently, were labelled 'Third World Countries' (O'Grady (1980)). The concept of 'Third World' implies that there are two other worlds – the first and second. Conventionally the 'First World' has been seen to include Western Europe, North America, Australasia and South Africa, whilst the 'Second World', until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 was made up of the Soviet Union (now largely equivalent to Russia) and Eastern European countries. The 'Third World' was all the rest of the countries of the world (Mason, 1990). Clearly this terminology is no longer applicable, mainly because the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe, which were strongly linked to the old Soviet Union, are no longer communist and the Eastern European countries are now independent states, many of which are members of the European Union.