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Tourism in European Microstates and Dependencies: Geopolitics, Scale and Resource Limitations: Dallen J. Timothy; CABI, Wallingford; 2020; £95.00 / US\$130.00; ISBN: 978-1-789243-10-9

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The governance of the European Union, the European political project and the nature of European identity and solidarity are confronted by multiple challenges. The exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union is mirrored in its complexity by the stalled accession processes in south-east Europe. Conflicts in the European peripheries, in Ukraine, Azerbaijan and elsewhere, are prompting renewed debates about the conceptual borders of Europe and its potential reach, beyond its natural geographical space.

In this context, this book makes a timely contribution. It critically examines tourism development in European microstates and dependencies that, by their nature, encourage discussions of borders, exceptions and ambiguities. The analysis of their tourism development and the flows that they both generate and attract, provides a useful lens through which to critique many aspects of the European project, and also through which we can glimpse non-hegemonic aspects of European cultural heritage.

The first two chapters of this book serve as an excellent introduction to these small states and anomalous geographical areas, and also to some of the practical and conceptual issues encountered in researching them. For researchers with an interest in the politics of tourism, and in its policies and governance, this book contains informative explanations of concepts that are often taken for granted elsewhere in the tourism literature, such as sovereignty and the state. Moving on to the specificities of European microstates and dependencies, the different geographical and political formations of these are set out and explained, introducing the reader to terms such as exclaves, micronations, de facto states and extraterritorial places. The bulk of the remainder of the book then presents case studies of different examples of these, with a focus on tourism development in each context.

For readers of the *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, the many photos of the natural, cultural and industrial heritage of these destinations provide a clear source of interest. The inclusion of the author's own photographs provides a valuable visual representation of the uniqueness of these destinations, and the common heritage that unites them in spite of their geographical diversity. Border crossings, signposts, and transport infrastructure feature prominently in the attraction of many of these destinations. Their cultural heritage is more diverse, as one would expect. Museums, fortifications, religious sites and (fascinatingly) postal services reflect a rich, often contested, and largely unreported diversity in European identities, all of which provide resources for tourism development. The latter chapters consider international exclaves, extraterritorial places, de facto states and micronations. These peculiarities offer a rich, but often relatively inaccessible, set of potential and actual tourism destinations and these provide the opportunity to problematize and extend the categorizations applied in earlier chapters.

This book offers a summary of research in this field, and a programme for future research. It is based on twenty-five years of fieldwork and exemplifies Dallen Timothy's longstanding and analytical engagement with tourism and its political geographies. Throughout this work, the importance of geopolitics for the analysis of contemporary tourism is made clear, although it does tend to emphasize the geographical over the political aspects of this. Many of the places featured in this book utilize their ambiguous status for competitive advantage in financial and other services in ways that are not unproblematic. The importance of cross-border tax differences can be seen in the fact that many of these destinations offer retail tourism opportunities, but the ways in which these statuses can affect both tourism development and residents of the destination are largely unexplored. Many are also involved in territorial disputes that condition their tourism development and from which many tourist destinations can draw a controversial appeal. The example of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus demonstrates this to great effect, but the potential for tourism in other disputed territories is an area where future research could still add to this field.

The case study approach of this book means that it will be an excellent resource for both teachers and students of tourism, but its real value lies in the scope of the research project that this text represents. It can serve not only as a jumping off point for tourism

research in similar state contexts, but also as a primer for geopolitical research in tourism, and for the relationship between tourism and European identity.