

## Why I won't be joining the queue at the top of Everest

For a climber, looking at Nirmal Purja's picture last week of the queues close to **Everest's** summit — delays that may have contributed to several deaths — is something that inspires dread.

Everest 珠穆朗玛峰

induce 诱导; 引起

It depicts an anxiety-**inducing** conga line in the death zone above 8,000 metres, where the body can't properly function, and where movement forwards and backwards is seriously **impeded**. In a sport where efficient autonomous movement is regarded as crucial to safety, you want to ask, why would you put yourself in this position? The answer is to be found, in large part, in the **commodification** of the world's highest mountain.

imped 阻止

commodification 商品化

Everest has become largely detached from the rest of climbing and **mountaineering**. It has become a trophy experience, drawing too many otherwise without much interest in the sport.

mountaineering 登山

aspirant 有抱负的人; 野心家

The transactional nature of most Everest attempts has seen a shift in how **aspirants** view responsibility, moving it away from a question of an individual's own judgment and **subcontracting** it to guiding companies, some excellent, some of them far less **scrupulous**.

subcontract 转包

scrupulous 细心的; 谨慎的

For **Nepal**, where the spring Everest season is a valuable annual source of foreign currency, there is little interest in either limiting numbers or regulating the new cut-price **Nepalese** companies that have been set up to compete with the expensive foreign-owned guiding **outfits**.

Nepal 尼泊尔

Nepalese 尼泊尔的

outfit 机构; 装备

Looking at Purja's photo, it is not only dread you sense, but **hubris**, too. In the suggestion that its summit can simply be bought, a key point has been lost: that climbing is as much about **judicious** turning back and failure as it is about reaching the top.

hubris 自大; 傲慢

judicious 明智的