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HUM

February 24, 2022

<center>The Turmoils of Tourism</center>

The human race has been fond of traveling for all of eternity, the thrill of seeing new

places and experiences fulfills our primitive inquisitive instincts. Even physical constraints, such

as Panegea didn't stop humanity from exploring new places. With the innovations and

progressions of modern technology, traveling has been made so much easier and simpler.

Traveling has become extremely streamlined and normalized in many countries because of this,

causing tourists to flock to exotic and exhilarating locations every year. However, the reality for

many locals of these "exotic" places is harsh. Poverty is an extremely prevalent and relevant

issue for many. Although tourism has a positive economic impact in many countries, its negative

impacts on the social and cultural aspects of countries outweigh tourism's overall benefits.

Tourism is ultimately beneficial to the economies of most countries. Many locals start

businesses targeted towards tourists in order to capitalize off of the influx of tourists in their

country. The recent pandemic has been detrimental to many of these businesses, since the

number of tourists in most countries has drastically decreased. One Spanish local, Alok Jahad,

runs a business that relies on tourists as customers. He explained that "There's a very big

possibility I'll lose the business if tourists don't come back this summer" … The locals who

criticize tourism don't seem to understand that the people who are working in the industry are

not foreigners, not tourists…They're locals too." (Source G). Jahad briefly mentions the

controversy surrounding tourism. Many locals do not like the tourists because of their social and

cultural impacts, but the positive effect they have on economies is undeniable. Jahad explained how tourists and tourism is essential to the businesses of locals. Without the tourists, the businesses and livelihoods of the locals would not be successful.

The social aspects of a country are harmed by the influx of tourists visiting it. Cultures in different countries are so diverse, so oftentimes tensions arise between tourists and locals due to these differences in ideas. Tourism continues to deepen the rifts between the locals and visitors, since it consistently makes people with different cultures interact, which can be unwanted by one or more parties. Tensions can also increase due to how a countries' priorities shift as a result of tourism. Oftentimes, the priorities of government officials change in order to uphold an idealistic image. They chose to focus on devoting time and resources to places and projects with heavy tourist traffic, instead of improving critical services for its citizens, such as schools and hospitals. One country where this is an extremely prevalent issue is Antigua, an island in the Caribbean. While visiting Antigua, one may wonder "why a Prime Minister would want an airport named after him… you have not yet seen a school in Antigua, you have not yet seen the hospital in Antigua, you have not yet seen a public monument in Antigua" (Kincaid). Many locals may be scornful towards the tourists, since they have the money to vacation to their country that they have to work so hard to survive in. The locals have to face the harsh reality of poverty and other difficult parts of their country, while tourists get to pick and choose what they see. As shown in Appendices A and B, the vacation homes for tourists are lavish and picturesque, while the locals have to live in rundown shelters that barely have any structure. They mostly see the highlights of countries, causing them to not understand the struggles of the locals. Their tourism is what perpetuates the oppression of the natives' struggles. This also increases the tensions between natives and travelers, since their leaders prioritize the frivolous wants of the guests of their

country rather than the simple needs of their own people. Although some tourism is intended to help the locals, it is usually more detrimental. A prime example of this is voluntourism, when people from wealthier countries travel to volunteer in other countries, typically to help with construction of houses, orphanages, or churches. Many of the people who go on these trips are "gap year students and companies building team unity" but their projects are mostly "expensive and take work away from locals" (Source E). These mission projects create dependencies on the volunteers, leading to perpetuating and furthering the problems in the developing countries instead of mending them. Most times, these trips are unnecessary, and fulfills' the volunteers' savior complex more than it serves the community of the locals, which defeats the entire purpose. Since this industry is not regulated, many organizations focus more on the impacts of the volunteers. This is eerily similar to colonialism. The volunteers believe that their actions are beneficial to the ethnic people of an area, when in reality it leads to generational problems. Overall, the social benefits of tourism can be detrimental to countries.

Tourism also negatively impacts the cultural customs of countries. Unfortunately in order to capitalize off of tourists, many cultural customs of countries get whitewashed in order to optimize their profit. For example, many traditional Hawaiian practices such as luaus and surfing, are heavily modified in order to attract tourists. Many times, "White businessmen are credited with selling surfing and Hawaii as an exotic tourism commodity for the wealthy" (Olympic Surfing Exposes Whitewashed Native Hawaiian Roots). This creates a multilayered problem: the effects of capitalizing off of cultural practices leads to inevitable cultural appropriation. Surfing used to be a historic sport for Natives, but now it is viewed simply as an attraction for tourists visiting Hawaii. This takes away from the cultural significance because it is only seen as an exciting foreign pastime, when it really is an important activity with cultural

meaning to the Hawaiian people. The long term effects of cultural appropriation are detrimental. Over time, the rich culture will be forgotten, and instead replaced with one only targeted to consumers. Clearly, tourism is detrimental to cultural practices of countries.

Although tourism has a positive economic impact in many countries, its negative impacts on the social and cultural aspects of countries outweigh tourism's overall benefits. Tourism supports many businesses in tourist countries, which is beneficial to the economy. But, the priorities of authority figures change due to the tourists, which leads to social problems, such as tensions between locals and tourists, as well as a dependency on tourism. Many aspects of cultural practices are also modified in order to be more attractive and enticing to tourists, which leads to cultural appropriation and loss of culture over time. Tourism is still critical to maintaining international relations and sharing unique cultures, but it is important to remember to travel mindfully and respectfully. Doing so will lead to preservation of history and cultures around the globe.

Appendix

Appendix A: "12 Top-Rated Resorts in Antigua: Planetware." *PlanetWare.com*, www.planetware.com/antigua-and-barbuda/top-rated-resorts-in-antigua-ant-1-2.htm.

Appendix B: Handy, Gemma. "The Island Where 19th Century Land Ownership Is at Risk." *BBC News*, BBC, 28 Jan. 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-42719015.

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        booksvooks.com/fullbook/a-small-place-pdf-jamaica-kincaid.html?page=1&part=1.

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        Network,abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wireStory/olympic-surfing-exposes-white
        washed-native-hawaiian-roots-78825231.

Source A

Source E

Source G