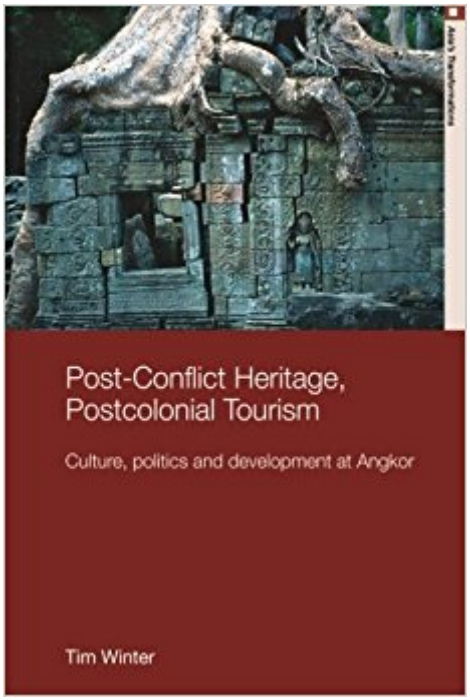
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Post Conflict Heritage, Postcolonial Tourism: Culture, Politics And Development At Angkor



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Synopsis

Angkor, CambodiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s only World Heritage Site, is enduring one of the most crucial, turbulent periods in its twelve hundred year history. Given CambodiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s need to restore its shattered social and physical infrastructures after decades of violent conflict, and with tourism to Angkor increasing by a staggering 10,000 per cent in just over a decade, the site has become an intense focal point of competing agendas. AngkorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s immense historical importance, along with its global prestige, has led to an unprecedented influx of aid, with over twenty countries together donating millions of dollars for conservation and research. For the Royal Government however, Angkor has become a Ã¢â ¬Ëœcash-cowÃ¢â ¬â„¢ of development. Post-conflict Heritage, Postcolonial Tourism critically examines this situation and locates Angkor within the broader contexts of post-conflict reconstruction, nation building, and socio-economic rehabilitation. Based on two years of fieldwork, the book explores culture, development, the politics of space, and the relationship between consumption, memory and identity to reveal the aspirations and tensions, anxieties and paradoxical agendas, which form around a heritage tourism landscape in a post-conflict, postcolonial society. With the situation in Cambodia examined as a stark example of a phenomenon common to many countries attempting to recover after periods of war or political turmoil, Post-conflict Heritage, Postcolonial Tourism will be of particular interest to students and scholars working in the fields of Asian studies, tourism, heritage, development, and cultural and postcolonial studies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Recommended.Ã Â Graduate and special collections." - CHOICE 'This is a text that should grace the shelves of all those interested not only in heritage tourism but in the processes and dynamics of tourism development more broadly. Indeed, the level of theoretical analysis and the dissection of issues in a post-conflict, post-colonial environment reaches a high standard of excellence.' - Trevor Sofield, University of Tasmania, Australia, Journal of Heritage Tourism, Vol. 4, No. 4, November 2009

This is a really fascinating account of heritage, travel and memory in Cambodia. The analysisÃ Â of its post-conflict patterns is exemplary and will provide pointers to developing similarÃ Â analyses of the role of heritage and tourism in other zones blighted by mass death andÃ Â destruction.John Urry, Lancaster University, UK, author of The Tourist GazeIn this persuasive, strenuously argued book Tim Winter skilfully fits the sumptuous medievalÃ Â city we know as "Angkor", now visited by nearly two million tourists a year, into recentÃ Â thinking about heritage and tourism, and into the baleful context of globalisation. The wayÃ Â this heritage area has been treated, he suggests, also forms part of the often misguided,Ã Â insensitive "generosity" that continues to flow into this peculiarly haunting, desperately poor,Ã Â severely damaged country.David Chandler, Monash University, Australia, author of A History of CambodiaAll heritage practitioners and academics should read Tim Winter's book. This is not the usualÃ Â heritage study focused on restoration or management techniques. Rather, it sets out to showÃ Â how a cultural heritage site can become a vector for national and local economicÃ Â development and an icon with a powerful role in nation-building. This is a heady mix ofÃ Â forces. Winter brings out the intricacies of the situation in intelligent and accessible prose,Ã Â careful documentation and appropriate illustrations.William Logan, UNESCO Chair and Director of Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and theÃ Â Pacific, Deakin University, Australia

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