Conflictive Touring: 
The Roots of Terrorism

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ABSTRACT

Problems to understand social phenomenon associates to our misconceptions, stereotypes and prejudices imposed during our early socialization. This happens not only with tourism which is valorized as a right of all citizens in modern societies, but also with terrorism, judged as the main threat of West. However, what would happen if both would be different sides of the same coin? This essay review explores the roots of tourism and terrorism during the process of unionization in US. What on one hand resulted in a hyper-mobile process that shore up tourism, on another was a desperate attempt to struggle against terrorism. In this vein, it is safe to say that tourism is terrorism by other means.

Keywords: Conflict, Mobilities, Terrorism, Tourism, Trade, Unionization

INTRODUCTION

Capitalist societies appealed to the use of high-advanced technology in order to maximize the monopoly of profits and gains that marks a gap between capital-owners and their respective workforces. One of the merits in Marx and Engels’ legacy consisted in denouncing the introduction of technology as a mechanism to exclude workers from the production of wealth (Marx & Engels 1952). Following this axiom, we must understand modern tourism, which surfaced as a result of industrial revolution, is determined by conflicts and bloody disputes between the state, and its workers. At the extent, traveling represents a positive cultural aspect of our life, terrorism is demonized as act of cowardice that vulnerates “innocent” civilians (Richter & Waugh, 1986; Enders & Sandler, 1991; Pizam & Manfield, 1996; Sonmez, Apostolopulos & Tarlow, 1999; Pizam & Smith, 2000; Tarlow, 2006; Wahab 1996).

Far from any speculation, this essay review explores not only the question why, in recent decades international tourists are targeted by terrorists to cause political destabilization to governments, but also discusses to what an extent, the spirit of modern terrorism still is enrooted in tourism. In other terms, we hold the thesis that modern tourism is terrorism by other means.

May a terrorist attack be comparable to a strike? To respond this question, it is important not to lose the sight that strikes when they are suddenly announced meets thousands of passengers at the most important airports of the world. Tourists are stranded, or in better terms, hosted by

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practitioners who decide to take “extortion” as the most valid instrument of negotiation against government and capital-owners. In this vein, strike and terrorism had commonalities like this, which remain unexplored by specialized literature. The question whether in times of stability, global tourists and consumers are pondered on the top of capitalist society, strikes evince the opposite. By weakening to consumers is a common-used tactic, efficiently for workers to gain status and respect before the stronger state. Vulnerated by its lack of familiarity at the visited destination, tourists are exploited to dissuade a third part, opening the doors a new way of producing politics.

Starting from the premise, Islam radicalized groups have been trained and educated in the best Western campuses, it was not surprising that they use the mobile technologies, which were object of pride against United States and Europe. What 9/11, Atocha and London’s bombings share, is the prone to attack by-passers or tourists in the public domain of urban cities. The “Other” is exploited as a means to reach a broader goal. This feeds back the underlying logic that persisted in Western thinking (even within the postmodern spirit). In this discussion, we define terrorism as the dialectic of hate formed by contrasting interests, where violence plays a crucial role to achieve certain ends. The thesis that points out religion and poverty are key factors that determine terrorism should be placed under the lens of scrutiny simply because it operates through the logic of “speculation and extortion”. Beyond the boundaries of society gets the name of terrorism, inside calls strike. Capitalism materializes a “society of extortion”.

9/11 AND THE PROBLEM OF PREVENTION

The attacks to World Trade Centre generated a great concern and severely shook the American society which lasts up to date. The 9/11 Commission report was an all-encompassing document written by authorities to describe and understand the events by which the nation remained unprepared. By reviewing thousands of documents, interrogatories and interviews, this text reinforces the belief that America not only was facing one of its most important threats, but also needs to prevent an attack of this caliber in the future. As a tribute to the victims of this tragedy, it alludes to combine real facts, extracted from verifiable sources with ideological discourses. This is the reason why we have to place this text under the lens of scrutiny.

At some extent, the consulted sources are not academic works or published papers in peer review journals, but also governmental reports issued to precise the contexts and reasons of terrorism. A profound and careful reading suggests two important aspects. First and foremost, although there is a massive quantity of dataset, authorities and politicians have no accurate information how terrorists avoided the x-ray machines, which scrutinized the passengers at airports or how they entered into the cockpit. “We do not know exactly how the hijackers gained access to the cockpit. FAA rules required that the doors remain closed and locked during flight” (p 5).

The point of entry in the discussion appeals to the compliance of government in the attack. This theory of conspiracy, which points out some inconsistencies of approved version of facts, provides with another alternative story of 9/11. Administration would somehow support the intelligence so that terrorists plan the attack (supposedly to expand its economic intervention towards the world). Since this has no empirical validation, the lack of information to understand a coherent argument creates a gap, which is fulfilled by speculations. After all, 9/11 was constructed around a great mystery.

In addition, some of the hijackers not only have their visas expired but also were educated in US and Europe. Secondly, government was not familiar with the attack lest by mass media. CNN was the first media reporting what originally authorities, president and vice-president thought was an accident. The specialized agencies in homeland security, even the FAA headquarters,
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