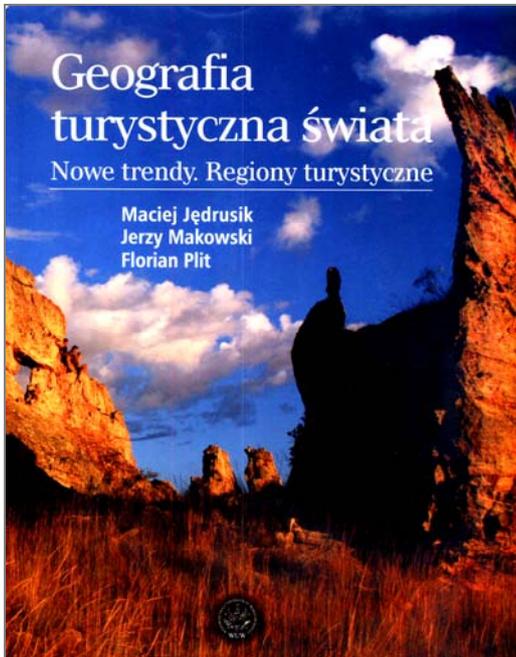


REVIEW

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'GEOGRAFIA TURYSTYCZNA ŚWIATA. NOWE TRENDY. REGIONY TURYSTYCZNE' [A TOURISM GEOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD: NEW TRENDS, TOURISM REGIONS']
MACIEJ JĘDRUSIK, JERZY MAKOWSKI & FLORIAN PLIT
WYDAWNICTWO UNIwersYTETU WARSZAWSKIEGO
WARSZAWA 2010, pp. 383

'Geografia turystyczna świata. Nowe trendy. Regiony turystyczne', a collective work published in 2010, was written by regional studies specialists from the University of Warsaw. The subtitle of the book suggests that it concerns new phenomena in tourism and contains a description of tourism regions. The publication consists of two main parts, one of which presents 'Theoretical Issues', and the other - 'Large Tourism Regions of the World'.

In the first part, the authors present the basic issues including concepts and definitions related to tourism; they present discussion on tourism geography and the geography of tourism (Chapter 1), outline the history of tourism, as well as dividing tourism into different forms and variations (Chapter 2). The following chapters are devoted to the relations between tourism and the natural environment, the impact of tourism on its surroundings (Chapter 3), as well as the dangers to the environment for tourism (Chapter 4). New trends in tourism are described in Chapter 5 concerning its contemporary forms and popular directions of travel. The first part ends with a world tourism regionalization (Chapter 6), where the authors quote the *UNWTO* classification, pointing to its limitations, as well as presenting their own division of the world into

regions based on tourism assets. Regionalization leads the reader to the second part of the book devoted to regions.

Considering the theme of the work, the first part seems too large (113 pages), and the issues presented are related to the geography of tourism (concepts, history, classification) rather than tourism geography. An example of an oversized sub-chapter which needs to be reconsidered is the one on classification (quite inadequately called 'tourism systematics'). It presents 18 forms of cultural tourism alone, including dance, ethnographic, astronomic, scientific, historical and historical-military. A fairly questionable one is the 'Other' category, comprising kinds of tourism (?) according to various criteria, e.g. gay, pre-marital (participants), hospice, or euthanasia (purpose) tourism, also referred to as intimate tourism. It seems that in introducing different sub-divisions it is easy to go too far, therefore let us remember that, generally, when talking about tourism not only the elements of temporarily moving to another place (voluntarily or for non-profit activity) should be taken into account, but also the motive should be verified (whether it really has something to do with tourism - recreation, learning or physical activity). The classification

presented in the book also produces the reflection that we should perhaps stop inventing new forms and variations of tourism, because in some cases (see the tables) the categories are duplicated (e.g. mountain tourism occurs in sightseeing and specialist tourism), and sometimes they do not occur at all (e.g. in business tourism). Moreover, the classification leaves certain questions unanswered, e.g.: Why do the quoted examples not include rural tourism? Do the authors believe that it would be a form or a variation and if so - of what form of tourism? Or, why is club tourism not included under entertainment? It seems that the classification suggested by the authors requires a more detailed analysis, which would be more commendable in a student textbook on tourism geography, while in this book only common forms of tourism in the regions where they actually develop should be mentioned.

The part devoted to the spheres of the Earth - water, air and land as environments satisfying tourism needs - is very interesting and original it presents many forms of tourism, and above all examples of areas where they are found (e.g. the Caribbean, the Canary Islands, Oceania, etc.). It is regrettable that the point of reference here is the natural environment, which is of course very important, but we must remember that it is not only that environment that attracts tourists. For many human works are equally important, i.e. historical monuments, customs, events, etc. Unfortunately, this part of the book lacks reference to the human cultural environment or to the political issues, internal problems or the economic situation of the area which may increase or hinder the development of tourism, regardless of natural conditions. It also seems that the title of the book excessively highlights the 'new trends', the description of which somewhat gets lost among other subjects, and which are mentioned only in relation to selected problems.

The second part of the work presents the large tourism regions of the world and is divided into two sections. The first on intra-continental regions (predominantly terrestrial - 8), and the other - coastal regions (predominantly marine - 6). The authors themselves admit that distinguishing between regions is always difficult due to the choice of criteria. The classification presented seems logical and appropriate, because apart from tourism assets, it also differentiates between motives for travel. The authors believe that these are mostly cognitive and specialist, but there are also recreational motives. On the other hand, the division into sub-regions refers to climatic conditions and cultural and civilisational similarity. Basically, individual sub-regions consist of nations, or parts of them as tourism regions occur regardless of administrative borders. Within regions, areas of similar features are put into groups. Naturally, the proposed

division is subjective and may be questioned, but we should always be aware of the dilemmas which appear at every attempt at delimitation and of the necessity to make choices. Generally speaking, despite certain doubts (e.g. whether South-Eastern Asia is really a coastal region, or whether Indian Ocean islands may form a single sub-region), it must be admitted that generally the arguments for the classification seem convincing.

Further on, the book contains descriptions of individual regions, which is naturally limited, but provides the most significant information, and selected according to a specific scheme, i.e. the geographical range of the area, its history, demographic and economic features. The section concerning tourism contains information regarding major attractions, tourism development, tourism centres, potential risks, as well as statistical data about, for instance, the intensity of tourism (mostly referring to 2007). This information allows the authors to concisely explain the character of the areas presented in the context of the main theme of the book, and the reader may learn about their individuality and is encouraged to search for further information about selected places. Apart from the main text, there is some more detailed information presented in boxes, which regards given areas, buildings or phenomena. This information effectively enlivens the basic contents and makes the book friendlier to the potential reader. Other advantages are the photographs and maps interspersed throughout the text. It should be stressed that the second part of the work is more coherent and better thought out. The description of each region ends with a short summary, containing the most important conclusions regarding the places presented. The book closes with a bibliography containing many foreign titles and an index of geographical terms.

To sum up, the book reviewed accomplishes its task as a textbook for university tourism students. Its strong point is the fact that it briefly, substantially and interestingly presents tourism regions and at the same time shows the differences between them. The regional approach has allowed the authors to highlight the features, phenomena and processes typical of a larger area, occurring regardless of administrative borders, as well as to show the difficulties with global tourism delimitation.

The book is a valuable and highly required publication, even more so in that currently tourism has become an energetically developing economic sector, and its range is widening. The book may be an alternative to other publications available on the market, e.g. *Geografia turystyczna świata* by WARSZYŃSKA (1994), *Europa. Geografia turystyczna* (2008), *Kraje pozaeuropejskie. Zarys geografii turystycznej* by KRUCZEK (2011) or *Encyklopedia turystyczna świata* (2001).

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Beata Krakowiak

University of Łódź

Institut of Urban Geography and Tourism

agakrak@geo.uni.lodz.pl

Translated by Ewa Mossakowska
