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Annals of Tourism Research

Volume 26, Issue 1, 1 January 1999, Pages 1-20

Tourism and DEVELOPMENT Evidence from Mexico

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0160-7383\(98\)00046-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0160-7383(98)00046-2)

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Abstract

Few recent studies of tourism in the third world have explicitly adopted approaches drawing from contemporary theories of the political economy of development. Instead they have either turned away from political economy to alternative approaches or are mainly empirical in nature. This paper contends that some recent strands of development theory hold particular promise in this field and illustrates their use by examining tourism in Mexico over the past 30 years. Specifically, findings suggest that a statist approach, augmented by considerations of the structure of the international tourism industry, help explain both growth and distributional effects in Mexico over that period.

À R sum Tourisme et d veloppement: lexemple du Mexique. Peu d tudes r centes du tourisme au tiers monde se sont inspir es de mani re explicite des th ories contemporaines de leconomie politique de d veloppement. Elles se sont plut t  loign es de l conomie politique pour sorienter vers dautres champs de recherche, ou elles sont essentiellement empiriques. Cette analyse tente de d montrer que certaines hypoth ses de la th orie de d veloppement

tenue de développement que certaines hypothèses de la théorie de développement sont particulièrement utiles pour les études touristiques. Cette analyse se sert de ces hypothèses, prenant comme exemple le tourisme au Mexique pendant les trente dernières années. Des recherches suggèrent qu'une telle approche statistique, renforcée par des considérations sur la structure de l'industrie touristique internationale, facilite la compréhension des effets du tourisme sur la croissance et la distribution au Mexique.



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Keywords

development; political economy; export-led growth; statism; neoliberalism; post-dependency; hotels

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