**KNUDSEN Daniel C., METRO-ROLAND Michelle M.,
SOPER Anne K., and GREER Charles E. eds.:**

Landscape, Tourism, and Meaning

Aldershot: ASHGATE, 157 pp., 2008 (ISBN 978-0-7546-4943-4).

The content of this book is based on the special session on tourist landscape at the annual meeting of AAG at March in 2004. The authors aim to interpret the landscape perspective by focusing on the traditional method of cultural geography. They consistently focus on the meaning and value of cultural landscape.

In the first chapter, “Tourist Gaze”, written by John Urry, is featured, and his theory of tourist “gazing objective landscape and symbol” is criticized. Instead of Urry’s theory, the authors suggest the cultural landscape theory of geography in re-theorizing tourism.

In chapter 2, they introduce the traditional and central theme of landscape study in geography as a way of interpreting of landscape by analyzing some historical factors. For example, “what factors have influenced the formation of landscape?” We can consider that this factor is sometimes human activity, or sometimes nature, or both.

The next two chapters focus on landscape-identity, but not tourism. The authors discuss what an identity of landscape is and how it could have been formed. Identity of landscape and its formation are clarified by investigating the relationship between the history and landscape of the region. Identities of landscape are complex because of the intervention of more than one factor, and difference in scale such as individual, community, or nation. Two places, Strasbourg in France and Copper Canyon region in Mexico, are the focus of landscape analysis in this section.

In chapter 5, 6, and 7, the authors focus on landscape-identity-tourism, and discuss how a region that remained deeply problematic in history changed into a tourist destination. The formation of landscape is influenced by some external factors such as the development of a country, and lifestyle changes of the inhabitants. Consequently, identity of landscape has been made in the process of these external changes/factors. The first

two chapters focus on Mauritius and western Germany as instances. Then, the last chapter focuses on two sites, the House of Terror and the Statue Park in Hungary.

In chapters 8, 9, and 10, the authors discuss the difference of landscape perception between insiders—participants in the landscape itself and outsiders—external viewers of the landscape. Value and meaning of the landscape vary according to who is gazing. This suggests that the interpretation of landscape from multiple viewpoints is difficult. In this section, three places are selected, the Celaque National Park in US, Thy in Denmark, and Tamgaly rock paintings in Kazakhstan.

Finally, in chapter 11, a summary of the landscape approach to tourism study in this book and the effectiveness of this idea are set out.

According to the authors, tourism studied as a social phenomenon is very complex. Landscape and its identity consist of various factors such as personal, social, cultural, natural, and ecological factors. Moreover, the meaning of landscape is different according to who is the observer, and occasionally, this difference generates a conflict, which creates difficulty in interpreting tourism. This book reveals such a complex phenomenon well through the cultural landscape approach. This approach provides an important suggestion for revaluing current tourism policy and planning, not only re-theorization of tourism. I recommend this book to students and researchers of geography as well as tourism and landscape. It will help us to understand a perspective of tourism as a social and cultural phenomenon, through interpreting the meaning of cultural landscape in the tourist destination.

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