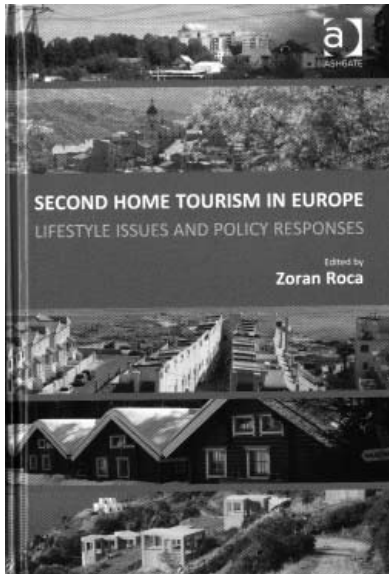


book review

Second home tourism in Europe Lifestyle issues and policy responses



Complex issue of second homes, as the book's editor Zoran Roca says, can be found in a number of terms which are used for this European phenomenon: holiday homes, vacation homes, seasonal homes, summer homes, weekend homes, secondary homes, leisure homes, cottages, cabins, dachas, pieds-a-terre, etc. However, classic dilemma identified by Coppak in the late of 1970s, which is still being debated about, is the issue whether the second homes are curse or a blessing?" There are as many answers to this question as there are diverse interests. One way to reduce the gap between the different views on this issue is to conduct scientific research on a wide range of relevant areas, which should help to define the different policy options for the development of second home tourism. In this context, the book's editor brings together a wide range of studies from twelve European countries, from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and from the British Isles to Russia, in whose preparation were involved 22 authors and co-authors. Covering different experiences and practice book represents a sort of contemporary compendium of current second home research, planning and policy issues, but also an expression of lifestyle and leisure "class" mobility, post-productive land-use patterns and landscape changes in the area caused by the expansion of second home tourism during prosperity and crisis.

The book consists of Introduction written by the editor Zoran Roca and Conclusion written by Paul Claval while the papers are divided at three sections.

In the first section "Owning Second Homes: from Transnational Crisis to Place Attachment" authors examine the impact of the crisis on the real estate market and hyper-indebted second home owners in Great Britain, Ireland and Southern Spain, while in the case of Southern Italy and Portugal they referred to tourism roots and involvement of this tourists in local communities. In the second section "Back to Nature: Between Urban Sprawl and Countryside Idyll" authors explore suburbanization in contemporary Russia on the case of dacha, alongside with the cottages in Sweden which are used extensively for outdoor recreational activities. Additionally, the authors examine regional and social contrasts between holiday home owners in France while in Finland the second homes have become an integral part of the lifestyle. In the third section named "Leisure Housing Expansion: Driving Forces and Policy Choices" authors research bonds between the economy and the construction sector and the impact of the crisis on the failure to adopt the necessary legal measures for land use on selected Greek islands, in the case of Portugal the author explores the connection between home owners and tourists in the context of policy planning, and in the case of Italy they discusses the "undetected tourists" which surpassed in many parts of the country registered tourists, while the authors from Norway presented evolution of second home tourism from simple cottages to high-quality homes as an expression of lifestyle which is been reflected in a new approach to the space planning and nature protection.

At the end in concluding essay Paul Claval reveals that second home tourism has become the source of a new form of social deprivation that affects the local economy which becomes vulnerable to economic cycles and often mutilate the beautiful landscape and increase pressure on space as well. Therefore, second home tourism, which has become an important sector of the economy, cannot be let to uncontrolled development any longer. This issue has to become a major topic of physical and spatial planning, as well as environment protection.

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