

TOURISM IN SRI LANKA, THE MAPPING OF INTERNATIONAL INEQUALITIES AND THEIR INTERNAL STRUCTURAL EFFECTS

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The paper based on a case study of the growth of tourism in Sri Lanka examines tourism within a framework of dependency vis-a-vis the developed industrial countries. It distinguishes between two types of tourism namely that between the developed countries themselves and tourism which brings in personnel from developed countries to developing countries. The two categories of tourism it is pointed out have fundamentally different effects (economically, socially, culturally) on the receiving countries. Evidence indicates that the latter form of dependent tourism which has been consciously introduced into Sri Lanka within the last ten years has serious distortions in the economic, social and cultural spheres. These distortion effects have considerable similarities to the distortion of the economy by the introduction of the plantation sector in the 19th century and the paper suggests that the long term consequences of overemphasis on the tourist sector could be as grave as that of the introduction of the plantation economy.