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A Book Review: Security and Everyday Life*

Safety and security issues have been repeatedly identified as two of the most important components of the hospitality and tourism industry. Risk management, liability, and business cases for implementing best practices are widely known and cited. For example, most hospitality and tourism academics researching issues of security are aware of the hotel fires at the MGM Grand in 1980 that took 85 lives and the 1986 Dupont Plaza Hotel fire where 97 lives were lost. We are also aware of recent terrorist attacks such as 2008's Taj Hotel bombing in Mumbai, India and Bali's 2002 attack where more than 200 lives were lost. These are not the only cases of safety and security; these are a few of the most well-known cases in the hospitality and tourism industry. This book provides no less than ten other case studies and examples from varying perceptions and experiences, in turn providing a well-rounded understanding of current issues.

As safety and security measures have increased in importance, in part due to the aforementioned and other similar situations, so too has a focus on best practices in industry and academia. This book captures the timeliness of safety and security being issues at the apex of academia and industry.

Vida Bajc explains this book's purpose and role in academia as "a contribution to our understanding of the dynamics associated with seeing all sorts of everyday social situations and cultural phenomena as a potential threat to security" (p. 1). Bajc and de Lint have pieced together a book that delves into best practices with wide-ranging ideas inclusive of industry case studies and academic rigor that touches on social and cultural issues that face certain portions of the public daily. Although the stated focus of the text is security in daily lives, I also found a consistent focus on issues of tourism. For example, the first chapter focuses on airport security, the second chapter spotlights a mega-event (the Pope visiting Jerusalem), the third and fourth chapters delve into border security issues, the tenth chapter includes crime against tourists, and so forth.

The authors' identified approach of everyday social and cultural issues of safety and security is advanced by each of the ten chapters, plus the Introduction and Conclusion, being

written by different authors. Each author's chapter is situated in a unique context from other chapters which leads to a multi-varied approach to understanding security and safety while allowing for interesting and constantly changing frameworks.

This being an edited has some drawbacks though. The fact that each chapter investigates different topics from a new author's perspective was cumbersome in that my approach as the reader had to change with each author's writing style and understanding of security issues. This can certainly be construed as a positive effect of reading an edited text but in the case of this book it became difficult. For example, Staudt's chapter on U.S./Mexico border security takes the reader to the area in question and sets the framework as multiple groups working together, and at times against each other, in an attempt to implement best practices in border security over decades, including post-9/11 when Bush militarized the zone for security reasons. Sion's chapter on Israeli security issues operates in a social justice paradigm, where Bush is charged with stripping people of their basic human rights. No matter where one situates themselves on the political continuum, as this was merely one example, the basic premise of the distinction between security and human rights necessitates a change in the reader's thought process on a chapter-by-chapter basis.

To alleviate some of the disconnects that exist in an edited text the book is divided into sections by topic. Sections include "Public Spaces and Collective Activities", where a focus is squarely on daily situations where large masses of people congregate and can feel insecure and be unsafe. The second section is "Struggle and Resistance", where a spotlight is shone on areas of contention that lead to the existence of security issues. Areas of emphasis in this chapter are primarily centered on border issues such as crossing into a new country. The third section is titled "Law, Citizenship, and the State" and includes the role and best practices of governmental agency operations. Finally, the fourth section turns to globalization, trans-nationalization, and a post-modern constructed world where free trade agreements allow for novel levels of international cooperation and reliance while adding new security issues.

The final important aspect of the book that warrants inclusion in this review is the term "security meta-framing". The term is forwarded as an important new terminology by the authors and it runs the course of the text. Security meta-framing is explained as the idea of society holding security as its central value. Evidence includes vernacular alterations over recent years, government changes to regulation, and increased thoughts and perceptions of security by people around the world, from Israel to China, from Canada to South America, and everywhere in between. The editors of this text have published extensively on security

meta-framing in recent years, and an attractive feature of this text is to follow the progression of the term from its recent inception to this edited text.

In conclusion, the strengths of the book include the breadth of information, the timeliness of the publication, the use of varied case studies, and the solid academic grounding. The negative attributes include the book's deeply-rooted academic writing style that is often inaccessible to practitioners, even with the applied case studies. All in all, I am able to suggest this book as a welcome addition to the academic literature on safety and security in the hospitality and tourism industry.

*Bajc, Vida & de Lint, Willem (eds.). (2011). *Security and Everyday Life.* Routledge Publishers (x + 312 pp.). ISBN: 978-415-99768-3 [hbk]