



How to change a culture

Residential tourism, postmodernism, and radical transformation on the Iberian Peninsula

Joel Trousdale
Cross-Cultural Seminar

What is residential tourism and how did it develop on the Spanish Coast?

- ▶ Northern European countries needed somewhere peaceful after World War II
- ▶ Francisco Franco wanted to open up the Spanish economy.
- ▶ Mass tourism developed into residential tourism.

Bottom line: 3 c's:

-commodification

-cultural/socioeconomic change

-loss of collective identity.





Globalization, postmodernism, and commodification

- ▶ Many note how globalization has influenced the culture in towns affected by residential tourism.
- ▶ Postmodernism is also influential: characterized by fragmentation, consumerism, and commodification.
- ▶ Consumerism and commodification increased desire for land on the Mediterranean, initiating residential development.
- ▶ Utilization of symbols like bull (plaza de toros 1962), sangria, paella, and flamenco created “exotic” image of Spain.
- ▶ Benidorm population timeline: (Ajuntament de Benidorm, 2014)

1961: **6,202**

1971: **12,547**

2011: **76,683** (36% foreigners)

Radical socioeconomic change

- ▶ Integration of Spain to European Union opened Spanish economy and led to concentration of government development in 20% of land and people. (Fernández Durán, 2006)
- ▶ Focus on residential tourism: Alicante, Barcelona, Mediterranean Coast
- ▶ Process of gentrification: pushing out lower socioeconomic classes
- ▶ Diverse socioeconomic conditions -> wealthy and ostentatious elite

Cultural changes

- ▶ Transformation from cultures based in fishing, salt extraction, and agriculture to individualistic and showy cultures.
- ▶ Mansions, private pools, and individual space trump collectivity.
- ▶ Result: Separate urbanizations, essentially gated communities.
- ▶ Altea Hills: large Russian community, private golf course, massive residences, maintains enough of “exotic” character.
- ▶ Altea population timeline:
(Mantecón, Huete, Mazón, 2009)
-1900: **5,977** 1960: **5,620** 2011:**18,976**



The loss of collective identity

- ▶ Massive immigration leads to redefinition of collective identity
(Blanco Fernández de Valderrama, 1994)
- ▶ Spain has seen massive immigration of “guiris”.
- ▶ San Fulgencio population timeline: (Mantecón et al., 2009)
 - 1986: **1,565**
 - 2007: **10,640** (72% foreign population)
- ▶ Collective identity change from traditional village to British hotspot.
 - English forced on original residents.
 - British pastry shops, signs in English, etc.
 - no longer collective identity: blank slate.



<http://www.abc.es/Media/201403/06/britanicos-benidorm--644x362.JPG>

Conclusions

- ▶ Residential tourism perpetuates the **commodification** of culture, causes cultural and socioeconomic **change**, and results in the loss of **collective identity**
- ▶ Those pushed out by gentrification lose their voice
- ▶ From 1996 to 2002 infractions rose from 5,607 to 16,872 in Torrevieja.
- ▶ In Benidorm infractions from 9,980 to 12,055 between 1996 and 2002.
- ▶ Further globalization means loss of potential human creativity and further marginalization of certain groups.
- ▶ I have experienced growth as an individual because my research has focused me to reflect on myself.

Bibliography

- ▶ Ajuntament de Benidorm. (2014). *Benidorm en cifras* (Depósito legal: A 330-2012). Benidorm, España: Libecrom.
- ▶ Aledo, A., Mazón, T., y Mantecón, A. (2007). La insostenibilidad del turismo residencial. En: *Antropología y turismo: claves culturales y disciplinarias*. Lagunas, D. (coord.). México, D.F.: Plaza y Valdés, 2007. pp. 185-208
- ▶ Barth, F. (1976). Los grupos étnicos y sus fronteras. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica.
- ▶ Blanco Fernández De Valderrama, C. (1994). Inmigración e identidad colectiva. Reflexión sobre la identidad en el País Vasco. *Papers: Revista De Sociología*, (43).
- ▶ Bocock, R. (1993). *Consumption*. London; New York: Routledge.
- ▶ Carrión, I. (2005). La iglesia rusa de Altea. *El País*. Recovered October 21, 2014 from: http://elpais.com/diario/2005/11/20/cvalenciana/1132517900_850215.html
- ▶ Espinosa Seguí, A. (2013). *La evolución del turismo en España: el ejemplo de Benidorm (Alicante)*. [PowerPoint slides]. Recovered October 12, 2014 from: <http://rua.ua.es/dspace/handle/10045/27695?locale=en>
- ▶ Fernández Durán, R. (2006). El Tsunami urbanizador español y mundial. VIRUS Editorial
- ▶ Francesch, A. (2011). Una tarde con los auténticos maasai mara. Turismo, autenticidad y de cómo eludir un pozo sin fondo. *Pasos*, (9): pp. 237-248
- ▶ Galgo, R. (2013). La historia del toro de Osborne, la auténtica marca España. Brandemia. Recovered October 30, 2014 from: <http://www.brandemia.org/la-historia-del-toro-de-osborne>
- ▶ Golf Don Cayo. (s.f.). *Inicio*. Recovered October 20, 2014 from: <http://golfdoncayo.com/>
- ▶ Gómez, L. (2014, el 23 de Agosto). Good Morning San Fulgencio. *El País*. Recovered October 15, 2014 from: http://politica.elpais.com/politica/2014/08/22/actualidad/1408719427_547248.html
- ▶ Gómez García, P. (2001). Evolución de la diversidad cultural en la sociedad global informacional. *Gazeta De Antropología*, (17).
- ▶ Harvey, D. (1990). *The condition of postmodernity: An enquiry into the origins of cultural change*. Oxford [England]; Cambridge, Mass., USA: Blackwell.
- ▶ Huete, R. (2010). Opiniones y actitudes ante el turismo residencial en el sur de la Comunidad Valenciana. *PASOS : Revista De Turismo Y Patrimonio Cultural*, (4), 445.
- ▶ Jameson, F. (1991). *Postmodernism, or, The cultural logic of late capitalism*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- ▶ Jurda, F. (1979). *España en venta: compra de suelos por extranjeros y colonización de campesinos en la Costa del Sol*. Madrid: Ayuso. In Mantecón, A. Huete, R. Mazón, T. (2009). Las urbanizaciones "europeas". Una investigación sobre las nuevas sociedades duales en el Mediterráneo. *Scripta Nova: Revista Electrónica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*, (13).

Bibliography (cont.)

- ▶ Mantecón, A. Huete, R. Mazón, T. (2009). Las urbanizaciones "europeas". Una investigación sobre las nuevas sociedades duales en el Mediterráneo. *Scripta Nova: Revista Electrónica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*, (13).
- ▶ Marcuse, P. (1997). The ghetto of exclusion and the fortified enclave: New patterns in the United States. (The Changing Spatial Order in Cities). *American Behavioral Scientist*, (3), 311
- ▶ Mazón, T., Delgado Laguna, E., y Hurtado, J.E. (2012). El éxito de un destino turístico: El Benidorm de Mario Gaviria. *Revista da Casa da Geografía de Sobral*, (14), 81-95.
- ▶ Mazón, T., y Huete, R. (2005). Turismo Residencial en el Litoral Alicantino: Los Casos de Denia, Altea, Benidorm, Santa Pola y Torrevieja. En: Turismo residencial y cambio social: nuevas perspectivas teóricas y empíricas. Mazón T. Aledo, A. (eds.). Alicante: Universidad de Alicante; Aguaclara. ISBN 84-8018-264-4, pp. 105-138.
- ▶ Mbaiwa, J. E. (2005). Enclave tourism and its socio-economic impacts in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. *Tourism Management*, 26, 157-172.
- ▶ Munné, F., y Codina, N. (1996). Psicología social del ocio y el tiempo libre. En Alvaro, J.L., Garroo, A., y Torregrosa, J.R. (coord.). *Psicología social aplicada*. Madrid: McGraw Hill Interamericana de España.
- ▶ Narangajavana, y Garrigós, F. (2001). Potential of Nakhon Si Thammarat (Thailand) as a cultural tourism destination. *Tourism Today*, 1, 71-88.
- ▶ Pi-Sunyer, O. (1989). Percepciones cambiantes del turismo y de los turistas en un centro turístico catalán. En Smith, V. ed. *Anfitriones e invitados. Antropología del turismo*. Endymion, Madrid. pp. 281-302
- ▶ Roger, M. (2014, el 20 de Junio). El catalán pierde fuelle frente al castellano como idioma habitual en Cataluña. *El País*. Recovered November 26, 2014 from: http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2014/06/20/catalunya/1403265034_816562.html
- ▶ Seligson, M.A. (1972). The dual society thesis in Latin America: A reexamination of the Costa Rican case. *Social Forces*, 51(1), 91-98. En Mantecón, A., Huete, R., Mazón, T. (2009). Las urbanizaciones "europeas". Una investigación sobre las nuevas sociedades duales en el Mediterráneo. *Scripta Nova: Revista Electrónica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*, (13).
- ▶ Smith, V. ed. (1989). *Anfitriones e invitados. Antropología del turismo*. Endymion, Madrid.
- ▶ Vera, F., Ivars, J., Ramón A., y Rodríguez, I. (2009). Sector Turismo. Universidad de Alicante, Documento de trabajo del Instituto Interuniversitario de Economía Internacional.