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**D. Ioannides, D.J. Timothy, *Tourism in the USA. A spatial and social syntesis*
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Calanca, D.*

Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Alma Mater Studiorum -
University of Bologna, Italy

A result of two decades of research conducted by the authors - with an inter-disciplinary approach - the purpose of this book is to provide a scientific and comprehensive view of tourism and related problems in the United States of America: «We have observed with interest the effects of tourism on local economies as well as the natural and cultural environments and have studied its interaction with topics ranging from economic geography to sustainable development, and from cultural heritage to cross-border collaboration» (Preface). And this is from the study on the development of tourism, focusing on components that have produced the phenomenon over time until today. Thus, say the authors, it is necessary to investigate the main transport systems and their transformation since the early Nineteenth Century, because the increase and / or the fall of the various tourist destinations has always been strongly linked to how Americans chose, and are choosing, to travel. In this sense, history has been *kind* to American tourism: the United States have been forerunners in innovation, for example, making the journey easier. The advent of steam trains, cars, airplanes and interstate highways, have been extremely beneficial to the development of tourism. Particularly, the railway, gradually disappearing, has been driven out by the car and since the nineteen fifties by the plane. This affects not only the continuous mobility of Americans, but also on tourism itself. Moreover, among the multiple dimensions that characterize the American tourism, the lack of specific national policy and a central body to develop tourism promotion is crucial: the United States, in this sense, is one of the few countries the world without a national tourism organization: the promotion and development of devices are assigned to individual states. Then in close connection with these aspects, the book, discusses specific functional roles of tourism in various fields - social, economic, geographic and cultural; the role of national policies, the economic and social effects. In particular, tourism itself is an economical alternative in the United States by the virtue of its ability to provide employment, stimulate entrepreneurial activity and to generate business by providing tens of thousands of jobs and generating billions of dollars, each year across the nation. However, if some states of the United States are heavily dependent on tourism, such as Nevada, Hawaii and Wyoming, others are not, such as California which, although is the most visited state in the United States and tourists will spend more money than elsewhere, tourism play a modest role in the State economy; while Nevada ranked fifth in international tourist arrivals and lower in the national one. Not only that, alongside the

* Tel.: +39 0541 434061; cell. +39 3333589473;
email address daniela.calanca@unibo.it

economic and social analysis of this situation, are particularly meaningful reflections on trends and future prospects of American tourism. Nothing is missed c.f. the problem of "tourism in the era of the war on terrorism", that began after the September 11, 2001. Before then, the United States used to grant more than 7 million visas to foreign visitors each year, while another 11 million travelers from Europe and 25 million from Canada and Mexico, entered the country without inspection. Today, strong control measures have been adopted and are crucial to security, but deleterious for tourism. Instead, what emerges as positive indicators are the projects related to sustainable development and the problem of urban regeneration, such as has happened, and is happening, in various parts of New York City, Miami and Chicago, as in other small cities such as Toledo, and Louisville in Kentucky. In this sense, the role of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program was, and is today, particularly crucial for revitalizing the local economy of small towns and suburban areas. Moreover, among the new trends in American tourism, the search of historical heritage, the search of their roots is very strong: from this point of view, places linked to the ancestors and family origins, form a major and popular leisure destinations today in the United States. An attitude of Americans, that is reflected both domestically and internationally.

Ultimately, *Tourism in the USA* arises, therefore, the multidimensionality and complexity of American tourism, concepts that allow to recognize the volume as a particularly important reference for many lines of analysis which radiate from the overview presented, bearing in mind that: «Some people would possibly contend that given the uncertain future of the travel industry both globally and within the USA, largely because of the ongoing economic crisis, the timing of the release is odd. Yet, we feel that this is precisely the best time to reflect on the state of the travel and tourism industry in the USA. This is an era when the future is perhaps more uncertain than ever before [...]. The whole shroud of uncertainty surrounding tourism's future both in the United States and worldwide makes it even more imperative to sharpen our understanding of this phenomenon. It is our sincere hope that the readers of this book will examine the encompassed material critically and use it as a launching pad for further in-depth analysis of a sector that is not yet fully understood» (Preface).