

THE EFFECTS OF NEWS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND TERROR ATTACKS ON TOURISM IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a global issue and it affects people all around the world. In this paper, terror, policy and tourism concepts, terrorist attacks related with Turkey and its effects and examined in detail. Because this study is qualitative, we have taken the advantage of data which is based on secondary sources. Also, interview method has been used as a primary source. An interactive and a rich study has been attained by interview method and misunderstandings have been minimized in this way. The study has focused on tourism sector. This study as it will be a source for a later discussion and it will give ideas about the topic.

Key Words: Terror Attacks, News, Tourism, Relationship Between Tourism and Politics

1. INTRODUCTION

The tourism sector, which is called as "Smokeless Industry", has a very important role in the income of the state. Over the decades, tourism has experienced continued growth and deepening diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Nowadays, such as advantages bring with them some threats. The most important threats, terrorist activities and terrorism that unknown when and where will emerge.

It should not be forgotten that tourism can never succeed where there is no peace. Peace is the absence of war and terrorist acts. Recently, terrorist actions which came to the fore in Turkey affect tourism industry directly or indirectly. Many countries which include Turkey have terrorist threat

Lots of people die because of terrorist actions and consequently, tourism industry is damaged badly. For this reason, terrorist actions and concept of terrorism keep affecting tourism sector badly on a global scale.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Tourism, which is one of service sectors, is one of sectors which is affected negatively by terrorist incidents. Therefore, effects of news about terrorism in Turkey have been explored. Economic, social, cultural and political troubles, which are made by tourism industry, concern large mass all around the world and have a place at national and international level.

Tourism is regarded as the fastest growing sector which will keep developing according to world tourism organization. Tourism will get almost 2 trillion dollars of the cake in 2020 according to estimations. UNWTO defined "Tourism", as indicated below; "Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes." (World Tourism Organization, 2016)

Fast growing tourism industry has become a target of terrorist attacks. In accordance with the anti-terror law no. 3713 (1991) it has been defined as terrorism in law "They are all kinds of actions which are attempt but one or a lot of humans that are a member of an association having the aim to change features of Republic, political, legal, social, Laic, economical regime defined in constitution To destroy country of government and national it and indivisible integrity, to risk the existence of Turkish government and Republic, to routine, ger or damage the authority of government, to destroy the main rights or freedom, to demolish the in er or outer security of government, regularity of the public or general health by using one of the methods as pressure, compulsion, violence, fear, daunting, frightening or threat." (General Directorate of Security,2008).



FIGURE 1: News about terrorism in Turkey



FIGURE 2: The relation between terrorist attacks and tourism income

3. RESEARCH

Terrorism has an impact upon tourism badly. Negative effects of terrorist attacks on environment of trust affects tourists and tourism workers mostly. The following questions were focused on in the interview which I had with SERIF YENEN, IRO and TUREB. Is it affected tourism in Turkey from inter-state politics? How much does crisis of the aircraft with Russian affect tourism? How do terrorist incidents which has happened in some places, which are named 'heart of Turkey' affect tourism?, Does news about terrorism affect perceptions of tourists?

Interviews were had on Thursday, May 13. Speeches of relevant persons, who have been had interview with, have been recorded by a tape recorder then, this record has been exported to the computer.

Tourism was talked about generally. Effects of media which have important power, were focused on and old and new terrorist attacks were compared to other attacks which happened in other countries.

3.1 METHODOLOGY

In this study tourism sector has been focused on. The questions which were asked in the interview have been inspired by terrorist attacks which affected agenda of Turkey mostly. During question preparation the news about terror have been scanned backwards. About problem between the states, the explanations and effects of statesmen are considered.

Especially the density of tourist areas is compared with the time after events.

The universe of research was tourism countries which had been affected by terrorist attacks. The sample of this study was tourism which had been under the influence of terrorism. This study is a kind of qualitative research. Interview method of data analysis techniques was used in this study. "An interview is a procedure designed to obtain information from a person's oral response to oral inquiries." (Gary Dessler, 2016) Secondary data was preferred in order to improve the study. Because it supplies to compare.

3.2 FINDINGS

Because of the interviews, it has been determined that international politics and news about terrorism affected tourism. It has been attracted notice that terrorist attacks were not based on only economy and the reason of violence was that tourists became a target easily. In conclusion, terrorist attacks became a reason of massacre and tourism has been devastated by this fact. Terrorist attacks have increased on tourism in Turkey recently following specification are regarded as the reasons of terrorist attacks which happened in touristic areas recently (Tarlow, 2002, 49; Brunt, Mawby and Hambly, 2000, 418; Unur, 2000; 171):

- Attacks on any tourist region or center in a country have the power to adversely affect the entire country's economy.
- For the development of the tourism industry, the targeting of the tourist regions is perceived as a target for the terror activists, in a sense, because the state and the country's administration take a lot of measures and generate high income from this industry. Therefore, every attack on the tourism industry is considered an attack on the state.
- As terrorist acts against tourist consumers are frequently and in detail in oral and written media, they can reach very large masses in a very short time and reach the desired message instead of the terrorists.
- The museum, which reflects the historical past of a country or region, is seen as the easiest way to attract interest in terms of those who perform the action by terrorizing historical places and natural beauties.
- In the tourist regions, in terms of the comfort of consumers, the idea that the security measures will not be too tight pushes the terror activists to these places. The fact that activists can be hidden without attention makes the tourism industry a clear target for terrorist attacks.

Table 1: Acts of terrorism against tourists in Turkey between 1993 and 2016

YEAR	EVENT
1993	12 foreigners and 16 Turkish 28 people on the south coasts by the PKK wounded in the hotel and restaurant bombing action
1993	From July to October, 8 different incidents by the PKK abduction and detention of 19 Western tourists in Anatolia for several weeks
1994	PKK kidnappings 2 Finnish tourists for lack of entry visa in Kurdistan and 22-day detention action
1994	Bomb attack in Sultan Ahmet Square and 1 German, 1 Dutch and 1 Spanish injured by the PKK
1994	The PKK put a bomb in the Grand Bazaar and 1 Spanish and 1 Belgian 2 tourists died, and 17 people injured
1994	1 tourist death and 10 tourists injured because of the bombings in Marmaris and Fethiye
1994	The abduction of 1 Japanese tourist near Siirt and the detention of 4 days
1998	The bombing of Sultan Ahmet Square and wounding of 2 Indians, 1 New Zealand tourists and 4 citizens
1998	The kidnapping of 1 German tourist and 1 Turkish truck driver in Ağrı and German tourists found the next day, but the Turkish truck driver could not be found
1999	The capture of the terrorist leader and the following acts of threat targeting foreign tourists
2003	Istanbul Sisli synagogue Neve Shalom Synagogue and bombing actions
2003	The bomb attack on HSBC Bank Headquarters and the Consulate General of the United Kingdom
2004	The bombed action that killed 1 police chief in Kuşadası
2005	The bombing of 13 people injured in Kuşadası where 5 people lost their lives
2006	3 people killed by the PKK in Antalya, 21 people injured in Marmaris bombing actions
2007	In the Anafartalar Bazaar, all of the people who died were killed by explosives on a person.
2010	Life bombs on riot police in Taksim Square.
2013	The attack on the explosion of a hand grenade with explosives at the gate of the United States Embassy in Cankaya for visitors and visa procedures, 1-person dead

2015	Fatih Security Tourism Branch Office in front of the hood of the attacker was detonated by attackers. A cop died in the explosion.
2016	In Sultanahmet Square, a bomb. All those killed in the explosions were civilians.
2016	Explosion of a car loaded with a bomb in front of the bus stations next to Güvenpark in Kızılay Square and 37 people killed 1 police officer
2016	On Istiklal Street. All those killed in the explosion were civilians.
2016	A live bomb exploding near the Grand Mosque in Bursa. The assailant didn't die outside.

4. CONCLUSION

Terrorism damage countries like Turkey, which is developing country, badly by taking aim at tourism industry. The fact that terrorism prefers tourism industry to damage innocent people causes economic problems in countries which are resource-rich. If a safe area is not supplied to tourists, we need to be ready for events which we do not want to happen. The thing which should be done in this case is to supply governments to be ready for such events because it is impossible to exterminate terrorism. Limit of news and images, which might damage tourism industry, should be determined and press council should solve it based on media policy. Because of the research and interview, terrorist attacks, politics and spreading of news fast affects tourism. In conclusion, it is important how media show such events and its approach is to the events which happen in touristic places of Turkey. This study might be an example about terrorist attacks on tourism industry for other studies. Economic damage, speeches of statesmen about foreign policy might be regarded as continuation of the study.

5. APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW

Is it affected tourism in Turkey from inter-state politics?

Tourism is one of the most important sources of income and as is known, Turkey is a kind of heaven which has four seasons. However, even politics and speeches of politicians might affect tourism.

How much does crisis of the aircraft with Russian affect tourism?

We can regard it as an exam of the other question. Russia is one of the greatest countries and generally, its citizens visit south of Turkey a lot. They like spending time a place where is close to Mediterranean Sea. After some political problems between Russia and Turkey, Russia has stricken an attitude seriously. After the aircraft of Russia has been shot down. Russia decided to suspend the relation with Turkey. Moreover, the government of Russia has advised its citizens not to go to Turkey and this fact caused to an observable decrease in tourism. Empty rooms at hotels unsettled tourism professionals.

How do terrorist incidents which has happened in some places, which are named 'heart of Turkey' affect tourism?

Terrorist attacks make troubles and suffer in every country. However, it is more serious problem to mold public opinion as if a state cannot protect even tourists and to be become a target. When a place, where is visited by tourists and our own citizens, is attacked, this fact has repercussions all around the world. The role of media is very important on this occasion. Every news affects tourism sector such as the September 11 attacks or Sultanahmet attack. The September 11 attacks caused to a decrease in tourism sector of USA. Reservations were cancelled discount up to %50 in first three months.

Istanbul is seventh city which is most visited. About 12 million tourists visit Istanbul meanwhile, the number is 7.7 million in the area where Topkapı Palace and Aghia Sophia are in and Dolmabahce Palace hosts 527 thousand tourists. Members of the terror organization, which has organized an attack in Sultanahmet, attained the goal. National and international media broadcasted this event as breaking news. Information pollution could not be prevented.

After the explosion of Sultanahmet, tour guides, environment and tour companies were affected mostly. Some messages were posted by “#bizleridedusunun” via social networks like Facebook and Twitter. The period when bad news was being shown about Turkey, people were advised not to post about it in English by “#turizmcilerindikkatine”.

Cruise lines changed their schedules, Cruises and Caribbean companies alleged lack of security as a pretext.

As it is seen, news affected tourism and countries economically and directly after each attack. However, goals of attacks aren't just economical. To become target underlies terrorist attacks against tourists and to be in a foreign country never changes the reality that every citizen represents their own country. Tourists generally forget what happened in a short time however, frequency of bad events might increase bad effects. Massacres which occur because of terrorist attacks cause a destruction on tourism industry.

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