

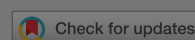
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'Kamikaze' heritage tourism in Japan: a pathway to peace and understanding?

Richard Sharpley ✉

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ABSTRACT

Reflecting the wider belief that international tourism offers the opportunity to encourage peace and understanding amongst peoples and nations, one objective of Japan's recent tourism development policy is the enhancement of mutual understanding and the promotion of international peace. The purpose of this paper is to consider the extent to which this objective is achievable, particularly in the context of continuing military research and Yūshōkai's narrative of the Pacific War but might underpin a more nuanced understanding of the kamikaze. Hence, the paper

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concludes that a meaningful opportunity to enhance international understanding has been missed.

KEYWORDS: Tourism and peace Japan difficult heritage dissonance Chiran peace museum Yūshūkan War Museum

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

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Richard Sharpley is Professor of Tourism and Development at the University of Central Lancashire, UK, and Visiting Professor with the Centre for Tourism Research, Wakayama University, Japan. His principal research interests are within the fields of tourism and sustainable development, the tourist experience and dark tourism. He has published numerous books and papers in all three areas. Currently, he is engaged in three-year project exploring the presentation and interpretation of Japan’s difficult pasts.

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