









# **ABSTRACT**

Reprints & Permissions

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 controversy surrounding the country's confrontation of its twentieth century military heritage in general and its role in the Pacific War in particular. Based on research at two 'difficult' heritage sites, Chiran Peace Museum in Kagoshima Prefecture and Yūshūkan War Museum in Tokyo, it explores specifically how the kamikaze phenomenon is commemorated and interpreted for international visitors, in so doing revealing a significant degree of dissonance at both sites. Not only is a selective narrative of heroic sacrifice presented within a wider revisionist history of the Pacific

Share

Read this article

War but also no attempt is made to acknowledge the prevailing cultural context that might underpin a more nuanced understanding of the kamikaze. Hence, the paper 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).

### Note on contributors

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.



Information for

**Authors** 

**R&D** professionals

**Editors** 

Librarians

**Societies** 

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

Open access

Overview

Open journals

**Open Select** 

**Dove Medical Press** 

F1000Research

Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

### Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up











Accessibility



Copyright © 2025 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954 5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG