

Zwischen Fluch und Segen

Tourismus und regionale Transformation
in Salzburg und Savoyen (1860-1914)

DISSERTATION

zur Erlangung des Doktorgrades

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Fachbereich Geschichte

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Abstract

In some alpine regions, such as the Austrian province of Salzburg and the French departments Savoie and Haute-Savoie, tourism seems to be omnipresent. The positive as well as the negative effects and impacts of modern (mass) tourism are evident in almost all areas of life – socially, economically, politically, culturally or ecologically. The years between roughly 1860 and 1914 were the first take-off-period of modern tourism that fundamentally altered many Alpine regions. Tourism is crucial for regional development and processes of change. A seemingly unlimited tourism development of the Alps and competing claims among interest groups resulted in a multifaceted conflict that is still ongoing today. Tourism seems to be both a blessing and a curse – depending on the perspective. With an about 200 years lasting tourism tradition, the significance and transformative power of tourism in Salzburg and Savoy is beyond all question. But in what ways did Belle Époque tourism change alpine landscapes and environmental perceptions? The comparative analysis of tourism's role in transformation processes in Salzburg and Savoy in the 19th and early 20th century focuses on the interdependencies and relations between tourism and mobility enabling infrastructures, such as railways and hotels. In addition male and female actors, individuals and institutions, acting in favour or against tourism development, are foregrounded. The combination of an infrastructural and an actor-oriented approach enables the merger of structural and subject-oriented levels. How did the combination of infrastructure- and tourism development and the involved actors lead to the transformation of alpine peripheries into tourism destinations?