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Abstract

Mountainous areas offer an important visiting, touring, recreational and culturally didactic destination for contemporary societies. Nevertheless, the correlation of cultural ethics with mountain territories, especially those of high altitude, has not always been positive. As far as it regards Western societies, the affirmative crucial change to mountain oriented cultural habits coincides with the end of the 18th century, and the upraise of the European romanticism. The first part of this volume refers to the previous historic alteration of the cultural imaginary and the way that architectural formations participated to the mountain tourism; providing, through the two previous centuries till nowadays, minor ingenious bivouacs for the adventurous mountaineers, or extended housing and athletic facilities for the biggest number of visitors. The second part of the volume refers to the Hellenic mountainous areas, insisting on the fact that an extended part of them may be associated to important incidents, concerning

the real participation of their cultural communities to the historic transformations of the Hellenic and Balkan area, or their emblematic imaginary participation to the ideological neoteric transformation of the post-Renaissance social and political ethics. It is in this context that the promotion and the development of the Hellenic mountainous areas has to be regarded as an effort that largely exceeds economic aspirations of a simplistic touristic attitude. It must be accepted as a cultural and political commitment, in correlation to the didactic offer that has to be provided to the visitors and, furthermore, to the local inhabitants. In the second part of the volume, the context of the term 'tradition' is firstly analyzed, in comparison to the historic importance of the Hellenic mountainous territories in reference. Then we proceed to the presentation of exemplary proposals, of academic didactic or research context, concerning the description and promotion of their valuable, internationally unique, identity.

