

Political Dimensions Of Sustainable Tourism Development

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Abstract :

Interest in tourism as an incentive for sustainable development is considered a significant economic requirement to enhance investment in natural, environmental and cultural tourist sites. Also, awareness of the significance of tourism development and management in efficient manner is considered one of the world tourism organization's objectives. As well as tourism and economic experts confess the necessity of tourism countries in enjoying a high degree of security and political stability, and this is done by creating the political and economic environment and setting laws that organize the tourism activity. Hence, tourism policies work to push the state towards realizing rational and sustainable tourism development in which the individual is the primary doer and basic beneficiary. Where the decision maker in the state must take into consideration the process of preparing the necessary political and security ground for the sake of advancing the tourism sector, conciling between the different political and tourism objectives, and creating an environment that facilitates the process of building tourism development, which are considered strategic steps that serve the economic development of the state and even the thorough development in general. This is what this research paper targets to clarify through studying the political dimensions of tourism as an basic entrance for building sustainable tourism development.

Keywords: sustainable tourism development, political dimensions of tourism, tourism policy, tourism security.

Introduction:

Tourism represents one of the essential components of the global economy. Where lot of countries around the world rely on tourism as the main source of national income for their economies. As well as lot of countries around the world

consider tourism as a leader in economic development sectors, a primary employer of labor, and contributes a large percentage of the national income of those countries, and this is what made the activity of the international tourism witness a significant and sustainable growth in terms of the tourists' number and tourism revenues over the past few decades.

So, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, international tourism covers the individuals' activities who are travelling to other places that are outside their usual and permanent residence and staying there for a period not exceeding 12 months for the sake of spending good times, carrying out business activities, or for other objectives. And relying on this general definition, the tourism industry contains all the social and economic activities that are directly or indirectly connected with the provision of goods and services to the tourists, and in this context, the World Tourism Organization has set 185 activities that are related to the supply side that have a significant relation with the tourism sector⁽¹⁾. So, with this great network of social and economic activities and required the infrastructure to enhance them, tourism is considered one of the biggest sectors in the world, besides to its being a significant element in the international trade.

Hence, The effect of tourism is not limited just to the economic aspect by raising the national income, but it also extends to influence the overall development in general from cultural, social and environmental aspects. It also contributes to raising communication between peoples and civilizations, and this shows the utmost significance and the great weight of the tourism industry in the international economy. Therefore, countries were keen to provide all political circumstances and conditions, including the legal ones, as an essential environment and initial ground to conduct a rational tourism development that provides all conditions to serve tourism activity, including the economic and social activity in general.

In spite of the tourism significance in the national economy, regional and even international economies, and in spite of its social and environmental effects, the tourism political aspects are little discussed in the tourism literature, with accepting the people's large seasonal movements

⁽¹⁾-World Tourism Organization (UNWTO),
Understanding Tourism : Basic Glossary :
<http://ef.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/docpdf/glossaryenrev.pdf>. (20/08/2018).

internally and externally which are represented in travel in the modern era. And in spite of the diverse influences of politics on many tourist destinations, however, shedding light on the relationship between politics and tourism stays somehow ambiguous in compared, for example, with the relationship of tourism to the economy. Accordingly, **the significance of this research** is highlighted through showing the relationship between tourism and politics, or rather showing how politics affects tourism more precisely.

So, politics is a substantial issue and one of the fundamental components of the tourism development, as the research into the political dimensions of tourism that is considered a social and economic terminology that has significant contents, especially through the power distribution within the host tourism communities, cultural representation, education, and international relations. That raises substantial inquiries that are correlated to the political economy of the tourism development in the contemporary communities.

And this is what we are attempting to show through this research paper by raising the following **problematic**:

How can understanding the political dimensions of tourism contribute to coming up with a build a sustainable tourism development?

This study starts from a **general hypothesis** which is represented in:

- Understanding the political dimensions of tourism is considered as an essential approach for the sake of coming up with build a rational tourism development, and this is done by investigating the different aspects of the relationship that exists between politics and tourism and becoming familiar with them, then, then creating and equipping the requisite and suitable political environment for building a tourism development.

With the aim of discussing the interrelationships between tourism and politics methodically, this relationship is analyzed at many levels, from the international level to the individual one, and this is done through the following axes:

First: What is tourism and sustainable tourism development.

Second: Standards of political analysis in the tourism context.

Third: Tourism and the process of making policies.

Fourth: Tourism, international relations and diplomacy.

Fifth: Tourism and political stability: The influence of terrorism and political violence on tourism.

First: What is tourism and sustainable tourism development.

The process of defining and adjusting the general framework of concepts is considered generally among the hardest and most difficult issues in the social sciences, as it targets to adjust and check terminology, which collides with the differences in researchers' perceptions and understandings that are colored by many considerations and loyalties. And we will attempt in the following to deal with the most significant definitions of tourism and sustainable tourism development through tracking and extrapolating the most significant of these contributions, which their references are multiple in determining and building the concept.

1- Essential concepts concerning tourism:

Tourism is considered as a model of assorted and regenerate relations among the world's peoples and their civilizations, and this is for the sake of exchanging knowledge, intellectual rapprochement, and bringing understanding among these peoples. Therefore, it is considered one of the most significant means to realize the world peace, as well as it supports the intellectual insight, intellectual diversity, civilizational, cultural and economic diversity, and for this reason, it can be considered an effective element in the economic and social change.

1-1- Definition of tourism:

The World Tourism Organization of the United Nations (UNWTO) defines **tourism** as the activity of travel for the purpose of leisure and providing services that are related to this activity. And the **tourist** is that person who moves for the purpose of tourism to a distance of at least eighty kilometers from his home⁽²⁾. So, tourism is a human activity that includes a person traveling, moving, or undertaking a trip to reside temporarily and for a limited period in another place far from his original place of residence, whether in his country or in a foreign one, for the sake of mental and physical relaxation, and it is influenced by lot of factors such as transportation, the individual's income, his culture and urbanization degree,

-(2)Salah Zain al-Din,. A study of the opportunities and challenges of sustainable tourism development in Egypt. Faculty of Law, Tanta University: Third International Scientific Conference: Law and Tourism, April 2016.p4.

location and environment, and the availability of tourist landmarks.

Tourism represents all the forms of travel and accommodation for those are non local residents, and the transition of individuals outside the political borders of the state they live in for a period of more than twenty-four hours and less than one year, provided that the objective that stands behind that is not the permanent residence, work, study, or simply transiting to another country. And from other side, tourism can be considered as a specific use of free time and all forms of relaxation, and it contains most forms of travel, so, it is nothing but a temporary movement of population or people to given regions that are outside their residence regions and permanent habitation where it covers all the activities that are performed in the targeted areas, as well as all the services and facilities that have been provided to conduct these activities ⁽³⁾.

Tourism comprises forms of travel that are related to the profession, cure, professional tourism, and recovery tourism, besides to all forms of free travel that aims to relax and amuse in the general sense. It is a set of alternate relationships that is created between a person who is temporarily present in some place and the people who reside in that place, and these relationships and services are resulted from the temporary and willingly change of accommodation, without being motive by work or profession reasons ⁽⁴⁾.

1-2- Types of tourism:

Tourism sector is considered among the most significant sectors of the human activity in the modern state. And there are lot of types of tourism according to the criteria that are taken in classifying tourists, and below the most significant ones ⁽⁵⁾:

A- Types of tourism according to location and boundaries:

There are two essential types: International or foreign tourism, domestic or local tourism, and there is another type which is known as the regional tourism like the region of Latin America, the Middle East, or East Asia.

⁽³⁾Ibid.p6

⁽⁴⁾hawky Abdel Moaty,. A study in the science of tourism entrance. Alexandria: Dar Al-Wafa for the world of printing, 2014 p19.

⁽⁵⁾Salah al-Din Kharboutli,. Sustainable tourism. Syria: Dar al-Ridha, 2004.p33

B- Types of tourism according to the duration of the tourist's stay and the characteristics of the tourist area:

There is a lasting tourism which is the tourism that takes place throughout whole the year for instance, like the cultural or religious tourism and there is a seasonal tourism which is limited to a period of the year like the summer or winter tourism.

C- Types of tourism according to tourist attractions:

It is divided into three types: Cultural tourism, nature tourism and social tourism.

D- Types of tourism according to the objective:

There is for instance, leisure tourism, cultural tourism, medical tourism, religious tourism, sports tourism, conference tourism, and business tourism ⁽⁶⁾.

E- Types of tourism according to means of transportation:

There is air a tourism which takes place by flight, land tourism by cars and trains, and sea tourism by ships and yachts. There is a new type of tourism which is called a space tourism, and this tourism is so far limited to a very few people because the trip costs millions of dollars.

1-3- Tourism significance worldwide:

Tourism became among the most significant industries in the world where it plays a great role in the global economy and became the future industry, particularly in the midst of the sustainable development concept where the tourism has become the most civilized industry and the least polluting of the environment. Tourism plays a significant role in the sustainable development as it justifies the operations to maintain the cultural balance in the tourist sites and maintains the elements of tourist attraction.

According to data obtained by the World Tourism Organization, the number of tourists in the world touched a record number of about 1.2 billion people in 2015, and this represents a raise of 4% over the previous year. Also, the tourism sector, on the other hand, contributed to economic growth and created new job opportunities in lot of countries of the world, where it touched 3% in the countries of the Middle East and Africa, 4% in Asia and Latin America, and 5% in Europe

⁽⁶⁾Tbid.p-p 45-51..51-45

and America ⁽⁷⁾.

Global demand for tourism product has raised as a result of many factors, such as the extreme variations in exchange rates and decline in oil prices and other strategic merchandises like the wheat. which facilitated the raise of the import capacity of several countries, whereas the capabilities of exporting countries weakened, and the profits of insurance, guarding and security companies also increased, besides to the tourism evolution relies on collective efforts to set the peace and security, and accordingly, securing tourism becomes part of the state's national security.

Among the results of a study that was conducted by the World Tourism Organization is that it is expected occurring a positive evolution in the global tourism movement after the year 2016, and this is with a growth rate of up to 5% on average. In the global tourism market, China, Britain and the United States of America come in first ranks. And in the year of 2015, the tourism agreement was connected with the strong currencies of these countries. The tourism agreement of China has doubled since 2014, particularly in the direction of America and Japan. Conversely, tourism markets movement has declined in in Russia and Brazil in spite of the decline in the value of their national currencies against the U.S. dollar and the European euro. The tourism agreement in America raised by 9% and in Britain by 6%. The tourism agreement was somehow modest in Germany, Italy and Australia, at about 2%, whereas the tourism demand in both France and Canada was weak⁸.

In a study conducted by the World Tourism Organization concluded that tourism is a labor intensive industry that has a multiplier effect on 70 nourishing and complementary industries and services, and it provides job opportunities in multiple activities and professions in direct and indirect manner, and according to data obtained by the World Tourism Organization, the number of tourists worldwide increased by 4%⁽⁹⁾ by mid 2015 to touch about 538 million tourists, this is an increase of 21 million over the same period of the previous year. The raise rate has touched in the countries of Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and the Middle East 5%, and in the Americas, 4%. And the political and security circumstances still play a

⁽⁷⁾-World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Tourism Highlights, 2015 Edition.

⁽⁸⁾-Ibid.

⁽⁹⁾-Ibid.

significant role in the growth of global tourism movement. As well as the demand for global tourism has been influenced by the decline in oil prices and the exchange rate variation for the various currencies.

According to the World Tourism Organization, growth of global tourism movement has touched on average 4% during the period 2010-2020, where the European countries were the regions in the world with the greatest growth in international tourism movement, at a rate of 5%, and may be one of the reasons for this is the decrease in the euro value against other international currencies. And the success of the reforming and the liberal economic transforming in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe led to the growth of tourism movement there to 6%, and in Western and Northern Europe to 5%, which is higher than the global average growth that touched 4%.

Concerning the poor countries which are the least developed ones (LDCs), tourism contributes about 7% of commodity and service exports, and about 10% of the non oil exports.

The world has witnessed a great evolution in the tourists' number from one side, and in the money they spend on their trips from the other side during the past years and decades, and the following chart explains that:

Chart Number(1): Evolution of the tourists' number in the world and their spending

Years	Tourists' number (in millions)	Spending (billion dollars)
1950	25	2
1960	69	7
1970	166	18
1980	286	105
1990	459	267
2000	698	560
2010	1018	1550
2020	1600	2000

Source: World Tourism Organization 2020 UNWTO.

The above table demonstrates the increasing evolution in the tourists' number over seven decades of time, where in 1950,

their number was estimated at about 25 million tourists, to increase to about 1018 million tourists in 2010, and it is also expected that the number will rise to 1,600 million tourists in 2020, which means an increase of about 57%.

Also, the money that the tourists spend on their trips is increasing, where it was estimated in 1950 at about 2 billion dollars, then it has been multiplied hugely to 1550 billion dollars in 2010, and the tourists' spending increased globally to 2000 billion dollars in 2020, and this is with a growth rate that is estimated at about 29%.

Throughout the past seven decades, there has been a great evolution in the tourists' number and their spending until tourism has become the industry number one in the world and has included all of the world, primarily the developed industrial countries like France, the United States of America, Spain and Germany, where there are now as many people who are working in the tourism sector as there are workers in the next five industries, which are electronics, electricity, iron and steel, textiles, cars. Also, the workers' number in the tourism sector has become in direct or indirect manner approximately 11% of the world's workforce. Tourism has become an essential role in the economic and social development, as every one who works directly in the tourism sector creates new job opportunities to employ people in indirect manner for other economic sectors.

2- Essential concepts concerning the sustainable tourism development:

Tourism development is considered a processes that are directed at creating structural transformations in the construction and installation of tourist resorts that are presented by any geographical area. And this is through the optimal use of the natural, economic, social and urban resources of this region according to the demand and needs of the tourism movement, for the sake of forming an effective economic base through which the increasing growth of tourism movement to the region will be achieved, and consequently, an increase in the real income that is resulted from the tourism activity.

Balanced, coherent and sustainable tourism development is considered one of the latest tourism concepts, where it includes the different programs that target to realize a continuous and balanced extension of tourism resources, and increase quality, rationalization and productivity in the

different tourism services whether related to international or domestic tourism. It is a process of complex components with bifurcated aspects, where it includes multiple overlapping and interacting elements that are based on a practical and applied attempt to realize the optimal exploitation of the primary elements of tourism production from a natural framework and cultural heritage, supported by a complete infrastructure base through scientific and technological progress for the sake of connecting all of this with the environmental elements, new energy uses, and developing sources of human wealth in order to play its effective role in the development programs, according to a varied tourism request that keeps pace and coincides with the tourism supply development ⁽¹⁰⁾.

However, concerning **sustainability** in tourism development, this expression came for the first time in the report of the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development which is called the Brundtland Commission in 1987 as the development that fulfils the present needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to fulfil theirs.

Tourism development is considered one of the effective modes to realize the economic and social development in the country through making a kind of harmony, compatibility and coordination among the different production and service sectors, to realize advance in the quality of life and its levels and realize prosperity for citizens, and it cannot be imagined that all of this will be realized as a final aim except by realizing the interim objectives in the different productive and service sectors, and among them is the tourism sector. So, working on realizing the tourism development in the integrated sense is an objective in itself, and at the same time it is a stage in realizing a greater objective which is realizing the economic and social development in the state.

Sustainable tourism development is considered the essential axis in our research, that's why we will deal with its concept, objectives and modes of application:

2-1- Concept of sustainable tourism development:

Sustainable and balanced tourism development is defined as a development that starts to be applied after a complete scientific study regarding integrated planning for economic, social and environmental development within the state as a

⁽¹⁰⁾Salah Zain al-Din,. A study of the opportunities and challenges of sustainable tourism development in Egypt. Opcit.p22.

whole, or any territory in which the elements of tourism development combine, of natural and cultural attractions elements, and the European Union for the Environment and National Parks defines sustainable tourism development as an activity that maintains the environment, realizes the economic and social integration, and ameliorates the architectural environment, and it is also defined as the development that meets and fulfils the needs of current tourists and guest communities and guarantees the benefit of the future generations, as well as it is the development that manages resources with a mode that realizes economic, social and aesthetic benefits with keeping on the cultural unity, continuity of ecological processes, biological diversity and the essential components of life.

We can depend upon the definition of the World Tourism Organization of sustainable tourism as a tourism system that takes into consideration the economic, social and environmental effects on communities hosting tourists. That's why, sustainable tourism development must ensure the non-unfair use of natural and cultural resources, and take into consideration the social and civilized characteristics of the communities hosting tourists, with guaranteeing the realization of the economic, social and environmental benefits for all parties in long term.

The future of the tourism sector relies on protecting the wildlife, biodiversity and creating integrating between the concepts of environment and economics, and this is done through the protection of the environment from pollution, destruction, and unfair use of the natural resources. So, the World Tourism Organization evolved instructions and directions must be pursued when formulating a policy for sustainable tourism development as a part of global initiatives in the form of the "Global Tourism Principles", where it contains universal principles about the minimum sustainability requirements that must be applied by hotels, establishments and tourist resorts.

The World Tourism Organization also took in 2007 the initiative to present an initiative to the Davos forum concerning the global economy for the sake of tourism and facing the problem of climate change, as a contribution to treating some heat emission problems, climate change and applying environmentally friendly technologies. This is to guarantee aid and financing for poor countries by establishing projects to protect the environment and natural resources from pollution and destruction.

Sustainable tourism is an effective element in maintaining the cultural and historical heritage of the nation. As a significant source of national income, the tourism sector depends upon the national culture and enhances the local communities to maintain their cultural heritage which is a part of the humanity's heritage .

2-2- Concepts that are related to the sustainable tourism:

There are a lot of alternative forms of tourism that can be combined within the general definition of sustainable tourism. These forms have common points with one of the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, which are as follows ⁽¹¹⁾:

A- Ecotourism or the green tourism:

Ecotourism determines the tourism forms that are adopted in natural field. And it is closely connected with the concept of discovering the natural environments, being careful to preserve them, and tourists must implement best practices which are related to respecting the natural and human environment that hosts them. According to the definition of the world tourism organization, ecotourism "fulfils the present needs of tourists and host bodies, with maintaining the natural tourism qualities and valuing them for the future. As well as ecotourism works on managing resources that respond to the economic, social and aesthetic needs, with maintaining the cultural combination, the obligatory ecological processes, biodiversity and systems that support life."

Also, the International union for conservation of nature defines ecotourism as a responsible visit to natural surroundings for the sake of enjoying nature and every cultural dimension from the past or present, where it It contributes to enhancing resource conservation, has little negative effect and provides economic and social privileges to the local inhabitants.

B- Fair tourism:

The terminology "fair" is basically used in the context of transactions among the consumers in the advanced north, and suppliers in the developing south, and fair tourism is defined as a group of tourism service activities which tourism operators offer to responsible travellers, and they are prepared by local residents. Also, social, cultural and financial benefits of these

⁽¹¹⁾ibid pp25-28..28-25

activities must be tangible locally, and distributed evenly among the local population.

C- Responsible tourism:

According to the international alliance for responsible tourism, "Responsible tourism determines every single form of tourism development, initialization and tourism activities that respect and maintain long-term natural, cultural and social resources, where in turn, they contribute in positive and fair manner to the development and prosperity of individuals who live and reside in these spaces."

As well as responsible tourism contributes to creating mutual understanding and respect among people. And since it is the engine of individual and collective prosperity, responsible tourism depends upon authenticity, the encounter of tourists with local people, and the non invasive use of the natural resources.

D- Solidarity tourism:

Solidarity tourism combines "alternative" forms of tourism which give the priority and extreme significance to people and encounters through travel and are included within the framework of regional development. And among the grounds on which this tourism is based are the involvement of local residents in the different stages of the tourism project, respect for individuals, cultures and nature, and the fair distribution of the acquired wealth. Also, solidarity tourism seeks to make both tourists and local residents at the same time as an undertaker and consumer of tourism activity. Therefore, producing solidarity tourism requires three given parties: northern associations, southern essential organizations, and tourists.

E- Social tourism:

Social tourism is the fruit of a moral necessity for the sake of making tourism for everyone, and it gives special significance to low income groups of the population like young people, the category of retirees especially, and people with special needs. And according to the international office for social tourism which seeks to enhance the development of social tourism internationally, social tourism is "the totality of reports and phenomena that are resulted from participation in tourism, particularly the involvement of low income social classes, and this involvement can be realized or facilitated through measures of a social nature."

F- United nations program for the sustainable tourism:

The united nations sustainable tourism program was set based on the initiative of France, Korea and Morocco, where it contains approximately 40 agencies and bodies which are working in the international tourism, and the program objectives are summarized as follows:

- Merging the sustainable consumption and production patterns into creating the tourism policies and their work spaces.
- Cooperation among all the bodies that are interested in the sustainable tourism to improve the performance levels of the sustainable consumption and production.
- Enhancing the processes of introducing and applying the technical assistance tools and guidance to ban the negative side effects of tourism and taking into consideration commitment to the patterns of sustainable consumption and production.
- Improving the performance levels in the fields of financing and investment in the sustainable tourism.

2-3- Principles of the sustainable tourism development:

The raising interest in tourism pushed to a growing its role in development through enhancing investment in setting tourist resorts and infrastructure projects, particularly in the midst of the sustainability concept.

And the principles of sustainable tourism development are represented in the following points⁽¹²⁾:

A- Creating new opportunities for investment and accordingly creating new job opportunities and diversification of the economy, raising the national income, improving the infrastructure and public services in the host communities, fulfilling the essential needs of the human element and improving the living standards, making the efficient use of land and planning the floor spaces in a way that suits the surrounding environment.

B- The involvement of the local communities in taking tourism development decisions and accordingly creating tourism development which depends on the community,

-(12) Abdul Aziz Maher,, Tourism industry. Zahran Publishing and Distribution, Jordan, 2008.p48

upgrading the level of the entertainment facilities and making them available to tourists and local residents as well, and paying attention to the tourism effect on the cultural system of the tourist destinations.

C- Protecting the environment and paying attention to natural resources and the cultural heritage of the communities, upgrading the environmental awareness and environmental issues among tourists, workers and local communities, finding standards for the environmental accounting and supervising the negative effects on tourism, and realizing the justice among the members of one generation and among the different generations in terms of the right to benefit from economic and environmental resources.

2-4- The significance of sustainable tourism development:

Tourism development is considered one of the objectives of the overall economic and social development because of its ability of improving the balance of payments, providing job opportunities, and creating income generating opportunities. Besides to contributing to improving the social and cultural mode and lifestyle for all members of community. The raising interest in tourism pushed to a growing its role in the development where it enhances investment in creating tourism projects through tax exemptions on tourism imports, and it will also provide significant opportunities for states to contribute to setting infrastructure projects in the country. The tourism sector is considered a pioneer in creating interactions with the rest of the economic branches and activities as they are is considered the forward and backward links to that sector.

The economic significance of tourism development is evident through the following⁽¹³⁾:

A- Improving the balance of payments: This is through the influx of foreign capital to invest in the tourism projects, and also through the good uses of natural resources and what the tourism will realize of resources as a result of finding economic relations between it and other sectors in the state in sync with the economic benefits that the state gains. So, of revenues obtained from hard currencies resulting from the tourist request for foreign and domestic tourism that contributes to raising the national product of the state in a direct or indirect manner. And accordingly, contributing to the

⁽¹³⁾Ibid.56-61. .61-56

process of the economic construction, besides to the recovery that this industry brings to large segments of society.

B- Providing job opportunities and solving the unemployment problem: Because the growth of the tourism industry and the projects that are related to it contributes to providing new job opportunities which decreases the unemployment. Consequently, this leads to higher level of income and well being for the community, an increase in the growth rate of the tourists' spending, and the direct effect of the tourism in providing job opportunities is from the tourism sector to the related sectors that are related to it.

C- Raising the comfortable investment opportunities: The state can determine wide fields for the process of the investment in this sector in a manner that makes a good use of the factors for the advancement of tourism, and this is done by investing and employing national and foreign capital and directing it towards the economically profitable fields, given to the ability that the private sector has of boosting the competitive advantages of the tourism projects, finding possible means to attract tourists, introducing the best sorts of technics and equipment, and improving the job ways, its performance and methods. Here, state supervision is required to formulate an overall strategy, and the private sector and its role in tourism development is considered one of the most significant items of its elements.

D- Realizing the balanced development among territories: Where the tourism development leads to distributing and setting new tourism projects in the different governorates of the country, particularly since the cultural, archaeological and religious sites are distributed throughout the different parts of country from the north to the south, which means achieving a balanced development for the territories, particularly the economically backward ones. And this is done through finding work, improving the living standard of the people of these regions, increasing the well being of individuals, and exploiting the natural resources in the territories, where the distribution of income among regions or territories will result in realizing a state of economic balance, redistributing income, and developing these regions since they are places of population attraction. Consequently, the possibility of limiting the immigration from backward regions to the most developed ones, where the tourism contributes to reviving gatherings and human settings in which there is or close to the tourism factors. As well as it contributes to deepening cultural

awareness among citizens and stimulating the evolution of the road network to cover the backward regions to the most developed ones, as tourism contributes to deepening cultural awareness among citizens and stimulating the evolution of the road network to cover new regions.

Second: Standards of political analysis in the tourism context.

It is known and necessarily that the climate of peace is the right climate for the development in its overall concept and tourism in particular, which means that there is a direct link between peace and tourism. So, peace is the main variable and tourism is the dependent variable, and peace is the positive face of politics. Therefore, the relationship between tourism and politics becomes an intuitive matter that is based on the relationship between peace and tourism.

And through the transition from these philosophical and theoretical statements to the realistic and scientific applications, the close relationship between tourism and politics is confirmed to us. So, Tourism as an activity intersects with lot of interests and levels, where combining the two terms, which means tourism and politics in one term is "tourism policy" carries with it lot of significances and, political, economic, social, cultural activities, and other individual, human, natural and environmental activities.

So, tourism policy of any country that is interested in tourism is formed through the objectives of the institutions and the different interest groups that contribute to a degree or another in making decision. Where the view of tourism is no longer an independent system that operates autonomously away from the political authority in the state only, but, the governments of the states that are involved in tourism activity set their tourism policies as a national objective. Besides to that, they become to play a significant role in the fields of planning, coordination, development and financial support for the tourism sector, or in other meaning, paying attention to the legal and regulatory aspects that aid in the tourism development. And this is what made the political dimensions of tourism receive the great attention in the recent years.

Tourism as a social science has received just a little attention from the side of the political studies and public policy studies, however, the the constant growth in travel domestically and internationally, that is accompanied by increasing interests at the global level, the potential effects of tourism, pushing the study of tourism to be more widish. And

with recognizing the political nature of tourism development, checking **the political dimensions of tourism** will become more clearly a cornerstone of the tourism analysis.

Since **politics** is fundamentally about authority, studying authority arrangements is considered a vital matter to analyze the political effects of tourism because authority rules the game among individuals, organizations, and systems that effect or attempt to influence the policy direction.

The **authority** concept can be defined as: "All forms of successful control by A over B, which means guaranteeing the submission of B". So, the use of the concept of "authority" is necessarily related to a given set of valuable assumptions that previously determine the extent of its application in practice. For instance, the pluralism concept in the process of tourism policy making, on which the concept of community based tourism planning is based, which emphasizes on the various aspects of the policy making process concerning the structural concept of politics and a certain values or a specific political perspective⁽¹⁴⁾ that it entails. So, the authority spacious use, the ability to distinguish decisions, and the societal political environment will contribute to analyzing the political dimensions of tourism.

Therefore, studying the political appearances of tourism must seek not only to understand the political constraints that are imposed on the scope of decision making, but it must also seek to understand the political field in which the decision making process itself takes place.

There are five essential **elements** of policy. **Firstly**, it is fundamentally about the activity of decision making among and for a group of people, whether it is a small group, a gathering, an organization, or a nation. **Secondly**, it revolves around the decisions and the different policies and ideologies that aid in forming the various choices that effect decisions. As well as it is concerned on the **third** side with the inquiry of who makes decisions, a single, individual or an elite, and how these decisions are represented to their makers. The **fourth** element of politics is occurred by the processes through which decisions are made and the different institutions within which they are made. The **fifth** and final element of politics is represented in

-(14)Michael Hall Colin,. Tourism and Politics, translated by: Muhammad Farid Hijab. Supreme Council of Culture, 1st Edition, 2003.p22.

that it is concerned with how decisions are applied and executed in society⁽¹⁵⁾.

So, through the essential elements of the above mentioned policy, it is openly evident that all decisions and regardless of their nature are made within and according to the state's institutions, including decisions and policies that are set for the sake of building the overall development and which **tourism development** represents one of its aspects, so, it is considered one of the most significant fields of the community development, and which works on providing the facilities and services to fulfill the needs and desires of tourists. Also, it takes the integrated manufacturing character which means setting and constructing the tourist centers that include the different services that the tourist needs during his stay in a way that suit the financial capabilities of the different groups of tourists⁽¹⁶⁾.

Tourism development covers all aspects that are linked with the spatial patterns of tourism supply and demand, geographical distribution of touristic products, flow and tourist movement, and the different tourism effects.

The development of **the tourism industry** is ruled by several considerations that must be taken into account, the most significant of which: state's support for the tourism sector by facilitating the executing the tourism programs, as well as tourism development requires coordination of the different policies within the tourism country because of the connexion of tourism with other systems, like: transportation, customs, trade and services in general⁽¹⁷⁾. And this is done through the tourist policies that are compatible and appropriate to the general objectives of tourism development.

And accordingly, **the tourism policy** is the essential field of the official and unofficial systems in the state to proceed and advance tourism in order to realize the national objectives which are inspired by it as a significant production and service sector, and in other meaning, more specifically, the tourism policy is the policy that is adopted by the different decision making systems which work in the field of a given economic and social system. Therefore, the tourist policy requires for setting it : technicians, legislators, administrators and

-(15) Ibid. pp36-53.

-(16) Youssef Kamel Mustafa,. Tourism industry and tourism security. Raslan House for Printing, Publishing and Distribution, 2009.p132.

-(17) Ibid.p137.

specialized executives.

So, the tourism policy is "A bundle of instructions, rules, objectives and strategies that form all together a general framework in which public and individual decisions are oriented in direct manner to influence the process of tourism development and the tourism activities" ⁽¹⁸⁾.

However, **the rational tourism policy**, is a set of laws, regulations and activities with political, social, economic and cultural forms that are realized by the different state systems and the relevant institutions for the sake of completely organizing the tourism operations, of predicting, planning, regulating, managing and providing the circumstances to develop the domestic and external tourism and marketing services, merchandise and tourist sites ⁽¹⁹⁾.

Accordingly, the essence of tourism policy emerges, and which is represented in the conscious influence of tourism evolution by the bodies and organizations with full rights in issuing legislation, regulations and laws. So, tourism became an pressing social requirement at this stage of human and social evolution. and it is the same motivation that makes the researcher and academic attempt to contribute to finding the link among the different sectors and fields, political, economic, social and cultural, and how each side contributes to serving the other aspects.

So, the touristic research must not ignore in its main field the political dimension of tourism development. As well as, political science must also contribute to studying tourism to a large extent and never ignore the tourism role in the contemporary community. Political scientists have researched in depth the issues of defense, housing, health, environmental problems, and social policy everywhere in the world, but they rarely touched on the tourism subject.

The nature of tourism in a given community is the result of interacting complex economic and political factors. Besides to the geographical and recreational traits that attract foreigners, so, the decisions that affect tourism policy, the nature of the government's interest in tourism, the structure of tourism organizations, and the nature of tourism development, emerge from the political process, and this

⁽¹⁸⁾Othman Mohammed Ghoneim,. Tourism planning and tourism development. Dar Safaa for Publishing and Distribution, D.T.p94.

⁽¹⁹⁾Ibid.p101.

process contains of the doers' values (individuals, interest groups, and organizations of the both sectors public and private) in their struggle for the sake of power.

Third: Tourism and the process of the policy making.

The political dimensions of tourism emerge at different levels: the international level, the national level, and the local level, the societal level and the individual level. Regardless of the analysis level, the political process is submitted to the state control, where the state is a very complex structure, and represents a major significant in understanding the public policy environment as the state interprets the values, interests, and resources into objectives and policies.

The state is a strong, resilient, pragmatic and reflective social structure capable of strong purposeful action in many fields of social activity in which tourism is considered a significant field.

The state conducts four main functions: preserving the internal order, military issues, preserving communications infrastructure and economic redistribution. All of these functions influence tourism policy and tourism development to different degrees.

Understanding the relationship between tourism and the state can be better realized through determining the main institutions that form the state and which consider the government as one of the central institutions of the state. And there are seven main fields which represent the role of the government in tourism, which are: coordination, planning, legislation and regulation, government as an investor, motivation, the role of social tourism, and the role of protecting the interest⁽²⁰⁾.

1- **Coordination:** The state and even the government undertake the responsible to evolve tourism for the national interest, as it coordinates all tourism activities and realizes tune among them. So, coordination means the organization of the relationship among units, decisions and the requirement of work provided that there is tune among them, that there is no disagreement among them in the objectives, and that they work in coherent and interconnected modes to a reasonable extent. So, there are two different patterns of coordination:

-(20) Michael Hall Colin,. *Tourism and Politics*, op cit.p38.

- A. Administrative coordination: This occurs when there is agreement on objectives, aims and policies among the parties that must be coordinated, and there is no concord in execution.
 - B. Policy coordination: It occurs when there is a controversy on the policy objectives that must be worked on coordinate and executed them.
- 2- **Planning:** Tourism planning occurs in many forms: development, infrastructure, promotion and marketing, through many structures: the different government regulations, and at lot of levels: international, national, regional, local and sectoral.

Tourism planning tends to be a fusion of economic, social and environmental considerations. So, every tourist activity is organized in raising manner in order to appropriate with the interests of the tourist and resident. The need for landscape planning became more widely recognized. Therefore, planning is viewed from several angles as a process of keeping pace with the tourism policy⁽²¹⁾.

- 3- **Legislation and regulation:** The government is a broad series of legislative and regulatory powers that touch the tourism industry in direct or indirect manner. And the interest of government ranges from policy related to passports and visas, which form in some cases are a deterrent to travel, to international aviation agreements regarding rights of passage, landing and transportation, to land use, labor and wages policy⁽²²⁾.
- 4- **Government as an investor:** The role of the state (government) as an investor in the touristic development is closely related with the concept of “capital liberalization”, and due to this process the state presents a share in the production costs, like: helping in presenting the infrastructure or investing in a tourism project in order to permit private capital to invest in it. And in this process, the costs that are supposed to be private are transformed into public or social ones. So, presenting infrastructure and particularly the transport networks is viewed as a main factor of the tourist destinations development.

-(21)Naeem Al-Zahir,. Principles of Tourism: Tourism and Hotel Series 1. Amman, Jordan: Dar Al-Masirah for Publishing, Distribution and Printing, 1st Edition, 2011.p71.

-(22)Ibid.p74.

5- **Motivation or enhancing:** Governments can motivate tourism through three methods, which are: First: financial incentives, like: loans or grants for the tourist's stay. Second method: is carry out research to serve the tourism industry instead of being conducted by private individual organizations or associations. However the third method, can be realized through pushing tourism with marketing, promotion, and visitor service ⁽²³⁾.

6- **Social Tourism:** The international office for social tourism defines this sort of tourism as: « The total of the relationships and phenomena that are obtained from participating in the tourism by the side of the social categories with average incomes, and it is participation that becomes possible or easy through procedures that have a clear social trait ».

And via social tourism, the social, economic and environmental objectives of tourism can be set as follows:

- The complete objective is guaranteeing the fulfillment of the tourists and individuals needs in all aspects of life in the optimal manner through the effective collective facilities and preserving the environmental health.

- The partial objectives that include the social one, and which means creating the best possible social conditions for tourists and locals. It also includes the economic objective which means "enhancing the tourism industry in a competitive and effective manner." As well as there is the environmental objective which means "guaranteeing the comfortable quality of the natural and industrial tourist regions" ⁽²⁴⁾.

7- **Government the interests' protector:** The government performs the role of balancing the different interests and values at the national level more than sectional interests at the narrow level, which the tourism industry is considered one among them.

Most tourism literature directs to use a descriptive model which clarifies how to make the tourism decision and tourism policy. And **this rational descriptive entry** supposes the existence of a duality between the policy making and management process and the existence of economic man. So

-(23) Ahmed Fawzi Molokhia,. Introduction to the science of tourism. Alexandria, Egypt: Dar Al-Fikr Al-Jamia, 1st Edition, 2006.p89.

-(24) Mohammed Al-Serafi, Tourism and the environment between influence and influence. Alexandria, Egypt: Modern University Office, 1st Edition, 2008-2009.p112.

that individuals can determine the objectives, values, and aims, and arrange them. And this approach focuses on two objectives, the first of which is detecting what the government can do in precise and successful manner, and the second, how it can do these matters as efficiently as possible and with the lowest costs in terms of money or energy⁽²⁵⁾.

Fourth: Tourism, international relations and diplomacy.

Tourism has an increasing international nature that cannot be separated from the field of international relations. So, tourism is considered as one aspect of the foreign policy as much as it is a commercial activity where the global tourism infrastructure forms a significant component of the international relations.

Accepting foreign visitors and facilitating their travel within the borders of a certain country is a political act whose effect extends to the local politics, and accordingly, understanding the political relations among countries, and the countries policies towards the transition of the foreign citizens into or out of the country is considered as necessary matter for the sake of understanding the contemporary tourism.

As well as enhancing the flights flow among countries is considered as an evidence of the positive political relations, which means advanced diplomatic relations. For instance, travel among the previous socialist countries in Eastern Europe was supported to enhance the concepts of communist solidarity. And on the contrary, the flights flow among countries may be stopped if the political relations are weak. So, for instance, Americans have been banned since the early 1960s from traveling on direct flights to Cuba⁽²⁶⁾, where setting restrictions on the flights flow may be deliberately imposed to serve distant political objectives.

So, flights flow among countries may support the dependence on the mutual economic. As well as, tourism is viewed as a mechanism to realize better global harmony. And it acts as a force for peace, on the basis that the greater the contact among countries and cultures, the greater the international understanding level.

Fifth: Tourism and security: The political stability influence, terrorism and political violence on tourism.

⁽²⁵⁾Ibid.p126.

⁽²⁶⁾-Alain Mesphier, Pierre Bloc-Duraffour, *Tourisme dans le monde*, 6^{ème} Edition, Bréal, Paris, 2005.p 53.

Research and analysis of the tourism development of any given country cannot be done far from discussing the tourism security which is considered as a significant part of economic security and which in turn is considered as one of the overall security sectors, where it is impossible to conceive the prosperity of any given community without realizing the overall security, because it is considered as a condition and requirement that is no escape from it for establishing safety and stability in society. So, the political, social and economic stability in any society contributes in high degree to realizing the overall security, of which tourism security is considered as a significant part.

Tourism security means administrative and security activities that endeavoured to securing the path of tourism activities in a an environment where there is reassurance and without obstacles. And the tourist security is realized through providing all the suitable conditions which make the tourist accommodation safe and happy and provide him with all his requisite and recreational needs⁽²⁷⁾.

And the wide concept of tourism security covers:

- 1- Providing the different tourist facilities with the provision of their security and public safety there.
- 2- Guaranteeing the health security for the tourist in terms of providing health care if necessary, supervising the health of food and what is related to it in terms of places and workers, and disinfecting and cleaning the environmental sites that are frequented by the tourist.
- 3- Guaranteeing reception, hospitality, and good behaviour with the tourist by all those who deal with him of employees and public.
- 4- Providing the criminal security for tourist, and his general safety.
- 5- Organizing the tourism guide profession, and guaranteeing the fulfillment of the security and professional conditions of the tourist guide.
- 6- Providing companies that undertake serving the tourist, like: travel and tourism offices, organizing trips and others, and establishing security rules to control them⁽²⁸⁾.

-(27) Abdul Rahman Al Hamid Al-Alkmi,. Tourism security. Tunisia: Training Faculty, 2012.p15.

-(28) Ibid.pp 22-23.

Fright and insecurity are considered as the major barriers to travel and accordingly the greatest restrictions on the increase of the tourism industry. So, political stability is also considered as one of the most significant and main prerequisites to attract the international tourism towards the tourist places. Violent protests, civil war, terrorist acts, human rights violations, or even the threat of such activities, will lead tourists to cancel their trips, and accordingly, the relationship between tourism and political stability is openly clear.

Political stability is really significant not only for evolving the infrastructure that is needed for tourism, but it is also significant because of the main role that images play in touristic marketing and touristic promotion. So, it is a substantial prerequisite for establishing a successful tourism industry ⁽²⁹⁾.

And among the clear examples concerning the influence of the political instability on tourism is what happened in some Arab countries from the Arab Spring revolutions in 2011, which led to the changement of some political systems in those countries, where this was accompanied by a great political and security instability. Statistics that obtained from the world tourism organization mention the influence of that on numbers of arrivals, as it is clarified in the following chart ⁽³⁰⁾:

Chart Number (2): The political instability influence on tourism in the Arab countries.

The tourist destination	Number of tourists in millions 2010	Number of tourists in millions 2011	Change percentage between 2010-2011	Tourism income in billion dollars 2010	Tourism income in billion dollars 2011	Change percentage in income 2010-2011
Middle East	60.3	55.4	-8%	51.66	45.9	-11.2%
North Africa	18.8	17.1	-9.1%	9.66	9.47	-1.84%
Tunisia	6.9	4.8	-30%	2.65	1.81	-46.4%
Egypt	14.1	9.5	-32%	12.53	8.71	-43.9%
Syria	8.6	5.1	-40.7%	6.2	..	
Lebanon	2.17	1.66	-23.7%	8.012	..	

⁽²⁹⁾Youssef Kamel Mustafa,. Tourism industry and tourism security. Raslan House for Printing, Publishing and Distribution, 2009.p188.

⁽³⁰⁾-World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Tourism Highlights, 2012 Edition.

Jordan	4.56	3.98	-12.8%	3.59	3	-19.7%
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Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Tourism Highlights, 2016 Edition. pp.11,12.

As seen, the influence was not limited to the countries that witnessed the Arab Spring events, but it extended to neighboring countries like Lebanon and Jordan, with a decline in the numbers of tourists and income that is obtained from tourism.

Besides to that, **political violence** is also considered as a threat to security in general, and to tourism security in particular. Political violence may take on five dimensions that threaten the international tourism, which are: wars, inversions, terrorism, worries, and disturbances.

War is considered as a tragic matter for tourism, and far from the risks that war represents for individuals, the military activity can destroy the infrastructure, so, for instance, the years of civil war in the Middle East and the fight between Syria and Israel have caused a huge damage to the tourism industry which was flourished in Lebanon.

There is no doubt that political violence may last for a short period, but its long-term reflections on tourism may eddy for many years because it does not influence the tourists' confidence only, but also influences the potential investors' confidence in the tourism industry.

Therefore, tourism managers and planners have to become more complicated concerning the mode of their treating the crisis management, and to be more aware of the political dimensions of tourism development.

Also, **terrorism** is considered one form of the political violence that influences the tourism because of the increasing phenomenon of the political and economic mutual reliance, and this is done through two ways, which are:

A - Terrorist activities can ruin the tourism industry in a given place or a country, and this is by creating an image of inadequate security.

B- Tourists or tourist facilities like the arrival airports or planes could be targeted for attack, where tourist facilities are logical targets for terrorist violence.

Attacks on tourists or tourist facilities can be used by terrorists to realize a series of tactical, strategic and ideological objectives, this is the matter that effects the individuals' travel

decisions. For instance, the result of targeting tourists in Tunisia on March 18, 2015 through an armed attack on the Bardo Museum in the capital was the killing of 22 tourists and the injury of 47. Then the events of June 26, 2015, which targeted a hotel in the tourist region of El Kantaoui in the center of the coastal city of Sousse,⁽³¹⁾ during which 40 tourists were killed and 35 tourists were injured. This has had a direct reflex on tourism activity, where the number of visitors reduced from 1.42 million tourists in 2015 to 1.15 million tourists in 2016, which was reflected in the revenues of this sector from 390 million dollars to 204.4 million dollars ⁽³²⁾. And this the matter that shows openly the influence extent of the terrorism on tourism ⁽³³⁾.

Conclusion :

We conclude from the above: It is openly clear that the political and security stability play a significant role in providing the suitable environment for the development of the tourism activity, evolving and even continuing it in any country.

Thus, they represent the ground and the first main internal component of any tourism activity, also, tourism has an increasing international nature that cannot be separated from the field of international relations. So, tourism is considered as one of the aspects of the foreign policy as much as it is a commercial activity, where it forms the infrastructure for the global tourism. And this is the matter that shows the significance of the political dimension of the tourism and the requirement of understanding it as it is considered a basic entry for the sake of realizing the building of sustainable tourism development. This is done through investigating the different aspects of the existing relationship between politics and tourism and becoming familiar with them, then creating and preparing the required and conducive political environment to build the desired tourism development.

Interest in tourism as a motivation for the sustainable development is considered as a significant economic requirement to enhance investment in natural, environmental

⁽³¹⁾-World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Tourism Highlights, 2015 Edition.

⁽³²⁾-World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Tourism Highlights, 2016 Edition.

⁽³³⁾Organization of Islamic Cooperation, . International Tourism in OIC Member States: Prospects and Challenges 2017. Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, 2017.p15.

and cultural tourist places. Also, raising awareness concerning the significance of tourism development and its management in an efficient manner is considered as one of the most significant objectives of the world tourism organization. As well as tourism and economists experts confess the necessity for tourist countries to enjoy a high degree of security and political stability through creating the political and economic environment and establishing organized laws for tourism activity, and through tourism policies which work on pushing the state towards realizing rational tourism development in which the individual is the first doer and the main beneficiary. Where the decision maker in the state must take into consideration the process of creating the requisite political and security ground for the sake of advancing the tourism sector, aligning between the different political and tourism objectives and creating an environment that facilitates the process of building tourism development. And these are strategic steps that serve the economic development in the state and even the overall development in general. Therefore, this is what makes the political dimensions' study of tourism a basic entry for the sake of building a sustainable tourism development.

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