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The Impact of Revolutions and Terrorist Attacks on Tourism. Case Study: Egypt

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Abstract:

The essence of the research concerns the impact of armed conflicts and terrorist attacks on the arrivals of foreign tourists with Egypt selected as the testing ground. It was found that revolutions and terrorist attacks have a negative impact on the development of the tourism industry – following the social unrest that took place in Egypt in the years 1997, 2011 and 2015, the number of arrivals of foreign tourists decreased by: 13%, 33% and 42% respectively (depending on countries of the world the reduction of the flow of tourists was within the range of 21-78%). The decrease in the number of tourists which takes place after a terrorist attack is short-lived and usually does not last longer than a year, whereas the consequences of a revolution are noticeable for tourism for a period of 3 to 5 years. According to respondents, the most important consequence of social unrest (protests, demonstrations, terrorist attacks) for tourism is a drop in the number of arrivals of foreign tourists, reduction in the income generated by tourism, decline in employment in tourism and the general slowdown in the development of tourism.

Keywords: tourism; tourist traffic; revolutions; terrorist attacks; Egypt.

JEL Classification: Z30; Z31; Z32; Z38.

Introduction

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon and is now considered one of the greatest threats to the modern world. Terrorist attacks are occurring more and more often, and they target innocent people, often tourists as well (Arana and Leon 2008, Buigut and Amendah 2016, Walters *et al.* 2019, Bassil *et al.* 2019, Harb and Bassil 2020, Lutz and Lutz 2020, Aroca-Sanchez and Gutierrez-Hernandez 2020, Seabra *et al.* 2020, Karamelikli *et al.* 2020, Krajnak 2021, Buigut *et al.* 2021, Cesti and Monaci 2021, Adeloye *et al.* 2021). Military conflicts (Khalid *et al.* 2020, Okafor and Khalid 2021), socio-political crises (Sharpley and Knight 2009, Ivanov *et al.* 2017, Shahrabani *et al.* 2020, Turkcan and Erkus-Ozturk 2020, Coles 2021), as well as natural hazards – e.g. tsunami, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions (Birkland *et al.* 2006, Cohen 2009, Rossello *et al.* 2020, Wu and Shimizu 2020,

Lim and Flaherty 2020, Zhang *et al.* 2021, Bhaskara *et al.* 2021) are also a significant barrier to the development of tourism. These threats undoubtedly influence the choice of present tourist destinations and could result in abandoning foreign travel.

1. Research Background

Egypt is among a number of countries in the world struggling with the problem of terrorism and its negative impact on the development of tourism. The particularly dynamic development of tourism following the turn of 20th and 21st century took place in the conditions of threats of terrorist attacks. The increasing tourist traffic had a positive impact on the country's development – the infrastructure was considerably expanded, and with the increase in demand for services provided to tourists the demand for workers was on the rise, which contributed to the reduction of unemployment, and thus to improvement in the quality of life of a large group of people (Ziółkowska-Weiss 2016). At the same time, Egypt has for many years been struggling with armed conflicts, social unrest, as well as terrorist attacks.

The problem of the impact of armed conflicts and terrorist attacks on tourists' arrivals to Egypt has not been studied comprehensively. Most studies focus on the consequences which single terrorist incidents have on tourism development or on selected issues regarding the development of tourism under the threat of social unrest, with all considering them a serious threat to the security of Egypt (Aziz 1995, Feichtinger *et al.* 2001, Kapera 2009, Ibrahim 2011, Fielding and Shortland 2011, Kosta 2012, Szpara and Gwóźdź 2012, Wynne-Hughes 2012, Marciniak and Dłużewska 2015, Esmail 2016, Avraham 2016, Ziółkowska-Weiss 2016, Sieczko 2017, Sokołowski 2017, Kurzeja and Kotliński 2018, Mohamed and Alseyoufi 2018, Perles-Ribes *et al.* 2018, Adeloye and Carr 2019, Michalczuk-Ouerghi and Dłużewska 2019, Morga 2019, Sztor and Jęczynek 2019). However, there are no comprehensive and complementary studies evaluating the effects of terrorist attacks and revolutions on shaping tourist traffic. While they are known to be a serious threat to the safety of tourists, what remains unknown is the duration of their negative impact on tourism, tourists durability of response to social unrest, and finally the scale of quantitative changes in arrivals of tourists from various countries of the world to the area under threat. The aim of the research is to establish the impact of armed conflicts and terrorist attacks on arrivals of foreign tourists (as exemplified by Egypt).

2. Study Area, Materials and Methods

Egypt is a country with a surface area of 1 million km² with its capital in Cairo, occupying the north-eastern part of the African continent, as well as the Sinai Peninsula, and small piece of land in the eastern part of the Asian continent (Figure 1). Egypt is situated on a vast desert plateau only bisected by the Nile valley and delta. The highest point of the country is Mount St. Catherine of 2629 m. a. s. l. in the Sinai Peninsula, whereas the Qattara Depression of 133 m b.s.l. in the Libyan Desert in the north-eastern part of Egypt is considered to be the lowest point. It is recognised that only 4% of the country surface area is fit to be inhabited and used by people. These are areas along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, territories from Alexandria to Cairo, as well as areas located in the valley and delta of the Nile, which is the main waterway of the country. Desert areas with few oases occupy the remaining 96% (Czyż 1985).

With a population of approx. 101 million people, Egypt is the third (after Nigeria and Ethiopia) most populous country in Africa. The Egyptian society is also quite uniform (99.6% of the populations are Egyptians). Muslims constitute approx. 88.4% of the population. The constitution in force provides citizens of Egypt freedom of religion and practice of the so-called Abrahamic religions, namely Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Despite the freedom of religion provided with the law, the country is not free from religious persecution. The increasing population is posing new challenges for the state. There is a growing demand for water, food, dwelling places, medical care, education, jobs and many more. Unfortunately, the state does not have the resources that could meet all the needs of the ever-increasing number of its inhabitants. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Egypt is USD 303.1 billion, and per person – a little more than USD 3 thousand (GDP..., accessed: December 23, 2020). Egypt is not a highly developed country. The biggest and most dynamic sector of the Egyptian economy is services (Egypt, accessed: December 10, 2020) with a share in generating national income in 2018 amounting to 52.6% and the employment of 48.6% of the society. Agriculture accounts for 11.5% of national income (approx. 23% of employees). The share of industry was estimated at 35.9% with employment running at the level of 28.2% (Egypt..., accessed: December 23, 2020). The unemployment rate stands at 10.1% (Egypt..., accessed: December 23, 2020). The following are mentioned as the most important sources of income for Egypt: export of natural gas and crude oil, the Suez Canal toll charges and tourism (Egypt, accessed: December 10, 2020).

The research was carried out with the use of the following methods: library research and online resources research, diagnostic survey method and statistical analysis method, and some elements of landscape heritage inventory were used within the field registration of tourist phenomena and sites.

The spatial scope of the field research was limited to the territory of Egypt, although the data analysed referred to a number of the world's countries (based on data on arrivals of foreign tourists to Egypt in the years 1997-2018) coming from the public web repository www.e-unwto.org (accessed: February 15, 2021). Following the selection of numerical data according to the criterion of the largest representation in the arrivals of foreign tourists to Egypt, further analysis included five European countries (France, Germany, Poland, Russia, the United Kingdom), two from the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Israel), two from the Far East (Vietnam and Japan) and one from North America (Canada). The choice of Egypt as the testing ground was determined in the survey by the respondents, 70.5% of whom indicated this country as potentially the most dangerous for tourists (Tunisia – 47%, Israel – 46%, United Arab Emirates – 37.5%, France – 36.5%, India – 31%).

Figure 1. Location of research area



Source: made by authors.

The study of the numerical data made use of simple tools and indicators of statistical analysis e.g. minimum and maximum value, quartiles, median, arithmetic mean, amplitude, standard deviation, inclination, R2 ratio. To reflect the variability of the number of arrivals of foreign tourists in Egypt two new simple indicators were used – a base volatility index (BVI, %) and one-year volatility index (OVI, %). These take the form of:

$BVI = V_y / V_{yb} \cdot 100$ [%], where:

BVI – base volatility index [%],

V_y – number of foreign tourists in a given year [number of people],

V_{yb} – number of foreign tourists in a base year [number of people].

$OVI = ((V_{y+1} - V_{y-1}) / V_{y-1}) \cdot 100$ [%], where:

OVI – one-year volatility index [%],

V_{y+1} – number of foreign tourists in the following year [number of people];

V_{y-1} – number of foreign tourists in the preceding year [number of people].

The base volatility index expresses the percentage variability of the volume of tourist traffic in relation to the data from a selected base period. In turn, the one-year volatility index is a simple measure indicating the percentage increase or decrease in one-year values.

3. Study Results

Since the early 1990s when foreign tourists became the target of terrorists, more than 500 foreigners were killed as a result of various actions. Also, demonstrations, protests and riots taking place during the revolution which broke out in Egypt in 2011 can definitely be recognised as security-threatening situations. There is no doubt that such actions are not beneficial for the country's image in the international arena, especially from the point of view of tourism organisers and participants (Table 1).

Table 1. Major terrorist attacks and revolutions in Egypt in the years 1997-2018.

Date	Event	Death toll
17.11.1997	Attack in Luxor	62
07.10.2004	Attack in Taba	34
23.07.2005	Attack in Sharm El Sheikh	88
24.04.2006	Attack in Dahab	23
22.02.2009	Attack in Khan el-Khalili	1
01.01.2011	Attack in Alexandria	23
25.01-13.02.2011	Revolution in Egypt	846
31.10.2015	Attack on passenger aircraft (in the Sinai Peninsula)	224
11.12.2016	Attack in Cairo	29
09.04.2017	Attacks on Coptic churches	45
26.05.2017	Attack in Al-Minja	29
24.11.2017	Attack in Bir al-Abd	311
29.12.2017	Attack in Heluan	11
28.12.2018	Attack in Giza	4

Source: made by authors.

Egypt is an extremely popular tourist destination. Every year the country is visited by millions of tourists from around the world. The first decade of the 21st century saw a particularly intense development of tourist traffic. In 2007, tourism revenues accounted for as much as up to 20% of GDP, and 3 years later, in 2010, Egypt received a record number of 14.7 million tourists (Egypt sees growth..., accessed: December 27, 2020) The largest representation of tourists coming to Egypt in the years 1997-2018 is characterized by 11 countries of the world (Table 2). These are mainly tourists from European countries, but also from the countries of the Middle and Far East and North America.

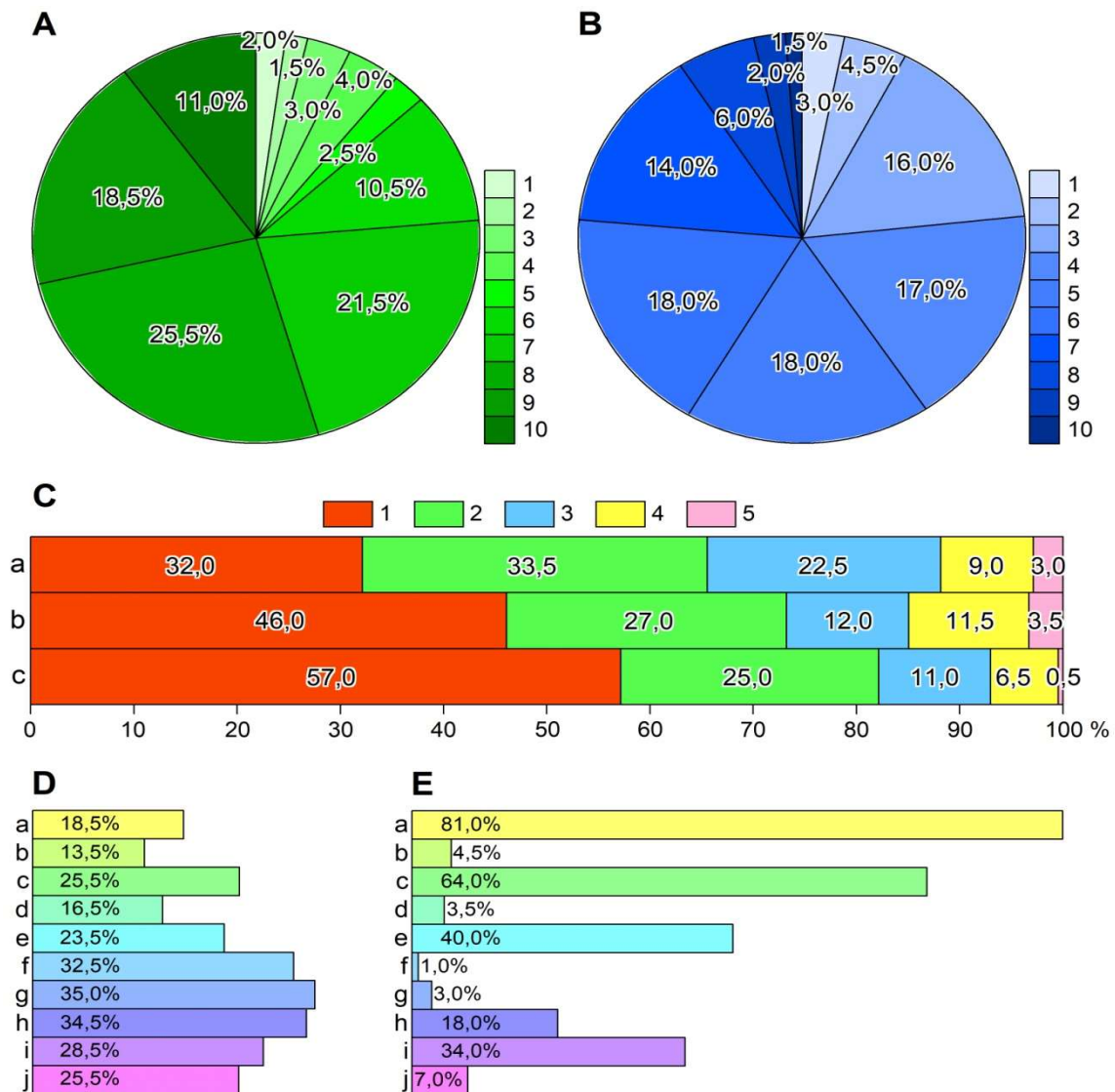
Table 2. The number of tourists coming to Egypt from selected countries of the world in the years 1997-2018.

Statistical parameters	Canada	France	Germany	Israel	Japan	Poland	Russian Federation	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom	USA	Vietnam
	[thousands of people]										
Minimum	28.20	101.08	273.84	109.42	12.35	17.62	53.86	198.32	133.47	15.50	0.20
Quartile 1	38.67	198.15	718.88	163.54	31.57	68.54	296.38	240.33	231.85	73.15	0.92
Median	51.89	311.92	965.50	230.48	57.55	187.45	998.15	328.79	352.62	85.60	0.97
Quartile 3	69.44	443.15	1144.90	305.63	87.49	327.20	2212.61	398.79	549.67	119.75	1.85
Maximum	96.42	599.36	1707.38	415.25	129.59	598.93	3138.96	909.09	814.66	194.20	3.02
Arithmetic mean	56.36	324.96	929.57	240.34	61.03	228.77	1293.10	353.60	397.14	96.67	1.29
Amplitude	68.22	498.28	1433.54	305.83	117.24	581.31	3085.10	710.77	681.19	178.70	2.82
Std. dev.	20.26	150.74	320.85	94.92	35.28	180.50	1050.32	169.26	213.40	47.15	0.74
Inclination	2.02	-6.25	34.22	-4.91	-2.08	14.13	57.48	17.23	8.16	4.19	0.07
R ²	0.42	0.07	0.48	0.11	0.15	0.26	0.11	0.44	0.06	0.25	0.29

Source: made by authors based on data obtained from the website www.e-unwto.org

Another part of the study concerned the perception by foreign tourists of issues related to tourism and security in Egypt under threat of terrorist attacks and revolutionary activities. Among the respondents, until now Egypt has been visited by 22.5% of those surveyed. The desire to travel to this country for the first or subsequent time has been expressed by 58.5% of respondents. 20% of people have expressed no desire to travel there, and the remaining group of respondents (21.5%) stated that they had no opinion on this subject.

Figure 2. Tourist trips to Egypt under threat of terrorist attacks and revolutionary activities in the opinion of respondents: A – assessment of tourist attractiveness on a scale from 1 (not attractive) to 10 (highly attractive), B – assessment of the level of security on a scale from 1 (insecurity) to 10 (full sense of security), C – declared decisions of respondents on the postponement of or resignation from a trip to Egypt in the event of dangerous situations (a – demonstrations and protests, b – terrorist attack aimed at the inhabitants of the country, c – terrorist attack aimed at tourists; 1 – yes, 2 – more than likely, 3 – I have no opinion, 4 – not really, 5 – definitely not); D – perception of events affecting the sense of security of the country (a – terrorist attack in front of the temple of Luxor in 1997, b – series of terrorist attacks in the resort of Taba in 2004, c – series of terrorist attacks in the resort of Sharm el-Sheik in 2005, d – series of terrorist attacks in the resort of Dahab in 2006, e – terrorist attack on the market of Khan el-Khalili in Cairo in 2009, f – Arab Spring, g – plane crash of Russian airlines in the Sinai Peninsula in 2015, h – attack on a Sufi mosque in Bir al-Abd in the Sinai Peninsula in 2017, i – attack on Vietnamese tourists in 2018, j – I have not heard about any of these events); E – effects of revolutions and terrorist attacks for the development of tourism (a – reduction in the number of tourist arrivals, b – increase in the number of tourist arrivals, c – decrease in the revenues generated by tourism, d – increase in the revenues generated by tourism, e – decline in employment in tourism, f – increase in employment in tourism, g – increase in investment to expand tourist offer, h – increase in investment to improve security in the country, i – slowdown in tourism development, j – I have no opinion (and other)).



Source: made by authors.

4. Discussion

4.1. Terrorist Attacks and the Arab Spring – The Impact on Tourism

Egypt is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Each year millions of tourists from across the globe visit this country. Tourist attractiveness of the country consists in both high-ranking natural and anthropogenic assets and a very well-developed tourist infrastructure (especially accommodation facilities), as well as relatively low – in comparison to other Mediterranean countries – prices of tourist packages (Kapera 2009).

The image of tourist Egypt is nevertheless disrupted by the recurring security problem, which is an important aspect as tourists, in addition to attractions and good fun, also look for peace and reassurance that their holiday will go smoothly and they will happily and safely return home. And there is nothing peculiar about such behaviour because a sense of security is mentioned as one of basic human needs. However, Egypt has been struggling with armed conflicts, social unrest and terrorist attacks for many years, which brand this country as unstable and unpredictable, and therefore not really safe (Polyzos *et al.* 2021).

The conflict between the authorities in Egypt and Islamic fundamentalist groups has had a long history that dates back to the period when the British ruled the territory. It is acknowledged that at present two major terrorist groups – the Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Group are active in Egypt (Zasieczna and Zasieczny 2004). In the early 1990s, terrorists, and in particular members of the Islamic Group, took actions that were intended to draw the attention of the West to the Egyptian fundamentalist movement. The main objective of the conducted campaign assumed the destruction of foreign tourism, which in the opinion of the fundamentalists was filled with bad patterns from the western world. These activities were also to result in weakening the already economically weak Egypt, and, as a consequence, to overthrow the secular rule of the then President – Hosni Mubarak. Members of terrorist groups repeatedly called on foreigners to leave Egypt and to save their lives (Zasieczna and Zasieczny 2004).

The first attack targeted directly at tourists was launched in October 1992. One person was killed and several were injured in an ambush set up for a bus carrying tourists. This event marked the beginning of a series of attacks against foreign tourists. Tourist coaches, ships floating on the Nile, foreign banks, bystanders, and even trains were attacked. In the next five years almost one hundred foreigners were killed in Egypt. Insecurity and aggression aimed directly at tourists led to a significant weakening of the tourism industry of the country (Tanaś 2013).

The massacre of 17 November 1997 in Luxor is considered to be the bloodiest terrorist attack carried out in the last decade of the 20th century (Tanaś 2013). That day, a group of gunmen linked to the Islamic group attacked tourists visiting the historical complex of temples. As a result of the attack made 62 people were killed, the vast majority of whom were foreign tourists (Wheatley and McCauley 2008).

After the events of November 1997, the situation calmed down a little and it was time of relative peace, which was occasionally interrupted by attacks of aggression against tourists. The next major terrorist attack took place on 7 October 2004 (Paczyńska-Jędrycka and Eider 2017). That day, a truck filled with explosives drove into the hotel lobby belonging to the Hilton Hotel chain in the resort of Taba. Ten floors of the building collapsed as a result of the explosion of the vehicle. At the same time camping sites in Ras al-Shitan were attacked. Following the actions carried out on that day, 34 people were killed and another 171 were injured (Paraskevas and Arendell 2007).

Another serious incident took place just a few months later. On 23 July 2005 a series of terrorist attacks was carried out in the south of the Sinai Peninsula in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh (Paczyńska-Jędrycka and Eider 2017). The first explosive charge placed in a car bomb exploded at about 1 am near the four-star Ghazala Garden hotel. Another explosion occurred a few minutes later in the vicinity of the Old Market in Sharm, located just a few kilometres from the said hotel. Also some explosives were detonated near the Meridian Hotel (Egypt: Bomb Blasts..., accessed: February 2, 2021). As a result of the acts committed by the terrorists, 88 people were killed and more than 150 were injured. The representatives of Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for organising and carrying out this attack.

On 24 April 2006 another series of terrorist attacks was carried out in the resort of Dahab. This was the fifth attack aimed at tourists and tourism infrastructure in just 18 months (Azim 2009). That day was a national holiday in Egypt to celebrate the spring festival of Sham al-Nasseim. The streets and the surrounding bars and restaurants were full of domestic and foreign tourists. The tragic events started when an explosive device went off near one of popular restaurants. Another explosion occurred shortly after in front of the Gzahala supermarket. The last bomb was placed in the vicinity of the footbridge popular with strollers. As a result of the tragic events 30

people were killed and another 150 were injured. Both fatalities and casualties were mostly Egyptians (Egypt: Dahab Bomb Explosions).

By 2010 several terrorist attacks on tourists were made but they were not as devastating as before. An attack carried out on 22 February 2009 on the market of Khan el-Khalili in Cairo where a bomb explosion resulted in the death of a female tourist from France with further 24 people (including 17 tourists) having sustained injuries was considered one of the most serious acts of aggression against foreigners at that time (Reports..., accessed: January 3, 2021).

The years 2010-2013 saw a series of protests, demonstrations and armed conflicts in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East. This period is often called the "Arab Spring" (Pastusiak 2018). Such terms as: the "Arab Awakening", "Arab Uprising" and "Arab Springtime of the Peoples" are also in use (Puspitasari 2017). The revolution, which then spread to other countries, broke out on 17 December 2010 in Tunisia. That day in the town of Sidi Bouzid – Mohamed Bouazizi (Tunisian stallholder) – doused himself with petrol and set himself on fire in protest against those who prevented him from selling his fruits and vegetables, and thus deprived him of his source of income (Elhousseini 2014). This event caused a huge wave of protests that swept through Tunisia and then spread to the entire Arab world (Ferreira de Arruda 2019). The "Arab Spring" affected not only Arab states where it brought about abrupt change. It is estimated that these events could affect up to 22% of companies worldwide, in particular those that were associated with the oil industry, construction, tourism and trade (Ferreira de Arruda 2019).

When the situation in Egypt calmed down enough for the tourist industry to be restored and reopen the greatest terrorist attack in the history of Egypt aimed against tourists took place. On 31 October 2015, a Metrojet Russian aircraft, flying from Sharm el-Sheikh to St. Petersburg, crashed in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula, just several dozen minutes after take-off. 224 people, including 7 crew members were on board the aircraft. The vast majority of passengers were tourists from Russia, returning home after a holiday spent in Egypt. All persons on board were killed in the crash. The investigation conducted revealed that the cause of the tragedy was an explosive device placed in a piece of luggage. The Islamic State (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack (Olech 2019).

In subsequent years, the situation calmed down a little and the terrorist attacks aimed against tourists were less and less frequent without claiming as many victims as in previous years. This does not mean, however, that Islamic fundamentalists stopped their activities. In summer 2017 a knifer attacked and mortally wounded two female tourists from Germany. As soon as a year later, at the end of 2018, tourists once again became the target of an attack. This time the target of the assailants was a bus carrying Vietnamese tourists. As a result of the vehicle explosion 3 tourists and a guide were killed with 12 others (including the driver) sustaining injuries (Morga 2019).

Although the above-mentioned terrorist attacks took place over more than 20 years a number of consequences can be indicated that each or most of them have brought about. In addition to the death of innocent victims and considerable material losses suffered, undoubtedly one of the most serious acknowledged effects is creating a negative image of Egypt on the international arena. This is largely due to the fact that the authorities of the country often use violent means in the fight against terrorism, which may meet with a negative reaction of the international community (We need to talk about Egypt..., accessed: January 7, 2021). Tensions between Egypt and individual countries may stem from the fact that, out of concern for the health and lives of their citizens, the authorities of some countries advise against travelling to Egypt or its specific regions (Egypt. Security, accessed: January 7, 2021). Additionally, the fight against terrorism on the territory of the country requires considerable financial expenditures, as well as attention from both the Egyptian authorities, and different types of organisations. It is obvious that these resources could certainly contribute to the development of the country and improvement in the quality of life of its inhabitants. Also, one cannot forget tourism which is a very important element of the Egyptian economy. This is the industry, which is the main objective of terrorist groups, and thus it is precisely this sector that suffers the greatest losses (Sokołowski 2017).

4.2. Changes in the Number of Foreign Tourists

In 2011, at the beginning of which the revolution broke out in Egypt, the country was visited by 9.86 m tourists, which represents a decrease of over 30% compared to the previous year, when the number exceeded 14.5 m people. The reduction in the number of tourists was found in the case of representatives of all the countries analysed (Table 3, Table 4). The situation was similar in the case of the terrorist attacks in 1997 and 2015. After the attack carried out at the end of 1997 in front of the temple of Luxor, the overall number of tourists decreased from 3.96 m people (in 1997) to 3.45 m in 1998. The decrease in the number of tourist arrivals was recorded

among: the Japanese, the French, Germans, Britons, Poles and Canadians. The increase occurred only in the case of tourists from Saudi Arabia and Israel. The second event specified was a terrorist attack carried out in October 2015 as a result of which a plane crashed in the Sinai Peninsula with more than 200 tourists on-board returning home from holiday. As a result of this event, in 2016 Egypt was visited by nearly 4 million tourists less than in the previous year. A significant decrease was recorded among tourists from Russia, Great Britain, Poland and Germany, as well as France and Canada. An increase was recorded in the case of the representatives of the remaining five countries.

Table 3. Arrivals of foreign tourists in Egypt from selected countries in the years 1997-2018

Years	Canada	France	Germany	Israel	Japan	Poland	Russian Federatio	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom	USA	Vietnam
[%; 2001 = 100%]											
1997	84.5	89.1	61.3	267.3	142.7	42.8	55.9	92.1	67.7	(-)	260.0
1998	78.9	60.3	38.3	340.1	35.6	34.8	(-)	103.5	51.6	(-)	(-)
1999	100.6	107.7	76.6	379.5	84.7	85.7	(-)	106.7	56.4	(-)	(-)
2000	130.1	130.7	110	298.4	134.5	113.5	(-)	106.5	88.3	106.3	(-)
2001	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2002	89.9	96.4	102.1	134.1	84.4	143.0	182.0	110.3	91.1	46.9	205.0
2003	100.9	107.0	97.0	283.3	95.0	237.1	236.7	119.3	111.7	22.4	475.0
2004	135.0	160.1	138.9	356.3	110.2	287.0	373.6	137.2	133.4	105.8	470.0
2005	145.9	170.4	137.0	234.3	116.3	303.4	369.9	160.0	217.5	132.9	465.0
2006	164.9	128.2	135.1	156.3	137.3	389.7	474.8	172.1	267.4	123.6	(-)
2007	215.2	159.8	151.9	214.3	202.4	661.2	721.4	182.8	197.3	111.2	880.0
2008	237.9	202.0	168.2	194.8	169.0	1182	868.3	178.3	256.7	188.6	1000.0
2009	247.8	189.9	168.1	185.8	144.3	897.1	968.2	154.2	314.9	250.0	880.0
2010	269.7	206.3	185.9	207.0	197.4	1171.5	1358.5	166.2	296.7	280.4	1115.0
2011	141.8	118.7	134.9	162.5	43.2	746.3	871.7	87.9	233.5	138.1	970.0
2012	144.4	109.6	162.9	120.8	60.9	913.2	1198.0	107.1	190.4	117.0	480.0
2013	142.7	66.0	123.8	122.1	48.7	535.7	1138.8	92.0	183.8	82.0	485.0
2014	152.2	49.8	122.7	128.3	19.3	597.6	1493.2	155.2	139.9	105.4	385.0
2015	174.9	47.0	142.8	147.2	25.3	409.0	1136.9	191.9	139.2	135.9	455.0
2016	171.8	34.8	91.4	214.5	29.1	132.7	25.6	224.9	54.1	176.0	505.0
2017	200.7	51.7	172.3	214.8	51.1	350.2	44.7	296.8	89.1	169.8	940.0
2018	238.8	74.9	238.8	370.5	65.3	599.4	69.3	402.9	96.4	260.1	1510.0

Source: made by authors based on data obtained from the website www.e-unwto.org. (-) – lack of data.

In contrast, other terrorist attacks, although aimed directly at tourists with some of them causing the death of many people, did not have such a strong impact on the number of tourist arrivals from abroad. In the case of a series of attacks carried out in the resort of Taba in 2004 the decline in the number of tourists was recorded in only three cases: Russia, Israel and Vietnam. The same was true a year later, after a series of attacks carried out in another Egyptian resort – Sharm el-Sheik. This time, however, the decrease was recorded among tourists from France, Israel and the United States. After the terrorist attack carried out in the resort of Dahab there was no drastic decline in the number of foreign tourists either. Only the number of tourists from Great Britain and the United States declined. In other cases, the number of tourists was on the increase. No significant response was observed after the attack carried out in 2009 in Cairo.

The fact of there being no clear reflection of terrorist attacks and revolutionary activity in the number of arrivals of foreign tourists proves Egypt's high tourist attractiveness with a noticeable decline in the number of visitors only accompanying spectacular events. High tourist attractiveness can adequately compensate for tourists concerns about their own safety, as confirmed by the results of surveys among the respondents.

Table 4. Changes in the number of tourists coming to Egypt from selected countries of the world in the years 1997-2018 in relation to the previous year

Years	Canada	France	Germany	Israel	Japan	Poland	Russian Federation	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom	USA	Vietnam
[%]											
1998	-7	-32	-38	27	-75	-19	(-)	12	-34	(-)	(-)
1999	28	79	100	12	138	147	(-)	3	9	(-)	(-)
2000	29	21	44	-21	59	32	(-)	0	56	(-)	(-)
2001	-23	-24	-9	-66	-26	-12	(-)	-6	13	-6	(-)
2002	-10	-4	2	34	-16	43	82	10	-9	-53	105
2003	12	11	-5	111	13	66	30	8	23	-52	132
2004	34	50	43	26	16	21	58	15	19	373	-1
2005	8	6	-1	-34	5	6	-1	17	63	26	-1
2006	13	-25	-1	-33	18	28	28	8	23	-7	(-)
2007	30	25	12	37	47	70	52	6	-26	-10	(-)
2008	11	26	11	-9	-17	79	20	-2	30	70	14
2009	4	-6	0	-5	-15	-24	12	-14	23	33	-12
2010	9	8	11	11	37	31	40	8	-6	12	27
2011	-47	-42	-37	-21	-78	-36	-36	-47	-21	-51	-13
2012	2	-8	21	-26	41	22	37	22	-18	-15	-51
2013	-1	-40	-24	1	-20	-41	-5	-14	-3	-30	1
2014	7	-24	-1	5	-60	12	31	69	-24	29	-21
2015	15	-6	16	15	31	-32	-24	23	-1	29	18
2016	-2	-26	-36	47	15	-68	-98	17	-71	30	11
2017	17	49	88	0	76	164	74	32	65	-4	86
2018	19	45	39	73	28	71	55	36	8	53	61

Source: made by authors based on data obtained from the website www.e-unwto.org. (-) – lack of data.

4.3. Perception of Egypt as a Tourist Destination

In the rating of Egypt's tourist attractiveness on a scale from 1 to 10 (where 1 is the lowest rating and 10 the highest one) the obtained average was 7.37, with a similar safety assessment set at an average of 5.05 points. Among the elements that would encourage respondents to go to Egypt, the most popular were: the climate conducive to swimming in the sea and relax on the beach together with the country's rich history and culture. These responses were selected by 54% and 52% of respondents, respectively. Also, the replies often indicated a rich tourist offer (44%) and attractive prices of tourist packages (38%). Diving (0.5%) and coral reefs (0.5%), as well as an imposed family trip (0.5%) were among the suggestions indicated by the respondents. There were also responses in which respondents recognised that nothing would make them go there, be it due to a lack of interest in the country or for fear of the threat of social unrest.

There is a high level of public awareness of the dangers of a potential tourist trip to a country affected by social unrest. More than half of the respondents stated that the news of demonstrations and protests or terrorist attacks (including those against tourists) would affect their decision to resign from or postpone travel to Egypt.

Among the events, mainly terrorist attacks and revolutions, that have taken place in Egypt in recent years, respondents point to the following as the most known: the plane crash of a Russian aircraft in the Sinai Peninsula, the attack on the Sufi mosque in Bir al-Abd, as well as the Arab Spring.

The survey also asked for an indication of the consequences that, in the respondents' opinion, Egyptian tourism may face in connection with protests, demonstrations and terrorist attacks that occur in this country with different frequency. The effect indicated most often was a reduction in the number of tourist arrivals (this possibility was indicated by 81% of the respondents). In addition, a reduction in revenues generated by tourism was indicated (64% of people). A decline in employment in tourism (40%) and a slowdown in the development of tourism (34% of the respondents surveyed) were indicated slightly less often. The smallest group *i.e.* as few as 1% of the respondents declared that revolution and terrorist attacks could have a positive impact on employment in Egypt's tourism sector.

Conclusion

1. Revolutions and terrorist attacks are a serious threat to the state of security in Egypt and can therefore have a negative impact on the development of the tourism industry in this country.

2. The strongest response of tourists to the events in Egypt was recorded in the years: 1997, 2011 and 2015, when the number of tourist arrivals decreased by: 13%, 33% and 42% respectively.

3. The reaction of tourists to particular incidents in Egypt varies depending on the nationality. The same exact reaction was observed only once, *i.e.* in 2011 – when there was a decrease in the number of tourist arrivals from all the countries analysed. It is worth noting, however, that the value of declines differed significantly depending on a country and was within the range of 21-78%.

4. The decrease in the number of tourists, which takes place after a terrorist attack, is short-lived and usually does not last longer than a year. The situation is different in the case of the revolution whose consequences in tourism could be observed for three to even five years.

5. With the high tourist attractiveness of Egypt (7.37/10) and the average assessment of security in the country (5.05/10), reports of social unrest threatening tourists result in their resignation from or postponement of a trip. There is a high level of awareness of most known events in recent years affecting the safety and lives of tourists *e.g.* the plane crash of a Russian aircraft in the Sinai Peninsula, an attack on the Sufi mosque in Bir al-Abd, the Arab Spring. Respondents agree as to the consequences of social unrest (protests, demonstrations, terrorist attacks) for tourism, pointing out the following as the most important ones: reduction in the number of tourist arrivals (81% of respondents), decrease in income generated by tourism (64%), decline in employment in tourism (40%), slowdown in the development of tourism (34%).

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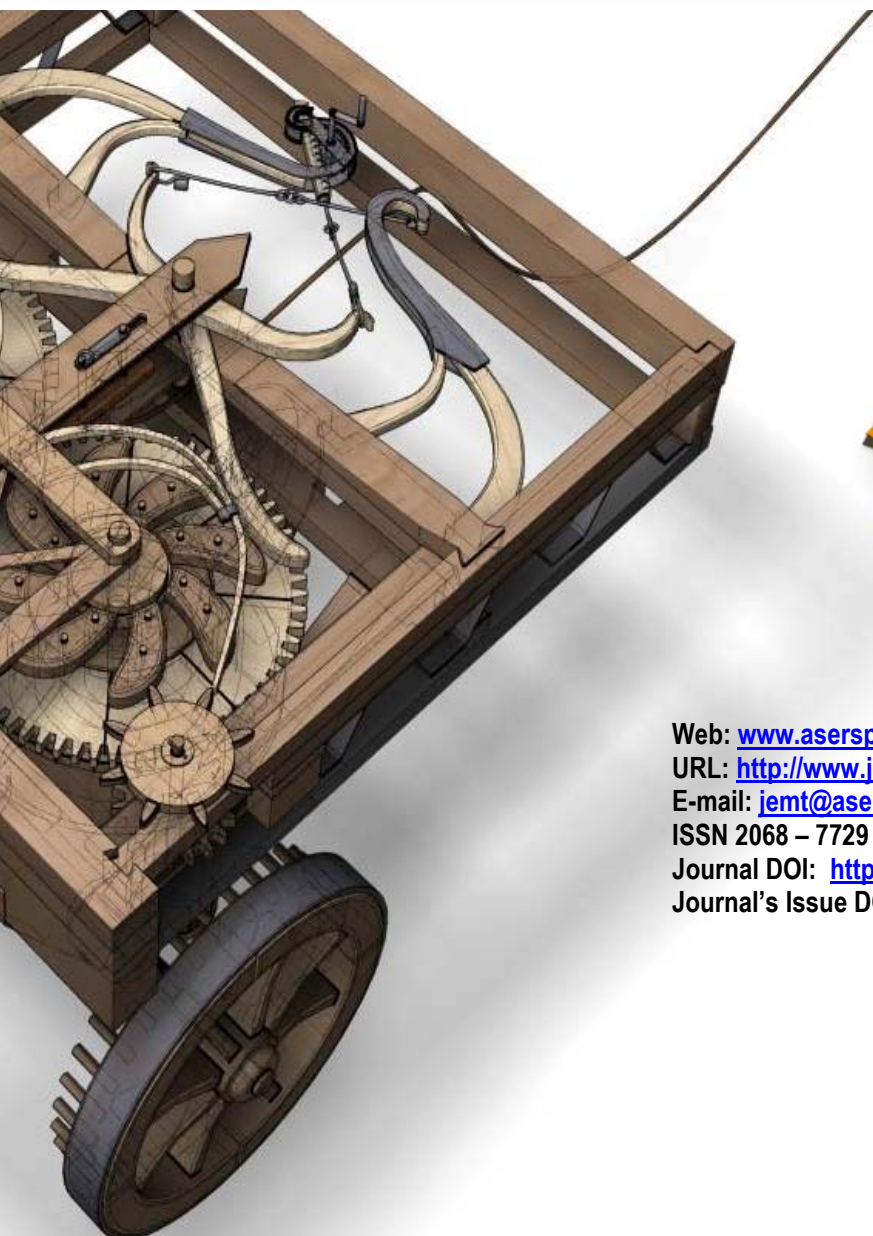
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