

Tourism Development and the Geopolitics of Assam, India: A Post-Colonial Perspective

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This paper begins by analysing the historical and contemporary geopolitical situation of the state of Assam, India. It goes on to scope the development of tourism in Assam in the context of other development strategies in this region. Based upon qualitative research in Assam, the conflicts between nature based tourism development and other forms of industrial development are highlighted. Tourism development strategies are then analysed against the political backdrop of the United Liberation Front of Assam's (ULFA) increasingly violent strategies for gaining independence from what it sees as India's colonialism. Utilising a post-colonial theoretical perspective, it is concluded that tourism in Assam can be seen on the one hand as a strategy to normalise social relations in Assam but on the other hand as another form of neo-colonialism.