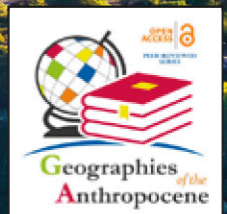


HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION & TOURISM IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia (Editors)

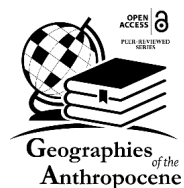
Foreword by Geoffrey Lipman

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Human Mobility, Migration and Tourism in the Anthropocene

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Editors



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3. Mobility and tourism opportunities in an isolated geographical exclave: the case of Ceuta

*Alberto Catania*¹

Abstract

The Spanish city of Ceuta is a peripheral territory with particular geographical peculiarities and at the centre of geopolitical disputes with Morocco. Furthermore, the migratory flows affecting Ceuta exacerbate the tensions that already coexist in the city. If this situation encourages the fortification and closure of the city, its territorial narrowness and its fragile economy require at the same time a certain opening of the border that so works with a selective permeability, affecting the different categories that want to cross it and delineating hierarchies of power on and within the border. However, places with an important tourist potential like Ceuta can exploit this sector for possible socio-economic development. Nevertheless, tourism is not limited to economic effects but in contexts like this it can be an important means to promote a greater dialogue between different communities, to solve geopolitical disputes and to eliminate inequalities in mobility opportunities. This work analyzes the current situation of Ceuta from the geopolitical, economic, social and tourist point of view, starting from its historical causes. It's highlighted how tourism in Ceuta is a sector with an important potential but not sufficiently exploited and how the creation of a joint tourism offer together with the surrounding Moroccan territory can be a means to improve relations between the two countries and the region's communities.

Keywords:

Spain, Morocco, geopolitical dispute, migration, tourism

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1. Introduction

Ceuta is an exclave,¹ under Spanish sovereignty, located on the northern coast of Morocco. Geographically it is a peninsula surrounded on the territorial side by Morocco and on the maritime side by the Mediterranean Sea. It is part of a series of territories in this area occupied over the centuries by Spain and called *plazas de soberanía*: these include some uninhabited or militarized islands and the two cities of Ceuta and Melilla, the two main possessions and the only inhabited by a civilian population (Trinidad, 2012). After the independence of Morocco these territories remained under Spanish sovereignty as they were never included in the Spanish protectorate in the region because they were former possessions that Madrid didn't consider colonies but an integral part of its territory. For this reason they were not involved in the process of decolonization (Ferrer-Gallardo, 2008).

The peculiarity of *plazas de soberanía* is to be the only European territories in Africa. In the unawareness of most Europeans and Spaniards these territories have had and still have today a great importance from a geopolitical point of view but they also have a great cultural relevance since they're a historic bridge between two continents, two geopolitical areas, two religions and two different civilizations, in a region where the two sides of the Mediterranean have a long and deep history of relations and mutual contrasts. As a consequence of their geographical location and their disputed status between Spain and Morocco, which claims their sovereignty, these cities face a series of global problems that make their administration a critical issue: intertwined with the territorial disputes between the two countries there's in fact the phenomenon of irregular migration that affect both Ceuta and Melilla and have led to a fortification of their borders. Nevertheless these borders, as will be seen, operate in a peculiar way by delineating different opening regimes: while Spain wants to counter the arrival of migratory flows in the city, at the same time the fragile economy of Ceuta benefits from a link with the surrounding Moroccan territories.

It's in this context that tourism comes in as a phenomenon that on one hand can help the economic development of Ceuta and the surrounding Moroccan provinces, as well as a possible instrument of dialogue between the two countries and their inhabitants, and on the other hand suffers itself from this tense situation along this border. Many studies have recently pointed out the important contribution of tourism to peace. In 2007 the United Nations

¹ Vinokurov (2007) refers to Ceuta as exclave or semi-enclave. The definition of enclave, while widely accepted, is not entirely suitable for the city as it refers to territories completely surrounded by another state while a major part of Ceuta's perimeter overlooks the sea.

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO, 2007) recognized «the importance of tourism as a corner stone of pluralism and as an effective way of bridging the divides». In 2016 also the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC, 2016), partnered with the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), underlined that «countries with a stronger tourism sector tend to be more peaceful» and that «in non-conflict-affected countries, tourism is resilient to increases in violence and conflict».

2. A strategic territory

2.1 A disputed status

As has been said, the status of these territories is currently disputed between Spain and Morocco. The Spanish interest in maintaining its sovereignty has been historically linked to their importance in exerting influence over the Strait of Gibraltar and as an outpost to defend the southern Spanish coasts. After the completion of the *Reconquista* and the expulsion of the Moors from the Iberian Peninsula, these territories were in fact gradually conquered in order to remove the containment of Islam from the same peninsula (Elliott, 2006). The borders of these territories are part of the *frontera sur*, a concept that has a prominent place in the history and in the Spanish national psychology as a historical belt of containment against Islam. In fact, Spain has often used this border as a glue for its population and a useful tool to build national cohesion in response to external threats, an even more important aspect for a multinational country like Spain (Ferrer-Gallardo, 2008). The secular Spanish membership of these territories, prior to Moroccan independence, the fact of being inhabited by Spaniards, the recognition of Spanish sovereignty by many agreements throughout history and by organizations like the EU make the Spanish position very strong by a juridical point of view. At the same time the Moroccan claims, that are based on the consideration of these territories as colonial vestiges under occupation that violate their territorial integrity and lack continuity with Spanish territory, have a weak legal basis and have received little international support over time, leading the dispute back to a bilateral plan (González Enríquez, 2007). This dispute, although still ongoing, is currently stalled and hardly there will be a change of sovereignty in the future, given the common interest of Spain and Morocco to maintain a good relationship.

Nevertheless, this dossier is characterized by alternating phases linked to the contingent interests of the two countries. On the one hand, as we said,

Ceuta and others *plazas de soberanía* have an important symbolic and geopolitical role: the contrast between the Christian Spanish world and the Islamic civilization has in fact marked the history of Spain by instilling in its society the idea that the main threat for the peninsula comes from its southern borders, an idea exacerbated over time by the disputes with Morocco (Martín-Muñoz, 1994). On the other hand this border also has great importance for Rabat, firstly in its internal politics: Moroccan monarchy, strongly linked to the political system and to the nationalism of colonial era, legitimating instrument of the Crown, has assumed the Moroccan sovereignty of these possessions as a constitutive element, thus making it unthinkable to renounce any claim (Velasco de Castro, 2013). The last decades, however, have added new elements to this dispute.

2.2 The militarization of the border

The European integration of Spain and the establishment of Schengen, between the eighties and nineties, increased the relevance of this border, which became the only true border of Spain. At the same time its transformation into an external border of the EU has meant that Ceuta, like Melilla, has witnessed an increase in the flow of irregular migrants who, attracted by the European membership of the two cities, reach them on their journey to Europe. This specific type of migration, made up mainly of sub-Saharan migrants, together with the increase of controls at the EU's external borders in the peripheral countries after the establishment of Schengen, has led to a progressive fortification of this border to prevent entry into the cities. This fortification consists in the construction of fences along the entire border, the use of new technologies and the strengthening of the Spanish and Moroccan military presence. This border has also taken on a violent character towards migrants, a violence that has been often delegated to the Moroccan forces that, thanks to the emergency perception of the migration dossier, have often implemented actions that derogate from many laws and human rights (Hess & Kasperek, 2019).

However, the militarization of the border, having not affected the underlying reasons of these migratory flows, didn't stop them but instead led to a greater sophistication of the crossing attempts, many of which are still successful (Fig. 1). Nevertheless, the increased centrality of the migration issue within Europe, linked to an emergency and alarmist narrative, has enabled Madrid to raise this issue at Community level by ensuring that the EU helped economically to fortify this border (Sagnella, 2021).

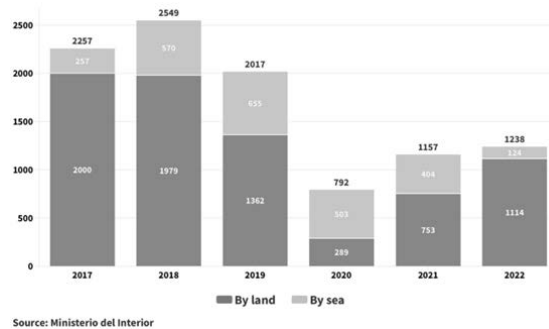


Figure 1 – Number of illegal immigrants who managed to enter Ceuta. Source: Ministerio del Interior

2.3 Migration as a weapon

The issue of irregular migration towards the border of Ceuta has acquired over time an increasingly important role for the strategic importance of these territories from a geopolitical point of view and for the city itself. In fact, Morocco has tried to capitalize on its strategic geographical position as a hub of migratory flows directed to Europe by being invested in the role of gendarme of the European borders in exchange for economic aids. Rabat has thus acquired a new weapon for geopolitical blackmail towards Spain and the EU using this situation to increase its negotiating power, exchanging the outsourcing of migration management, an issue that has become central in the relationship between the EU and its neighbours, as in the case of Turkey (Cutitta, 2020), with a stronger support from Madrid and Brussels. Morocco has thus earned economic and political benefits for its role as a border police and the migration dossier allows the country to put pressure on Spain and the EU, for example by relaxing its control over migratory flows (McKenna, 2022).

The blackmailing use of migration and the domestic political benefits of this geopolitical dispute, combined with the need to maintain good relations with Spain and the EU for economic reasons, means that Morocco alternates periods of stronger collaboration with Madrid and Brussels with periods of greater tension. Over time, Rabat has thus taken a generally soft approach to its demands, alternating however with the opening of limited crises when the use of migration as a means of pressure has helped Morocco to obtain international support on various issues. And it was not by chance that two of the major crises of the new millennium occurred near the Moroccan national elections: the Perejil's one, when in July 2002 this small uninhabited Spanish island, part of the *plazas de soberanía*, was briefly occupied by Moroccan

soldiers (Trinidad 2012), and the 2021's one when the relaxation of the control on these borders led thousands of migrants to storm the fences of Ceuta (McKenna, 2022).

At the same time migration is an important instrument in the hands of Madrid. While Spain has an interest in maintaining its sovereignty over Ceuta as the first barrier to prevent the arrival of migratory flows in the Schengen area, filtering them before the Iberian Peninsula (Johnson and Jones, 2016), on the other hand it benefits somewhat from this migration thanks to the geopolitical rent resulting from being a peripheral state of the EU. Madrid has in fact put pressure within the EU, relying on the existence of a threat from the southern shore of the Mediterranean, to gain benefits and to signal the need to invest resources in the development of this area. At the same time Spain has become a spokesman for the granting to Rabat of an advanced status in its role of associate member of the EU, involving Brussels for economic support and to increase its negotiating power with Rabat (Sueiro Seoane, 2003; Cherkasova, 2017).

3. The situation in Ceuta

The compresence of global phenomena like a historical geopolitical dispute and migratory flows in a small area like Ceuta increases the state of tension already present because of the existence of internal cleavages.

3.1 A multicultural city

The history of Ceuta, thanks to its peculiar geographical location, has outlined a multicultural society, a character that has become increasingly marked in recent decades. Today Ceuta presents a linguistic-cultural interpenetration that is substantiated in the presence of different languages and religions, whose respective weight has varied over time along with the military and demographic dynamics (Sagnella, 2021). However, this multiculturalism presents within itself cultural and economic-social cleavages that are substantiated in hierarchies of power between the different communities, thus influencing their daily interactions (Albuquerque, 2018). First of all Ceuta is a multilingual city in which however the political-social dynamics make Castilian rise to a hegemonic status, identifying it as the language of the socio-economic success while other languages (such as Darja) are ostracized because they're considered dangerous for national cohesion despite being commonly

used. Overall, the city has four main groups of different religions, an element that has always served as a means of identification (González Enríquez, 2007): while the Jewish and Hindu communities are smaller, it's especially between Catholics and Muslims that religious diversity is substantiated. In fact, the Spanish-speaking (of Iberian origin) and Catholic community is the dominant one in Ceuta from a socio-political point of view, although there's also a Muslim Spanish community, usually of acquired nationality (Tarrés, 2013). Therefore, people unrelated to the Spanish and Christian component suffer from the rejection and distrust of this community, being identified as dangerous for national cohesion (Fernández García, 2016). This feeling is exacerbated by the growing demographic pressure exerted by the neighboring Moroccan territories which, also thanks to the higher birth rate of the population of Moroccan origin, it's increasingly dissolving the previous Christian predominance in Ceuta (Fernández García, 2020). This has led to growing concern in the Spanish and Christian community about the future Spanish sovereignty over these territories, increasing in this way an ethnic conflict that has led to urban and social segregation and to the growing demand for cultural rights by the minorities, also because of the fragile economic system that hinders the social mobility and the integration of the community of Moroccan origin, thus increasing this state of tension (González Enríquez, 2007).

3.2 A fragile economy

It's precisely the economic sphere that is decisive in the current developments in the city. Ceuta has worse economic data than the rest of Spain, a low standard of living and suffers from considerable fragility due to the territorial narrowness that makes the primary and secondary sectors residual, making the economy concentrated in the tertiary sector¹ and highly dependent on state support (Cherkasova, 2017).

This economic fragility has made necessary over time a close relationship with the surrounding Moroccan territories along a border that from the socio-economic point of view is one of the most unequal in the world. This inequality, combined with the special tax regime of the two cities, has encouraged the development of a cross-border economy, partly legal and partly illegal, which provides a living to many people on both sides of the fences and has led to a permeability of this border for the citizens of the surrounding Moroccan province who can enter the city without a visa, unlike the other Moroccan inhabitants (Buoli, 2014; Fernández García, 2020). Thus, many

¹ In 2022 the tertiary sector employed almost 97% of Ceuta workers (Instituto Nacional de Estadística).

cross-border workers from Morocco come every day to the city for work, in the formal and informal economy; a migration that is fuelled by the existence of a demand for cheap labour (de Haas & Vezzoli, 2010; Sagnella, 2021).

The economic differences between Ceuta and the surrounding Moroccan territory, the differences in prices and in the availability of goods on their respective markets have also developed another form of economy represented by the so-called *porteadores*, thousands of people crossing the border several times a day carrying goods purchased in Ceuta to sell them in Morocco (Sagnella, 2021).

Informal cross-border trade, as well as cross-border work, represent an important economic contribution both for Ceuta and for the surrounding Moroccan territory (Buoli, 2014; Sagnella, 2021). As a result, the fragile economy of Ceuta, both emerged and submerged, is very linked to immigration and economically dependent on the surrounding Moroccan territory and this has led to a certain permeability of the border (Fernández García, 2020). So, while the official narrative reaffirms the goal of controlling the border and migratory flows, especially irregular ones, on the other hand there is the economic and political interest in tolerating a certain type of migration (de Haas & Vezzoli, 2010). The consequence is that the border of Ceuta discriminates between different types of migration: while the daily movement of cross-border workers and *porteadores* is tolerated and actually encouraged by the economic needs of the territories of both countries, the functionary of this border towards the irregular migration flow, mainly of sub-Saharan origin, is different (Sagnella, 2021). This selective permeability of the border is also transferred within the city where it's added to the existing inequality between the different housing communities. There's here a different perception of foreigners: while Moroccan immigration isn't widely considered as such, since cross-border workers often have a close relationship with the inhabitants of Ceuta, this is not the case for irregular migrants whose presence, although smaller, is considered a major problem (Saceda Montesinos, 2016).

In Ceuta, therefore, the picture outlined is of a considerable political tension between Spain and Morocco that is reflected in a tension also within the exclave about the future of the same. In turn, the border, which is very discriminatory towards irregular migration flows, has a certain openness towards the flows of cross-border workers and Moroccan *porteadores* who interact every day with the inhabitants of the city in a dialogue that, although difficult, is made necessary by the economic situation.

4. Tourism as a means of development and cooperation

The difficult economic situation in Ceuta has meant that many hopes have been placed in tourism, a key sector for a possible economic development of the city (Cordón Pozo & Martín Segura, 2016). As we have seen, the economy of Ceuta is remarkably fragile, dependent mainly on services and part of it has been based on the lack of competition due to the small opening of this market, making the city a virtual monopoly. However, the progressive reduction of duties between Morocco and the EU has endangered the economy of Ceuta whose development depends partly on commercial activity and partly on a possible implementation of tourism (Bascón Jiménez et al., 2016).

4.1 Ceuta and northern Morocco: an unexpressed tourist potential

Ceuta has a strong tourist potential resulting from the presence of a diverse cultural landscape, characterized by the fusion of Arab and European elements and thus creating a unique cultural mix in a restricted territory (Poulaki et al., 2020). However, this cultural richness has not yet been properly exploited: tourism in Ceuta hasn't yet registered a great growth like the rest of Spain (Tab. 1) and there's therefore in Ceuta the prospect of a possible decrease in commercial tourism. Nevertheless, the presence of cultural tourism potential that have not yet been exploited is a valuable asset.

	Visitors		International visitors (in %)	
	Ceuta	Spain	Ceuta	Spain
2012	73.980	82.962.481	29,5	48,1
2013	73.995	83.820.919	34,9	49,2
2014	68.009	87.814.529	35,5	49,1
2015	75.843	93.216.968	36,7	49,0
2016	75.330	99.840.032	33,1	50,4
2017	77.511	103.804.067	37,2	51,4
2018	76.246	105.311.465	36,8	51,4
2019	76.339	108.716.047	39,4	51,5
2020	25.749	34.589.071	22,8	31,5
2021	39.233	60.724.132	6,9	33,7
2022	61.282	102.656.430	22,0	48,2

Table 1 – Tourism performance in Ceuta and Spain (2012-2022). Source: Ministerio de Industria, Comercio y Turismo

For example, the study by Cordón Pozo and Martín Segura (2016) highlighted that the cultural offer and the historical heritage of the city are among the aspects of Ceuta positively evaluated by Moroccan tourists. At the same time, the surrounding Moroccan region enjoys, for the same reasons as Ceuta, a remarkable internal diversity and an important historical-cultural heritage, thanks to a mixture of ancient Muslim and Spanish style, heritage of the protectorate, in a balance between tradition and modernity. The northern coast of Morocco has so recently established itself as one of the emerging tourist areas of the Mediterranean and Morocco has invested in the sector, also trying to attract foreign investments, as an important driver of development of this area that has recorded economic growth (Araque Jiménez, 2013; Bascón Jiménez et al., 2016; Giblin 2013).

This region, both the Moroccan area and the city of Ceuta, thus has an unexpressed tourist potential, presenting the prerequisites for a possible development of the sector mainly thanks to the particular diversity of cultural heritage. The study by Cordón Pozo and Martín Segura (2016) on Ceuta highlighted the need, in order to increase the tourist activity, to create a tourist product different from that typical of the Spanish coasts linked to the sun and the sea and that fits into the change of economic model that is being prefigured, linked to the possible sunset of Ceuta as a shopping city. At the same time the unexpressed potential of cultural tourism in northern Morocco, the importance of the economic relationship between the two territories and the territorial narrowness of Ceuta create the conditions for the creation of a unique tourist offer that would benefit both the Spanish city and the north of the Moroccan country.

4.2 The obstacle of tensions between the two countries

Nevertheless, this situation is hampered by the historical political and social tension between the two countries, which has different consequences on the possible implementation of the tourist offer in both territories.

Firstly, the tourist development of the area, and therefore also the economic one, depends on the accessibility of these territories. This factor is particularly critical in the case of contexts such as exclaves where there's a geographical isolation that is added to possible contrasts and political tensions that can act as an obstacle to movements along the borders. This means that transport infrastructure, which is necessary but not sufficient for the development of tourism, is often hampered. This is precisely the case of Ceuta, whose peripheral situation is also a problem in terms of infrastructure. In the case of

isolated locations such as Ceuta, air transport is usually the most suitable way to ensure accessibility; however, the exclave does not have its own airport and must rely on one of the four airports in the area. Two of these are located on the southern coast of the Iberian Peninsula and represent the only way to travel to and from Ceuta avoiding Moroccan territory: these are the airports of Jerez (XRY) and Malaga (AGP). However, travelling from these airports is a complex and expensive journey, involving the use of a ferry and another means of transport once on the Iberian coast. The most convenient way would be to use the two Moroccan airports, more accessible: Tetouan (TTU), closer but with a more limited route network, or Tangier (TNG), more distant but with a wider network. However, such a solution implies crossing the border between Ceuta and Morocco, which may compromise the journey to or from Ceuta due to the border crossing procedures and political factors between the two countries. That's an element that also hampers international tourism, which in fact is far less important in Ceuta (Tab. 1) (Poulaki et al., 2020).

The studies of Papathodorou and Poulaki (2016) and Poulaki et al. (2020) are interesting in this regard because they investigated, among the tourist and transport stakeholders of Ceuta and among the inhabitants of the city, the dynamics that lead to the choice of the airport for the journey. The results showed first of all the clear need for mobility to and from the city, both for commercial and recreational reasons and therefore also linked to tourism. As regards the choice of airport, the cost was the main variable but not the only one. Among those who prefer to travel from Spanish airports, thus avoiding the Moroccan territory, are especially the procedures of crossing the border, a factor reported by the majority of respondents, and ethical reasons to have determined the choice. The unwillingness to cross Moroccan territory, stressing the concern about the negativity or even the hostility of part of the region's population linked to the long conflict between the two countries, has proved important in the choice of the airport, especially in the older group and in the civil servants of the city, usually belonging to the Spanish and Catholic community, while it was less important in the younger group, higher educated and more open-minded. The studies finally showed that those who have a negative idea of Morocco are willing to face more costs and time to not cross the Moroccan territory.

Poulaki et al. (2020) also showed that the lack of an adequate transport service connecting Ceuta to Tangier airport was a problem reported by many. In particular, more than half of the respondents highlighted how they would have preferred to use Tangier Airport if ideal conditions existed, such as an easy crossing of the border and the existence of an adequate connecting service,

demonstrating that a better accessibility of Ceuta from Morocco would have positive consequences for the movement and tourism to and from the city.

These studies have therefore shown first of all that the choice of the airport is influenced by the perception of the border and the surrounding country, highlighting the relevant political tension between the two actors in cross-border movements. At the same time they showed how a greater ease in crossing the border and better infrastructure connections between Ceuta and the Moroccan territory could lead to a lesser relevance of political geography, and therefore of geopolitical disputes, and a primacy of the physical geography, increasing the relevance of the variable of geographical proximity of Moroccan airports. Better accessibility of the exclave could benefit both those traveling from Ceuta and those who are directed there, thus promoting the tourist development of the city and bringing economic benefits both in Ceuta and the surrounding Moroccan provinces, by opening more possibilities for the creation of a single tourist product. An increased cross-border relationship and greater synergies in terms of tourist offer between Ceuta and the neighboring Moroccan provinces can in turn create political pressure on the two countries for a progressive loosening of the border (Poulaki et al., 2020).

Conclusions

Ceuta is a particular territory from the geopolitical, social and cultural point of view. In this city historical events, the disputes between Spain and Morocco and the socio-demographic dynamics have given rise to a multicultural society in which, however, there are significant cleavages that have outlined a tense situation, increased by the growth of irregular migration flows that have promoted the fortification and militarization of the border. Nevertheless, the tension between the different communities and the fortification of the border to prevent the entry of irregular migrants coexists with the economic needs of both Ceuta and the surrounding Moroccan territory in maintaining an economic interdependence thus leading to a selective permeability of the border and a hierarchy of powers within the city.

Ceuta's fragile economy has at the same time made tourism a possible driver of economic development, favored by the cultural heritage of the city and of the surrounding Moroccan territories. However, tourism in Ceuta has not yet registered a great growth, suffering from the political tensions between the two countries. In fact, it is often small places that suffer most from the contrasts between political entities. The existence and perception of political,

cultural and linguistic borders can discourage mobility and tourism, as has happened in Ceuta so far. At the same time it's important to counteract negative perceptions about borders and tourism can play a key role in this process (Papathodorou & Poulaki, 2016; Poulaki et al., 2020). As Vietti (2019) has shown by studying the case of Lesbos, a Greek island affected by migratory flows from the Turkish coast in front of it, the political boundaries replicate within the space itself, in our case in the space of the exclave: in Lesbos, as well as in Ceuta, tourists and migrants have a different right of access and also of movement within it. However, in this geographical area migrants, tourists and locals live together, creating interesting practices of interaction and cooperation: thus tourism, which is a complex phenomenon, has the ability to determine a profound effect that isn't limited to the economic, nevertheless relevant, but also extends to the promotion of greater dialogue between different communities by promoting intercultural exchange, the removal of barriers and the promotion of human rights. Therefore, the possibility of coexistence of tourism and migratory phenomena is also demonstrated by the case of the Italian island of Lampedusa: this island has become, like Ceuta, a hub of great importance for migratory flows from Africa but this has not prevented the growth of tourism in the last two decades when the passengers arriving at the island's airport have doubled (ENAC, 2022) despite Lampedusa has often faced periods of major emergency.

Considering how the geopolitical dispute between Spain and Morocco is certainly historic but not so strong, given also the common interest in having important reciprocal relations, and given that the situation of the flows in Ceuta has often been less emergency than in Lampedusa, a greater cooperation between the two countries is possible, then leading to a single tourist offer. In the case of Ceuta tourism represents in fact a great opportunity for development of the city and the Moroccan territory, exploiting the strong tourist potential present and encouraging the existing link between the two territories, promoting a development in the transport sector that has proved necessary and potentially decisive. Cooperation of this kind can create a unique tourist product between Ceuta and the Moroccan territory, taking advantage of the historical and cultural mixture that unites the whole area. It became clear that tourism, which for its characteristics implies the collaboration of different actors on the territory and has as its objective the encounter with the other, needs here a strong cooperation between the two countries and a greater opening of the border (Bettoni, 2013). Nevertheless, a better link between north of Morocco and Ceuta and a more lascivious and less militarized border also have the potential to promote greater dialogue between the respective

communities and it's a precondition for better cooperation, bringing a widespread benefit to the population of both sides of the fences but would also affect irregular migrants leading to a reduction in the violence of this border towards this migration component.

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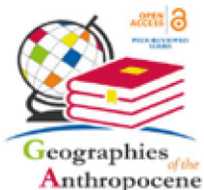
This book offers a comprehensive examination of the dynamic interplay between human mobility, migration, and tourism in the context of the Anthropocene era. The collection of eight chapters delves into various aspects of this complex relationship, shedding light on crucial issues, challenges, and opportunities in today's rapidly evolving global landscape. The concept of responsible tourism is a transversal element in this publication, exploring its significance in promoting sustainable practices and mitigating the environmental and socio-cultural impacts of movement of people. Another topic which is addressed here is the post-Covid regeneration of tourism-dependent island economies. The authors analyze the challenges faced by these regions and explore innovative approaches to sustainable recovery. The discussions here revolve around the importance of community engagement, diversification, and resilience in building a robust and sustainable tourism industry. Sustainability also takes a center stage in this edition. The discourse presented in various chapters examines the pressing environmental issues associated with the movement of people. It also delves into the transformation of the hotel industry and explores tourism opportunities in isolated geographical exclave, shedding light on unique destinations that face challenges related to accessibility and connectivity. Important analysis is also presented on cultural landscapes, heritage sites, and local traditions and how cultural authenticity and meaningful interactions between tourists and local communities can shape the tourist experience.

This book will be of great interest to scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to understand and navigate the challenges and opportunities that arise in this rapidly changing global landscape.

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