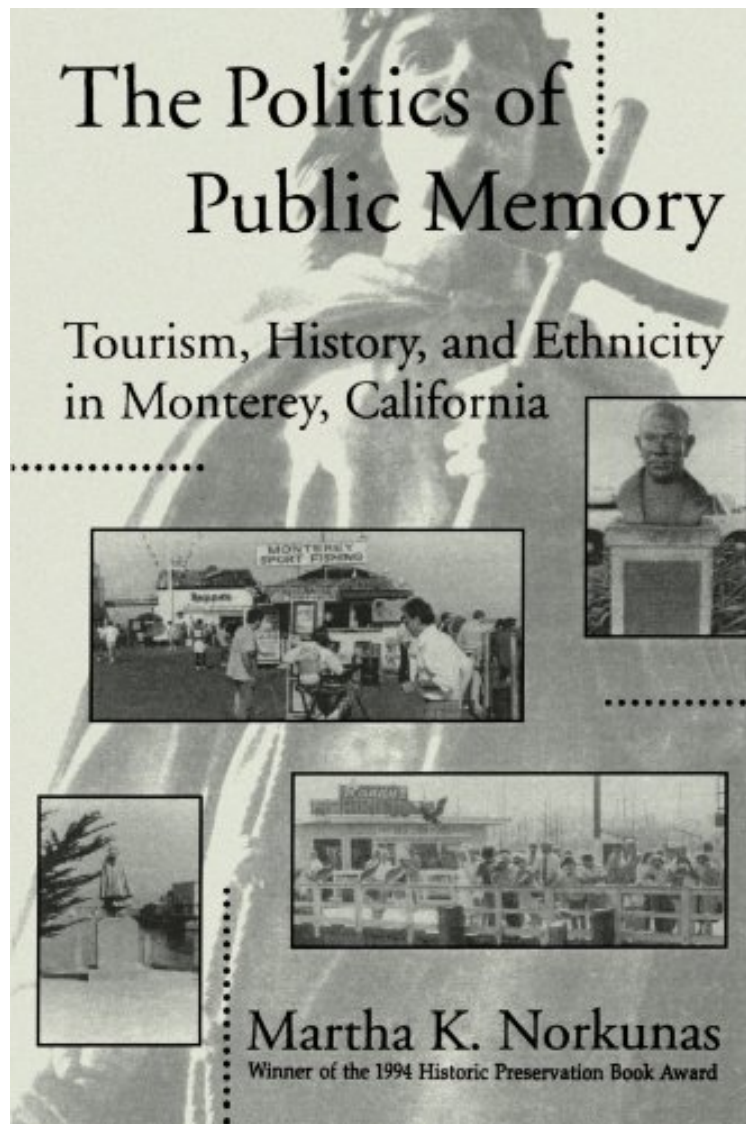


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The Politics of Public Memory: Tourism, History, and Ethnicity in Monterey, California (Suny Series in Oral and Public History)

Martha K. Norkunas

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Martha K. Norkunas : The Politics of Public Memory: Tourism, History, and Ethnicity in Monterey, California (Suny Series in Oral and Public History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of Public Memory: Tourism, History, and Ethnicity in Monterey, California (Suny Series in Oral and Public History):

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you hate America then buy this book. By Louis O. Constantini This book is a ridiculous race mongering, anti-capitalist, social conscious polemic. The author creates her own truth, then backs into reality. Her judgments are given with no background. Bernie Sanders would object to this book. 0 of 10 people found the following review helpful. One Star By dean e miller I was not please but the settlment was fair.

This book examines American public culture and the means by which communities in the U.S. reconstruct the past and reinterpret the present in the development of tourism. Norkunas shows how public culture is not confined to just museums or monuments, but can be constructed on many different levels and in different settings, such as community ethnicity, natural setting (environment), literary landscape, and history. In her case study of Monterey, the author explores the particular ideologies that prompt the community to represent itself in tourism, and that also act to legitimate the current social structure.

Many people will find the elements of the Monterey experience familiar: a history represented by upper class homes; socially elite governing boards and societies; outdated and non-inclusive interpretive exhibits; the tour guide who is a local history gatekeeper; emphasis on decorative arts and furnishings on a historic house tour; the lack of emphasis on industrial history; the commercial exploitation of adaptively used industrial buildings. The commonality of these problems will indeed make the book useful and an important reference point to what each of us is doing at home. John A. Herbst, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania This is a well-written book that provides good, hard, informed analysis of Monterey's historic sites and history-related developments. The sites here are representative of others, and the issues raised apply nationwide. These are important issues, too, concerning as they do the uses of history in contemporary society. The book deserves a wide audience. Robert Weible, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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About the Author Martha K. Norkunas is Cultural Affairs Director of the Lowell (MA) Historic Preservation Commission.