A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The text is centered within the open space of the frame.

OVERTOURISM AND TOURISMPHOBIA

Global trends and local context

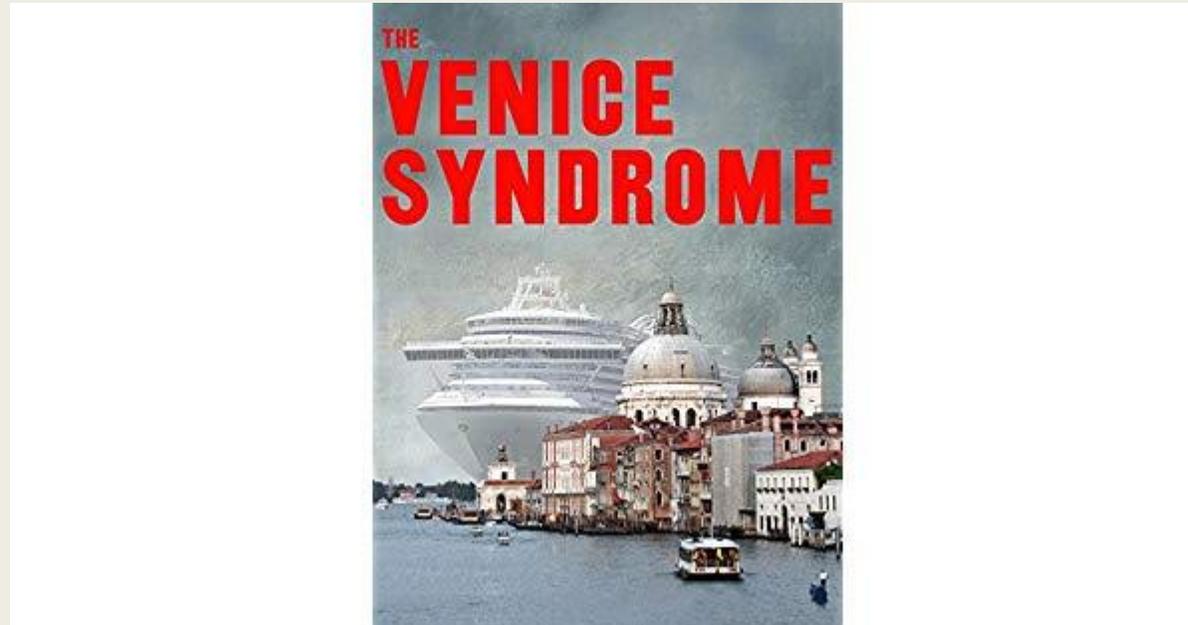
From the second half of the last century onwards, the excessive spread of tourism in urban centres has led to a situation that is known as **overtourism**.

The following are some of main effects of this phenomenon:

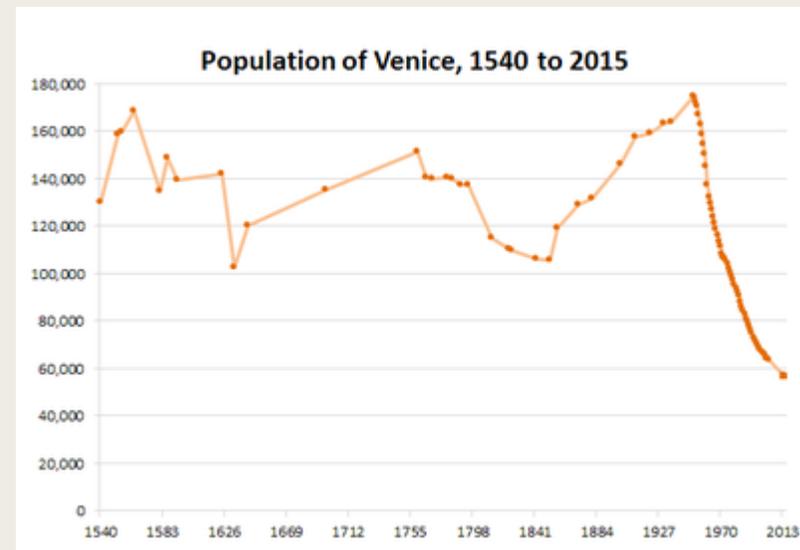
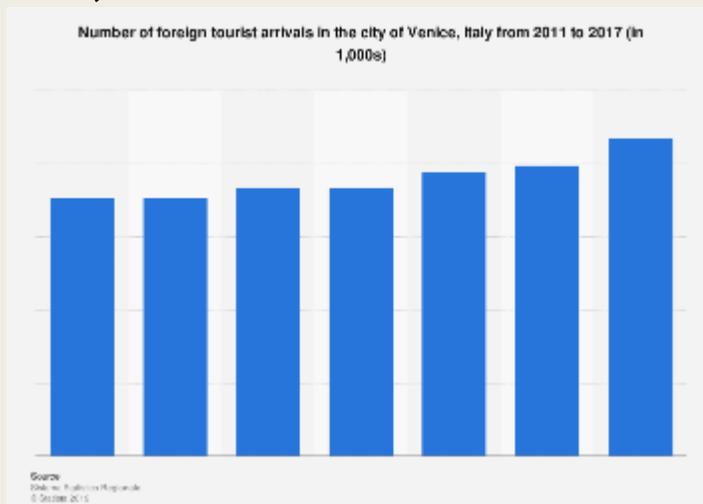
- Congestion of public spaces in city centres
- The privatisation of public spaces
- The growth of cruise tourism and the consequential seasonal congestion
- The rise in housing prices
- The loss of residents' purchasing power
- The unbalanced number of locals compared to visitors



The expression “**Venice Syndrome**” is often used to refer to the phenomena of tourism saturation and the exodus of local residents to the surrounding urban centres.



While the number of tourist arrivals in Venice has been constantly increasing in the last decades, the local residents have been decreasing and the housing prices per square metre in the city are constantly on the rise. In most exclusive areas of Venice, such as the historical centre and the Grand Canal, the average price ranges from €12,000 to €20,000/m².



Venice has 261,680 inhabitants and receives more than 10 million overnight stays.

Besides, fewer and fewer rental apartments are available for residents.

There is a direct relationship between the rise in residential properties prices and the increasing supply on tourist apartment rental platforms, such as Airbnb.

Venice also suffers from tourist congestion due to the increase in **day-trippers** from cruise tourism.

The social reaction to tourism pressure

Protests and resistance demonstrations have been organized by local residents in the last few years in order to highlight the following aspects:

- The forced exodus of many residents
- The lack of essential shops for everyday life, which have been replaced by tourist shops
- Rising housing prices
- Cruise ships and their impact on the Lagoon



The evolution of tourism in Berlin

The number of overnight stays in hotels in Berlin rose from 11 million to 27 million in just 10 years (2003-2013).

In 2016, the number of visitors to the city reached 12.7 million.

As a consequence, the German capital has experienced a significant rise in rental prices in the last few years, which is directly related to the proliferation of tourist apartments.



Overtourism in Barcelona

The city of Barcelona has recorded a constant growth in tourist arrivals and overnight stays since the first decade of this century, which, especially in the last few years, has caused a rise in housing prices per square metres.

The increase in the price of housing per square metre has led to population displacement.

Many local residents have a very negative perception of tourism.



Tourismphobia

This negative perception of tourism (tourismphobia) may be related to increasing sale and rental prices of housing, and the privatisation and congestion of public spaces.

The increase in tourist arrivals in Barcelona, to which many attribute the transformation of some parts of the city, partly caused by the democratisation of tourism and the low-cost phenomenon, has given rise to a sense of rejection, distrust and contempt towards the tourism industry in general.

