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# Politics and Museum Representations: Views from Postcolonial Chinese Destinations

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**Title:** Politics and Museum Representations: Views from Postcolonial Chinese Destinations
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**Abstract:**

The purpose of this presentation is to explore the ways in which power and politics influence those involved in the reproduction of cultural representations in postcolonial Chinese destinations: Hong Kong and Macau. Hong Kong and Macau were returned to China in the late 1990s under the concept of "one country, two systems." Although these two cities are officially under the rule of China, their historical marginalisation in ancient Chinese history, rapid development during colonial times, and economic superiority before the handover makes them different from mainland China (Mathews, 1997; Chou, 2010). Set against the background of this "crisis of identity," this study aims to locate postcolonial national identity debates within museum settings. It aims to extend the previous discussions on politics of tourism marketing (Morgan & Pritchard, 1998; Zhang, L'Espoir Decosta, & McKercher, 2015). Specifically, this study discusses how the History Museum of Hong Kong reveals a discourse of "a long China, but short British history." In contrast, the study shows how the Macao Museum selectively makes, remakes, and demakes Macau as a peaceful platform of "East meets West" for the current purpose of presenting Macau as an international business city welcoming business from Portuguese-speaking countries. In addition, it shows how Macau presents itself as a cultural city rather than a gaming destination. This qualitative inquiry, based on both online and printed documents and a series of in-depth interviews with local cultural experts, demonstrates the symbolic power of cultural heritage in representing people and place.

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