

Goldstein, Jeffrey H., Ed. *Sports Violence*, New York: Springer-Verlag, 1983. Pp. v, 223. Notes, bibliographies, author and subject indexes, \$23.90 (cloth).

This collection of cogent and generally readable essays deeply probes violence in sport, one of the “relatively neglected issues” (p. v) of contemporary sports. Editor Jeffrey Goldstein succeeds in furnishing a broad, well-

researched, interdisciplinary collection of historical, sociological and social-psychological interpretations and perspectives of sport violence that should be applicable to historical study. The essays summarize and evaluate pertinent literature and include extensive bibliographies. Goldstein was not as successful in achieving a broad international scope. The book could have benefited by including more culturally diverse studies than the limited sample from Australia, Canada, England, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States. A summary and interpretive chapter by the editor treating some of the questions raised in the introduction would be useful; however, few collections provide such material. Despite these few criticisms, the book represents the state-of-the-art scholarship about sports violence.

The central theme of the collection demonstrates that violence in and surrounding sport is related to the larger culture in which sport exists. The authors illustrate that as sport has developed from hometown events staged for local audiences, in which violence was perceived as part of the game, to business arrangements marketed for mass consumption, the social conventions that prescribe business and other types of social interchange have also come to regulate violence in sport. Notwithstanding that some sports are violent by design, the authors pose a clear distinction between violence perceived as legitimate, or within the rules, and illegitimate or outside the rules. The slowly increasing litigation for illegitimate violence in professional sport demonstrates that social norms and values clearly govern the sport arena. Similarly, the book distinguishes between sports violence, which involves athletes, and sports-related violence, which involves spectators and those surrounding the event.

Chapters by Allen Guttman on violence in Roman sports, Wray Vamplew on controlling English football and horse-racing crowds between 1875 and 1914, and Eric Dunning on social bonding and violence in sport, will probably appeal most to sport historians. Their clarity of style aids the reader in following the application of socio-historical theory to explain the evolution of contemporary athlete and fan sport violence. All three demonstrate that modern sports are less violent than their predecessors. And, they postulate that sports-related violence is more related to basic social problems than to sports' intrinsic violence.

The social significance of sport violence is explored in Michael D. Smith's sociological perspective, Brenda Jo Bredemeier's moral analysis of athletic aggression, Melvin M. Mark, Fred B. Bryant and Darrin R. Lehman's comparison between perceived injustice and sport violence, Amelie and Hans Dieter Mummendey's study of aggressive behavior in soccer as social interaction, Dunning, and Gunther Luschen's review of the literature of sports, conflict and conflict resolution. The historian who is not current on attribution theory, moral development theory, social learning theory, equity theory, and conflict theory should be forewarned that these chapters extensively employ these theories to demonstrate the relationship between sports violence and the larger social context. Rereading or perhaps brushing up on these theories should be anticipated for this section, particularly for Bredemeier's chapter.

The book's psychological interpretations center on the controversy over whether aggressive contests engender either a vicarious catharsis or increased violence in athletes and fans. Chapters by Luschen and Gordon W. Russell on psychological issues in sports violence, Robert Keefer, Goldstein and David Kasiaz on Olympic games and warfare, and Jennings Bryant and Dolf Zillmann on the media and sports violence testify that existing empirical evidence does not warrant expecting a cathartic outcome from sport violence either for athletes or spectators. Russell's chapter, for example, in part demonstrates how catharsis theory may be utilized to examine the historical record to determine how extensively combatant sports were present in past societies and the degree to which those societies were involved in aggressive conflict, e.g. war or revolution. Results of such studies would inform the debate about sport's "reproductive" or "transformative" role in society.

Several of the chapters offer suggestions for reducing sports violence. These include controlling crowds, (Vamplew), altering perceptions of the importance of the event (Keefer, Goldstein, and Kasiaz) and changing the media's representation of the action (Bryant and Zillmann). Generally the methods can be grouped as "external constraints" and "internal restraints." The former surround the contest and include decreasing the proximity of spectators to playing areas and reducing the focus on violence by media broadcasters. The latter are more integral to the contest and would alter attitudes that condone and accept violence.

This book provides the reader with many examples of how a solid theoretical base can be used to explore not only violence in sport but also the larger question of whether sport reflects or shapes social norms and values. Utilization of theory as demonstrated in this collection will enrich explanations of sport history.

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