

Further Thoughts on the “Metropolis-Hinterland” Development of Canadian Sport

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The present study considers the historical development of Canadian sport as being one of a response to the metropole, or the external dominating nation-state, in the patterns of Canada's hinterland, or the dependent nation-state, sport practices. There is considerable historical evidence of the position of British sport practices in Canada, a fact well-documented in scholarly and popular literature. The later, subsequent influence of the United States on Canada's sporting practices is likewise analyzed and documented. Therefore, this study looked to the “metropole-hinterland” framework in order to better understand how this shift from one metropole to the other, i.e., from the British to the American, influenced Canadian sport development and what oppositional tendencies and developments have resulted from this change.

The literature mentioned above, as well as Metcalfe's (1987) recent book, in particular, were used to synthesize this historical framework. A broad timeframe was necessary to develop this analysis. A starting point in the early 1800s and an ending point in the 1970's was therefore used for this study. It was felt that the framework used here was more appropriate in analyzing the historical development of Canadian sport and in the Canadian state's intervention to legislatively protect certain sports and to develop sport in a federal bureaucracy.