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On Sport: Pierre de Coubertin and German Officials

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German Olympic officials like Carl Diem and historians like Müller and others have always claimed that there has been a special positive relationship between Pierre de Coubertin and Germany, while Olympic historians like Boulogne, Eyquem, Lucas, MacAloon, Mandell, Senay & Hervet and others have claimed the opposite. The paper will analyse Coubertin's publications, particularly unknown newspaper interviews, his correspondence with Diem, and thus far unknown correspondence with the German Emperor Wilhelm II to show that Coubertin has been impressed by the German attitude towards sport (from Wilhelm to Hitler), but distrusted the representatives of the major physical exercise organisation in Germany, i.e. *Turner* and *Turner* leaders from his experience with French *Turners*. Diem tried to instrumentalize his personal relationship to Coubertin for the benefit of the 1936 Olympics. This brought Coubertin into a difficult situation as he resented some and favored some of the other actions of the Hitler government. The ambiguity of Coubertin's actions and publications will be discussed and placed into the intellectual and political tradition of the France-German relationship of the same time period.