

GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY AWARD



“Fists flew and blood flowed:” Cultural Resistance, Hungarian Water Polo, and International Response, 1945-1956

Robert E. Rinehart
University of Illinois, Urbana

This paper traces development of both gradual and dramatic Hungarian nationalism in the face of Soviet occupation after World War II. This provides the basis for the positing of a case of Hungarian resistance through sport. Specifically, I discuss the 1956 Melbourne Olympic water polo match between the Soviet Union and Hungary with relation to Hungarian (athlete and expatriate) feelings of empowerment and identification.