

SOCCER: THE WORLD'S GAME

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Luthuli's Charges:-Black Power, "Zuluness," and Football Culture in South Africa, 1920s-1930s

This paper on Zulu football in Durban in the 1920s and 1930s analyzes its ties to contemporary black South African nationalist politics. Based on a variety of primary documents, including government documents, newspapers, private papers, and oral interviews, and secondary sources, the paper investigates the intersection of football and politics through the life of Albert Luthuli, president of the African National Congress (1952-1967) and Nobel Peace prize recipient in 1961. Political leader, chief, and teacher, Luthuli described himself in his autobiography, Let my People Go, as a "compulsive football fan" who got "carried away helplessly by the excitement of a soccer match."

Armed with personal charisma, superb organizing skills, and considerable technical knowledge of the game, Luthuli took an active part in soccer administration in the inter-war period. At a time of tremendous social upheaval and intensifying state racism, soccer's popularity skyrocketed and the black game underwent a vigorous organizational expansion. Specifically, the paper examines: Luthuli's contribution to the history of South African soccer; why football held a special place in the struggle by black South Africans to defend the partial autonomy of alternative institutions; and how local, African experiences and perspectives are of critical importance to a fuller, more accurate historical account of the global history of the world's most popular sport.

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The History of Football in Africa: Problems and Perspectives

Africa is a growing phenomena in the soccer world. Although South Africa could not participate in the World Cup, African teams achieved their first world titles at either the youth or elite levels of competition over the past ten years. The emergence of soccer could provide a fresh and nuanced perspective on modern