

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

African history. It allows for reflection upon the economic, social, cultural, or political issues of the last fifty years. Yet this task can be a daunting one for scholars who have to check precisely the most important historical problems they would confront.

One problem, for example, deals with the phrase, "African football." Africa is diverse in terms of its geography, religion, culture, and past. African countries may be more unified when they seek more opportunities to compete in the World Cup. However, they seem to be unable to work together for more stability in the construction of their sport organizations on the continent.

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Sport, Communal Politics and the Partition of India

This paper explores the role played by soccer and cricket in the social and religious divisions of the years preceding Indian Independence and Partition. It draws upon a range of texts from the period to argue that the soccer clubs and cricket clubs of the 1930s and 1940s played a profound and highly influential role in communal relations. They did so in several ways: by becoming focal points for developing communal consciousness among both Hindus and Muslims; by offering a platform for communicating political ideology to the masses; and by bringing together rival groups in a situation of tension and struggle that might easily ignite the slow burning fire of communal violence.

The outcome of the communal struggle as a whole was catastrophic. Muslims gained the separate state of Pakistan in 1947, millions of people were displaced, and hundreds of thousands died in the ensuing genocide. As much as the history of Indian sport has recently been researched from a number of different perspectives, this study is the first to tie sports clubs so directly to political action in India. This was a formative period as Indian groups battled over the outcome of Independence: football and cricket were to play a role in its unfolding drama. Therefore, research into the relationship of sport and politics contributes to a wider understanding of the historical development of sport and sporting rivalries, but also adds a further dimension to Indian history, in particular the political changes of the last decades of the British Empire. Developing a sense of how sport and politics were