

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

intertwined is especially important as so few Indian historians take sport seriously enough to build it into their wider histories of the region.

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Patronage, Politics, and Folk Football: the Case of Alnwick Northumberland

The nineteenth century saw the Shrove Tuesday folk football match in the Northumberland town of Alnwick change fundamentally. The game shifted location, the competitors changed their nature, the entities represented were transformed, and the game even lapsed for a decade. However, the game survived and is continued in a modified form today. This paper will concentrate on the conduct of the game between 1788 and 1914, delineating the changes that took place, and outlining the complex social and political transformations that underlay the conduct of the game. Using the local press and relevant manuscript material including the records of the local guilds and “football committee,” it will be suggested that the Freemen of the town took the opportunity of the football match to demonstrate their political convictions, while the local landowner used it to form alliances with the various factions.

At the same time, it will be demonstrated that the continuance and revival of the game were only possible due to aristocratic patronage of the event. While the game itself and its host community were modernized, the match remained a feudal rite. It was, however, an event which all the contributing parties found useful. This paper sheds important light on the decline of popular sports in nineteenth century England, the “modernization” of leisure, as well as the vital importance of patronage and paternalism in these contexts.

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Chicago Soccer in the Golden Age of Sport

The few professional historians that examined United States soccer mostly concluded that the sport remained a “foreign game” relegated to ethnic enclaves and crowded out of US sport space. This paper refutes that conclusion. Rather than relegating