

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