

in Canada. While this is a meaningful and thought-provoking incident, Eyford does not pursue the reasoning behind this oversight. This is all the more puzzling, when he goes on to describe in detail the popularity and importance of the team in Winnipeg. The reader is left wondering why historical records do not accurately acknowledge the achievements of this team.

Despite these lingering questions, Eyford's study is useful in that he focuses on an 'outsider' group that was accepted and ultimately granted entry into the upper echelons of sport, while most studies concerning ethnic groups focus on their exclusion from ventures enjoyed by Anglo-Canadians. The fact that this significant achievement was almost a forgotten piece of history suggests that there might be other examples of sport being used to assimilate immigrant groups that have not been accurately remembered.



*Cesar R. Torres, "The Latin American 'Olympic Explosion' of the 1920s: Causes and Consequences," The International Journal of the History of Sport 23, no. 7 (November 2006), pp. 1088-1111. Reviewed by Megan Popovic.*

Even in the third decade of the modern Olympic Games, the Olympic Movement had yet to make significant inroads toward the achievement of Pierre de Coubertin and the aim of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to internationalize the Games. In this article, Torres investigates the expansion of the Olympic Games into Latin America during the 1920s. More specifically, he focuses on the sudden increase in the involvement of the area in the Olympics during this period. Torres argues that various causes sparked the explosion of interest in the Games in Latin American countries that ultimately left lasting consequences on the region's sporting milieu. He dissects this pattern of dissemination and hones in on the factors and players involved in the evolution and organization of modern sport.

Torres provides a detailed overview of the external pressures and internal conundrums that played a part in the incorporation of Latin American countries into the Olympic Movement. At the onset of the paper, he notes that modern sports arrived in the early 1900s from outside influences, whereby indigenous athletic activities became victims of cultural appropriation and adaptation. The initial wave of influence began with the entry of British capitalists and the appeal of their 'modern' forms of sport, and was followed by the mass appeal of North American sports and their connection to the concept of 'progress.' Narrowing the focus on the Olympic Games, Torres details the development of the working-relationship between de Coubertin, President of the IOC, and Elwood S. Brown of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), which had a tremendous impact on the internationalization of the Olympic Games. The IOC's idealistic vision in conjunction with the YMCA's established worldwide struc-

ture suited the interests of both parties and provided the IOC with an inroad for expansion into virgin territory. The author sheds light on several achievements that resulted from the IOC-YMCA partnership, such as the creation of the 1922 Latin American Games, IOC representative Count Henri de Baillet-Latour's successful continental tour that promoted and fostered Olympic linkages, the establishment of several National Olympic Committees, and the installation of delegates from South and Central America into the IOC.

After focusing on the external influences on Latin American sport and Olympic incorporation, Torres identifies the internal challenges that derived from these rapid shifts. He highlights the power struggles between former national sporting organizations and newly formed Olympic committees in Argentina and Uruguay, together with challenges from bureaucratic stagnation and tensions in Mexico, Chile and Brazil, and negative assessments of national sporting culture by Cubans. Thus, while the global ambitions of institutions such as the IOC and the YMCA were increasingly realized, this created turbulence and constant turmoil within the participating nations.

In his assessment of the affairs in the region during the 1920s, Torres provides a succinct summary of the events, while integrating key challenges and outcomes. For example, he states that while the Latin American Games aided the achievement of national unity and furthered regional inclusion into the Games, the situation was 'loaded with dynamite' (p.1004) and the Olympic explosion generated both unexpected optimistic and discouraging outcomes. Furthermore, he notes the shortcomings in the IOC-YMCA connection, such as unclear policies, actions that contradicted organizational rhetoric, and a strong sense of Eurocentrism. Thus, Torres recognizes the positive outcomes that stemmed from the internationalization of the Olympic Games into Latin America, such as the establishment of sport within the nations and the attention to the needs of, and potential for, their national sporting futures. However, he also emphasizes the inherent paternalism and historical and cultural insensitivity of the IOC and YMCA, the homogeneous application of policy within the diverse and heterogeneous region, and the misdirected actions that occurred from these changes.

In his usual fashion, Torres exudes a brilliant awareness of the transformation in this epoch from a broad contextual lens, while bestowing immaculate attention to the minute intricacies of the situation. His extensive use of primary sources in various languages is impressive, and the endnotes show a meticulous attention to detail. In all, this article contributes to the history of the Olympic Movement, particularly the interrelatedness of the Games with nationalism, regionalism, and globalization.

