

Gerald Redmond (ed.), *Sport and Politics. The 1984 Olympic Scientific Proceedings*, Volume 7, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics, 1986. pp.xv + 215. \$US25.

There are advantages in coupling an international congress to a major athletic festival. The current interests of scholars thinking and writing about sport are put on show. Moreover, by

addressing a general theme, using empirical data from their own countries, they can illustrate the magic that sport conjures on all the continents. The edited proceedings of the 1984 Olympic Scientific Congress creates such an impression. As talk of Australian rugby mercenaries to South Africa once again becomes rife, we will no doubt hear more inane pleas for sport and politics to remain separate. These proceedings go a long way to prove that the two are inexorably linked. But they convey something more. They tell us of the authors' collective fascination for sport, and specifically of the fundamental reality of its links to the world's second oldest profession.

Sport and Politics presents 25 papers in four sections. The first three deal with contemporary public policy affecting sport in both east and west, sport's links to European and Imperial problems in history, and politics and the Olympic Games. After 24 accounts of what is mostly the use and abuse of sport, the final presentation tries to head off any growing cynicism. Donald Anthony's keynote address challenges the reader to accept that 'In a Nuclear Age, Sport is Man's Best Hope'. A fifth section provides a select bibliography for further reading. This is the text's great strength: it whets the appetite with a short introductory paper by an established scholar, and then backs it up with a reading list for closer study. It deserves inclusion in undergraduate courses as, an excellent introductory reader.

Part I dwells upon contemporary themes in policy-making and public administration, of relevance to students who may see their vocational interests as going in those directions. Comparisons can be drawn between attitudes to state sponsorship of sport in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia - each pursued indigenous goals within its specific political framework. But it's the paper by the East German, Edelfrid Buggel, which stands out. Ocker references to the GDR's winners as 'automatons' will probably still be heard whenever their swimmers and track athletes are faster than ours. But Buggel's paper indicates that a national interpretation of the term 'sport for all', requiring the planned application of technology and resources to the entire sporting population, is being implemented.

Part II is relevant to history students interested in the exploitation of sport for chauvinistic purposes. Sport has been used to bind the Empire together, then was applied in fostering a distinctive Australian national identity. It helped Britain send a generation to their deaths in the mud of the western front during the first world war, then was appropriated by German fascists in their preparation for the second world war. Reading these papers, there seems no limit to crafty political guile - and the stupidity of the mindless masses.

By the time of the Oregon Conference it was evident that the Soviet Union and its allies would not attend the summer games. It provided an important backdrop, but thankfully Parts III and IV did not dwell upon this one event. There are good case studies to prove that the link between politics and the Olympic Games is as old as the International Olympic Committee itself. This evidence conflicts with the concluding 'Positive View of the Future' where Donald Anthony presents an unconvincing argument of sport's contribution to international diplomacy. It should be seen more as a case study of a lifetime devotee to the Olympic movement - the Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1959) and British Labor parliamentarian, Philip Noel-Baker - than as an argument for 'Sport as Man's Best Hope'.

Gerald Redmond (University of Alberta) edited successfully the proceedings of a conference into a neat little anthology. But the text could have been enhanced with introductory comments to each section. Brief biographical details about each author would also have improved the presentation. And the gremlins can secretly sow 'typos' in the best of settings, but this one got more than its fair share. Nonetheless, this is a worthwhile contribution to an area relevant not only to undergraduates, but to us all.

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