

Donald Macintosh and Michael Hawes, *Sport and Canadian Diplomacy*, McGill-Queen's University Press. Kingston and Montreal, 1994. Bibliog., index. pp. 234.

Macintosh and Hawes provide a detailed examination of the evolution of sport's role in Canada's international relations and in the development of its reputation as a middle power in world politics. Incorporating new and previously-published work by the authors, *Sport and Canadian Diplomacy* traces the intertwining of sport and foreign policy through an episodic approach to the topic. By focusing on the major diplomatic endeavours and issues that related to sport, the authors have constructed a history of sport's role in Canadian diplomacy that is based on key periods of change. The structuring of the book around well-known incidents and issues, while avoiding false periodisation in their analysis, also creates a work that caters to those without a strong background in Canada's political or sporting history.

The book's event-based chapters on the 1972 Canada-USSR hockey series, the preparations for the 1976 Montreal Olympics, the boycott debates surrounding the 1980 Moscow Olympics and 1978 Commonwealth Games, are supplemented by more issue-oriented chapters, such as Canada's relationship with the Commonwealth. The result is a history that skilfully blends the general trends with the periods of intense diplomatic activity. The interconnecting of the major events with larger diplomatic objectives illustrates the important position of sport in Canada's participation in geo-politics, whether it be in East-West relations, developed and developing nations, or between Black

African and 'white' Commonwealth countries. In presenting this history, Macintosh and Hawes highlight the emergence of sport as a major diplomatic tool in Canada's foreign policy during the Prime Ministership of Pierre Trudeau. Often labelled 'anti-American' because of the deviation of Canadian foreign policy from that of the United States under his leadership, the Trudeau administration identified the link between sport and Canada's international reputation, as well as its potential to create a new Canadian image internationally. Canada's recognition of the communist regime of mainland China before the Montreal Olympics and the growing political and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union resulting from the organisation of the Canada-USSR hockey series were two instances where sport became an expression of Canada's shifting foreign policy.

Beyond the political and diplomatic machinations associated with events such as the staging of the 1976 Olympic Games, the authors also investigated the role of sport in the promotion of Canada's image as an international mediator. These sections of the book, to which David Black and Donna Greenhorn also contributed, examine Canada's management of its affairs with Commonwealth countries, particularly African Commonwealth nations, through its role in the framing of the Gleneagles Agreement and the enforcement of the sporting boycott against apartheid South Africa. This discussion highlights the utility of sport in advancing foreign policy goals as well as illustrating the necessity of managing international sport via diplomatic involvement because of sport's inherent interrelationship with political meanings.

One of the most important attributes of *Sport and Canadian Diplomacy* is in the sources used. Among the array of interviews conducted by Macintosh were discussions with former high-ranking administrators from Hockey Canada, the Department of External Affairs and Sport Canada. Several current and former federal bureaucrats also consented to provide information, including access to large amounts of confidential primary source documents, so long as their anonymity was maintained. Collectively, these contributions allow the authors to formulate a penetrating account of the inner mechanisms of the federal government's diplomatic activities, based on frank accounts from many of the officials actually involved. As a consequence, Macintosh and Hawes's account of sport's role in Canadian diplomacy is one that critiques the actions of many centrally involved officials in addition to attributing accountability

for diplomatic outcomes to particular individuals or agencies.

While much of the material contained in the book relates specifically to Canada, the operations of Sport Canada and the internal structures of the Department of External Affairs, it offers a Canadian perspective to many of the issues that the governments of Australia and New Zealand wrestled with during the same period. As such, the confidential and 'inside' information in *Sport and Canadian Diplomacy* provides a valuable case study on the means whereby the governments of western democracies forge the interrelationship between international sport and national politics in their diplomacy. In discussing sport's importance as a diplomatic tool, as well as an arena of international political significance in its own right, Macintosh and Hawes capture the duality of international sport's importance while simultaneously providing a case study of Canada's struggle to effectively manage sport's link to global politics.

Researchers in sports history, politics, policy and comparative studies will find this book informative because of its detailed case study of one country's use of sport in its international dealings. Although this work does have some shortcomings, such as its failure to adequately address the implications of Canada's 'sporting diplomacy on Quebec nationalism, these oversights are understandable given the external factors that effected the book's preparation. The last book authored by Don Macintosh before his death in 1994, *Sport and Canadian Diplomacy*, is a fitting final addition to his *Sport and Politics in Canada* (1987) and *The Game Planners* (1990), both of which remain the key texts on sports policy in Canada. In particular, Macintosh's personal contacts with sports administrators, bureaucrats and diplomats over years of research in the field means that it will be some time, if ever, before another history with such comprehensive documentary and oral sources is compiled.

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