

J A Mangan, (ed.), *Europe, Sport, World: Shaping Global Societies*. London, Cass, 2001. Volume 3 of the European Sports History Review, 463 pp., £17.50 paperback.

The double publication of issues of journals has become a regular feature of Cass enterprises, which presumably meets a profitable market. This is the third volume in a series drawn from the European Sports History Review. For those who do not choose to subscribe to the journal, this may be a reasonable way of obtaining particular thematic contributions, but some of the problems raised by presenting collections of articles as a single volume are illustrated by the current offering under review. It is described, one assumes by its editor, as an 'exquisite new book' in which 'only a small part of the saga of shaping the global sports society is recounted but in all cases the stories here have not been told before in this form nor in a single collection. Here is its originality'(p.4). The editor's introduction sets out what is taken as the unifying theme, the spread of European sports to a wider world in the first phase of European imperialism and the reverse flow of sports from the rest of the world back into Europe and the reactions to this which have occurred in the current wave of globalisation. For reasons which will be addressed later, the publication itself appears as part of a new wave of informal imperialism, this time of scholarship, though it contains some very interesting material from the periphery within its covers.

The range is broad from the local adaptation of *turnen* in southern Brazil by expatriate Germans from the mid-nineteenth century to African football labour migration to Europe in the late twentieth century by way of Korean sport culture and ideology and the emergence of modern sport in Singapore and Japan. There are some highly detailed largely empirical accounts, for example of the modernisation of soccer in Palestine prior to 1948 and of sport in Cuba in the context of the relationship with the Soviet Union in the Castro period. Other articles are much more closely integrated into theoretical debates as with Paul Darby's dissection of African football labour migration in terms of

homogenisation, globalisation, world systems theory and the development of underdevelopment. But there is no clear sense that the authors were addressing common themes as the explicit purpose of their contributions, rather that they wrote interesting pieces which tangentially touched on them. One article, a fascinating account of the early development of sport in Japan by Allen Guttmann and Lee Thompson, turns out to be a chapter from their book *Tradition and Modernity in Japanese Sports*, adapted and edited by Tony Mangan. This will enlighten anyone who thinks baseball arrived in Japan with American occupying forces after the Second World War, as it quotes Nels Norgren from Chicago touring in 1922 and claiming that baseball, 'is more the national sport of Japan than it is of America' (p.38).

The editor also contributes two joint-authored articles plus a prologue and epilogue, in which he reveals the breadth of his range of reference and the shallowness of his analysis of the process of shaping global societies through sport. Having stressed that a level playing field is necessary he states, 'To abandon metaphor and state the matter simply; there has to be common sports at which to compete. Only then is ideological superiority visibly flaunted' (p.268).

Scholars of sports history around the world owe a debt to Tony Mangan for pioneering work in sports history, particularly his first major work on the cultural diffusion of British influence through sport and his role in persuading Frank Cass to publish in the area and create the range of outlets for academic work which now exist. But in recent years it may be that this has come at a price. This volume may be an example of the kind of informal imperialism being discussed within its covers, flowing from the filtering processes associated with the various journals Cass publishes. The problem may be more structural than personal and there is a sense in which it is influenced by the higher corruption of scholarly research by bean counting exercises resulting from quality control checks in various countries.

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