

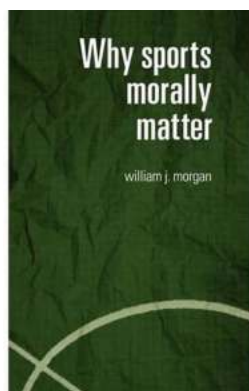
Power And Politics In World Athletics: Unveiling the Untold Story That Shaped the Sporting Landscape

In the world of athletics, where dreams are born and records are shattered, there lies a web of power and politics that often goes unnoticed. Behind the scenes of our favorite sports events, a complex ecosystem of interests, rivalries, and backroom dealings dictates the course of history. Today, we delve into the untold story of power and politics in world athletics.

An Era of Tyrants: The Autocratic Ruling Powerhouses

When discussing power in athletics, certain nations and individuals stand out as the dominant forces throughout history. In the 1970s, the Soviet Union's iron grip on athletics stood unchallenged. From doping allegations to political influence, their athletes seemed unbeatable. But what went on behind closed doors to maintain their dominance?

Similarly, Kenya's medal-winning tradition in distance running has catapulted them to the forefront of the athletic world. However, lurking beneath the surface, whispers of corruption and political interference have tainted their rise to glory.



Power and Politics in World Athletics: A Critical History (Routledge Critical Studies in Sport)

by Jörg Krieger (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Behind the Scenes: The Power Brokers

While athletes showcase their talents on the field, a select group of individuals holds the keys to their success or downfall. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) emerges as the governing body, tasked with maintaining a level playing field. But as we peel back the layers, a darker side of the organization comes to light.

Countless allegations of bribery, vote rigging, and favoritism have riddled the IAAF for years, leaving athletes at the mercy of a corrupt system. The power brokers within the federation skillfully manipulate the system to protect their interests, leaving the dreams of many crushed in their wake.

The Dark Side: Doping, Corruption, and Scandals

No discussion on power and politics in world athletics is complete without addressing the rampant issue of doping. From Ben Johnson's shocking disqualification at the 1988 Olympics to the systematic state-sponsored doping by Russian athletes, doping scandals have rocked the very foundations of the sport.

Behind these scandals lie not only the athletes themselves but also the governments and organizations that enable and conceal their actions. The insidious relationship between politics and doping resonates throughout history, challenging the integrity of the sporting world.

A Shifting Balance: Challenges to the Status Quo

Despite the uncontested power structures, sparks of rebellion have emerged to challenge the status quo. The rise of independent anti-doping agencies and whistleblowers has shed light on the darkest corners of corruption. Athletes like Yuliya Stepanova and her husband, Vitaly, risked their lives to expose the deep-rooted doping network within Russian athletics.

Furthermore, the emergence of social media has given athletes a platform to voice their frustrations, forcing sports federations to confront their own inadequacies. The power dynamics are shifting, but the battle is far from over.

Looking Forward: The Future of Athletics

The power and politics in world athletics may seem like a bleak narrative, but hope lies on the horizon. With increased transparency, stricter regulations, and stronger checks and balances, the athletic world has the potential to evolve into a fair and equitable space for athletes to thrive.

However, the fight for true change rests on our collective shoulders. It is up to fans, athletes, and stakeholders to demand accountability and integrity within the sporting ecosystem. Only then can we ensure that the triumphs and records we witness on the track are a true testament to athletic prowess, free from the shadows cast by power and politics.

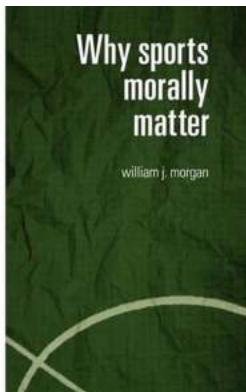
A Call to Action: Unmasking the Hidden Truth

As we delve into the world of power and politics in world athletics, it is our responsibility to uncover the hidden truth. By demanding transparency, questioning the actions of governing bodies, and supporting independent investigations, we pave the way for a new era in athletics.

Let us not turn a blind eye to the games being played beyond the stadium. Power and politics may have shaped our beloved sport, but we, the enthusiasts, have the power to change the narrative. Together, we can build a future of athletics that celebrates talent, fairness, and the unwavering spirit of competition.

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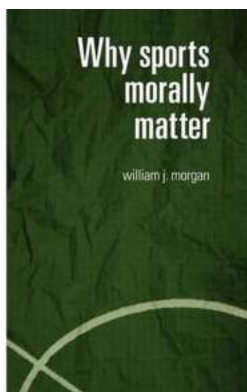
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This book provides the first detailed history of one of the most powerful international sport organisations, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), since 2019 known as World Athletics. The book critically assesses the internal power relations within the IAAF by focusing on the IAAF leadership.

Based on extensive archival research, *Power and Politics in World Athletics* offers a nuanced analysis of the institutionalised strategies that developed as a reflection of the IAAF's interests and aims to create a broader understanding of the global sport system. With only six presidents in over a century of existence, the IAAF's leaders had profound impacts on other international institutions, national stakeholders and sporting participants. Through four sections, the book identifies various key turning points in the history of the governing body of athletics, and explores the IAAF's foundation, the policies of past IAAF presidents, and controversial issues such as doping, corruption and manipulation through a socio-historical lens. The book shows that while anyone could take part in athletics, policies enacted by each president served to ostracize those groups who did not fit into the IAAF's vision of an equal playing field.

This book is essential reading for anyone with an interest in sport history, sport sociology, the politics of sport, sport management, sport governance, or international organisations.



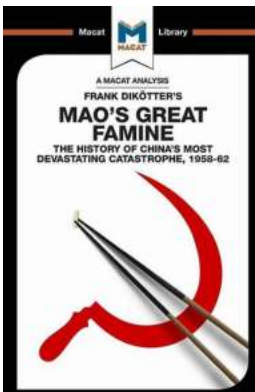
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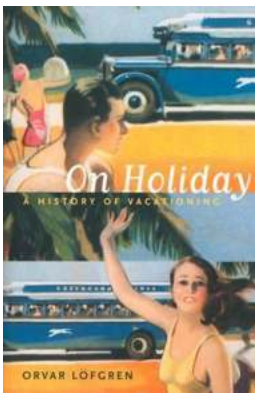
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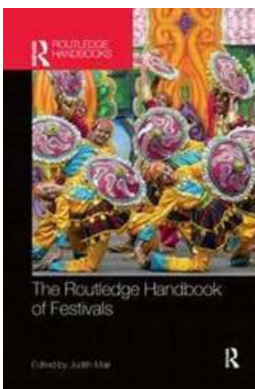
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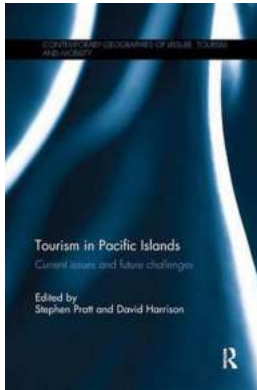
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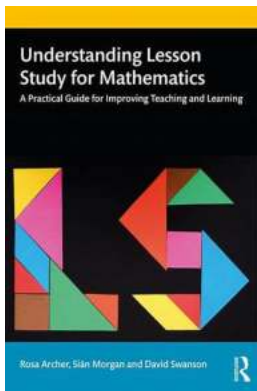
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