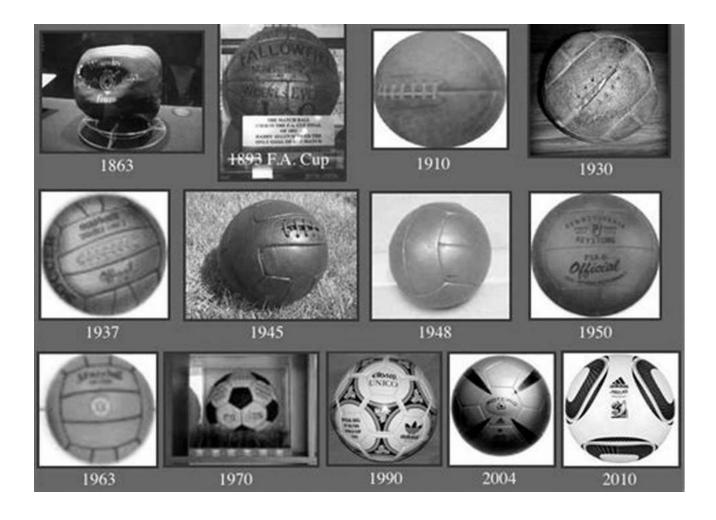
# The Fascinating Global History of How the World Football Codes Were Born

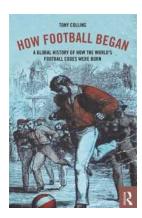


Football, the most popular sport in the world, has a diverse and intriguing history that spans centuries. While it is commonly associated with the game played with a round ball, various codes and forms of football have developed independently in different parts of the world.

### The Origins: Ancient Roots and Early Beginnings

The roots of football can be traced back thousands of years to ancient civilizations. Ball games resembling football were played by the Egyptians,

Greeks, and Romans. However, it is in medieval Europe that the foundations of modern football began to take shape.



### How Football Began: A Global History of How the World's Football Codes Were Born

by Tony Collins (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3366 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled



: 218 pages

In England, a variety of ball games were played during the Middle Ages, most notably "mob football." These games involved large groups of people competing against one another, often with little to no rules. The objective was to maneuver a ball into the opponent's territory using any means necessary.

#### The Emergence of Organized Football

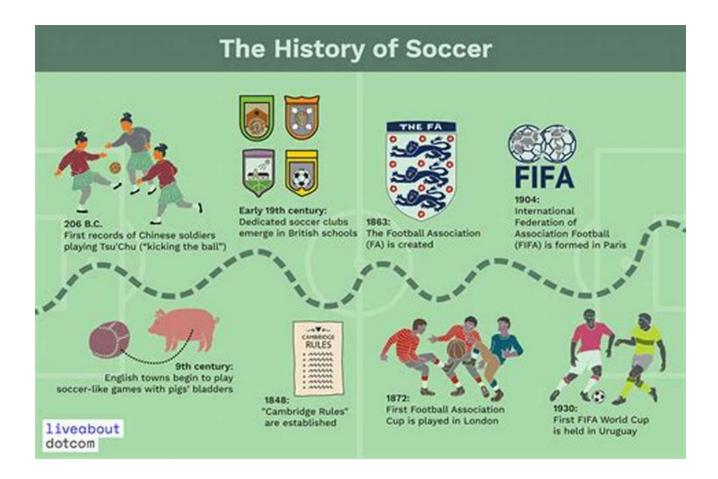
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As society advanced and organized sports became more prominent, efforts were made to develop standardized rules for football. This led to the establishment of various football codes, each with its own unique set of regulations and style of play.

### 1. Association Football (Soccer)

In 1863, the Football Association (FA) was founded in England, which marked the birth of modern soccer. The FA established the rules for what came to be known

as "association football," characterized by its use of a round ball and restrictions on physical contact. This code quickly gained popularity and spread around the world, becoming the most widely played version of football.



### 2. Rugby Football

Rugby football originated in Rugby School in Warwickshire, England, during the early 19th century. The game was first played when William Webb Ellis, a student at the school, picked up the ball during a soccer match and ran with it. This act led to the creation of a separate code known as rugby football or simply rugby, which allowed players to handle the ball.

#### 3. Australian Rules Football

Australian rules football evolved in Australia in the mid-19th century. It was influenced by both rugby and soccer but developed its own unique characteristics

as well. Australian rules football combines elements of both kicking and handling the ball, featuring a distinctive oval-shaped ball and a larger playing field.



#### 4. American Football

American football, often simply called football in the United States, emerged from a combination of soccer and rugby. It was first played in the late 19th century, with the establishment of the National Football League (NFL) following in 1920. American football differs significantly from other football codes, particularly in its use of specialized protective equipment and complex tactical strategies.

### **Global Expansion and Popularity**

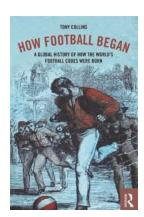
Throughout the 20th century, football experienced explosive growth and became an integral part of cultures around the world. International competitions such as the FIFA World Cup and the Olympic Games helped to popularize the sport globally, creating a shared passion and love for football across continents.

Today, each football code has its own dedicated fanbase, with millions of supporters who passionately follow their favorite teams and players. The development and evolution of these codes have contributed to the rich tapestry of the world's football history.

The global history of football is a fascinating journey that highlights the human inclination towards sports and competition. From its ancient roots to the emergence of various football codes, the game continues to evolve and captivate people worldwide.

Whether it is the grace and skill of association football (soccer), the physicality of rugby football, the unique traits of Australian rules football, or the strategic complexity of American football, the world's football codes offer something for everyone.

So, the next time you watch a football match, take a moment to appreciate the diverse origins and global journey that brought the beautiful game to your screens.



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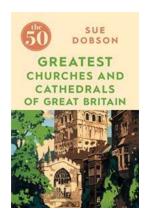
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This ambitious and fascinating history considers why, in the space of sixty years between 1850 and 1910, football grew from a marginal and unorganised activity to become the dominant winter entertainment for millions of people around the world.

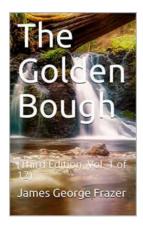
The book explores how the world's football codes - soccer, rugby league, rugby union, American, Australian, Canadian and Gaelic - developed as part of the commercialised leisure industry in the nineteenth century. Football, however and wherever it was played, was a product of the second industrial revolution, the rise of the mass media, and the spirit of the age of the masses.

Important reading for students of sports studies, history, sociology, development and management, this book is also a valuable resource for scholars and academics involved in the study of football in all its forms, as well as an engrossing read for anyone interested in the early history of football.



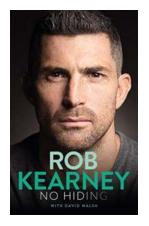
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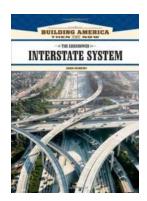
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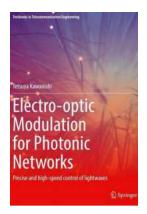
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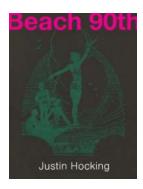
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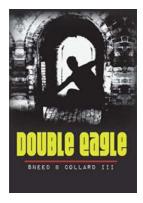
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