

Englishness, Empire, and Identity: Globalizing Sport Studies

Sport has long been a powerful force in shaping English national identity. From the development of public schools in the 19th century to the global success of the English Premier League in the 21st century, sport has played a key role in defining what it means to be English.



Globalizing Cricket: Englishness, Empire and Identity (Globalizing Sport Studies) by Dominic Malcolm

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1236 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 207 pages



However, the relationship between Englishness, empire, and identity is far from straightforward. Sport has been used both to promote Englishness and to challenge it. It has been used to establish imperial dominance and to resist it. And it has been used to construct national identities and to deconstruct them.

This book explores the complex and contested relationship between Englishness, empire, and identity in the global context of sport. Through a series of case studies, the book examines how sport has been used to

promote Englishness, establish imperial dominance, and construct national identities. The book also explores the ways in which sport has been contested and resisted by those who have been marginalized by English imperialism.

Chapter 1: The Invention of Englishness

The first chapter of the book explores the invention of Englishness in the 19th century. It examines how sport played a key role in the development of a new English national identity that was based on ideas of racial superiority and imperial destiny.

The chapter focuses on the development of public schools in England in the 19th century. These schools were designed to produce a new generation of English leaders who would be imbued with the values of muscular Christianity and imperial patriotism.

Sport played a central role in the curriculum of these schools. It was seen as a way to develop the physical and moral qualities that were necessary for leadership in the empire. Sport also helped to create a sense of camaraderie and esprit de corps among the students.

Chapter 2: Sport and Imperialism

The second chapter of the book examines the role of sport in the British Empire. It explores how sport was used to promote imperial values and to justify British rule over other peoples.

The chapter focuses on the development of cricket in the British Empire. Cricket was seen as a symbol of British civilization and fair play. It was

used to promote imperial values and to create a sense of unity among the different peoples of the empire.

However, cricket was also contested by those who were marginalized by British imperialism. In India, for example, cricket was used by Indian nationalists to challenge British rule and to promote a new Indian national identity.

Chapter 3: Sport and National Identity

The third chapter of the book explores the role of sport in the construction of national identities. It examines how sport has been used to create a sense of belonging and to define the boundaries of a nation.

The chapter focuses on the development of football in England in the 20th century. Football became a national obsession in England and it played a key role in the construction of a new English national identity that was based on ideas of working-class solidarity and national pride.

However, football was also contested by those who were excluded from the dominant national narrative. In Scotland, for example, football was used by Scottish nationalists to challenge British rule and to promote a new Scottish national identity.

Chapter 4: Sport and Resistance

The fourth chapter of the book explores the ways in which sport has been used to resist oppression and to challenge injustice. It examines how sport has been used by marginalized groups to assert their identity and to demand their rights.

The chapter focuses on the development of sport in South Africa during apartheid. Sport was used by the anti-apartheid movement to challenge the racist policies of the South African government and to promote a new non-racial South African identity.

However, sport was also contested by the apartheid regime. The regime used sport to promote its own racist ideology and to divide the South African population.

The book concludes by exploring the future of the relationship between Englishness, empire, and identity in the global context of sport. It argues that sport will continue to play a key role in shaping English national identity, but that the relationship between sport and empire is becoming increasingly complex and contested.

The book also argues that sport can be a powerful force for good in the world. It can be used to promote peace, understanding, and reconciliation. However, it is important to be aware of the ways in which sport can also be used to promote division and injustice.



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