

A HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

BY

AINERHONMITON OSEIWE CHOSEN

ART1700920

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

FACULTY OF ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY

JANUARY, 2023.

A HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

BY

AINERHONMITON OSEIWE CHOSEN

ART1700920

**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF
ARTS (B.A.) HONOURS DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
AND DIPLOMACY
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY**

JANUARY, 2023.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this work was carried out by AINERHONMITON OSEIWE CHOSEN in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin under my supervision.

DR. ODIGWE A. NWAOKOCHA
Project Supervisor

DR. FRANK IKPONMWONSA
Head of Department

Date

Date

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to the Almighty God, to my parents, Rev. Samuel Ainerhonmiton and Pastor Mrs A. Ainerhonmiton and to my sister, Miss Sharon Ainerhonmiton.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I give profound gratitude to the Almighty God who made it possible for my academic pursuit to be concluded with this research project. His mercies and love made it possible for me to come this far even when I thought I couldn't go any further and wanted to quit.

I also want to appreciate my project supervisor, Dr. A.O. Nwankocha, who supervised this project till its completion. Your firm guidance not only made this piece a huge success, it also helped shape my personality and has made me a better research student.

Words will fail me to appreciate my parents, Rev. and Pastor Mrs. Ainerhonmiton.

Your parental love and guidance has brought me thus far. To Miss Sharon Ainerhonmiton, Miss Olakemi Mitchell Oni-Oludare, Mr C. Oni-Oludare, Barr. Mrs I. Nwaiwu, Mrs O. Igiehon and a host of others, having you as members of my family is one of the best things that can happen to me.

To the lecturers and staff of the Department of History and International Studies - Dr .Daniel Iweze, Dr Charles Osarunmwense, Mr Daniel Orabator and others too numerous to mention. Thank you for imparting in me.

To members of SBCLA and D'VV, I say thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding. To my friends - Isibor David, Aigwi Daniel,

Ekhator Samuel, Imade Ruth and Aibinuomo Ikponmwonsa thank you for being a part of my life.

TABLE OF CONTENT

Cover Page	i
Title page	ii
Certification	iii
Dedication	iv
Acknowledgments	v
Table of Contents	vi
CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY	
Introduction	1
Aims and Objectives	4
Scope of Study	6
Methodology	7
Literature Review	7
Chapterisation	9
Endnotes	11

CHAPTER TWO: THE ORIGIN OF THE OLYMPICS

Introduction

12

Origination of the Olympics 14

Endnotes 23

CHAPTER THREE: THE NEW OLYMPICS AND THE FORMATION OF THE IOC

Introduction 25

The father of Modern Olympics 26

The formation of the IOC 30

Endnotes 33

CHAPTER FOUR: THE OLYMPICS AND THE WORLD; 1896-1945

The Early Times 35

The Olympics and Politics 43

Endnotes 49

CHAPTER FIVE: THE OLYMPICS SINCE 1945

The Post War Olympics 51

Globalisation	58
Endnotes	60
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION	
Conclusion	62
Bibliography	65

CHAPTER ONE

1.1

INTRODUCTION

The Olympics is a festival of sports that is held every four years. This athletic festival embraces participation from all states as athletic citizens of every registered state under the IOC can compete.

Contemporary Olympics began in the year 1894 with the formulation of the International Olympic Committee by French Baron Pierre de Coubertin. The first modern Olympic festival was held in Athens, Greece from the 6th to 15th of April. Many historians speculate that one of the major reasons Baron Peirre resuscitated the Olympics is because he thought the French youths did not have enough physical training to ensure their victory in the Franco-Persian war of 1870.¹ And so, when some archaeologists discovered the ancients sites and uncovered objects around 1875-1881,² his project kick started. Even with these thoughts, he originally wanted to unveil the sporting event in 1900 in his native town, Paris, he was however pressured to move it up to 1896 by 34 countries who were already members of the International Olympic Committee.

Over the years, the Olympics has regained the recognition it lost for about 1503 years due to the law passed by Emperor Theodosius as it is presently rated as one of the major sporting events in the world aside the FIFA world cup and the Rugby sporting event. As a result of its sporting diversity and vast membership, the Olympics was divided into two: The Summer Olympics and the Winter Olympics. The Winter Olympics came about when the International Olympic Committee organised an international sports week in Charmonia, France, which lasted from January 25th to February 4th 1924. This was because of the increasing popularity of the winter sports at the time. After the success of the event, it was unanimously named the maiden edition of the Winter Olympics. Even though it was split in 1924, the winter and summer Olympics were always held in the same year though with separate centres; this continued until 1986. The decision was reached during the 91st international Olympics committee session; scheduling the events to hold separately in alternating even numbers. The first winter Games after the IOC's decision was held in Lillehammer, Norway in 1994. The Lillehammer Games marked the 17th occurrence of

the winter Games. It was held after a new year break from the summer Olympic Games held at Barcelona, Spain from July 25th to August 9th 1992 with about 9,356 competing athletes.

According to Jason Stallman, one of the New York Time's Olympic editors, this move gave the winter Olympics more prominence and it also resulted in a better media coverage (and perhaps viewership) for the both games. The separation also generated more money for the International Olympic Committee which came largely from Television rights.³ With the separation of the Games effected in 1986 by the IOC, each of the Olympic Games till date are held once in every four years with a two years demarcation from each other. For instance, when the Summer Olympics was hosted in Beijing, China from the 8th of August till the 24th of the same month in 2008, the next summer Olympics was then held in London, Great Britain in 2012 from July 27th to August 12th; meanwhile, the winter Olympics was held in between the two summer Games in Vancouver, Canada from February 10th to February

26th, 2010. This event recorded the attendance and participation of 2,626 athletes from 82 nations.⁴

The different Olympic game events are still held in different locations and have continuously been a source of economic, social and political improvements probably as a result of its large viewership. According to statistics, the last Summer Games held in Tokyo, Japan from the 23rd of July till the 8th of August 2021 received about 115 million viewers from Japan only during the course of the event. Meanwhile the International Olympic Committee posted a record of about 4.7 billion interactions from viewers all over the world. The event had a record of 11,656 athletes competing from 205 countries.⁵

The Olympics, a seemingly forgotten religious ritual peculiar to the Hellenic Greeks has now become one of the major determinants in world relations.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

AIMS

The international system is controlled by a lot of factors; one of which happens to be sports. The Olympics, one of the major sporting events since

time past, has proven to be more than just a mere festival of sports, hence this study.

Through this research thesis, the writer aims to point out to the society the not so visible, or underrated benefits of this events and bring to the limelight other ways in which this festival has been advantageous in helping to smoothen the relationships between states in the international system hereby helping to promote peace, unity and stability in general.

OBJECTIVES

The study hopes to help readers discover the actual influence of sports as an active factor in the international system. It will help to highlight ways that sport has and will contribute to world peace and stability.

The study hopes to provide a sneak peek into and discuss several backlashes and conflicts endured and resolved by non-state actors using the Olympics as a case study.

The study will help to bring massive knowledge to the origin of the event and a little of its activity timeline.

Finally, through this study, the writer hopes to be a source of knowledge to others as well as enlighten herself.

1.3 SCOPE OF STUDY

The impetus for this study is to meticulously and excitingly acquire facts and knowledge of the present day Olympics events, its history and early beginnings and how through unavoidable hurdles was able to propagate itself to nation-states, gain their interest and become one of the three main sporting events anticipated and subscribed to by 80% of the world's population.

During the course of this study, the researcher hopes to focus on the Hellenic Greek race in order to have in depth insights on the actual situations surrounding the birth of the event. In doing this, the writer will study Ancient Greek city-states and their reaction towards this event. In this work, the writer hopes to expatiate on the historical background of the topic, digging into various ideas on the matter. The geography of the original place of birth, the territory and the culture of the people. Furthermore, the

researcher hopes to provide knowledge relating to the formulation of the International Olympic Committee and the startup of the Modern Games.

The researcher also hopes to cover aspects relating to the place of the Olympic committee and the Olympic Games in the international community and its contribution to world development and stability. This involves political, social or economic development of states in the international system.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

In the data collection and analysis of this work, the historical research method is going to be employed. Primary and secondary sources of data collection will be adopted. The primary source of the data collected is going to stem from oral interviews carried out by the researcher while the secondary sources are going to be through the aid of books, journals and articles etc.

In the aspect of data analysis, quantitative and qualitative methods will be employed. For the purpose of this work, the researcher is going to employ the Chicago manual method of citation and referencing.

1.5 LITERATURE REVIEW

In the course of this study, various works will be referred to so as to achieve a detailed and comprehensive study.

The Naked Olympics by Tony Perrottet talks about the origin of the Ancient Olympics; putting aside the popular Grecian mythology, the writer discusses the Ancient Olympics and the reason for its birth. The book takes its readers to Ancient Greece and guides them on a step by step journey from the birth of the festival, to its peak and so on.

On the other hand, Robin Waterfield in his work, Olympia paints a vivid picture of the reality of the Ancient Games. He describes the events and pays attention to the site itself and the people in order to ensure comprehension and easy relativity. The narrative of this work is paired with marvellous and amusing anecdotes which makes it very easy to read.

Benson Bobrick's A Passion for Victory talks about the Ancient Olympics and the Early Modern times. How conflicts and wars affected the revival of the Modern Games and how the selfish involvement of various

states almost destroyed the IOC. It talks about the love of sports and how it affected the lives of not only the athletes but the world at large.

The Olympics by Allen Guttman talks extensively about the IOC, the father of the Modern Olympics and how the Games were able to surmount the pressure. The book gives a detailed and chronological timeline of the Olympics making sure to give attention to the socio-political aspect of the Olympic Movement and it involves states.

David Goldblatt's The Games expatriates on the Olympic Movement and the progress it was able to achieve in its early stages. This book makes visible the move of globalisation employed by the IOC.

Another work involved in the finalising of this piece is A Brief History of the Olympics by David C. Young. The book talks about the beginning of the Olympics and talks about the myths surrounding the origination of the Games. The book catapults its readers to the Ancient Games to aid better understanding. This book draws references from the works of the likes of Pindar, Homer etc in throwing more light on the subject and ensuring proper comprehension on the matter.

Historical and Sociological studies of the Modern Games is a product of research in the sociology of sports. This piece is as a result of research projects carried out by various sport fanatics.

1.6 CHAPTERISATION

Through this research work titled “A History of the International Olympic Movement”, the writer hopes to bring out enlightenment and knowledge propagation as regards the Olympics and its history.

In a bid to achieve this, this work has been divided into six chapters.

Chapter one is basically an introduction to the study. It entails the scope, methodology and the aims and objectives the writer hopes to achieve through this work.

The next chapter talks about the background of the subject matter- The Olympics. The writer brings to visibility the various perspectives regarding this issue.

Chapter three is an eye opener on the history of the modern Olympics. This chapter contains a brief history of the “Father of Modern Olympics” - Baron Pierre de Coubertin and it also talks about the IOC and

its formulation. The subsequent chapters, four and five talk extensively about the Modern Olympics and the world; its structure since its formulation. The next chapter being the last, concludes this work with all its necessities (conclusion, summary etc).

ENDNOTES

The Ancient Greek Olympics, “<https://www.amazon.com/Daniel-Turner-...>”

Ibid, 1

“olympics.com/ioc/overview”

“olympics.com/olympic/timeline”

Olympic Games, “<https://en.m.wikipedia.org>>wiki”

CHAPTER TWO

2.1

INTRODUCTION

The Olympics is a series of athletic events held in competition once every four years. It involves athletes from various nations coming together to show their athletic prowess in order to win a prize - medal, laurel, trophy etc.

The Olympics is presently the world's foremost sport competition open for general participation and involvement having about 200 teams representing various sovereign states and territories¹. Prior to modernisation, the Olympics was a festival peculiar to only one nation - Greece.

Greece is located in Europe and is the Southern most country in Europe. Ancient Greece had the Mediterranean Sea to the South, the Ionian Sea to the West and the Aegean Sea to the East. Greece is a series of islands or archipelagos and peninsulas. These islands or peninsulas were covered with high mountains making travel by land very difficult. One of the most recognized parts of Ancient Greek history is the Olympics.

According to Tony Perrottet in his book - The Naked Olympics, he defined the classical Games as the "greatest emblem of the Greek

Hellenic culture for nearly 11 centuries, from 776BC to 393AD”². As a result of this, when London hosted its third Olympic games being the only world city to do so as at 2012 while the land of its origin; Athens, had hosted it twice - 1894 and 2004, Greek nationalists described it as “an act of historical larceny on a par with the theft of the Elgin marbles, the sculpture that once graced the Parthenon and now languishes in the British museum”³.

The Olympics were the oldest of many Greek festivals and by universal agreement the best of them all. The poet Pindar in his description of the Olympics states that “the games at Olympia eclipses all other athletic contests as the sun eclipses the other stars in the daytime sky”. (Olympian 1. 1-7)⁴. Aside from this, other statements of such magnitude have been spoken, all propounding on the phenomenal nature of the Ancient Olympics. As a result, this has prompted countless researches and findings to ascertain its origination. To this end, various myths, legends and opinions have arisen as answers to the questions surrounding the Olympics and its origination.

2.2 ORIGINATION OF THE OLYMPICS

One of the famous myths can be found in the Olympian Odes by Pindar who attributes the founding of the Olympics to one of the best known heroes of Greek mythology.

According to the myth, one of Herakles' labour was to cleanse the stables of Augeas which he did by diverting a river through them. When Augeas refuses to pay, Herakles kills him and pillages the land removing the spoils to Pisa, a small town adjacent to Olympia.

Here is Pindar's tale:

“Then Zeus' mighty son assembled his entire army and all the booty at Pisa. He marked out a sacred precinct for his father, the Atlis which he fenced in and set apart in the open. The plain around he turned to an area for feasts and honoured the river Alpheus. Herakles took out the best of spoils and made an offering with them and he established a quadrennial festival and contest for prizes, the first

Olympiad. Who then won the new crown with his feet, hands and chariot? Oiones, the son of Likymnios, was best with his feet at running the straightway of the stade race".⁵

Another myth posits that Zeus, the father of humanity, fought and defeated Cronus in a struggle for the throne of the gods. Herakles then stages the Games in Olympia in honour of Zeus because the latter had helped him win the battle against Elis when he went to war against Augeas.⁶ Most of the myths surrounding the Olympics point to the yearn to honour Zeus therefore propounding a theory that the Olympics originated for Olympic purposes.

Zeus according to Greek mythology is the god of the sky. As the chief deity, Zeus was considered the father, ruler and protector of all other gods and mortals. In his description, Greek poet - Homer posits that Heaven is located on the summit of Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece. He states that the other members of the Pantheon resided there with Zeus and were subjected to his will.⁷ To worship this god, Greeks came up with

festival of the Olympic Games. A sacrifice of a hundred oxen were made at his temple in Olympia. Olympia lies in the North West of the Peloponnese. It is rugged and mountainous but the mountains are surrounded by coastal plains and Olympia is situated on one of these in a beautiful river valley overlooked by the steep side hill of Cronus.⁸ The sacrifice of a hundred oxen was often made on the middle day of the festival. Athletes prayed to the god for victory and made gifts of animals, produce or small cakes in anticipation of thanks for their successes. Through this it was obvious that even though religion might not have been the exact reason for the founding of the Olympics, religion was a very huge part of the festival and like most would like to put it, “the Games were part of a religious festival” which in any way is alien to the general conception of a strictly athletic meeting. Greek religion according to Robin Waterfield in his book, Olympia, was largely a matter of practice than faith or belief and that is why Greeks from all colonies of the Greek city states, even from colonies as far as modern day Spain, Italy, Libya, Turkey, Egypt and Ukraine could travel hundreds of miles just for this festival.⁹

The athletic contestants, spectators and judges were viewed by everyone as participants in a religious rite.

Another reason why the Olympics can be given off as a majorly religious festival is the sacredness and reverence attached to it by all of Greece even in their differences. First of all, Olympia, the most important sanctuary of the gods, was chosen as the site for the Olympics. Also, in anticipation of the Games, messengers were sent to all of Greece to announce an “akekena”¹⁰ (truce) among city states and colonies. This temporarily halted all wars and facilitated travel to Olympia.

Legend however has it recorded that

“Iphitus, an early king of Elis who in conjunction with Lycurgus, the legendary lawgiver of Sparta and a king of Pisa called Cleisthenes, to have revived the Games after the original festival inaugurated by the gods themselves had lapsed. They are said to have instituted the Games because the Greeks were fighting among

themselves and so they asked the Delphic oracle what they could do to put an end to these conflicts. The oracle replied in effect, that war should be sublimated in the pseudo-war of athletic competition and that a time should be established for the duration of the games.”¹¹

This account is according to the influential book by an ancient scholar, on the origins of the Olympics and the Olympic victors written by the polymath Hippias of Elis at the end of the Fifth Century BCE. (Nothing of this has survived; apart from a scrap of Papyrus, but it was widely influential so that we can infer some of its content from its reflection in writers such as Aristotle).

It can however be duly noted that contemporary researchers have views that are contrary to the myths and legends. Robin Waterfield in his perspective states that “my view is much simpler - that the games evolved out of the natural competitiveness of the Greek Elite”¹². He posits that it is highly plausible that given the desire to “strive” and always be the best,

superior to others, the Greeks found more and more ways to try to prove their superiority to others, starting with simple running races and then going on from there.

Many have asked, “why was the competitive sport in antiquity found in Greece and not elsewhere?”¹³

Early in the last century, the noted scholar Jacob Burckhardt argued that there was something special in the Greek national character that drove them to a unique competitive spirit.¹⁴

In my opinion, one of the factors that may have triggered this sense of competition is the topography of Greece. About 80% of Greece is mountainous, including most of the islands. The steep mountains and surrounding seas forced Greeks to settle down in isolated communities. Travel by land was extremely difficult and sea voyages were hazardous hence members of the various polis had little communication with each other except during festivals like the Isthmian games held in honour of Posiedon, the water god. Other times the Greeks came together was during times of war where they had to unite to fight against the common enemy like

the Greek war against the Persians.¹⁵ The separation of the Grecian polis as a result of the topography of the region led to the independence of these city-states. Though citizens of the various Greek states acclaimed to be members of the Greek Hellenic race, they pledged more of their loyalties to their individual states, leading to the constant struggle for power between them as each of these city-states wanted total control and dominance over the whole of Greece and this always led to wars and conflicts between them. For instance, the

Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens.

The term “Olympic Games” is a wrong translation of the words “Olympiakoi agones”.¹⁶ The error results from the intervening Latin words; ludus, ludi and ludicrum which in actual sense and translation connotes sports and games.

The Greek word “agones” on the other hand when directly transcribed means “struggles” or “contest”, it can even mean “pain”. This goes to show how extremely competitive the sports were and how very seriously it was taken by Greeks. The competitions were so tasking that it was recorded that

the most Ancient Olympics were played naked. This tradition was inaugurated by Sepes of Megara who tore his clothes to run unimpeded.¹⁷ As a result of this, married women were prohibited from attending the festival as it was a sacrilege for a married woman to look upon the nakedness of another man. Whoever was caught was punished by being pushed off a cliff.

The Grecian ruggedness is largely rumoured to have been second to none as even when the Romans sponsored Greek style athletic festivals, they never participated in them. Even when we read about Persian men contesting for prizes athla, the prizes were set for whatever group of soldiers could best perform military drills in perfect unison “like a chorus”, so no individual could stand out.¹⁸ However, the Greek goal was the exact opposite; to be the one who stands out to be, as Pindar puts it, the one who is “separated from other athletes”, literally “distinguished”, to be the best of all.

Greek athletes were always in pursuit of individual excellence. When at last an individual emerges a winner, he receives a crown made of Olive leaves Cocotimus and branches from a sacred tree Calistophonus. When he returned home, he was celebrated by lavish banquets, tax exemptions and is

seen by people as a god to have emerged a winner in a competition that hosted the strongest of men from all of Greece.¹⁹

In conclusion, it is in my opinion that the Olympics was both religious and extensively competitive. The Ancient Grecians were extremely religious people having three different categories of deities summing up to about forty gods. This is because the knowledge in the world at the time was limited in antiquity and so they attributed natural and unnatural phenomenon to higher powers, as a result of this religion was never too far away from their day to day activities and like Robin Waterfield said, their style of religion at that time was based more on practise than on faith. So even whilst they fought and competed to show their individual strength to their peers and the whole of Greece, they also competed to show their total allegiance, yieldedness and strength to Zeus as it is recorded in history that before the commencement of the festival, the contestants swears allegiance and oaths before the statue of Zeus in the temple of Olympia.

In a nutshell, I'd like to describe the origin of the Olympics as an expression of the socio-cultural lifestyle of the Ancient Grecians.

ENDNOTES

“Olympic Games”, <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>>wiki

Perrottet, Tony, “The Naked Olympics: The True Story of the Ancient Games”

Ibid, 2

Pindar, “Olympian 1”

Ibid, 4

“The Olympics by Aldehneh Aldehneh”, <https://prezi.com/the-olympics>

Homer, “Illiad”

Robin, Waterfield, “Olympia: The Story of the Ancient Olympic Games” Ibid, 8

“The Ancient Greek Olympics”, <https://www.amazon.com/Daniel-Turner-...>

Hippias, “Olympics and Olympic Victors”

Ibid, 8

Young, David, “A Brief history of the Olympic Games”

Ibid, 13

Ibid, 10

Ibid, 13

Armand D'Ángour, "Ancient Origins of the Olympics".

Ibid, 13

Ibid, 10

CHAPTER THREE

THE NEW OLYMPICS AND THE FORMATION OF THE IOC

INTRODUCTION

The New Olympics refers to the modern state of the Olympics, its secularity in nature; a direct contrast to the Ancient Olympics which was steeped in religion. The New Olympics was officially born on April 6, 1896, resurrecting an Ancient Greek tradition that had been lost for about 1500 years after being banned by Roman Emperor Theodosius around 393AD.

This chapter has been sectioned into two to aid in the proper understanding of this discussion. These sub-topics divulge deeper into the study of the Olympics and its reappearance in the modern world.

3.2 FATHER OF THE OLYMPICS

After the Olympics was banned in 393AD, the tradition became mostly forgotten and was unheard of for about 15 centuries. It was not until the 19th century that the Olympics began to worm its way back into the global arena as a result of the spiked interests of a French native - Baron de Coubertin.

Charles Pierre de Fredey, Baron de Coubertin was born on the 1st of January, 1863 in Paris, France into an aristocratic family. His father, Charles Louis de Fredey - Baron de Coubertin was a staunch royalist and accomplished artist whose paintings were displayed and given prizes¹ during the years he wasn't absent in the protest against the rise of Louis Napoleon. He was married to Agathe Marie Marcelle Gigault de Crisenoy² from Normandy and together they had four children, Pierre de Fredey being the last.

Though Coubertin grew up in a time of profound change in France: defeat in the Franco - Prussian war, the Paris commune and the establishment of the Third Republic, his schooling experience was just as formative even though the events were the setting of his childhood.³

In 1874, he was enrolled by his parents into a new Jesuit school to curb his rebellion and streaks of republican thoughts where he was recorded to always be among the top three students in his class.⁴ Given his family status, he had the foundation or luxury to go for a more prestigious position or the expected role in the military or choose to go into politics, instead he opted to be an intellectual, studying and later writing on a

broad range of subjects including education, history ⁵ etc. The subject which he seemed to have the most interest in was education and his study focused in particular on physical education and the role of sport in schooling.

In 1883, at the age of 20, he visited England for the first time and studied the program of physical education and instituted under Thomas Arnold of the Rugby school.⁶ Coubertin is thought to have exaggerated the importance of sport to Thomas Arnold whom he viewed as “one of the founders of athletic chivalry”⁷. Coubertin was an enthusiast in need of a cause and he found it in England and in Thomas Arnold.

As a historian and a thinker on education, Coubertin romanticised Ancient Greece. Thus he began to develop his theory of physical education; he naturally hooked up to the example set by the Athenian idea of the gymnasium, a training faculty that simultaneously encouraged physical and intellectual developments.⁸

While Coubertin was certainly a romantic and while his idealized vision of the Ancient Games would lead him later to reviving the

Olympic Games, his advocacy for physical education was also based on physical concerns. He believed that men who received proper physical education were better prepared for war and had a better chance at winning conflicts like the Franco - Prussian war in which France had been humiliated.⁹ He also saw sports as democratic in that sports competitions crossed class lines, although it did so without causing a mingling of classes which he did not support. Unfortunately for Coubertin, his efforts to incorporate more physical education into French schools failed even though he wrote a series of articles and speeches extolling the virtues of English education; in France, games were thought to destroy study. The failure of this endeavour however was closely followed by the development of a new idea, the revival of the Ancient Olympic Games, and the creation of a festival of international athleticism.¹⁰ He made several other trips to the English lands over the course of which he learned more about their educational system and became acquainted with prominent English men involved in sports. In 1890, he met English educator - William Penny Brookes who is speculated to have founded the

Modern Pentathlon according to Sandra Heek from the University of Luxembourg in her work, *The Genesis of Modern Pentathlon*.¹¹

Brookes was passionate about resurrecting the Olympics Games on an international level. Deeply influenced by Brookes, Coubertin decided to take up the course. After meeting Brookes, he immediately started working on re-establishing the Olympic Games and eventually organised the Athletic Congress in Paris in 1894. Soon after the International Olympic Committee was created and the Olympic Games re-established.

Coubertin's commitment to the games cost him his fortunes as he had spent a large portion of his wealth in promoting the Games and his financial situation suffered during the war period. There is not much about his personal life as he spent most of his time studying, but in 1895 he married Marie Bothan, the daughter of a family friend and they had two children - Jacques and Renee.¹² He died of a heart attack in Geneva, Switzerland on September 3rd, 1937 at 74 and was buried in Bois - de - Vaux cemetery in Lausanne.

His awards and achievements include:

- Winning the gold medal for literature at the 1912 Summer Olympics for his poem - “Ode to Sport”.
- Virginie Heriot prize in 1936
- In 1937, he was made an honorary citizen of Lausanne - the IOC headquarters since 1915.
- In 2007, he was inducted into the IRB hall of fame (now called the World Rugby Hall of Fame) for his services to the sport of Rugby.

3.3 THE FORMATION OF THE IOC

The IOC is an acronym that stands for the International Olympic Committee. The committee was established on the 23rd of June, 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and Dimetrios Vikelas in Sorbonne University, Paris.¹³ The birth of this organisation was spurred from the yearn to revive the Ancient Olympics and it is the first ever Olympic congress. The meeting was declared open in the auditorium of the Sorbonne University on the 16th of June, 1894. After the decision to revive the Olympic Games was unanimously made at the congress, Coubertin’s dream was made a reality. This same congress led to the establishment of the International Olympic

Committee of which Coubertin was appointed as General Secretary and later, President. It was in that same congress that it was proposed and agreed upon that the first modern Olympic Games should be held in Athens.¹⁴

The IOC from a legal standpoint is an international non - governmental, non - profit organisation of unlimited duration in the form of an association with the status of a legal person. The organisation acts as a catalyst for collaboration between all Olympic stakeholders including the athletes, the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations, organising committee for the Olympic Games, the worldwide Olympic partners and the Olympic broadcast partners. It also collaborates with public and private authorities including the United Nations and other International Organization. The IOC conducts, promotes and regulates the movement of the Olympic Games.¹⁵

The vision of the IOC is to build a better world through sports. The organisation is at the very heart of world sport, supporting every Olympic movement stakeholder, promoting Olympism worldwide and overseeing the

regular celebration of the Olympic Games. Another vision the organisation is committed to is massively promoting and integrating the love of sports in the society, solidifying the integrity of sport and also giving support to clean athletes and other sporting organisations.¹⁶ This is largely depicted in the organisation motto - “citius, altius, fortius - communiter” which when transcribed to English from Latin means “faster, higher, stronger - together”. Since the first Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece in 1896, the IOC has completely relied on its commercial partners to stage its games as it is an independent international non-profit organisation and as such is privately funded. The organisation generates revenue through the sales of broadcast rights (Television, Radio, New Media etc), from international and national sponsorships, through the sale of tickets and then through licensed products.¹⁷

At the moment, the IOC has 105 active members each of them saddled with the duty to properly and effectively represent the organisation in their various states. This is in accordance with the tenets of the Olympic Charter which states that “members of the IOC represent and promote the

interests of the IOC and of the Olympic Movements in the countries in which they serve”.¹⁸ The official languages of the organisation are English and French.

ENDNOTES

Baron Pierre Coubertin, “wikiwand.com/en/Pierre_de_coubertin” Kevin, Young & Kevin, B. Wamsley, “Global Olympics: Historical & Sociological Studies of the Modern Games” Research in the Sociology of Sports, Volume 3 Ibid, 1

Pierre, baron de Coubertin, “britannica.com/biography/Pierre-baron-de-Coubertin”

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Sandra, Heek, “The Genesis of Modern Pentathlon”

[“en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/pierre-de-coubertin”](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/pierre-de-coubertin)

Allen, Guttman, “The Olympics: A History of the Modern Games”

Ibid, 12

[“olympics.com/ioc/overview”](https://olympics.com/ioc/overview)

Ibid, 15

[“olympics.com/ioc/faq/olympic-marketing/olympic-revenue”](https://olympics.com/ioc/faq/olympic-marketing/olympic-revenue)

[“olympic.com/ioc/members”](https://olympic.com/ioc/members)

CHAPTER FOUR

OLYMPICS AND THE WORLD; 1896 - 1945

4.1 THE EARLY TIMES

On the April 6th 1896, the anniversary of Greek independence, the first Modern Olympic Games were opened at the Panathenaic stadium in Athens before a crowd of about 80,000 people with 241 athletes from 14 nations competing in 43 events.¹ Though the 1896 Games were not exactly as international as Pierre Coubertin had previously envisaged, it is considered a success. This however was in direct contrast to the 1900 Games held in Paris in conjunction with the Paris world fair.

Alfred Picard thought that featuring the Ancient Sporting event was an “absurd anachronism” that grossly went against the whole idea of “modern” that the world fair ought to represent.²

According to Benson Bobrick in his work, “A Passion for Victory - The Story of the Olympic Ancient and Early Modern Times”, the director of the fair was so intent at downplaying the Olympic concept that he failed to provide a stadium for the competitions and even eliminated the phrase

“Olympics Games” from the program of the fair, instead the Games were advertised as the “International Physical Exercises and Sports”.³ As a result of this, there was no opening or closing ceremony and the Games stretched for about five and a half months - May 14th to October 28th, robbing the developing festival of a separate identity. The Games of 1904 were not any better as it also was hosted alongside the American fair. The United States had just won the Spanish-American war and the fair was meant to celebrate their victory in the war and their emergence as a Great Power. The Games hosted about 651 athletes - 645 and 6 women who represented 12 countries. The Games of 1904 was minimally international as the majority of the athletes were from the United States.⁴

In reverse of the occurrence of 1900, the 1904 Olympic Games was compressed to about 5 days and the Games were lost in the sheer size and variety of activities and events provided by the fair, the “ethnic exhibits” proving to have a stronger draw on the audience.

The exhibits according to Benson Bobrick had a bigoted cast as they were mainly to put the so-called primitive people’s on display.⁵ This exhibition

was organised by W.J. McGee, who was previously a member of the Bureau of American Ethnology and sought to advance his theory that propagated that there was a superiority of the white race even in human evolution. He invited over 2,000 native peoples including about 51 native American tribes. One of the worst exhibits featured a Philippine village, where a thousand native Igorot tribesmen dressed in loincloth could be seen going about their tribal dances and in accordance with their custom, publicly kill, roast and eat dogs.

Another eye-catching part of the exhibitions at the fair was by the Pygmies from Africa. One of them was displayed as a cannibal, and to make him look savage, his teeth were filed and pointy. After the close of the fair, he was exhibited elsewhere around the country and even displayed in a cage at a zoo in New York. he was forced to live, as if in his “native habitat” cohabiting with Monkeys and Apes. Finally he was sent to an orphanage because of his miniature stature even though he was an adult. There, he committed suicide.⁶

These and many other activities served as an attraction to people making the fair a hit show, but the attendance of the Games was poor and one of the reasons was the Russo-Japanese war.

Despite the ideals of the Olympic Truce, the Games were destined to be interrupted more than once by conflicts.

As a result of the happenings, it was as if Coubertin's dream of globalising the Olympic Games were not actualizable. However, in the wake of the Games of 1904, the Olympics searched for some way to rebound as it needed a recognizable spectacle of Games that could bring to visibility its belonging to the tradition it claimed to revive.⁷ The Games returned to Athens to find it and in 1906(halfway between the usual Games) a one-time intermediate festival known as the "Intercalated Olympic Games" was staged. This was actually more successful in promoting the movement than anything held since 1896 as well as genuinely Olympic in spirit.⁸

The next Games were then scheduled for Rome. Though they accepted this arrangement initially, it was impossible as Mount Vesuvius

erupted, almost eliminating Naples from the world map. The top of the Mount blew off causing rivers of molten lava to flow out entering into streets of the city and resources were used to save the city, the rest of the state's revenue was then used to restructure and renovate the state as a result of the damage done and so Rome could no longer host the Olympic Games.⁹ London volunteered to host the Games but the IOC's acceptance was hesitant as they were sceptical about how successful the event would be if hosted in London as the former were also hosting an international fair to celebrate the new political alliance they made with France. Though they feared a repetition of past occurrences, the IOC accepted the offer and the 1908 Games were moved to London. The fair was to depict how natives prospered under British colonialism; this they did by bringing Irish and Senegalese natives to put on display. Despite this, the Games got the recognition it wanted as it was presided over by the King of England, Edward VII, having athletes from about 21 states competing in about 22 sports.¹⁰

The Modern Olympic Games, in contrast to the original plan and history, have been subject to international occurrences like war. Ancient Olympics acted as a period of truce between Greek states, who then (during or after the Games) would determine whether or not to go on with their disputes. As a result of the Olympic truce ideals, the IOC naively hoped to avert a steaming conflict by awarding the next festival to Berlin, but Germany chose her expansion policy over the euphoria and glamour of the Games. The event was then moved to where it was hosted successfully in 1912.¹¹ The Stockholm Games showed a prospect of the Olympics entering a new phase. There was a wave of excitement internationally but this excitement was shattered by the war of 1916.

At this point, Europe was already hanging off a cliff by a thin thread. The First World War was triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand; the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife on the 28th of June, 1914. During the war, about 9 million people lost their lives and a lot of years ensued inside WW1 including the Austro-Hungarian invasion of Serbia. The Games were suspended during the war and resumed in 1920.

The next Olympic festival was then awarded to Antwerp in honour of the terrible suffering the Belgians experienced (as their territory was used as a major battle ground). The IOC then went further to ban Germany, Austria and her allies - Bulgaria, Hungary, Turkey.¹²

The Games were poorly attended even with the subsidised price of tickets. Citizens were mourning and people were not interested in the Games. The stands were so empty during the events that school children were brought in everyday to fill them up. The only time the stadium was filled up was during the soccer match between Belgium and Czechoslovakia which was also laced with tension from both teams. According to the Illinois History of Sports, about 40,000 people surged in to watch the game. It was during this Games that the Olympic flag was flown, the Oath was recited under the flag by athletes and doves were released into the air to signify peace. Seeing that the flag and oath gained popularity, the next year, Baron Pierre Coubertin introduced the Olympic motto - "Citius, Attius, Fortius" which was suggested by French clergy Pere Henri Didon.¹³

The Olympics gained more international interest and the number of state involvement and participation in the Games increased. In 1924, the Games hosted in Paris welcomed athletes from about 44 states and in the 1928 Games held in Amsterdam, it hosted athletes from about 50 states. Due to the summer weather, it was impossible to hold winter sports and so in 1924, the Winter Olympics Games were introduced. The first of these Games was held in France, at the foot of Mont Blanc, Chamonix. It spanned from January 25th till February 5th welcoming 16 state athletes who competed in 11 events.

As at 1930, the Olympic Games were already established and even the Great Depression could not hinder this. Nevertheless, the Winter Games of 1932 held in Lake Placid, New York was described as gloomy.¹⁴ The Summer Olympics held in Los Angeles was a visual depiction of the economic crisis as states had no resources to sponsor their athletes to the Games.

The next Games were slated for Berlin, a decision which had been made prior to the Nazi regime which was in control of Germany at the time.

In 1932, the world had changed. The head of the Nazi party - Adolf Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany and he was a firm believer of racial purity, white supremacy and he ascribed every social ill to the Jews. When the Olympic Games was awarded to Germany, it was viewed as a bonus opportunity for propaganda by the Nazis. The Game is described as one of the most controversial in all of the history of the Olympic Games.¹⁵

4.2 THE OLYMPICS AND POLITICS

Although the ideals of the Olympics are against the IOC intruding in political matters of states, it however tries to promote unity among states. This is why the IOC had to step in when the US considered boycotting the Olympics on the grounds that her participation was showing support to the Nazi regime which was characterised by everything the United States stood against. This however was contrary to the ideas of other states who felt that the Olympics should not be political.

Avery Brundage, the president of the American Olympic Association (and also president of the IOC from 1952 to 1972) refused. He stated that “the very foundation of the modern olympic revival will be undermined if

individual countries are allowed to restrict participation by reason of class, creed, race”. Even with this, the American Olympic Association was sceptical and a movement began to steam. The movement was massively supported by the Jews as the Nazis hated any form of relationship with them. Nevertheless, for the sake of peace and for the cause of the Games, investigations were carried out in and about Germany and after being convinced that the Jews were allowed to participate in the Games, Avery Brundage went back to America to persuade his colleagues into accepting the invitation to participate. However, he met resistance.

The Germans on the other hand went all out in luring other states in the international Olympic circle. The Games were as important to them as it was to any state and this was not because of the love of sport. The Germans saw the idea of sports as a little, more like melted down military training than normal exercises that makes one healthier. Adolf Hitler hated sports although through his “two-faced” system of propaganda, it was easier for people to believe he did. The Germans erected an up to date, spacious and effective area for the Games. They erected a 325 acre sports complex about

5 miles from Berlin, with a gigantic stadium made of natural stone with a sitting capacity of 110,000. In addition to this, they created a model Olympic village spanning about 130 acres, laid out in the shape of the map of Germany and containing about 140 buildings including a bank and a post office. According to Benson Bobrick's description, each of the athlete houses had 13 bedrooms with just two athletes per room and two stewards who spoke the athlete's native language were always on ground in each house. The training facilities in the village contained a 400 metre oval track and an indoor swimming pool. The village which was constructed by the German army was said to be "the first housing ever provided to Olympic athletes up to that time".¹⁶

In Berlin, emblems of Nazi intolerance were taken down e.g "Jews Not Welcome" signs and Nazi troopers were ordered to refrain from any actions against the Jews.

After conviction, the US accepted the invitation although many of the Jewish athletes refused to attend the Games. The Winter Olympic Games had participation from about 28 states and was held in the market

town of Garmisch Partenkirchen in Bavaria, while the Summer Olympics was held in Berlin with about 51 nations participating. In this event, states like Costa-Rica, Peru, Bermuda, Afghanistan, Bolivia, Peru, Liechtenstein made their first official Olympic appearance.

Rumours of war and war disrupted the planning of future Olympics. Japan was supposed to host the Winter Olympics of 1940 but they chose to invade China instead. The IOC then looked to Germany to repeat her hospitality but the state refused and then invaded Poland. Finland volunteered to host but then it was invaded by the Soviet Union and so the Games of 1940 were scrapped. Fascist

Italy was then chosen to host the next round of Games. However before 1944, the Allies had invaded Italy and were bombarding sites where the German and Italian soldiers were entrenched. All these were as a result of the Second World War which lasted from 1939 to 1945. This war involved several nations and continents and all the world's Great Powers. The war began with the German invasion of Poland on the 1st of September,

1939 and when Britain and France declared war on Germany, the fighting spread.

After the wars, the Olympics made a comeback though on a small scale. The effects of the war was so grave on states that during the Games of 1948, competing athletes had to borrow each other's sporting equipments.¹⁷ Instead of housing apartments, the athletes stayed in university dormitories and aeroplane hangars. This Game also marked the end of the art competition that began in 1912 and then the "Parallel Olympics" was introduced by Ludwig Guttman as a tribute to sport lovers and veterans who got injured spines during the war.

At the end of the first 50 years of the modern Olympics, the Olympic Game experience had entered into international political discourse. Nation states now recognized that attaining success in international sports and especially the Olympic Games, carried and required a substantial diplomatic currency. As such, countries began to crave to experience the Games firsthand.¹⁸

According to Douglas A Brown in his article *The Olympic Games Experience: Origins and Early Challenges*, “The 1920s and 1930s were an historical era where distinct social groups and nations recognized that the Olympic Games offered a means of advancing specific social causes”. He included that non-European states like Ja[an and China interpreted participation in the Olympic Games as an assertion of their presence on the world stage. For China, the participation of one athlete, Liu Changchun, in the 1932 Games at Los Angeles was “seen as a great step in establishing a foothold in the community of modern nations” (Morris, 1999, 549).¹⁹ Though Japan’s participation in the Olympics began in 1912, through the 1920s and 1930s, Japanese sport officials and politicians were very successful at increasing the number and quality of their state performance at the Games. While athlete performance was of importance to the state, they also desperately wanted to host the Olympic Games in 1940 in Tokyo. The Game experience was tied to their international political and economic identity as a nation. They claimed that their hosting of the Games would put Tokyo and their country into the network of modern industrial nations.

These national experiences tied to the hosting and participation went further than Pierre Coubertin ever envisioned.

ENDNOTES

Benson, Bobrick, “A Passion for Victory: The Story of the Olympics in Ancient and Early Modern Times”

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Allen, Guttman, “The Olympics: A History of the Modern Games”

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 13

Doughlas, A. Brown, “The Olympic Games Experience: Origins and Early Challenges”

Ibid, 18

CHAPTER FIVE

THE OLYMPICS SINCE 1945

5.1 THE POST WAR OLYMPICS

The Olympic Games of 1948 was a revival of international sport that had been recently a victim of the Second World War. Great Britain, though suffering from a heightened form of economic depression, struggled to host the Games even with limited resources making the London Games of 1948 one of the most austere games hosted in modern Olympic history.

Majorly unaware of the contretemps within the IOC and unperturbed by the exclusion of German and Japanese athletes from the 1948 Games, most sport fans and enthusiasts seemed to have been delighted by the postwar resumption of the Games. The Americans were most certainly elated by the American domination of track and field sports and most other events.¹

The postwar world was very different from the one destroyed by dictators and their regime.² For instance, states like Japan, Germany and

Italy, the totalitarian powers of the 1930s which had used the international sporting platform for both military propaganda and domestic jingoism were broken down in the 1940s by total war and a new world order emerged from the second world war carnage with neither the Axis or traditional European nations as its head but with the United States and Soviet Union as rival leviathans contending for global dominion³ (Kennedy, 1987; Hobsbawn, 1996). The IOC on the other hand had little to no influence in the course of the new world politics, they had to deal with political consequences of the world war and the Cold war that followed.⁴

When the new superpowers discovered that the Olympic Games provided a significant forum for measuring their enemies, they sought to harness it. This however was easier for the United States as they had a long history of using the Olympic Games to their advantage in the international system and to feed the fires of their domestic nationalism.⁵ The Soviet Union on the other hand were alien to the idea of Olympic committees even when Czarist Russia had prior been interested in the Games. After a lot of complications and hurdles mainly caused by the

Union's errant ways, the IOC voted to accept the Soviet Union in Vienna in May 1951 after the establishment of the national Olympic committee a few weeks earlier. Konstantin Andrianov was then chosen to be the Russian representative in the IOC. His inability to speak English or French (the official languages of the IOC) made the IOC to bend its rules and permit the admission of another Russian in to their committee as an interpreter for Andrianov. In 1952, Andrianov was joined in the IOC by Aleksei Romanov.⁶

The IOC and its sessions were never the same after the admission of the two Russians, as for the next forty years (until the annulment of the Warsaw pact) members of Eastern Europe took cues from the Russian members. Without shielding his sarcasm, Armand Massard of France noted that "whenever Andrianov or Romanov made a proposal, they were backed by all the other communist who rose, one after the other to parrot their approval and ascent". Political divisions within the IOC took a subtler form as members from Eastern Europe, under the leadership of the Russians, campaigned incessantly for a democratisation of the IOC.⁷

Aside the introduction of new world powers which in a way did reshape the operations and structure of the IOC, the war cut short the dreams of smaller states frantically trying to earn recognition in the international system as the first half of the 20th century was characterised by many nations trying to use the Olympic Games to tout their claims to an advanced standing. For instance, Japan whose leaders had hoped that their hosting of the Olympics would crown its rise to pacific hegemony and super power states had been crushed by the occurrence of the Second World War. The plans Tokyo had for a massive Olympic complex were incinerated along with the Japanese capital.⁸

After the Soviet admission into the IOC and their participation in the 1952 Games hosted at Helsinki, Finland; the IOC moved on to the 1956 Games that were hosted in Melbourne, Australia. The Cold War however was still raging with different nations waving their flags of nationalism.

The Games of 1956 was an illustration that it was almost impossible to confine the confrontation between the East and West to their own

relations and away from the Olympic arena. After Josef Stalin's demise (the long term dictator of the Soviet Union), communist parties in Eastern Europe sought freedom from Soviet domination and areas where Stalin had forcibly ruled with an iron fist pushed towards their national independence stirring uprisings. It started with Poland and then Hungary. The 1956 Hungarian revolution installed a liberal marxist reformer who was able to evict the Soviet forces out of the country. However the Soviet Union responded by crushing the rebellion and went further to reinstall the Moscow domination of its Hungarian satellite. This tragic incident and bloody conquest was a month prior to the debut of the Olympic Games. This led to the Netherlands and Spain withdrawing from the Olympics to oppose the actions of the Soviet Union. Another conflict that occurred was the Egypt-Israeli war of 1956.

This began as a result of a pretext allowing Britain and France to seize the Suez Canal from the Egyptians. This made Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon withdraw from the competition since Israel and its allies would be present in Melbourne.⁹

These events were catastrophic to Avery Brundage's ideologies and his efforts in constructing a modern replica of the Ancient Olympics truce. The 1956 Games however signalled that the Olympics would always be subject effects of the Cold War and other international conflicts both on and off the playing fields and so during the next three decades, the IOC finally committed itself to the task of offering the world a political absent zone and this was promoted by Avery Brundage in his speech after the Hungarian revolution. He stated that "every civilised person recoils in horror at the savage slaughter in Hungary, but that there is no reason to destroy the nucleus and international cooperation and goodwill we have in the Olympic Movement. The Olympic Games are contests between individuals and not nations."

Considering the unrest and series of unresolved political crises that tortured the world, one can conclude that the Games were remarkably ironic.¹⁰ According to Allen Guttman, it showed that the IOC's desire to create an oasis of amity in a desert of hostility was not exactly quixotic. At the closing ceremony, the athletes instead of marching as members of their

natural teams, took matters into their own hands breaking ranks, embracing each other whilst singing and dancing. Spontaneously, they created one of the most humane traditions in modern sports. In fact, during and after the Games, Olga Lukotova of Czechoslovakia and Harold Connolly of the United States made their own statement saying they had met secretly during the Games and had fallen in love. They became a married couple after months of seemingly unending international negotiations.¹¹

The 1960s began with the Olympics still in vast commitment to expanding politics of the Olympics truce and to redress the crimes of history, they welcomed the former Axis enemies back into the folds of the competition. During this decade, Italy and Japan hosted the Games with Germany winning the right to host the Games in 1972.¹²

The end of the 20th century for the Olympic Movement like the first half was characterised by war. The end of the 20th century was the late phase of the Cold War and it was marked by the increase in hostility from the Soviet Union and the West. It was during this time that the NOC's (National Olympic Committees) of different states began to rebel. Politics in

various ways clashed with the ideologies of the Olympic movement and individual states began to use the movement as a platform to show their nationalism.¹³

5.2 GLOBALISATION

As in the 21st century, the international conflicts had mainly been put to an end, as there were many more ways for states to relate amongst themselves in order for them to prevent an international crisis. States were now familiar with the idea of the Olympics and were more accepting of the concept.

The movement branched out fully, solidifying itself in the hearts and minds of all. Gradually, the Olympics made an entrance into the African sphere. Though the Games had prior accommodated African players, the power stratification in the Olympic Movement and the IOC was a major constraint against their branching out.

Through occurrences from the recent past, it is obvious that the political flexibility of the IOC leaders has proved to be fatal in maintaining the organisation's pre-eminent position in global sports. Baron Pierre de Coubertin made his peace with world affairs and the inevitable nationalism of international sport. Baillet - Latour's IOC on the other hand nipped the women's Olympics in the bud and signed on with both Hollywood and the Third Reich (Nazi terms for Germany and the Nazi regime). Avery Brundage had to swallow his dislike for communism and ensure the status of the Olympics in global sports.

In Samaranch's tenure, he delivered the coup de grace against the grain of almost a century of Olympian disdain for money, made a series of decisive alliances with professional sport and the global and cultural industries which secured the IOC's economic independence and the Games global reach.¹⁴

Thomas Bach, their successor and the present president of the IOC faces a moment of change too. His however is not influenced by an alternative model of sport, excluded minorities or disgruntled nation-

states but by expensiveness of the modern Games which can be described as one of the grandest urban development projects shot with architectural steroid by the ambitions of some states to prove their power and economic status in the international arena. His decisions are going to be the major sharpener of the IOC, the Olympic Movement and its impacts on the world.¹⁵

ENDNOTES

Allen, Guttman, “The Olympics: A History of the Modern Games”

Ibid, 1

Kevin, Young and Kevin, B. Wamsley, “Global Olympics: Historical and Sociological Studies of the Modern Games” Research in the Sociology of Sports,

Volume 3

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 3

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 3

Ibid, 3

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 1

Ibid, 3

Ibid, 1

David, Goldblatt, “The Games: A Global History of the Olympics”

Ibid, 14

CHAPTER SIX

6.1 - CONCLUSION

The Olympic Movement is a very strong force in the world of international sports and one of the core parts of the sporting arena.

Birthered by Greek natives in Ancient times as far back as 776BC, it is very impressive how the Olympics still remains a wonder and is one of the world's most anticipated sporting events even after a hiatus of 1500 years.

Prior Coubertin's attempt to revive the Olympics, major sport forces like William Penny Brookes had made serious attempts to reinstate the integrity of the Games and even moved to establish the Wenlock Olympian Society in 1850.

The Olympics has passed through various eras and school of thoughts e.g the idea that the Olympics was an event for the aristocrats and bourgeoisie states and individuals hence the refusal to participate in the early stages of the Modern Olympic Movement by smaller states. The olympics also has been subject to different wars, some of which the tensions from the opposing states and their allies were evident even on the playing field, it also

in various occasions has been used as a pun on the political chessboards of states who used the platform to achieve their own state goals.

The Games though always set to remain neutral in political uprisings, aimed to promote international unity and friendship. Though in the 20th century, the IOC and sportwriters began to lament the intrusion of politics into the domain of sports, politics in the actual sense has always been a part of the Olympics and the revival of the Games in fact were to propagate a political message. In the eyes of Baron Pierre Coubertin and the men who succeeded him as presidents of the IOC, the political purpose of the Games - the reconcillation of warring nations was as important as the sport itself.

According to Baron Pierre Coubertin, “The Games are not simply world championships, they are the quadrennial festival universal youth”. This extract was found in Baron’s *Memoires Olympiques*. He had sincerely hoped the Games would help promote international cooperation and reduce the threat of war. The Baron’s hopes of unity is visibly depicted in the Olympic logo which is crested on their flag. The Olympic rings as they are

commonly called is a design of five different colored rings interwoven and connected to each other. The colors signify the various races from the continent of the world and the interwoven nature of design is to demonstrate how different people from various races, religious, tribes and states are brought together in friendliness and mutuality in order to promote unity.

The Olympics can be said to have a major influence in the life of contemporary youths as it has produced or brought to limelight various figures and personalities that in many ways than one have been of positive impact and a source of motivation to this generation e.g Usain Bolt, Michael Phelps. The recognition the event has gained has surmounted the perceptions and views of a lot of people, as it has probably gone further than even Coubertin envisaged when he divulged into the project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS

Tony, Perrottet, *The Naked Olympics: The True Story of the Ancient Games* (Random House Paperback, 2004)

Benson, Bobrick, *A Passion for Victory: The Story of the Olympics in Ancient and Early Modern Times* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2012)

David, Goldblatt, *The Games: A Global History of the Olympics* (W.W. Norton & Company 1923)

Allen, Guttman, "The Olympics - A History of the Modern Games" (University of Illinois Press, 1992)

David, C. Young, *A Brief History of the Olympic Games* (Blackwell Publishing, 2004).

Robin, Waterfield, *Olympia: The Story of the Ancient Olympic Games* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018)

Spivey, Nigel, *The Ancient Olympics: A History.*

Kevin, Young and Kevin B. Wamsley, *Global Olympics: Historical and Sociological Studies of the Modern Games* (Research in the Sociology of Sport - Volume 3)

Hippias, *Olympics and Olympic Victors*

Homer, *Illiad*

Pindar, *Olympian 1*

ARTICLES

Armand D'Ángour, "Ancient Origins of the Olympics".

Thomas, Bach, "Olympic Movement, the UN and the pursuit of common ideas"

Professor, Loren Samons, "Ancient Greece", Boston University.

Sandra, Heeks, "The Genesis of Modern Pentathlon", University of Luxembourg.

Doughlas, A. Brown, "The Olympic Games Experience: Origins and Early Challenges"

WEBSITES

The Ancient Greek Olympics, "<https://www.amazom.com/Daniel-Turner-...>"
"olympics.com/ioc/overview"

"olympics.com/olympic/timeline"

Olympic Games, "<https://en.m.wikipedia.org>>wiki"

"The Olympics by Aldehneh Aldehneh", <https://prezi.com/the-olympics>

en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/pierre-de-coubertin"

"olympics.com/ioc/overview"

"olympics.com/ioc/faq/olympic-marketing/olympic-revenue"

"olympic.com/ioc/members"

Baron Pierre Coubertin, “wikiwand.com/en/Pierre_de_coubertin”

Pierre, baron de Coubertin, “britannica.com/biography/Pierre-baron-de-Coubertin”