



Politics in Relation to Sport in Society

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Definitions

- Politics – The process of organizing social power and making decisions that affect the lives of people in a social world.
- Government- Are formal organizations with the power to make and enforce rules in a particular territory or collection of people.
- “The State”- Includes the formal institution of a national government plus those parts of civil society that teach values and ideologies that extend the influence and control of the political agencies that make and enforce laws and govern a society.



Safeguard the Public Order

- Governments do this in two ways.
 - Restricting certain forms of sport participation.
 - Creating laws against taking part in certain sport activity on public property.
 - Requiring people to obtain permits to use public property for sporting events.
 - Marathons
 - Supporting certain forms of sport participation.
 - Creating public locations where people can partake in certain sports.
 - Skate Parks
 - Using sports to help train soldiers, police, and firefighters to be able to more effectively protect public order.
 - World Police and Fire Games



Ensure Fairness and Protect Human Rights

- Passing Laws
 - Title IX
- Ruling in Court Cases
 - Cases that increase accessible seating and restrooms in sport facilities.
 - Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America vs. The University of Michigan
- Establishing Polices
 - Having the USOC supporting and funding Paralympics athletes.



Maintain Health and Fitness

- Countries with Universal Health Care
 - The government often sponsors sport and physical activity programs.
- Countries without Universal Health Care
 - May sponsor or promote sports but have less incentive to do so.
-Let's Move Campaign
- Countries are cautious because
 - Many illness are caused by environmental factors and living conditions.
 - Some forms of sport do not improve overall health.
 - Competitive sports often contribute to injuries and increased cost.
 - Competitive athletes seek specialized medical care and treatment to help performance.



Promote the Prestige and Power

- International sports are used to establish a nation's legitimacy on the international sphere.
 - 2016 Olympics Rio
- Local governments use sports to promote themselves as good places to live, work, locate a business or vacation.
 - City of champions



Promote Identity and Unity

- Use the emotional unity that individuals create with sport to establish or reaffirm an identity to the nation or city.
 - Miracle On Ice
 - China
- Create connections with images, traditions, and memories that create the idea of unity.
 - Unity Day



Reproduce Values Consistent with Dominant Ideology

- Dominant Ideology
 - is the set of common values and beliefs shared by most people in a given society, framing how the majority think about a range of topics,
- Governments use sports to promote specific political values and ideas among citizens.
- Especially true to reaffirm the idea that success is based on discipline, loyalty, determination, and hard work.

Coakley, J. (2009). *Sports in Society*. (pp. 447) New York: McGraw-Hill

Dominant Ideology. (1997). Retrieved March 17, 2010, from Sociology Dictionary : <http://www.babylon.com/define/88/sociology-dictionary.html>



Increase Support for Political Leaders and Government

- Government leaders associate themselves with sport to maintain their legitimacy as leaders.
 - Having athletes at the white house
 - Former athletes holding political office.
 - North Carolina Tar Heel



Facilitate Economic and Social Development

- Governments use sports to facilitate urban development.
 - Hosting big name sporting events, such as the Super Bowl, All-Star Games, or the Olympics.
 - Chicago Olympic 2016 bid



Additional Examples

- Passing Laws
 - Animal sports
 - Gambling
- Adjusting Tax Codes
 - Luxury Suits
 - College Sports
- Interpreting Laws
 - Anti-Trust Laws
 - Labor Laws
- Public Funding