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Edited by Daniel Noemi Voionmaa

World Cup!

History, Politics, and Art of the Beautiful Game

SERIES IN SOCIOLOGY

This book depicts a colorful mosaic of the political, artistic, and economic intricacies of some famous (and not-so-famous) historical football episodes that allow us to track how the sport became a global phenomenon. Each chapter dives into a part of the history of soccer to give the reader a new distorted image of an impossible journey that has produced millions of fans despite its profound contradictions. If football helps us understand “who we are,” as Noemi cleverly quotes Camus, this collection of essays reflects how the ‘beautiful sport’ is deeply embedded in our society, to the point that it cannot be detached from the history of capitalism and the formation of many national identities.

Professor Federico Pous
Elon University

About the editor

Daniel Noemi Voionmaa is a cultural critic, chronicler, football fan, and scholar of Latin America. His research and teaching focus on the intersection of critical theory and literature, and on visual arts, film, football, and politics. His last book ‘¿Quién es Chile?’ tells the stories of two Eastern European football coaches in Chile. He is currently working on a book about the World Cups held in Latin America and on a peculiar history of Latin America literature. He has attended six Football World Cups (witnessed Zidane’s headbutt and celebrated every Matildas’ win) and writes for *El desconcierto.cl*.

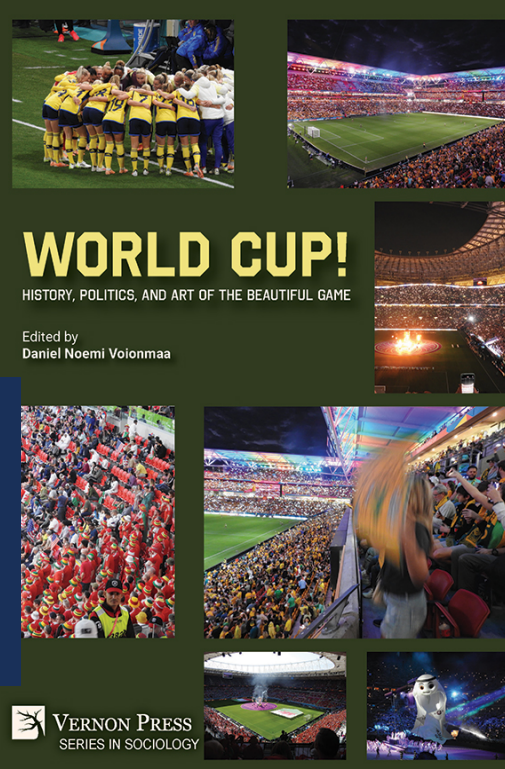
He teaches Latin American literatures and cultures at Northeastern University in Boston.

Summary

This collection of essays provides a multidimensional, interdisciplinary, creative, and colorful view on the meanings and possibilities of thinking football—‘the beautiful game’—and its paramount event: the World Cup. It is intended to appeal to academics as well as to everyday experts, those for whom football is more than a sport. But it also wants to be a source that stirs the interest of those who see football just as a curious experience; those who may have heard, in passing, that a new World Cup will be played in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico in 2026.

This book has, like a football team, eleven chapters. The approaches, styles, and perspectives differ considerably: From how football is a center piece in politics to its representations in poetry, from gender issues to nationalism, from fictitious wars to real ones provoked by a football match, and from exile to the neo-liberalization of the sport, the authors provide us a multicolor and global fresco of football and the World Cup. Likewise, the selection provides a global perspective on football and the World Cup: views from powerhouses such as England or Argentina, as well as from countries with a very incipient football tradition, such as India and Israel.

‘World Cup! History, Politics, and Art of the Beautiful Game’ is an invitation to continue to understand and think about one of the most important cultural manifestations of our times; a book that, particularly in the context of the next World Cup in 2026, will appeal to a broad readership, all around the world.



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SUBJECTS Sociology, Cultural Studies, History

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