

Abstract

This study comes from a personal experience for the researcher; he participated in several International sports event, and noticed that the International politics and diplomacy are no longer about official representatives and ambassadors. The major developments in all areas created new players there, by changing international politics. Their role, at times, has proven to be more effective than the official role. A major player affecting international politics is sports. Sports are more than just competitions. They are now considered to be one of the most important unofficial tools used by the state to achieve its political ambitions.

Furthermore, people have found ways to manipulate sports, to their advantage, to pressure governments. As a result this has entitled everyone to be an unofficial ambassador. They can send political messages to the world, and deal with political situations in their positions as members of their state's national team. The coinage of the term "public diplomacy," is a result of this.

This study analyzes how countries use sports as a political instrument for internal political issues. It also analyzes how sports are used as a tool of diplomacy and how countries manipulate sports as an international political utility. Understanding how this works can help decipher international relations and international political order. This study does not claim that sport is the main player in international politics, but that it is one of the most important players affecting politics. It is important to study sports as political instruments because at times they have proved to undertake a crucial role in improving political relations between some states. However, sports have also proved to worsen relations. Sports can be the reason for political crisis between states or hurting political relations between states. As a result of intertwining political agendas and sports, international sporting events have also become events where countries can interact politically with each other, both officially and unofficially.

Sports can be manipulated by countries to achieve internal political goals, and also used in the international relations and the foreign policy of the state. The Palestinians used sports as a political tool amidst their conflict with Israel. Sports are instrumental in the Palestinian's public diplomacy. It operates parallel to the official diplomacy to gain political support on an international base.

Utilizing sports in international politics boasts some positive effects and also gives rise to some negative effects on politics. These effects vary according to the situation, and as a result of this situation Some people claimed that there should be a complete separation between sports and politics, and that sports should be "politics free;" dismissing the use of any nation's flags, or national anthems, or any kind of political symbols, to avoid the negative effects of intertwining sports and politics. However, that is not plausible because international sports have had a historical dependence on states as main competitors, which cannot be changed. Politicians accept this situation because they find an easier and more underhanded way to carry out their duties. Sports have a correlation effect on politics. It is either a positive advance with positive political support, or a consequence with negative political effect.

This study found that in order to abolish political problems caused by using them for political advantages, we should decrease the political symbols of the states in international sport events as much as possible. Secondly, international sports organizations should not be controlled by the great powers and governments. This would make it possible to achieve an independent international organizations that can affect politics positively and in a united fashion. Ultimately world peace can be achieved by utilizing sports in international politics.