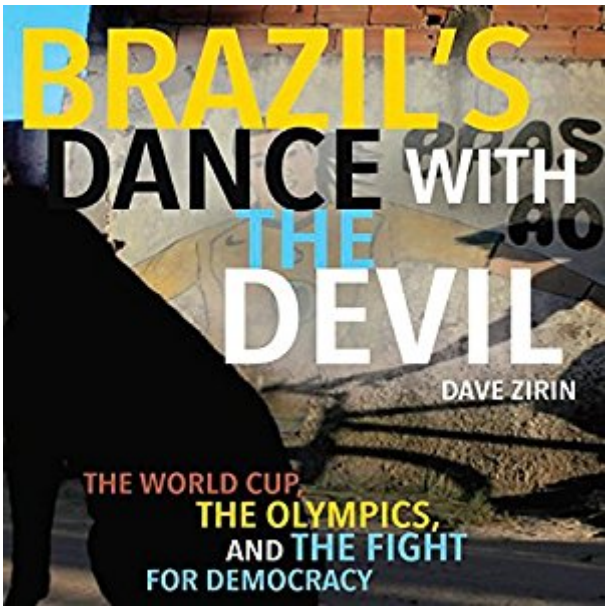
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BrazilÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Dance With The Devil: The World Cup, The Olympics, And The Fight For Democracy



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Synopsis

The people of Brazil celebrated when it was announced that they were hosting the 20th World Cup (June 12-July 13, 2014), the world’s most-viewed sporting tournament, and the 31st Summer Olympics (August 5-21, 2016). Now they are protesting in numbers the country hasn’t seen in decades, with Brazilians taking to the streets to try to reclaim the sports they love but see being corrupted by powerful corporate interests, profiteering, and greed. In this compelling new book, relying on original reporting from the most dangerous corners of Rio to the halls of power in Washington, DC, Dave Zirin examines how sports and politics are colliding in remarkable fashion in Brazil, opening up an international conversation on the culture, economics, and politics of sports. One of "50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Our World" (Utne), Dave Zirin is a columnist for The Nation, SLAM, and SI.com. He is host of Sirius XM’s popular weekly show Edge of Sports Radio and a regular guest on ESPN’s Outside the Lines, Democracy Now!, and on MSNBC. His previous books include The John Carlos Story and What’s My Name Fool? He lives near Washington, DC.

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Customer Reviews

I’m hardly an expert on soccer, but I thought it might be fun to follow this year’s World Cup after visiting Brazil last year, just before the Confederations Cup protests. After reading this, I think I have a good idea of what the street demonstrations were all about (certainly not the 20 cent bus fare increase the mainstream US media were fixated on.) The book is much more focused on the history of Brazil and the politics of soccer than it is on the game itself. On the whole, this is justified and anyone who still thinks that soccer can be thought of separately from politics will benefit from

reading Zirin.Zirin offers a concise sketch of Brazilian history from the founding of the country under Portuguese rule, through the story of slavery, independence, the Vargas years, the military dictatorship, through the rise of Lula and Dilma Rousseff. From what I know of Brazilian history, he does a superb and accurate job and he has clearly consulted and learned from the classics in this area.The second half of the book is more soccer-centric. Zirin will not win any fans at FIFA (or the IOC for that matter). His thesis is that recent World Cups and Olympics have been essentially what he calls "neo-liberal Trojan horses and sporting shock doctrines", taking a cue from Naomi Klein's "The Shock Doctrine." The evidence Zirin presents is quite convincing that the corporatist agenda has been the driving factor in these spectacles.The best part of the book, for me at least, was his discussion of the drive to eradicate the favelas and Vila Autodroma in Rio. Pure greed in action. One small consolation is that Eike Batista, a financier of the "pacification" drive, was at the time of the writing of the book "Brazil's wealthiest man," and is now essentially busted in a spectacular fall from grace.I feel that there will be protests accompanying the upcoming World Cup, given the compromises and sell-outs that have been made to accommodate this spectacle for the wealthy. While FIFA has insisted on "FIFA- quality stadiums" the slogan of the people is "give us FIFA-quality schools."Anyone who loves and cares for Brazil will want to read this and hopefully will pay as much attention to what may be going on outside the stadiums as to what is happening inside them.

"Brazil's Dance with the Devil" proves once again that Dave Zirin is the best sports analyst today. In the book, Zirin digs deep into Brazil's history and gives the reader a comprehensive examination of the social forces at play with the World Cup and Olympics. Zirin shows us how the legacy of imperialism, slavery, hypernationalism, corporatism , FIFA and the Olympics have intertwined and created neoliberal sporting events in which the wants and needs of the people of Brazil are squashed while the dictates of capital reign supreme.After reading the book you will clearly understand how destroying historical sites, shredding the social safety net, gutting one of the most revered sports stadiums in the world, paramilitarism, broken promises, evictions, environmental destruction, and pure theft has led to the massive resistance we are seeing today. To Zirin (and I dream every reader) the hope lies with the resistance. Zirin ends the book with ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“It is their World Cup. But it is our world.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Truer words have never been written.If you want to look past sports statistics and uncover the filth behind the games, this book is for clearly for you. Get it now!

An eye-opening account of the greed and power of FIFA and the IOC. An accounting of how Brazil

bought into the sponsorship when the economy was thriving and FIFA and the IOC demanded their costly conditions be met after the economy tanked, leaving the citizens stuck with a huge debt.

Very interesting book. Zirin did an excellent job bringing up the issues of corruption and inequality that exist within the structures of the Olympics and the World Cup. Also had many sources to back up his information.

The best book on Brasil. I travel to Brasil two times a year and it is one more tool to understand the culture.

Eye opening book. Shows how capitalism cripples the already delicate balance between Brazilians and there government.

This was a really good read as a follow-up to reading Circus Maximus.There’s lots to consider about the World Cup and Olympics that do not get mentioned as you watch on TV.

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