Soccer Against the Enemy—Simon Kuper 2010-04-27 Soccer is much more than just the most popular game in the world. It is a matter of life and death for millions around the world, an international lingua franca. Simon Kuper traveled to twenty-two countries to discover the sometimes bizarre effect soccer can have on politics and culture. At the same time he tried to discover what makes different countries play a simple game so differently. Kuper meets a remarkable variety of fans along the way, from the East Berliner persecuted by the Stasi for supporting his local team, to the Argentine general with his own views on tactics. He also illuminates the frightening intersection between soccer and politics, particularly in the wake of the attacks of 9-11, where soccer is obsessed over by the likes of Osama bin Laden. The result is one of the world’s most acclaimed books on the game, and an astonishing study of soccer and its place in the world.

Football Against the Enemy—Simon Kuper 1998 Throughout the world football is a potent force in the lives of billions of people. Focusing on national, political and cultural identities, football is the medium through which the world’s hopes and fears, passions and hatreds are expressed.

Soccer Against the Enemy—Simon Kuper 2010-04-27 Soccer is much more than just the most popular game in the world. It is a matter of life and death for millions around the world, an international lingua franca. Simon Kuper traveled to twenty-two countries to discover the sometimes bizarre effect soccer can have on politics and culture. At the same time he tried to discover what makes different countries play a simple game so differently. Kuper meets a remarkable variety of fans along the way, from the East Berliner persecuted by the Stasi for supporting his local team, to the Argentine general with his own views on tactics. He also illuminates the frightening intersection between soccer and politics, particularly in the wake of the attacks of 9-11, where soccer is obsessed over by the likes of Osama bin Laden. The result is one of the world’s most acclaimed books on the game, and an astonishing study of soccer and its place in the world.

Soccer Men—Simon Kuper 2014-04-22 In his national bestseller, Soccernomics, Simon Kuper pioneered a new way of looking at soccer, the world’s most popular game, through his witty and meticulous use of data. In Soccer Men, Kuper explores the heart and soul of the sport by getting up close and personal with soccer’s greatest players and coaches. An inquiry into the genius and hubris of the modern game, Soccer Men details the lives of international stars such as Arsène Wenger, Jose Mourinho, Josep Guardiola, Lionel Messi, Wayne Rooney, and David Beckham, describing their upbringings, the soccer cultures they grew up in, the way they play or coach, and the baggage they bring to their relationships at work. In this updated edition, Kuper profiles Hope Solo, Raymond Domenech, Andrea Agnelli, Robin van Persie, Carlo Ancelotti, and more. He also provides a brilliant comparison of two tales of immigrant life: Philip Roth’s Portnoy’s Complaint and the autobiography of Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The Barcelona Complex—Simon Kuper 2021-08-17 With rare and unrivaled access, bestselling coauthor of Soccernomics and longtime Financial Times journalist Simon Kuper tells the story of how FC Barcelona became the most successful club in the world—and how that era is now ending FC Barcelona is not just the world’s highest grossing sports club, it is simply one of the most influential organizations on the planet. At last count, it had approximately 214 million social media followers, more than any other sports club except Real Madrid CF—and by one earlier measure, more than all thirty-two NFL teams combined. It has more in common with multinational megacompanies like Netflix or small nation-states than it does with most soccer teams. No wonder its motto is “More than a club.” But it was never always so. In the past three decades, Barcelona went from a regional team to a global powerhouse, becoming a model of sustained excellence and beautiful soccer, and a consistent winner of championships. Simon Kuper unravels exactly how this transformation took place, paying special attention to the club’s two biggest stars, Johan Cruyff and Lionel Messi, who is arguably the greatest soccer player of all time. Messi joined Barça at age thirteen and, more than anyone, has been the engine and standard-bearer of Barcelona’s glory. But his era is coming to an end—and with it, a once-in-a-lifetime golden run. This book charts Barça’s rise and fall. Like many world-beating organizations, FC Barcelona closely guards its secrets, granting few outsiders access to the Camp Nou, its legendary home stadium. But after decades of writing about the sport and the club, Kuper was given access to the inner sanctum and the people behind the scenes who strive daily to keep Barcelona at the top. Erudite, personal, and capturing all the latest upheavals, his portrait of this incredible institution goes beyond soccer to understand FC Barcelona as a unique social, cultural, and political phenomenon.

How Soccer Explains the World—Franklin Foer 2009-10-13 “An eccentric, fascinating exposé of a world most of us know nothing about.” —The New York Times Book Review “An insightful, entertaining, brainiac sports road trip.” —The Wall Street Journal “Foe’s skills as a narrator are enviable. His characterization... are comparable to those in Norman Mailer’s journalists.” —The Boston Globe A groundbreaking work—named one of the five most influential sports books of the decade by Sports Illustrated—How Soccer Explains the World is a unique and brilliantly illuminating look at soccer, the world’s most popular sport, as a lens through which to view the pressing issues of our age, from the clash of civilizations to the global economy.
The Football Men - Simon Kuper 2011-05-12 The great footballers and coaches are rarely glimpsed up close. They shield themselves from the tabloids, hide their personalities behind professionalism, and in the words of the cliché, 'do their talking on the pitch'. This book gets up close to them. The Football Men is not a series of celebrity profiles, and it doesn’t attempt to unearth secrets in the players’ private lives. Rather, it portrays these men as three-dimensional human beings. It describes their upbringings, the football cultures they grew up in, the way they play, and the baggage that they bring to their relationships at work. This multimillion-pound, multinational world is mostly inhabited by ordinary men. The profiles in this book are sometimes funny, but never breathless or sensational. Some of the profiles in this book are based on interviews; others are the results of time the author spent with that person; sometimes the profile is a story of a country. All are fascinating and shed light on their subject to reveal things you wouldn’t expect. From one of the great sports writers of our time this is a penetrating and surprising collection of articles on the figures that have defined the modern sporting world.

The Miracle of Castel Di Sangro - Joe McGinniss 2000 A journey to Castel Di Sangro, an Italian village that stunned the soccer world with its team’s unexpected success, offers a portrayal of the emotion that swept the town.

Ajax, the Dutch, the War - Simon Kuper 2012-09-11 When most people think about the Netherlands, images of tulips and peaceful pot smoking residents spring to mind. Bring up soccer, and most will think of Johan Cruyff, the Dutch player thought to rival Pele in preternatural skill, and Ajax, one of the most influential soccer clubs in the world whose academy system for young athletes has been replicated around the globe (and most notably by Barcelona and the 2010 world champions, Spain). But as international bestselling author Simon Kuper writes in Ajax, the Dutch, The War: Soccer in Europe During the Second World War, the story of soccer in Holland cannot be understood without investigating what really occurred in this country during WWII. For decades, the Dutch have enjoyed the reputation of having a “good war.” The myth is even resonant in Israel where Ajax is celebrated. The fact is, the Jews suffered shocking persecution at the hands of Dutch collaborators. Holland had the second largest Nazi movement in Europe outside Germany, and in no other country except Poland was so high a percentage of soccer players of Jewish descent. Ajax has its history; it describes the experience of Ajax, a club long supported by Amsterdam’s Jews—as a window on wartime Holland and Europe. Through interviews with Resistance fighters, survivors, wartime soccer players and more, Kuper uncovers this history that has been ignored, and also finds out why the Holocaust had a profound effect on soccer in the country. Ajax produced Cruyff but was also built by members of the Dutch resistance and Holocaust survivors. It became a surrogate family for many who survived the war and its method for producing unparalleled talent became the envy of clubs around the world. In this passionate, haunting and moving work of forensic reporting, Kuper tells the breathtaking story of how Dutch Jews survived the unspeakable and came to play a strong role in the rise of the most exciting and revolutionary style of soccer — “Total Football” — the world had ever seen.

Soccer Against the Enemy - Simon Kuper 2010 Soccer is much more than just the most popular game in the world. For months, it is a matter of life and death, an international lingua franca. Simon Kuper traveled to twenty-two countries to discover the sometimes bizarre effect soccer can have on politics and culture. At the same time, he tried to discover what makes different countries play a simple game so differently. Soccer Against the Enemy introduces the remarkable variety of fans Kuper encountered along the way, from the East Berliner persecuted by the Stasi for supporting his local team, to the Argentine general with his own views on tactics. It also illuminates the frightening intersection between soccer and politics, particularly in the wake of the attacks of 9-11, where soccer is obsessed over by the likes of Osama bin Laden. The result is one of the world’s most acclaimed books on the game, and an astonishing study of soccer and its place in the world.

Beyond Soccer - Tamir Bar-On 2017-08-03 As the world’s most popular game, soccer is unique in its ability to reflect and impact culture, society, and politics. Beyond Soccer: International Relations and Politics as Seen through the Beautiful Game provides students with a new and innovative way to learn about political science and international relations. It uses soccer players, officials, fans, and organizations to teach political science concepts—such as geopolitics, discourses, and sovereignty—and IR theories—including realism, liberalism, and feminism. This text also incorporates three common soccer discourses to highlight the possibilities of soccer as a tool for unity and social change, as a defender of established power, and as simultaneously a mechanism used by relative freedom in a society that championed conformity. This was particularly the case for the supporters of Spartak, which emerged from the rough proletarian Presnia district of Moscow and spent much of its history in fierce rivalry with Dinamo, the team of the secret police. To cheer for Spartak, Edelman shows, was a small and safe way of saying “no” to the fears and absurdities of high Stalinism; to understand Spartak is to understand how soccer explains Soviet life. Champions of the Soviet Elite League twelve times and eleven-time winner of the USSR Cup, Spartak was founded and led for seven decades by the four Starostin brothers, the most visible of whom were Nikolai and Andrei. Brilliant players turned skilled entrepreneurs, they were flexible enough to constantly change their business model to accommodate the dramatic shifts in Soviet political policy. Whether because of their own financial wheeler dealing or Spartak’s too frequent success against state-sponsored teams, they were arrested in 1942 and spent twelve years in the gulag. Instead of facing hard labor and likely death, they were spared the harshness of their places of exile when they were asked by local camp commandants to coach the prisoners’ football teams. Returning from the camps after Stalin’s death, they took back the reins of a club whose mystique as the “people’s team” was only enhanced by its status as a victim of Stalinist tyranny. Edelman covers the team from its days on the wild fields of prerevolutionary Russia through the post-Soviet period. Given its history, it was hardly surprising that Spartak adjusted quickly to the new, capitalist world of postsocialist Russia, going on to win the championship of the Russian Premier League nine times, the Russian Cup three times, and the CIS Commonwealth of Independent States Cup six times. In addition to providing a fresh and authoritative history of Soviet society as seen through its obsession with the world’s most popular sport, Edelman, a well-known sports commentator, also provides biographies of Spartak’s leading players over the course of a century and riveting play-by-play accounts of Spartak’s most important matches—including such highlights as the day in 1989 when Spartak last won the Soviet Elite League on a Valery Shmarov free kick at the ninety-second minute. Throughout, he palpably evokes what it was like to cheer for the “Red and White.” For historic film of Spartak Moscow playing against the Wolverhampton Wanderers (the “Wolves”) in 1954 and 1955, click here: https://www.britishpathme.com/record.php?id=38828 and here: https://www.britishpathme.com/record.php?id=39694

Twelve Yards - Ben Lyttleton 2015-07-28 An all-encompassing look at the penalty kick, soccer’s all-or-nothing play—its legendary moments and the secrets to its success No stretch of grass has been the site of more glory or heartbreak than the penalty box, where the few dozen paces between a goalkeeper and a penalty kicker are the stage on which modern soccer is played. In theory, it’s simple: place the ball beyond a single defender and secure a place in history. But once the chosen players make the lonely march from their respective sides of the pitch, everything changes, all bets are off, and anything can happen. Drawing from the hard-won lessons of legendary games, in-depth statistical analysis, expert opinion, and the firsthand experience of coaches and players from around the world, journalist Ben Lyttleton offers insight into the diverse attitudes, tactics, and techniques that separate success from failure in one of the highest-pressure situations sports has to offer.

Soccernomics - Simon Kuper 2018-04-24 The 2018 World Cup edition of the international bestseller and “the most intelligent book ever written about soccer” (San Francisco Chronicle) is updated throughout and features new chapters on the FIFA scandal, why Iceland wins, and women’s soccer. Named one of the Best Books of the Year by the Guardian, Slate, Financial Times, Independent (UK), and Bloomberg News Written with an economist’s brain and a soccer writer’s spirit, Soccernomics applies high-powered analytical tools to everyday soccer topics, looking at data and revealing counterintuitive truths about the world’s most beloved game. It all adds up to a revolutionary new approach that has helped change the way the game is played. This World Cup edition features ample new material, including fresh insights into FIFA’s corruption, the surge in domestic violence during World Cups, and Western Europe’s unprecedented dominance of global soccer.

Spartak Moscow - Robert Edelman 2012-11-15 In the informative, entertaining, and generously illustrated Spartak Moscow, a book that will be cheered by soccer fans worldwide, Robert Edelman finds in the stands and on the pitch keys to understanding everyday life under Stalin, Khrushchev, and their successors. Millions attended matches and obsessed about their favorite club, and their rowdiness on game day stood out as a moment of
established power and an engine for social resistance. With exercises, discussion questions, and keywords included in each chapter, Beyond Soccer is a worthwhile and accessible educational tool. Primarily written for undergraduate students of all levels, this book will be valuable in political science, international relations, cultural studies, and sociology courses.

The Ball is Round—David Goldblatt 2008 Published to coincide with the World Cup preliminaries, a comprehensive overview of soccer around the world traces the history of the world’s most popular sport from its earliest origins to the present day, looking at the game in terms of its political, cultural, and social roles in countries around the world. Original.

Why England Lose—Simon Kuper 2010 FOOTBALL (SOCCER, ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL). Written with an economist’s brain and a football writer's skill, this book applies high-powered analytical tools to everyday football topics. Why England Lose isn’t in the first place about money. It’s about looking at data in new ways. It’s about revealing counterintuitive truths about football. It explains all manner of things about the game which newspapers just can’t see. It adds up to a new way of looking at football, beyond cliches about “The Magic of the FA Cup”, “England’s Shock Defeat” and ‘Newcastle’s New South American Star’. No training in economics is needed to read Why England Lose. But the reader will come out of it with a better understanding not just of football, but of how economists think and what they know.

The Education of a Coach—David Halberstam 2012-07-17 More than 6 years after his death David Halberstam remains one of this country’s most respected journalists and revered authors on American life and history in the years since WWII. A Pulitzer Prize-winner for his ground-breaking reporting on the Vietnam War, Halberstam wrote more than 20 books, almost all of them bestsellers. His work has stood the test of time and has become the standard by which all journalists measure themselves. Bill Belichick’s thirty-one years in the NFL have been marked by amazing success—most recently with the New England Patriots. In this groundbreaking book, THE EDUCATION OF A COACH, David Halberstam explores the nuances of both the game and the man behind it. He uncovers what makes Bill Belichick tick both on and off the field.

The Numbers Game—Christopher Anderson 2013 A former professional goalkeeper turned soccer statistics guru, along with a behavioral analyst, presents this first book on soccer stats that reveals the numbers that truly count, exposing the sport’s hidden rules. Original.

A Beautiful Game—Tom Watt 2013-06-29 Foreword by Arsene Wenger, Introduction by David Beckham Soccer writer and bestselling author of My Side, Tom Watt, talked to the world’s top soccer players about growing up and falling in love with the game: Argentina’s Lionel Messi and Brazil’s Gilberto Silva; England’s David James and Scotland’s Craig Gordon; Italy’s Fabio Cannavaro, Spain’s Iker Casillas, and France’s Franck Ribéry; South Africa’s Benni McCarthy and Nigeria’s Nwankwo Kanu; USA’s Landon Donovan and Japan’s Shunmuke Nakamura; and the world’s most famous player, David Beckham. A Beautiful Game tells their stories, in the players’ own words—stories of boys who would grow up to be heroes for a new generation of young players and fans. They look back to their childhoods: to their family homes, to their schools, to the friends they grew up with, and to the places where they first played the game that has made them stars. Combining stunning photographs with the world’s greatest players sharing their personal stories of how soccer transformed their lives, this inspiring book is an intoxicating celebration of the “beautiful game.”

Football Dynamo—Marc Bennetts 2009-03-05 In 1991, the collapse of the USSR seemed to signal the death of the Russian football industry, as the money and the fans all but left. Now the oligarchs who profited from the post-Soviet turmoil are supporting the nation’s football clubs and their dreams of glory, resulting in unprecedented success. Along this journey into the heart of Russian football, Marc Bennetts meets the managers, oligarchs, players, pundits and fans that define the Russian Premier League, now the fastest-growing and most intriguing football league in the world. From Andrei Arshavin and the national team’s adventures at Euro 2008 to the symbolism of a club from war-torn Chechnya lifting the Russian FA Cup, Football Dynamo uncovers shocking revelations about corruption, hooliganism and racism, but also the true beauty of the game and the country.

What You Think You Know About Football is Wrong—Kevin Moore 2019-10-31 Our view of football will never be the same again... Written by a world-respected football historian, this football history/gift title reveals the global game’s greatest myths and untruths. Football has been completely mythologized and many of the things people think they know about football is history turn out not to be true. We want to believe the myths and so they become accepted. So much football writing is not properly researched, and so the myths get repeated... again and again and again. Written by Kevin Moore, the founding director of the National Football Museum (the world’s leading football museum), this thoroughly researched and authoritative book will debunk more than 50 of the greatest myths surrounding football. Backed up by the highest level of academic research yet written in an accessible, mass-market style, the book will explore the truth behind many accepted myths. For example, did you know... The Germans took football to Brazil, not the English · Rugby and not football could quite easily have been the world’s leading sport · There are gay professional players · and always have been! · Goalkeepers should not dive for penalties · Football hooliganism did not begin in England · Shirt colours do make a difference · Cambridge and not Sheffield is the home of the oldest football club in the world · Arsenal should not be in the Premier League... they cheated to be there · The Dynamo Kiev team were not executed after beating a German SS team in 1941 · England did not win the World Cup fairly in 1966 ... but not in the way you think!

Brilliant Orange—David Winner 2012-06-04 The Netherlands has been one of the world’s most distinctive and sophisticated football cultures. From the birth of Total Football in the sixties, through two decades of World Cup near misses to the exile of the men who renade clubs like AC Milan, Barcelona and Chelsea in their own image, the Dutch have often been dazzlingly original and influential. The elements of their style (exquisite skills, adventurous attacking tactics, a unique blend of individual creativity and teamwork, weird patterns of self-destruction) reflect and embody the country’s culture and history. This book lays bare the elegant, fractured soul of the Dutch Masters and the culture that spawned them by exploring and analysing its key ideas, institutions, personalities and history in the context of wider Dutch society.

Provided You Don’t Kiss Me—Duncan Hamilton 2008 “Look Duncan, you’re a journalist. One day you’ll write a book about this club. Or, more to the point, about me. So you may as well know what I’m thinking and save it up for later when it won’t do any harm to anyone.”.

The Away Game: The Epic Search for Soccer’s Next Superstars—Sebastian Abbot 2018-03-06 “An exhilarating, at times heartbreaking, and ultimately unforgettable journey that lays bare the true human stakes of the world’s most popular game.”—Warren St. John, best-selling author of Outcasts United Searching for soccer’s next superstars, an audacious program called Football Dreams held tryouts for millions of 13-year-old boys across Africa. In The Away Game, Sebastian Abbot follows several of the boys as they chase their dreams in a dizzying world of rich Arab sheikhs, money-hungry agents, and soccer-mad European fans.

A Fan’s Notes—Frederick Exley 1988 Mr. Exley, a schoolteacher in a dismal rural New York town, finds pleasure in rooting for the Giants and his own survival in modern American society.

One Life—Megan Rapinoe 2021-09-07 Megan Rapinoe, Olympic gold medallist and two-time Women’s World Cup champion, has become a galvanizing force for social change; here, she urges all of us to take up the mantle, with actions big and small, to continue the fight for justice and equality. Using anecdotes from her own life and career, from suing the United States Soccer Federation alongside her teammates over gender discrimination to her widely publicized refusal to visit the White House, Rapinoe discusses the obligation we all have to speak up, and reveals the impact each of us can have on our communities.
This Love Is Not for Cowards—Robert Andrew Powell 2012-02-28

More than ten people are murdered every day in Ciudad Juárez, a city for cowards. As Mexico has descended into a feudal narco-state-one where cartels, death squads, the army, and local police all fight over billions of dollars in profits from drug and human trafficking, the border city of Juárez has been hit hardest of all. And yet, more than a million people still live there. They even love their impoverished city, proudly repeating its mantra: “Amor por Juárez.” Nothing exemplifies the spirit and hope of Juarenses more than the Indios, the city’s beloved but hard-luck soccer team. Sport may seem a meager distraction, but to many it’s a lifeline. It drew charismatic American midfielder Marco Vidal back from Dallas to achieve the athletic dreams of his Mexican father. Team owner Francisco Ibarra and Mayor José Reyes Ferriz both thrive on soccer. So does the dubiously named crew of Indios fans, El Kartel. In this honest, unflinching, and powerful book, Powell reflects on this struggling nation and its watchful neighbor to the north. This story is not just about sports, or even community, but the strength of humanity in a place where chaos reigns.

Money and Football—Stefan Szymanski 2015

The most recent winners of the UEFA Champions League are the richest club in the world; the richest club in Germany; the billionaire oligarch-owned English club; the second richest club in the world, twice; and the richest club in England. Meanwhile, more than half of all clubs lose money. With startling clarity, Szymanski reveals how money decides the destiny of your soccer club.—Back cover.

The Games: A Global History of the Olympics—David Goldblatt 2016-07-26

“A people’s history of the Olympics.”—New York Times Book Review A Boston Globe Best Book of the Year A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction Book of the Year The Games is best-selling sportswriter David Goldblatt’s sweeping, definitive history of the modern Olympics. Goldblatt brilliantly traces their history from the reinvention of the Games in Athens in 1896 to Rio in 2016, revealing how the Olympics developed into a global colossus and highlighting how they have been buffeted by (and affected by) domestic and international conflicts. Along the way, Goldblatt reveals the origins of beloved Olympic traditions (winners’ medals, the torch relay, the eternal flame) and popular events (gymnastics, alpine skiing, the marathon). And he delivers memorable portraits of Olympic icons from Jesse Owens to Nadia Comaneci, the Dream Team to Usain Bolt.

The Kite Runner—Khaled Hosseini 2011-09-05

Over 21 million copies sold worldwide

Uncommon Carriers—John McPhee 2007-04-03

McPhee, in prose distinguished by its warm humor, keen insight, and rich sense of human character, looks at the people who drive trucks, captain ships, pilot towboats, drive coal trains, and carry lobsters through the air: people who work in freight transportation.

Tori!—Ulrich Hesse 2003

The Game of Our Lives—David Goldblatt 2014-11-11

The Game of Our Lives is a masterly portrait of soccer and contemporary Britain. Soccer in the United Kingdom has evolved from a jaded, working-class tradition to a sport at the heart of popular culture, from an economic mess to a booming entertainment industry that has conquered the world. The changes in the game, David Goldblatt shows, uncannily mirror the evolution of British society. In the 1980s, soccer was described as a slum game played by slum people in slum stadiums. Such was the transformation over the following twenty-five years that novelists, politicians, poets, and bankers were all declaring their footballing loyalties. At one point, the Palace let it be known that the queen -- like her mother, Prince Harry, the chief rabbi, and the archbishop of Canterbury -- was an Arsenal fan. Soccer permeated the national life like little else, an atavistic survivor decked out in New Britain flash, a social democratic game in a cutthroat, profit-driven world. From the goals, to the players, to the managers, to the money, Goldblatt describes how the English Premier League (EPL) was forged in Margaret Thatcher’s Britain by an alliance of the big clubs -- Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur -- the Football Association, and Rupert Murdoch’s Sky TV. Goldblatt argues that no social phenomenon traces the momentous economic, social, and political changes of post-Thatcherite Britain in a more illuminating manner than soccer, and The Game of Our Lives provides the definitive social history of the EPL -- the most popular soccer league in the world.

Fever Pitch—Nick Hornby 2005-05-05

"WINNER OF THE WILLIAM HILL SPORTS BOOK OF THE YEAR" Fever Pitch is Nick Hornby’s million-copy-selling, award-winning football classic: ‘A spanking 7-0 away win of a football book… inventive, honest, funny, heroic, charming’ Independent For many people watching football is mere entertainment, to some it’s more like a ritual; but to others, its highs and lows provide a narrative to life itself. But, for Nick Hornby, his devotion to the game has provided one of few constants in a life where the meaningful things - like growing up, leaving home and forming relationships, both parental and romantic - have rarely been as simple or as uncomplicated as his love for Arsenal. Brimming with wit and honesty, Fever Pitch, catches perfectly what it really means to be a football fan - and in doing so, what it means to be a man. ’Hornby has put his finger on truths that have been unspoken for generations’ Irish Times ’Funny, wise and true’ Roddy Doyle

All Played Out—Pete Davies 1998-11-05

I talia ’90 - Gazzia cried and football changed forever. Once you could ignore football, avoid the back pages, turn the telly over, leave the pub. Now that’s not possible because on 4 July 1990 in Turin’s Stadium of the Alps gazzia cried, England lost and football changed forever. Pete Davies witnessed all of this first hand. The players, the hooligans, the agents, the journalists, the fans - the full cast of football’s rowdy circus. For nine month he had access to the England squad and their manager, Bobby Robson, talking to them freely about their hopes, their fears, their methods and their lives. So this is the real story, the unedited version. All Played Out - the first and last book to give the inside story of the greatest show on Earth. ’Pete Davies is incapable of writing a dull sentence. . . one of the most outrageously entertaining books of the year’ Daily Post.

Face to Face—Kausik Bandyopadhyay 2021-03-31

While rivalry is embedded in any sporting event or performance, soccer, the world’s most popular mass spectator sport, has been an emblem of such rivalries since its inception as an organized sport. Some of these rivalries grow to become long-term and perennial by their nature, extent, impact and legacy, from the local to the global level. They represent identities based on widely diverse affiliations of human life—locality, region, nation, continent, community, class, culture, religion, ethnicity, and so on. Yet, at times, such rivalries transcend barriers of space and time, where soccer-clubs, -nations, -personalities, -organizations, -styles and -fans float and compete with intriguing identities. The present volume brings into focus some of the most fascinating and enduring rivalries in the world of soccer. It attempts to encapsulate, analyse and reconstruct those rivalries—between nations, between clubs, between personalities, between styles of play, between fandoms, and between organizations—in a historical perspective in relation to diverse identities, competing ideologies, contestations of power, psychologies of attachment, bonds of loyalty, notions of enmity, articulations of violence, and affinities of fan culture—some of the core manifestations of sporting rivalry. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of Soccers & Society.