

CHAPTER 2 Social and Cultural Sources for the Rise of Sport in North America

Main Themes

1. Current circumstances are related to events of the past. In the case of North American sport, changing sociocultural conditions provide excellent clues to understanding its present forms.
2. Highly organized sports are products of the past century and a half, and the technological and industrial revolutions played major roles in the transformation of sport.
3. Influential persons and groups from the clergy, the intelligentsia, social reformers, and Native American, African American, and various immigrant groups have contributed ideas that form the bases of attitudes, values, and beliefs about North American sport.

Lecture Topical Headings

- A. Pre-Columbian and Colonial Traditions in North America
 1. The colonists restrict physical activities
- B. The Early Nineteenth Century: Takeoff of Early Industrialization and Technology
 1. Building a framework for modern sport
 2. The technological revolution and sport
 - a. New forms of transportation broaden sport opportunities
 - b. New forms of communication enable dissemination of sport information
- C. The Latter Nineteenth Century: The Beginnings of Modern Sport
 1. Urbanization and the rise of modern sport forms
 - a. Technological innovations and sport: transportation
 - b. Technological innovations and sport: communication
 - c. Technological innovations and equipment to play modern sport
 - d. Other technological breakthroughs and sport
 - e. The cult of manliness and sport
 - f. Muscular Christianity and intellectuals
 - g. Social philosophy and modern sport
- D. The Twentieth Century: The Modern World
 1. The maturing of modern sport
 2. Twentieth-century technology and sport: transportation
 3. The technological revolution and sport: communication
 4. Other technological innovations and sport
 5. Sport in education

Test Items

True/False

1. There was a variety of organized participant and spectator sports during the colonial period in North America. (False)
2. There was great diversity among the cultures of Native Americans, but only a few of the tribes engaged in physical play and game activities. (False)
3. After the Civil War, because of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 as a war measure, African Americans were given equal opportunities in sports such as boxing, baseball, and intercollegiate athletics. (False)
4. During the decades between 1930 and 1950 the best amateur teams in basketball, baseball, and football were company-sponsored teams. (True)
5. African American jockeys dominated the event of horse racing during the nineteenth century. (True)
6. Horse racing was the first of the popular spectator sports. (True)
7. The railroad played an instrumental role in staging the first intercollegiate athletic event. (True)
8. The invention and development of the telephone was the most important advancement for communication of sports news during the first half of the nineteenth century. (False)
9. The first sports sections to become a regular feature of newspapers appeared in the early nineteenth century. (False)
10. The forms of sport in any given society evolve out of the social and cultural traditions of that particular group and can be understood only by understanding the social history of that society. (True)
11. The first professional baseball team was player owned and player controlled. (True)
12. With the impact of modernization in the latter nineteenth century, organized sports participation became a prominent source for male identity and a primary basis for gender division. (True)
13. According to the social Darwinism espoused by William Graham Sumner, winning is seen as the just reward of the superior individual; losing is the overt manifestation of inferiority. (True)
14. The National Basketball Association was formed before the National Hockey League. (False)

15. As intercollegiate athletics grew in popularity in the twentieth century, universities in the United States tended to model their programs after Canadian university collegiate athletics traditions. (False)
16. Radio broadcasting of sports events preceded the beginning of public network broadcasting. (True)

Multiple Choice (indicates correct answer)*

1. The first significant impact of technological advances on nineteenth-century sports is found in the
A. steamboats and automobiles.
B. railroads and vulcanization of rubber.
C. steamboats and railroads.*
D. railroads and Pony Express.
2. Which of the following communications breakthroughs *did not* stimulate the growth of sport in the nineteenth century?
A. Telegraph
B. Sport journalism
C. Radio*
D. Telephone
3. “Winning is the only thing” and the survival-of-the-fittest ideology in sport is a manifestation of a social philosophy called
A. experimentalism.
B. social Deweyism.
C. social Darwinism.*
D. the gospel of wealth.
4. In the history of African American involvement in American sport, in which sport have African Americans been involved the longest?
A. Baseball
B. Basketball
C. Boxing*
D. Tennis
5. In the first two decades of intercollegiate athletics, administration and control were based principally on
A. faculty involvement.
B. the president of the institution.
C. student initiative.*
D. athletic directors.
6. The railroad played an instrumental role in the staging of the first

- A. boxing championship bout.
 - B. intercollegiate athletic event.*
 - C. horse race.
 - D. baseball game.
7. The most powerful force for restricting sport involvement in the colonial period in North America was
- A. the school.
 - B. the church.*
 - C. the government.
 - D. the military.
8. The first sporting goods corporation was formed by
- A. Albert Spalding.*
 - B. Charles Converse.
 - C. William Rawlings.
 - D. James Swoosh.
9. Intercollegiate sports in the United States began
- A. as a form of religious ritual.
 - B. under the auspices of college faculty.
 - C. as a form of student recreation.*
 - D. shortly before World War I.
10. Which early-twentieth-century Native American athlete was an all-American intercollegiate football player, an Olympic gold medalist, and a member of the Track and Field Hall of Fame.
- A. Ty Cobb
 - B. Jim Thorpe*
 - C. Red Grange
 - D. Roger Hornsby

Essay Questions

1. Several technological developments contributed to the rise of modern sport. Briefly, identify two of these and show how they contributed to the transformation of sport.
2. Trace the development of one technological innovation in the rise and development of modern sport.
3. Describe several influences of industrialization and urbanization on the rise of sport.
4. Describe the social-cultural background for the cult of manliness that arose in the latter nineteenth century and explain its connections to sport.

Student Project

1. Select a sport or a form of exercise that you are interested in. Conduct individual research on that sport to answer the following questions:

How did the sport differ one hundred, seventy-five, or fifty years (choose one) ago, in terms of the equipment used; its presence or absence in youth programs, in high schools, in colleges, and among professionals; its rules; its playing surfaces; or any other ways that contrast with the present day? How did technological factors, such as transportation, communication, and other developments, make the activity you have chosen different? How did industrialization and urbanization make it different? How did social and cultural influences make it different? Write up the results of your research in a paper. Come to class prepared to share your research with the class.

2. You will have to use the Internet to complete this student project. Once you are online, use the following URL: <http://www.nassh.org>. This takes you to the home page of the North American Society for Sport History (NASSH). At the NASSH home page, click on "Publications," then click on "Journal of Sport History." This contains one of the world's most comprehensive collections of articles on sports. It is an excellent database for students, athletes, coaches, academic researchers, journalists, and anyone else interested in sport.

Read one or more articles about the history of a sport topic you choose. From your reading, summarize the major points or ideas that you learned from your research. List the references that you used to do your research on the topic you chose.

Supplementary Readings

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