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Soccer Against the Enemy - Simon Kuper - 2010-04-27

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Soccer Men - Simon Kuper - 2014-04-22

In his national bestseller, Soccermenics, 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 failings of the modern game, Soccer Men details the lives of international stars such as Arsene 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 Domench, Andries Jonker, 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.
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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 "In insightful, entertaining, brainiac sports road trip."—The Wall Street Journal "Foer’s skills as a narrator are enviable. His characterizations… are comparable to those in Norman Mailer's journalism."—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 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 megacorporations like Netflix or national states than it does with soccer teams. No wonder its motto is "More than a club." But it was not 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 unravelrs exactly how this transformation took place, paying special attention to the club’s two biggest stars, Johan Cruyff and Lionel Messi, who are arguably the greatest soccer players of all time. Messi joined Barça at age nineteen and, more than anyone, has been the engine and standard-bearer of Barcelona’s glory. The book tells the story of soccer and Barcelona as the whole story of the modern sporting world.

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The Miracle of Castel Di Sangro - Joe McGinniss - 2000
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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 Pelé in pure natural 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 happened between 1939 and 1945. The book tells the story of soccer in Holland 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 Jews deported. Kuper uncovers Holland’s historical amnesia and uses soccer—particularly 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
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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 more closely studied, more closely glared at, more closely analyzed, than the few dozen paces between goalkeeper and penalty kicker in soccer. In theory, it’s simple: place the ball beyond a simple 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 experiences 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.

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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 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.

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Spartak Moscow - Robert Edelman - 2012-11-15
In the informative, entertaining, and generously illustrated Spartak Moscow, a book cheerfully busy with high drama, 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 relative freedom in a society that championed conformity. This was particularly the case for the supporters of Spartak, the rough proletarian Preminis 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. 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 lost 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.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=38828 and here: https://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=39004

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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 all 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 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.

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 authorities on American life and history in the years since WWII. A Pulitzer Prize-winner for his groundbreaking 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.

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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 exiles who remade clubs like AC Milan, Barcelona, Arsenal and Chelsea in their own image, the Dutch have often been dazzlingly original and influential. The elements of their style—a fresh combination of 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.
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 football fans think they know about football and its 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. 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 · God always has the upper hand · Goaltenders 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 because 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!

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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, the players and the fans left. But 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.

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Fear and Loathing in La Liga - Sid Lowe - 2014-03-18

Fear and Loathing in La Liga is the definitive history of the greatest rivalry in world sport: FC Barcelona vs. Real Madrid. It’s Messi vs. Ronaldo, Guardiola vs. Mourinho, the nation against the state, freedom fighters vs. Franco’s fascists, plus majestical goals and mesmerizing skills. It’s the best two teams on the planet going head-to-head. It’s more than a game. It’s a war. It’s El Clásico. Only, it’s not quite that simple. Spanish soccer expert and historian Sid Lowe covers 100 years of rivalry, athletic beauty, and excellence. Fear and Loathing in La Liga is a nuanced, revisionist, and brilliantly informed history that goes beyond sport. Lowe weaves together this story of the rivalry with the history and culture of Spain, emphasizing that it is “never about just the soccer.” With exclusive testimonies and astonishing anecdotes, he takes us inside this epic battle, including the wounds left by the Civil War, Madrid’s golden age in the fifties when they won five European cups, Johan Cruyff’s Barcelona Dream Team, the doomed Galáctico experiment, and Luís Figo’s “betrayal.” By exploring the history, politics, culture, economics, and language—while never forgetting the drama on the field—Lowe demonstrates the relationship between these two soccer giants and reveals the true story behind their explosive rivalry.

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A Beautiful Game - Tom Watt - 2010-06-29

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 schoolrooms, 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.”

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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.

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.”

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Liverpool v Manchester United: Seeing Red (A Short Pass) - Andy Mitten - 2012-01-28
‘Seeing Red’ is an exclusive extract from the best-selling ‘Mad For It’, published in association with FourFourTwo magazine. It examines one of the greatest sporting rivalries from the viewpoint of the people that matter; the fans.

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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.

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Morro - Phil Ball - 2003
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The amazing true story of a soccer team, re-formed from the players of the great Dynamo and Lokomotiv Kiev squads in the chaos of World War II, that played out one fateful summer season of matches.

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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 about the size of Philadelphia. 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 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

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.

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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

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, Stefan Szymanski reveals how money decides the destiny of your soccer club.”—Back cover.

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Radical Hope - Jonathan Lear - 2009-06-30
Presents the story of Plenty Coups, the last great Chief of the Crow Nation. This title contains a philosophical and ethical inquiry into a people faced with the end of their way of life.

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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.

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The Space Against the Enemy: How the World’s Most Popular Sport Started and Failed Revolutions and Kept Dictators in Power - 2021-10-26
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, 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 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 love & culture—some of the core manifestations of sporting rivalry. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of Soccer & Society.

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, 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

Italia ’90 – Gazza 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 gazza 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

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The Game of Our Lives provides the definitive social history of the EPL -- the most popular soccer league in the world.