

Review of: "Uncelebrated Sports Officials in the Middle East & Africa"

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When I accepted to review this paper, I did so based on the abstract's content. Since no keywords were provided (this is the first sin of this paper), the abstract misled me to think that a geopolitical and/or geoeconomic study would surface. Sport's geopolitics and geoeconomics is an area in which I have sufficient expertise. After all, when North to South and West to East, as well as stadium naming rights, showed up in the abstract, I thought (and maybe a lot of future readers) that this would be the central topic.

At first, I thought, too many themes and no keywords. Too many topics (investments, sponsors, stadiums, governing bodies, megaevents).

I soon realized that the structure itself of the article faced clear structural limitations: no keywords, no research question, no hypothesis, and no objectives.

The timing of the paper is unfortunate. Over a year ago, Argentina defeated France to win the 2022 Qatar World Cup. However, the conclusions read: "The FIFA World Cup 2020 (instead of 2022) in Qatar is less than two years away".

The abstract talks about Soccer... but table 2 covers 16 sports (from Aquatics all the way to Wrestling). Table 3 concentrates on FINA Swimming, table 4 on FINA Diving.

The literature review leaves aside the content of the abstract, which usually (when well written) is the content of the paper.

North-South is much more useful than West-East, as the South also includes Africa and major regions of Asia. I usually read a lot about the Global North and the Global South. This is not the case with the West-East divide, especially with the end of the Cold War.

Later, when reading the references, as well as the theoretical considerations, I finally realized that your article had no relation to the North-South migration of megaevents, neither to sponsors, corporate stadiums. Had I known this from the abstract, I would have not accepted to review the paper since I have null knowledge on the topic.

I think this paper is beyond schedule (the World Cup is not around the corner, it is long gone). The structure of this article is really odd, but most of all, the abstract, the introduction, and the content just do not match. If left this way, the reader will be deceived when he/she finds out the actual content.

