CLAS 160B1

5/18/2018

**Research Proposal**

***Sports in modern and ancient times***

The development and spread of modern sport can be hugely accredited to the growth and expansion of the Roman Empire. The expansive nature of the Roman Empire and its ability to influence a large part of Europe and Asia Minor has been seen as a critical part of the spread and development of modern sports. Importantly, the Olympics are part of the Greek culture that is today part of the modern international sport that is celebrated and enjoyed across the world. The influence of the Greek sporting and entertainment culture has helped in the perpetuation of sports and athletics in particular (Kyle 42). The need for entertainment element promoted by the Greek leadership allowed the growth of the sport as a culture that bespoke of the people's studious character in celebrating heroism and influential characters within the society. Today, the modern sporting arena remains vibrant as a result of those contributions the Hellenistic era allowed in developing the sporting spirit. Importantly, it created a culture that allowed people to celebrate the institution of sports as an essential part of the community (Miller 43). The concept of sporting was promoted as one that captured the individualistic element of the Greek community in being competitive and in presenting a culture of sport that depicted their outstanding tradition.

Sports to the Greeks were not an entertainment component like it is today. Instead, it was a way through which the Greek people showcased their culture. It held a more in-depth cultural and social value than merely for entertainment. Through sports the Greek people were able to display their superiority, celebrating the participants as heroes deserving to be honored. Sports provided the people in this culture an opportunity to showcase their strength and the role of their gods amongst them. Many great warriors participated in one sport or another, as a way of keeping the Greek name alive. They allowed the people to remember and honor their gods through the strength and successes captured in sports (Crowther 65). The leadership, on the other hand, used sports to create entertainment to a people who considered themselves of being form a superior decadency.

The Greeks interacted with numerous different cultures that diluted the original Greek culture as the Greeks tried to assimilate these areas into their control. The interaction between the Greek and Levantine culture led to the Hellenistic culture. Sport was a major part of that civilization, and as the new cultures were introduced, they created new sports and a new understanding of what sport was all about. These new cultures had their games which were their identity (Scanlon). The introduction of new games by the conquering Greeks altered some aspects of the Greek games. This is evidenced by the way there are many sports today unlike the few that were there during the Hellenistic age. Also, the fact that these sports have been differentiated and well managed is another evidence of the interactive role of between these new cultures.

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