


OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Impact of Major Sporting Events on Foreign Policy: Football and Diplomacy on the Global Stage


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The term "soft power" is central to the argument but lacks a brief definition. Consider including a definition to ensure clarity for readers unfamiliar with the concept.

The narrative review method is appropriate, but detailing why quantitative analysis was not suitable would preempt reader queries about methodological rigor.

Consider elaborating on how sources from "reputable media coverage" were selected, given potential biases inherent in media narratives.

"Football events like the FIFA World Cup or the UEFA European Championship...": Adding a comparative analysis of these events' impact on different nations could illustrate the variability of diplomatic outcomes.

"Football's integration in various societies...": This section would benefit from an analysis of how socio-economic disparities influence the sport's diplomatic effectiveness.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"The relevance of sports diplomacy has expanded in recent years...": This statement would benefit from a concrete example of a recent event to ground the claim.

You cite Nye's concept of soft power extensively. However, incorporating a critique or an alternative view on the limitations of soft power in sports diplomacy would enrich the discussion.

"Football, unlike most other sports, carries a unifying capacity...": Please provide a specific case where another sport attempted to achieve unity but was less effective compared to football.

The reference to "theoretical frameworks" could be expanded to include how they are operationalized in empirical studies, adding depth to the analysis.

The statement about "tourism, investment, and international relations" could be strengthened with statistics or data from previous tournaments.

"Hosting events like the FIFA World Cup allows nations to project a carefully crafted national image...": Discuss the ethical implications of image crafting, especially in the context of human rights criticisms, to provide a balanced view.

You mention Qatar's hosting of the World Cup. Including more detail about the specific criticisms and Qatar's response strategies would make the discussion more comprehensive.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.