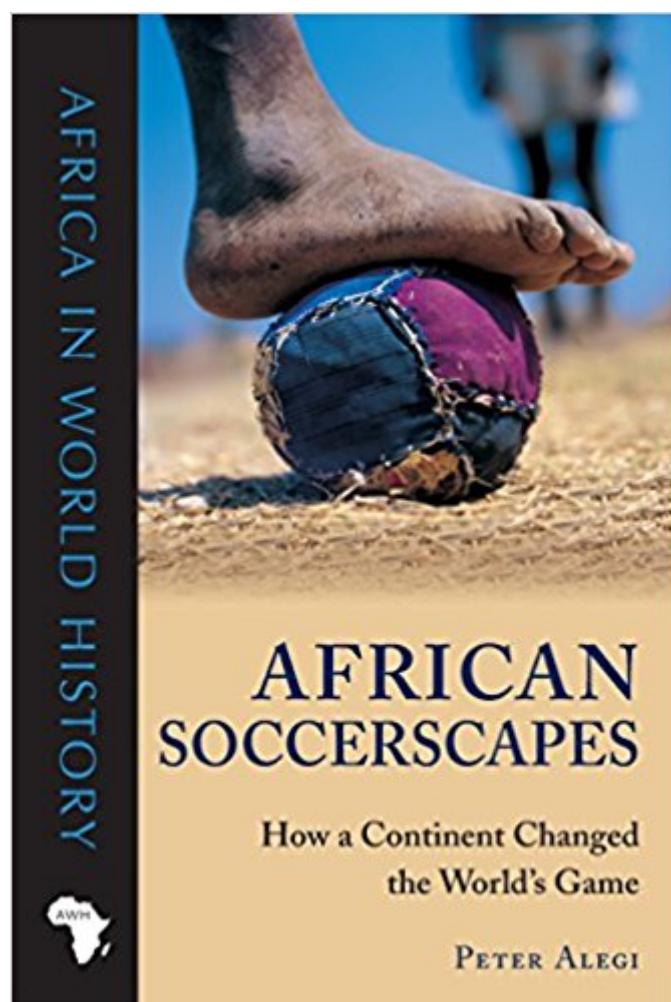


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African Soccerscapes: How A Continent Changed The World's Game (Ohio Africa In World History)



Synopsis

A Choice Significant University Press Title for Undergraduates, 2010–11. From Accra and Algiers to Zanzibar and Zululand, Africans have wrested control of soccer from the hands of Europeans, and through the rise of different playing styles, the rituals of spectatorship, and the presence of magicians and healers, have turned soccer into a distinctively African activity. African Soccerscapes explores how Africans adopted soccer for their own reasons and on their own terms. Soccer was a rare form of “national cultureÃ¢ ¬Â• in postcolonial Africa, where stadiums and clubhouses became arenas in which Africans challenged colonial power and expressed a commitment to racial equality and self-determination. New nations staged matches as part of their independence celeÃ Â-brations and joined the world body, FIFA. The ConfÃƒÂ©dÃƒÂ©ration africaine de football democratized the global game through antiapartheid sanctions and increased the number of African teams in the World Cup finals. In this compact, highly readable book Alegi shows that the result of this success has been the departure of huge numbers of players to overseas clubs and the growing influence of private commercial interests on the African game. But the growth of womenÃ¢ ¬â„¢s soccer and South AfricaÃ¢ ¬â„¢s hosting of the 2010 World Cup also challenge the one-dimensional notion of Africa as a backward, “tribalÃ¢ ¬Â• continent populated by victims of war, corruption, famine, and disease.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Given the huge interest in the 2010 World Cup, many will be looking for something to

contextualize the African soccer scene. African Soccerscapes is excellent, with a clear framework and progression, and lots of interesting stories. — Martha Saavedra, associate director of the Center for African Studies at UC Berkeley

“Peter Alegi’s African Soccerscapes is simply the best available overview of the history (of African soccer). Concise and to the point, you’ll be through it before the round of 16 begins, having covered all the basics without forgetting the pleasures and the passions that animate African football.”

The Observer “Nobody understands the background to African soccer better than the Italian-American historian Peter Alegi. This World Cup is his moment. His African Soccerscapes crams daunting erudition, gleaned over many years of study of African football, into under 200 pages of history.”

“A Financial Times review of Peter Alegi’s book, *African Soccerscapes*, describes it as ‘brilliant and rich exploration of the history of football in Africa is long overdue and fills an enormous gap. His fluid and absorbing narration is a testimony to the centrality of the ‘beautiful game’ in everyday life on the continent. Soccerscapes is an academically rigorous book that vividly reverberates with Alegi’s passion for Africa and for football, a game to which he has devoted so much of his life.’”

Gerard Akindes, cofounder of *Impumelelo*, an interdisciplinary journal of African sports

“By putting the game in Africa in social, political, and historical context African Soccerscapes serves as a valuable reminder to be skeptical of simple narratives about South Africa 2010. . . . It is all much more complicated, and much more interesting, than that.”

Pitch Invasion: Exploring the Global Game

In this wonderfully researched and richly textured narrative, Alegi tells the vital story of how football transformed Africa and Africa transformed football during the 20th century. The book is a must-read for all those wishing to gain a greater understanding of the past, and future, of the global game.

Laurent Dubois, Duke University

Via these outstanding works (Laduma! and African Soccerscapes), Alegi has placed African soccer on firm historiographical footing, while also popularizing a subject about which little was previously known beyond Africa’s borders.

African Studies Review

Alegi’s concise and ingenious book is a timely reminder about the impact African players have had on global football and an affirmation of Africa’s mounting stature as a football powerhouse.

Alegi writes in a language that is accessible to non-specialists and casual readers. For academia, instructors teaching undergraduate courses about global sports or sports in Africa could assign the book or selected chapters to students, who most likely will appreciate the material for its informative strength, brevity, and lucidity.

African Studies Quarterly

Peter Alegi is an associate professor of history at Michigan State University and the author of *Laduma! Soccer, Politics, and Society in South Africa*. He is an editorial board member of the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* and book review editor of *Soccer and Society*.

Purchased this book for my son who plays soccer...he said its a really good book.

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