

Kruger, Arnd, *Sport und Politik-von Turnvater Jahn zum Staatsamateur*, (Fackeltrager Verlag, Schmidt Kuster BmbH. Hannover, 1975).

Dr. Arnd Kruger, author of *Sport und Politik-von Turnvater Jahn zum Staatsamateur* (*Sport and Politics - from Turn - Father Jahn to the State Aided Amateur*), is one of West Germany's leading sport sociologists and an authority on the history of sport and physical education in Germany. His career includes experience as a top class middle distance runner in Germany and the U.S.A. (at U.C.L.A.). At present he teaches at the Paedogogic Institute in Berlin and is a member of the editorial board of *Leistungssport*, a West German journal devoted to the study of high performance sport.

Kruger gives some prior indication of the excellent standard of his work in his doctoral study *Die Olympischen Spiele 1936 und die Weltmeinung* (*The 1936 Olympic Games and World Opinion*). This massive and well documented work was completed in 1971 at Cologne University and published a year later

by Verlag Bartels & Wenitz. It is from this doctoral study that Kruger draws heavily for much of *Sport und Politik*. This is particularly evident in the first three chapters of *Sport und Politik* which discuss the development of sport and physical education in Germany from the end of the 18th century to the rise and subsequent fall of the 3rd Reich. The remaining sections concern the rebirth and development of German sport and physical education in both the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic. Of particular interest are the final two chapters which discuss at length (a) the West German efforts to counteract the challenge from the East and (b) the complex issues now confronting West German sporting development

In essence *Sport und Politik* is a concise history of German sport and physical education from Guts Muths and Jahn to the present. No doubt much of what Kruger has written would be opposed by East German historians. The major East German work which covers much of the same period (Wonneberger, et al, *Geschichte der Körperkultur in Deutschland*, Vols 1-1V, Sportverlag Berlin, 1967) differs considerably. However, even a cursory perusal of related literature from East and West Germany shows that ideology and emotion have coloured so much of what has been written. The result is that the "impartial" reader, particularly the non-German, despairs when faced with accounts so much in opposition.

However, what is particularly noticeable in *Sport und Politik* is a mellowing of attitude - a "middle of the road" approach - which sets Kruger apart from earlier West German authors who have written on East and West German sporting affairs. The Federal Republic for example is blamed for instigating a number of unfavorable sport - political actions involving East and West Germany. This can be refreshing, but also disturbing, since it generates further doubts in relation to other actions that have occurred.

Although covering a large timespan in only 250 pages, Kruger is both factual and precise. Nevertheless, he draws on a wealth of information gathered from both German and English language sources. It is this depth of resource material which allows *Sport und Politik* to out-rank by far any comparable publication, particularly those written in the English language. (This brings up the issue of the need to translate major German publications into the English language. Diem's *Wehgeschichte des Sports*, for example, is still only available in the German edition.)

It becomes obvious from reading *Sport und Politik* that few countries, if any, can match Germany as a background for the study of the interaction of sport and politics. Germany's poli-

tical history from the Napoleonic period through to the National Socialist seizure of power, and the subsequent division of the country into East and West Germany is as dynamic a time-span as one could hope to encounter. The incredible political and economic upheavals occurring through these years are reflected with equal intensity in German sport. Many of the incidents, however dryly recounted by Kruger, are so vigorous, oft-times violent, that accounts of them seem more fitting in the *Odessa File* than in a text dealing with the history of sport. Personalities and political parties clash throughout. This makes for very interesting and exciting reading. As a sample of the topics available in *Sport und Politik*, which are of outstanding quality the following may be considered:

(1) The immense contribution of Diem and Lewald to the German Olympic movement and to German physical education. Diem stands out in *Sport und Politik* as the supreme figure of German physical education. Kruger's unemotional rendering of Diem's contributions to so many areas of German sport and physical education in no way detracts from the incredible energy and devotion displayed by this remarkable man.

(2) Sport and physical education during the National Socialist period. *Sport und Politik* allows a subsequent comparison to be made with sport and physical education in Germany under Marxist Leninism. What makes such a comparison so interesting is the juxtaposition of two authoritarian States each manipulating German sporting traditions to serve their own particular objectives.

(3) The well discussed topic of the 1936 Olympic Games. West and East German specialists in this area continue to highlight bibliographical and documentary weaknesses occurring in English language publications. Kruger's doctoral thesis and *Sport und Politik* serve to re-emphasize the fact that English language publications have often relied too much on resource material written in English and that too little information has been drawn from German sources.

(4) The growth and development of East German sport and physical education has been the subject of considerable West German and English language publications. Kruger's discussion of this area, excellent as it is, is made more valuable because subsequent chapters (#7 and #8) discuss in detail the effect that the East German programme has had on West Germany. Questions that are raised in these chapters are not solely related to West Germany. Many involve issues presently facing other Western countries. What is of particular interest is to read of West German efforts to reconcile a number of conflicting social and economic pressures

each making their demands upon West German sport and physical education. After the apparent order displayed in the East German programme, West German efforts seem chaotic indeed. Kruger discusses these pressures at length in what is perhaps the most important section of *Sport und Politik*.

The above section completes what is throughout of high standard and excellent quality. *Sport und Politik* is to be highly recommended. It is a great pity that no English version exists at present.

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