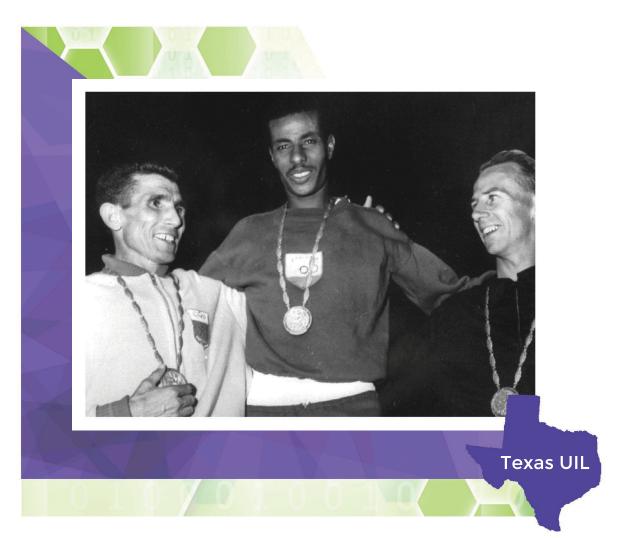
2021-22 SOCIAL STUDIES

Notes for High School



A Summary Based on

Rome 1960: The Olympics that Changed the World
Supplemental Reading | Additional Resources



UIL Social Studies Notes 2021-2022

TOPIC: The Olympic Movement and the Politics of Sport

Written by Andrew Bates, Contest Director

Edited by Hexco Academic

UIL Social Studies Notes is a time-tested 'tool kit' for building a solid annual topic foundation. Covering concepts, documents, terms, people, themes, events, and a plethora of significant facts, *Social Studies Notes* is arranged to facilitate full-topic comprehension, and the order of discussion may differ from the actual test. In this regard, students will be able to form their own unique ideas and opinions which are especially useful in the essay portion of the contest as well as in everyday life. We encourage students to become familiar with the format of the contest while reading, however, which consists of 45 multiple-choice questions and an essay.

UIL High School Social Studies contest test format is as follows, for a possible total of 100 points.

- Part 1—General Knowledge = 20 points (20 questions, 1 point each)
- Part 2—Primary Reading = 30 points (15 questions, 2 points each)
- Part 3—Supporting Documents = 30 points (10 questions, 3 points each)
- Essay = 20 points

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Social Studies Notes 2021-2022

BACKGROUND

The Olympics of 2020 were not to be. In itself, that was a significant event in the history of sports, but the context and origin of that event are part of a larger and more significant event of recent history. It is because of this fact that the Tokyo Games act as a perfect microcosm for the greater story of the modern Olympic Movement and for this year's UIL Social Studies topic. The Olympics, and the movement behind them, will always be tied to the world and the political realities in which they take place. No matter how hard they try and no matter how many pronouncements to the contrary the International Olympic Committee (IOC) makes, the Olympic Games and sports as a whole are not only tied to politics, but each play a key function in the world of the other.

The story of the Olympic Movement is like many events or areas of social studies; it does not have a clear beginning or precise boundaries. If one were interested in tracing the topic back as far as possible, it would begin with the advent of competition at the dawn of human existence. Even after abandoning that wide of a net, one could still argue that the discussion must begin with the events from over 3,000 years ago on the western Peloponnese Peninsula. The problem with focusing on the contests that archaeologists and anthropologists know took place near Olympia as a paean to Zeus is that it is not clear exactly what took place and when. Legends about the marathon are powerful and noteworthy but mainly invented. Descriptions such as the games being all male and done without clothing are well-known but shed little light beyond those facts and are themselves debated as to their meaning. Due to such concerns, focusing on the modern Olympic Movement of the last 200 years or so is a simpler yet no less important task.

Studying this year's topic requires a focus on the context of events. As mentioned before, the organizers of the Olympic Games would love for the contests to take place in a political vacuum. The opposite is not only true but understanding that fact is essential to understanding the development, growth, and crises of the Olympic Movement. Pierre de Coubertin himself sought to create a competition for all nations that would promote peace, a political, albeit noble, goal. His motivations were undeniably political. His homeland of France had gone from world beater to beaten, and Coubertin largely believed its defeats were tied to a lack of sports and education. He promoted the games as a means of peace, but at the same time, he hoped they would make his countrymen better prepared for war. Mixed in with the study of context are the actual people and events directly tied to the games. Coubertin did not act in a vacuum in that regard either. He stood on the shoulders of Thomas Arnold, Evangelos Zappas, and Dr. William Penny Brookes, among others. Their efforts to create regularly held sporting competitions, and in some cases actual "Olympics," were essential to the eventual success of a truly international series of games coming into existence. Even with the initial success of their creation, the modern Olympics were not certain to succeed.

The context around Coubertin's actions that helped create the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 was a start, not an end, to the political context of the movement. Studying the movements that existed while the Olympics sought momentum is key to understanding why the games struggled as well as why they finally succeeded. The rise of socialism was a contributing factor in competition to the Olympics and also in the increase in athletes taking part and people taking interest in the games. The rise of nationalism was seen as a detriment to the games and led to World War I and the first cancellation of the Olympics. At the same time, it was also a part of the games and became interwoven into the pageantry of the event through the use of national flags, anthems, and uniforms. Fascism and

Social Studies Notes - continued

July 17, 1936 The People's Olympiad failed to take place due to the outbreak of the Spanish

Civil War.

1940 Sapproro/ Garmisch-Partenkirchen Winter Games

Tokyo/ Helsinki Summer Games

Tokyo withdrew from hosting the games, which then transferred to Helsinki

before being cancelled due to WWII.

1942 Sigfrid Edström was elected president of the IOC after Baillet-Latour died.

1944 The London/ Cortina d'Ampezzo Games were cancelled due to the

continuation of WWII.

1948 St. Moritz Winter Games

London Summer Games

• The former Axis powers of Germany, Japan, and Romania were not allowed to compete.

Under the Afrikaner National Party, South Africa officially began apartheid

policies to more fully separate races and ethnicities.

July 29, 1948 Ludwig Guttmann organized the first Stoke Mandeville Games.

1952 Oslo Winter Games

Helsinki Summer Games

 The People's Republic of China (PRC) competed for the first and last time until 1980.

• The USSR competed at its first Olympic Games.

• The "Peace Angel" of Helsinki protested during the opening ceremony.

The POW Olympics were held in North Korea.

Avery Brundage was elected as president of the IOC.

1956 Cortina d'Ampezzo Winter Games

Melbourne Summer Games (Stockholm held equestrian events due to an

Australian quarantine.)

October 29- The Suez Canal Crisis occurred in Egypt, which led to boycotting by Egypt, Iraq,

November 7 and Lebanon.

November 4 The Hungarian Revolution was crushed by a Soviet invasion.

December 6, 1956 "Blood in the Water" Match

1960 Squaw Valley Winter Games

Rome Summer Games

May 1 The USSR shot down a U.S. U-2 spy plane and captured the pilot, Francis Gary

Powers.

The Republic of China (ROC) competed as Taiwan under protest, as was
about the property of the competed as Taiwan under protest, as was
about the property of the competed as Taiwan under protest, as was
about the property of the competed as Taiwan under protest, as was

shown by a banner during the opening ceremony.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

KEY PEOPLE

This section identifies the top individuals from across the entire range of this year's topic. All of these individuals played important roles in the development of the Olympic Movement in key ways. Some of them have lives that connect to a plethora of historical events and impressive achievements. The summaries included here try to strike a balance between including the pertinent details that are relevant to the discussion of the Olympic Movement while still including the standout events in each person's life story. Some details may not directly connect to the study of the topic but are unique and notable enough to need to be known in order to understand the individual, their influence, and their overall historical weight.

The descriptions will begin with an overview of the individual's place in the overall topic with general statements of how they can best be summarized and described in light of their connection to the Olympics. The majority of the biographical sketch will deal with a fairly chronological account of major events in the subject's careers and, in some necessary cases, personal lives. There will be more details about events directly involved with and related to the overall narrative of this year's topic. Other events, while still important, may only be briefly mentioned due to their lack of direct correlation to the Olympics and their evolution.

Thomas Bach

Born December 29, 1953, in Wurzburg (West), Germany

The current IOC president resembles many of the previous men that held his position. First, he is just that, a man, as all presidents have been. He is also European, which all presidents except for Avery Brundage have been. Like Brundage, he is also a former Olympian. Despite the overt efforts of the Olympics to be inclusive and the painstaking efforts over the years to bring in IOC members from developing areas, the top spot in the Olympic hierarchy remains seemingly closed off to such members. Bach has presided as the ninth IOC president since 2013, and during his administration, he has been faced with numerous challenges.

Bach is an attorney who started his own firm in 1982 after a gold medal-winning career as a fencer for what was then West Germany. His success in the Montreal Games (two golds) and his position as IOC president led him to be the first individual certified to add the postscript designation of "OLY" to their title, indicating that they were an Olympic competitor. He has been connected to sports administration since the end of his amateur career after the Montreal Games and subsequent world

championships in Buenos Aires the following year. His first major position was chair of the Athletes' Commission of the German Committee for Competitive Sport in 1979. He was also a representative at the Olympic Congress in 1981. His sports connections led to a position as director for promotion for Adidas, the German athletic company with a strong but checkered connection to Olympic history.

In 1996, he was elevated from his position as an IOC member to its executive board, and he became vice president of the organization in 2000. He held that position until being elected to replace Jacques Rogge in 2013. As president, he has publicly pushed for updates to the scandal-ridden bidding process. The Olympic Agenda 2020 contained many of these reforms and other goals for development of the IOC. Reform of the bidding



Thomas Bach, 2014 Public Domain

Social Studies Notes - continued

personal wishes to be largely left alone. There are few if any athletes that were as well-known and as dominant in their sport for such an extended period of time.

Despite being described as stubborn and growing more and more aloof as he aged, Nurmi was beloved by Finnish people and race fans worldwide. He started life in humble surroundings in Finland. His family never had much money, and Nurmi had to work at a young age. He became enamored with the performances of runners at the 1912 Olympics in neighboring Sweden and began his own strict training regime that he would develop and adhere to for decades. He joined the military in 1919 and became known for his running abilities. By 1920, he set his first national record.

Nurmi competed at the Antwerp Games in Belgium and won his first medal (silver) in the 5,000-meter race. It was his only Olympic defeat to international competitors. He won gold in the 10,000-meter, the cross country, and the cross-country team event. In 1921, he set a world record in the 10,000-meter and the next year set them in distances of 2,000, 3,000, and 5,000 meters. He became the first and only runner to simultaneously hold the world records in the mile, the 5,000-meter, and the 10,000-meter races.



Paavo Nurmi 1,500 m world record, 19 June 1924 Public Domain

In the 1924 Paris Games, Nurmi gave his defining performance. On a hot July day, he ran the 1,500-meter race in an Olympic record time, and an hour later, ran the 5,000-meter race, setting another Olympic record. He would win two more long distance races over the next two days. His status as a world sports star led to the booking of a 1925 tour around the U.S. He ran in over 50 events in five months. Throngs of people gathered to watch him wherever he went and in whatever distance he attempted. He won 51 of the 55 competitions. When he returned to Finland, he began focusing on a career outside of sports and started business endeavors. Leading up to the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, Nurmi felt tired and questioned his commitment to running. Despite these concerns, he won gold in the 10,000 meters and silver in the 5,000 meters and the 3,000-meter steeplechase. He was beaten out for gold only by his Finnish teammates. In 1929, he returned to the U.S. for another tour and began to think his age had forced him to narrow his attempts to longer distances. He only began running the marathon in 1932 but hoped to cap off his historic career with a gold in the race at Los Angeles. Shocking the racing world, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) ruled that Nurmi had violated their amateurism rules after he had already arrived in Los Angeles. The charges centered around Nurmi allegedly receiving money to race in Germany in 1931. Nurmi was not declared a professional, but he was not allowed to compete in the Olympics. The controversy led to Finland breaking off all sports ties with Sweden where the IAAF was centered.

Nurmi did not become a professional runner after the incident nor did he stop running as he had previously threatened. He did begin focusing more on his business and expanding his interests. By 1940, Nurmi was one of Finland's richest individuals due to success in the construction industry. He helped train Finnish runners using his previously secret techniques, and the country continued to have success. With the outbreak of WWII, he joined the war effort after initially leaving for the U.S. In 1952, he was asked to carry the Olympic torch into the Olympic Stadium at the Helsinki Games. Even into the 1960s, he was asked to make appearances as a runner, and he was invited to meet U.S. President Lyndon Johnson at the White House in 1964. He died in 1973 still holding the Finnish record for the 2,000 meters which would not fall until 1996. His record for most gold medals was not broken until