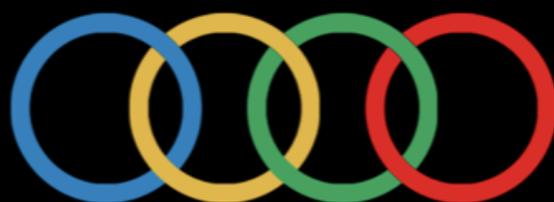




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“Olympic Reflections and Human Dignity”

This collective and international work presents itself as a theoretical contribution to the renewal of the Olympic Movement with consequent influences on high competition sport. In essence, the texts organized ahead discuss the growing plurality of identity in human relations and its impacts on sports practices. Overall, this is a review of the practical advances in terms of the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, in the postponed 2020 edition. And both in those Games and in this book, opting more for similarities, the focus in question is on Human Rights in the face of discrimination, prejudice and inequalities such as social exclusion, revocation of free speech, homophobia, racism, sexism, xenophobia, among many other rejections of the differences before vulnerable individuals, groups and minorities.

This book renews old and new values of the Olympic Movement and, consequently, of sports practices in general. This happens because the topics addressed are contextualized in the setbacks and advances of recent years and concerned to the relations between athletes, practitioners, fans, managers, sponsors, etc. And, if summarized, such tendencies, whether constructive or antisocial, have been interspersed or overlapped throughout history and are still present today.

For this reason, Pierre de Coubertin himself, the restorer of the Olympic Games, already in the 1920s defined the development of modern sport as a "pendulum". Today, such progression with setbacks and advances could be exemplified by the current control of athletes' positioning speeches during the competitions in contrast with the recent and official addition of the expression "Together" (Communis) in the centenary of the until then untouchable Olympic motto "Faster, Taller, Stronger" (Citius, Altius, Fortius).

In historical perspectives, the Olympic Movement and its main entity, the International Olympic Committee – IOC, are characterized by an oscillation between the maintenance of the status quo and the development of disruptions, in which both actions are often understood as pragmatic. These actions, in turn, are emphasized as reactions from outside the Olympic Movement, but sometimes they can also be interpreted as actions that break moral principles when they result from internal behaviors. And once again appealing to examples, it is worth recalling, in the external dimension, the pragmatic positions of the IOC in the management of the terrorism crisis in the 1972 Munich Olympics, arising from the Israel-Arab World confrontations. The corruption crisis involving leaders of the so-called Olympic "family" of the 1999-2000s, on the other hand, had clear origins in the internal shortcomings of the IOC's governance.

Therefore, this book is ultimately connected to the context that gave rise to it because it re-examines social relations that influence sport with an emphasis on the Olympic Games for their intrinsic procedures, including principles and values that give them meaning. This harmony with the context has had political components in addition to evaluative and managerial approaches as can be seen since the origins of the Olympic Games of the Modern Era and, respectively, of the IOC in its interventions.

Thus far, the pioneering actions of Pierre de Coubertin were characterized by mutual adaptations between stakeholders of the Olympic Games under the IOC. This strategy has consolidated the value of "mutual respect", which is mentioned both in the egalitarian advances of Tokyo 2020/2021 and at the beginning of the 20th century, when the motto "All

Sports, All Nations” was officially adopted in the Olympic Movement, by awarding equality to sports competitions regardless of nationality.

In summary, sport in its Olympic reinterpretations, both in Pierre de Coubertin’s times and today has assumed a model of its own development in which contradictions are circumvented step-by-step until there is a dominant agreement or flexibility by adaptation of stakeholders to the original stalemate positions. Currently, a typical example of this accommodation of interests concerns the situation of eSports in view of the political and diplomatic management of the IOC in the face of the growing acceptance of electronic games by youth and simultaneous rejection by an important part of sports’ governing bodies. But the same procedure had remarkable effectiveness in dealing with the Cold War between the USA and the then existing Soviet Union in the 1950s-1980s, resulting in the survival of the Olympic Games and of high-competition sport itself amid constant and intense international conflicts.

There is then a persistent and sometimes justifiable ambivalence of the Olympic Movement to consider when contextualizing the themes of great sensitivity found in this book. Such coexistence with contradictions has been particularly relevant in the case of doping, in which athletes have been penalized, protecting their leaders and support entities. In the face of this selective judicialization, Angela Schneider, author of one of the chapters of this book, has been pointing out in her academic production, for the last two decades, the deviations from doping, with submission of public ethics and human rights to the institutional interests of the IOC and international sports entities.

Differences aside, it is also observed in this work that there is a long and controversial history of intersexuality in relations with the IOC, but at the same time important advances are admitted in dealing with the refugee problem by the same entity. Eventually, it can be concluded that the historical ambivalence of the Olympic Movement is justified in the level of politics and international management of sport, but it becomes controversial in terms of Human Dignity, a non-negotiable requirement when discrimination, prejudice and inequalities are in focus.

The IOC, however, has signaled in recent years with proposals to reform its traditional procedures, such as the 2020 Olympic Agenda, issued in 2014, with revisions that reach the Paris 2024 and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, as well as, of course, Tokyo 2020-2021, already highlighted here. However, it is still unclear how the most important entity of sport will give transit to Human Dignity as an identity milestone as assumed in the coexistence with Paralympic Sport in recent years. This doubt, in itself, justifies the publication of this book, which is organized with basic information not only for the development of new studies and research but also to reference future decisions on reforms of the Olympic Games and of sport in general.

Finally, and in view of the prediction of a new era of Olympic ideals, it is therefore appropriate to warn that a conclusive addendum to the recent update motto "Faster, Higher, Stronger, Together" is lacking, in other words, the expression "Equals".

The full version of this book is available at

<https://expo3d.emuseudoesporte.com.br/downloads/Reflex%C3%B5es%20I%C3%ADmpicas%20e%20Dignidade%20Humana.pdf>