

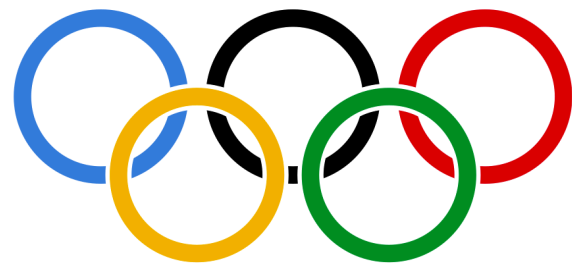
# 2004 Athens Summer Olympics

---



TM ©

ATHENS 2004



The Athens Olympics were guaranteed to be laced with nationalistic undertones due to conflict with Macedonia over the latter's name, flag, and state symbols. It was of no surprise that the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Athens Games were rooted in ancient Greek history and culture. The Clepsydra segment, a charting of the historic and cultural contributions of Greece done in chronological parade, was a blunt but effective description of Greek national history.

The Athens Ceremonies were a main feature in a chapter in my book, *Nationalism on the World Stage*, where the notion of taking custodianship of a historic cultural artifact was a strategy for establishing legal claims in the international sphere. The weight of history becomes the source of legitimacy for these claims.