

# 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics



The infamous Nazi Olympics are often looked to as the source of nationalistic displays in the modern Olympics. While they are certainly among the most prominent and well known examples, they are by no means the first time strong nationalistic symbols or movements have affected the games.

Like most scholars of the Olympics, the Berlin games pop up in various parts of my research as solid examples of political manipulation of the Olympic Games and also for the connection between nationalism and the international sports. An often forgotten aspect of the Berlin Olympics is the burgeoning power of the International Olympic Committee in swaying hosts and participants towards or away from a state policy. In this instance, the effectiveness of the IOC to pressure governments into compliance (albeit temporarily in this example) with IOC expectations or policy preferences.

This Olympiad also offered a fascinating early story to the topic of Olympic Boycotts; in this case the averted boycott of the “Nazi Olympics” by the United States and other key allies.