

Praise for Football Politics in Central Europe and Eastern Europe

“This is a very important book, dealing with a subject that has been often marginalized in public discourse. The highly diversified development of football in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe—from socialist amateurism during the communist era to professionalism introduced after the political changes in the 1990s—requires thorough research, the direction of which is determined by this path-breaking publication.”

—**Jan Tomaszewski**, professional football player, goalkeeper of Poland’s national team, third place at the 1974 World Cup, where he was named best goalkeeper, second place at the 1976 Summer Olympics, player of Śląsk Wrocław, Legia Warszawa, ŁKS Łódź, Germinal Ekeren (Belgium), Hercules Alicante (Spain), politician and journalist

“I warmly recommend this book. The editors are outstanding experts on the interface between politics and sport. All contributions are based on detailed empirical research and convincing theoretical approaches. They deal with current dimensions at the overlapping point between football and politics as related to structures, developments, and processes of identification and re-nationalization in societies of Central-Eastern and Eastern Europe, including Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary and Rumania. This book will inspire broader interest among scholars, students and the civil society for the interface between football, politics, history and society.”

—**Dr. Michael Krüger**, professor of physical education, cultural studies and history of sports at the Institute of Sport and Exercise Sciences of the University of Münster (Germany), head of the German Society of Sport Archives, Sport Museums and Sport Collections (DAGS), Member of the Council of the International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport (ISHPES)

“Football Politics in Central Europe and Eastern Europe offers path-breaking case studies of the development of modern football (soccer) in a crucial geopolitical area of Europe which was neglected for many years. This book is an important contribution for a better understanding of the ‘soft power’ represented by football at the crossroads between globalization, neo-nationalism(s) and commodification, but also for understanding Central-Eastern and Eastern Europe in their deeper political, civil and civic dimensions.”

—**Dr. Rudolf Müllner**, professor of sport science at the Department of Sport Science of the University of Vienna (Austria), founder and coordinator of the expert network “Sporthistnet”, fellow of the European Committee for Sports History (CESH), member of the Council of the International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport (ISPHES), member of the Austrian Association of Sports Science (ÖSG), member of the Austrian Research Group for Group Therapy and Group Dynamics (ÖAGG) and of the Association Current Issues in Sport Science (CISS)

**Football Politics in
Central Europe and
Eastern Europe**

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Football Politics in Central Europe and Eastern Europe

**A Study on the Geopolitical
Area's Tribal, Imaginal,
and Contextual Politics**

Edited by
Roland Benedikter and Dariusz Wojtaszyn

Foreword by Lukas Zahner

Afterword by Krzysztof Ruchniewicz

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