

Sports as an instrument of nationalism and patriotism: a systematic literature review on the role of sports in shaping national identity in various countries

El deporte como instrumento de nacionalismo y patriotismo: una revisión sistemática de la literatura sobre el papel del deporte en la formación de la identidad nacional en diversos países

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Abstract. This study investigates how nationalism and patriotism are reflected in sports across various countries through a systematic literature review (SLR). Sports are often used as a tool to disseminate nationalistic and patriotic values, shape national identity, and strengthen social and cultural bonds. This study identifies and analyzes relevant literature from the Scopus and Web of Science (WoS) databases to provide a summary of current knowledge regarding the relationship between sports and nationalism/patriotism. The findings indicate that sports media plays a crucial role in propagating nationalism through the broadcasting of sports events, creating deep national narratives. Symbolism in sports also plays a role in reinforcing national identity, as seen in traditional sports in Scotland. Additionally, sports are used as a political tool to promote nationalism and political legitimacy, particularly in countries like China and South Korea, where sports heroes and naturalized players become symbols of nationalism and patriotism. The study also reveals that media shapes public perception of nationalism and patriotism through narratives that highlight athletes' achievements as a form of national sacrifice. Various theories and analytical approaches, including critical discourse analysis and necropolitical theory, are employed to understand the complex dynamics between sports and nationalism. In conclusion, sports have a multifaceted role in shaping social and cultural dynamics, as well as national identity in various countries. This research provides valuable insights for academics, policymakers, and sports practitioners in leveraging the potential of sports to promote nationalism, patriotism, and social cohesion at both national and international levels. By understanding this role, we can create a more cohesive and united society amidst increasingly complex global challenges.

Keywords: Nationalism, patriotism, sports, media, national identity

Resumen. El presente estudio investiga cómo se reflejan el nacionalismo y el patriotismo en el deporte en diversos países a través de una revisión sistemática de la literatura (SLR). El deporte se utiliza a menudo como una herramienta para difundir valores nacionalistas y patrióticos, dar forma a la identidad nacional y fortalecer los lazos sociales y culturales. Este estudio identifica y analiza la literatura relevante de las bases de datos Scopus y Web of Science (WoS) para ofrecer un resumen del conocimiento actual sobre la relación entre el deporte y el nacionalismo/patriotismo. Los hallazgos indican que los medios de comunicación deportivos desempeñan un papel crucial en la propagación del nacionalismo a través de la transmisión de eventos deportivos, creando profundas narrativas nacionales. El simbolismo en el deporte también juega un papel en la reafirmación de la identidad nacional, como se observa en los deportes tradicionales de Escocia. Además, el deporte se utiliza como una herramienta política para promover el nacionalismo y la legitimidad política, particularmente en países como China y Corea del Sur, donde los héroes deportivos y los jugadores nacionalizados se convierten en símbolos de nacionalismo y patriotismo. El estudio también revela que los medios de comunicación moldean la percepción pública del nacionalismo y el patriotismo a través de narrativas que destacan los logros de los atletas como una forma de sacrificio nacional. Se emplean diversas teorías y enfoques analíticos, incluyendo el análisis crítico del discurso y la teoría necropolítica, para comprender las complejas dinámicas entre el deporte y el nacionalismo. En conclusión, el deporte tiene un papel multifacético en la configuración de las dinámicas sociales y culturales, así como de la identidad nacional en diversos países. Esta investigación proporciona valiosos conocimientos para académicos, responsables de políticas y profesionales del deporte en el aprovechamiento del potencial del deporte para promover el nacionalismo, el patriotismo y la cohesión social tanto a nivel nacional como internacional. Al comprender este papel, podemos crear una sociedad más cohesionada y unida en medio de los cada vez más complejos desafíos globales.

Palabras clave: Nacionalismo, patriotismo, deportes, medios de comunicación, identidad nacional

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Introduction

Sports is an institution that embodies, teaches, and provides opportunities to negotiate character, celebrated traditions, and values in countries around the world (Carrington, 2010). For instance, major sporting events (such as the Olympics and the World Cup) serve as promotional tools for host destinations to attract visitors and create a positive destination image due to the significant media attention these events draw globally (Getz & Page,

2014; Mackellar & Nisbet, 2017). Even at major sporting events like the Olympics, many media outlets evoke a sense of nationalism and/or patriotism before and during the event period to enhance their visibility and revenue from sponsorships (Brown et al., 2016; Devlin et al., 2017; Devlin & Billings, 2016; Saniah et al., 2024; Al Ardha et al., 2024).

Sports nationalism is a complex social phenomenon created by the bond between nation-states and their sports (Tosa, 2015; Chaeroni et al., 2023). However,

scholars often note problematic connections between sports and nationalism, militarism, and neoliberalism worldwide (Andrews & Silk, 2012; Butterworth, 2017; Carrington, 2010; Chaeroni et al., 2024). In the U.S., these connections may be particularly prominent due to the extensive commercialization of sports in the country and the general perception of American exceptionalism in creating an ideal society—including its sports offerings, celebrations, and performances (de Oca, 2013; Knoester et al., 2022; Knoester & Ridpath, 2021). However, little is known about how aware U.S. adults are of the patriotic, neoliberal, nationalistic, and militaristic messages in sports (de Oca, 2013; Knoester et al., 2022; Sepdanius et al., 2024).

While patriotism is an important factor in influencing the decision-making process and subsequent behavior (Brown et al., 2016; Druckman, 1994; Chaeroni et al., 2022). In major sporting events The concept of 'patriotism' can be supported by social identity theory and self-categorization, which explains the cognitive process by which individuals place themselves in certain categories (Devlin & Billings, 2016; Ihsan et al., 2024). So in this regard, patriotism can be interpreted as the emotional connection and attachment of the audience to their country and their willingness to support their national representatives (Druckman, 1994).

On the other hand, previous research has noted strong involvement between sports and both patriotism and nationalism (Andrews, 2019; de Oca, 2013; Gusril et al., 2024). In fact, specific country studies on sports pride and national sports pride have been conducted in the U.S. (Denham, 2010); Hungary (Dóczy, 2012); the Netherlands (Elling et al., 2014; van Hilvoorde et al., 2010); South Africa (Kersting, 2007); Singapore (Leng et al., 2014); Germany (Gassmann et al., 2020; Haut et al., 2016; Meier & Mutz, 2016), and research related to 'sports patriotism' has also been conducted in Germany (Meier & Mutz, 2018). Promoting nationalism and/or patriotism before and during the event period to increase visibility and sponsorship revenue (Brown et al., 2016; Devlin et al., 2017; Devlin & Billings, 2016).

Although there has been extensive research documenting the strong relationship between sports and nationalism and patriotism in various countries, to our

knowledge, there is still no systematic literature review (SLR) on how aware the public is of the patriotic and/or nationalistic messages in sports. Therefore, we identify and analyze how nationalism and patriotism are reflected in sports across different countries, providing a summary of current knowledge on the relationship between sports and nationalism/patriotism through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). Thus, this study is expected to provide deeper insights into the complex dynamics between sports and nationalism, as well as how media and sporting events contribute to shaping national identity and patriotism in various cultural contexts.

Materials and Methods

This study utilizes the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method. The SLR approach is designed to discover, assess, and interpret all available and relevant information in the literature or references to comprehensively answer research questions (Snyder, 2019; Xiao & Watson, 2019). SLR helps provide a summary of current knowledge or topics related to research questions (Kurniati et al., 2022), serving as a valuable information source where the author needs to summarize and evaluate reliable scientific literature using an organized method based on established objectives, which can then be used by other researchers (Gopalakrishnan & Ganeshkumar, 2013). This statement forms the foundation for conducting this study using the SLR method.

The data sources for this study were obtained from searches in the Scopus database, which includes high-quality scientific literature in over 250 disciplines, including social sciences and humanities (Cretu & Morandau, 2020), and also using the Web of Science (WoS) database. Our review follows the guidelines stated in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses/PRISMA-P (Moher et al., 2009; Page et al., 2021), which is one of the best methods to help authors conduct systematic reviews and meta-analyses correctly and also assist authors in reviewing the structure like a roadmap. The PRISMA method is also the most frequently used method in articles such as literature reviews (Hutton et al., 2016; Moher et al., 2016; Shamseer et al., 2015; Stewart et al., 2015).

Table 1.
The inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
English Language	Articles written in other languages
Years 2019-2024 (last 5 years)	Before the year 2019
Document types are Scopus and WoS indexed articles	Types of books, book chapters, theses, short reports, conference papers, literature reviews, and not indexed in Scopus and WoS
Qualitative research types	Other than qualitative research
Sports related to nationalism and/or patriotism	Not related

The search strategy used the query “sport* AND (nationalism* OR patriotism*)”, with article selection limited to publications within the last 5 years (Paul et al., 2021), specifically those published from 2019 to 2024. This applies

to the Scopus database with journals indexed in the first to the fourth quartile (Paul et al., 2021). Eligibility criteria are necessary for selecting appropriate articles (Ahmadi et al.,

2018). Subsequently, articles were screened based on inclusion and exclusion criteria as described in Table 1.

Results

Our literature search concluded on June 2, 2024, yielding an initial identification of 17,559 records in the Scopus database and 956 records in the WoS database, as shown in Figure 1. In the initial screening stage, 3,187 articles met the inclusion criteria from the filtered database, meaning 10,433 records were excluded due to being types of books, book chapters, theses, short reports, conference papers, literature reviews, and 9,844 records were excluded as the specified query was not found in the abstracts.

In the subsequent screening stage, 1,029 records were removed because they were not in English, and 914 records were deemed ineligible by the automation tool for the years 2019-2024. Consequently, out of the initial 18,515 records identified in the two databases, 354 articles were deemed eligible for further analysis. This screening process is crucial to ensure that only relevant and high-quality studies are analyzed, specifically those focusing on sports as a medium for nationalism and/or patriotism in various countries.

Monitoring of articles was conducted by examining titles and abstracts based on the relevance of the articles to the current topic. This resulted in 71 articles meeting the inclusion criteria appearing relevant in the abstract. These articles were analyzed, and relevant information was organized considering several classifications and criteria that align with the information needs we were seek-

ing (Table 1). Data extraction was carried out to categorize, evaluate, and summarize the articles that met the specified criteria. Through the analysis of the collected data, we were able to achieve recommendations and results relevant to the topic. The analysis of articles that met the inclusion criteria revealed key findings, showing that at least 23 articles were suitable based on the analysis (see Table 2).

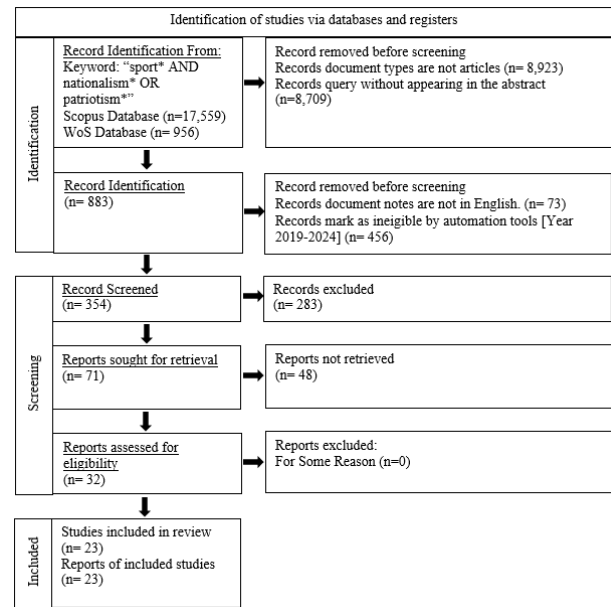


Figure 1. PRISMA flow diagram showing the study identification and selection process.

Table 2. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Country	Research Objectives	Research Design	Methodology	Population and Sample	Main Topics	Data Validation
(Socolow, 2022)	Australia	Cricket, Horse Racing, Boxing, Wrestling, Football	Qualitative research with a descriptive and critical approach	Analysis of archival documents, contemporary periodicals, and other historical materials	Archival documents, listener letters, radio magazine articles, and internal documents of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC)	Nationalism, national identity, sports broadcasting, national radio development, Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC), cricket, horse racing, network radio	Data triangulation by comparing various historical sources and cross-verification with historians or relevant experts
(Whigham, 2023)	Scotland	Highland Games, Shinty, Golf, Football, Rugby Union	Qualitative research with historical text analysis and archival documentation	Qualitative History	Academic literature, historical archives, media documentation, and political narratives related to nationalism and national identity in Scotland	Nationalism, national identity, national sports, ethnosymbolism, Scotland, ancient history, symbolism	Method triangulation by combining data from various sources. Findings validated through cross-checking with secondary sources
(Kuo & Kuo, 2023)	China, Southeast Asia	Wushu	Qualitative analysis with an ethnosymbolism approach	Ethnosymbolism approach	Academic literature, historical archives, media documentation, and political narratives related to Chinese nationalism and national identity in SEA	Nationalism, national identity, Wushu, Chin Woo Athletic Federation, Chinese diaspora, Southeast Asia, organizational cloning	Method triangulation by combining data from various sources. Findings validated through cross-checking with secondary sources
(Murtha et al., 2021)	United States, Italy, Portugal	Physical Culture	Qualitative research with historical text analysis and archival documentation	Qualitative History	Articles, books, and publications related to Bernarr MacFadden, Benito Mussolini, and António de Oliveira Salazar	Nationalism, fascism, physical culture, national health, masculine body, propaganda	Data triangulation by comparing various historical sources and cross-verification with historians or relevant experts

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Study	Country	Research Objectives	Research Design	Methodology	Population and Sample	Main Topics	Data Validation
(Zhouxiang & Hong, 2019)	China	Various Sports (including tennis, volleyball, and athletics)	Qualitative analysis with a descriptive and critical approach	Historical and qualitative analysis	Archival documents, academic literature, media articles, and interviews with athletes and coaches in China	Nationalism, patriotism, gold medals, sports heroes, national identity, China	Method triangulation by combining data from various sources. Findings validated through cross-checking with secondary sources
(Han et al., 2024)	China	Football	Qualitative analysis with a descriptive and critical approach	Critical realism approach with qualitative research methodology	Football fans, sports media professionals, team managers, and officials working at the Chinese Football Association	Nationalism, national identity, naturalization, Chinese men's football, 2022 FIFA World Cup	Method triangulation by combining related data. Findings validated through cross-checking with relevant secondary sources
(O. Scott & Li, 2023)	Australia	Various Sports in the Commonwealth Games	Quantitative and descriptive analysis	Television broadcast content analysis	Athletes participating in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and coverage by Seven Network	Nationalism, national identity, sports media coverage, 2018 Commonwealth Games, Australia	Inter-coder reliability using Cohen's kappa formula to ensure consistency in broadcast comment coding. Validation through data triangulation from related sources
(Jerreat-Poole, 2023)	China, United States, Japan, Russia	Figure Skating	Media content analysis using a descriptive and critical approach	Qualitative analysis with social category theory and critical disability theory	News articles and media commentary on figure skating during the 2022 Winter Olympics	Nationalism, national identity, disability, competitive sports, media, celebrity, Olympics, figure skating	Method triangulation by combining data from various sources. Validation through cross-checking with secondary sources
(Chen et al., 2024)	China and Japan	Figure Skating	Qualitative case study using digital ethnography and critical thematic analysis	Digital ethnography with critical thematic analysis	News articles from mainstream Chinese media, fan creations on social media platforms, comments in sports forums, and opinions from the Q&A portal Zhihu	Fandom, politicization, social media communication, nationalism, patriotism, Yuzuru Hanyu	Method triangulation by combining data from various sources. Validation through cross-checking with relevant secondary sources
(Schep, 2023)	France and England	Formula 1	Qualitative case study with media analysis and framing theory	Media Study and Framing Analysis	Newspaper articles from four major newspapers in France and England	Nationalism, national identity, sports, media framing, Formula 1 racing, gender, social class	Method triangulation by comparing analysis results from various newspapers and different time periods
(J. W. Lee, 2021)	South Korea	2018 Winter Olympic Games	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis and historical approach	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Historical Approach	Presidential discourse, newspaper articles, television broadcasts, and historical documentation from the 2018 Winter Olympics period in PyeongChang	Nationalism, national identity, nationalistic politics, Olympics, hegemonic struggle	Method triangulation by comparing data from various sources and time periods to ensure consistency of findings
(Kim, 2024)	South Korea	FIFA World Cup, Football	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis based on Fairclough's theory	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)	Newspaper articles from three major Korean media: KBS, Chosun Ilbo, and Kyunghyang Shinmun, during the 5 days before and after each World Cup	Nationalism, national identity, sports, media framing, FIFA World Cup, neoliberalism	Method triangulation by combining data from different World Cup periods and different media to ensure consistency of findings
(Agergaard, 2019)	Denmark	Football	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis based on Nira Yuval-Davis's theory	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)	National Danish newspaper articles mentioning Nadia Nadim during the study period	Nationalism, national identity, integration, media representation, women's football, ethnic minorities, transnationalism, anti-immigration rhetoric	Method triangulation by comparing data from various articles and sources to ensure consistency of findings
(Molnár, 2023)	Hungary	Football	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis based on Mbembe's necropolitics theory and populism theory	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)	Newspaper articles, political speeches by Viktor Orbán, and purposively selected social media messages from 2010 to 2022	Nationalism, national identity, sports, populist politics, necropolitics, ethno-nationalism	Method triangulation by comparing data from various sources to ensure consistency of findings
(Muchnick, 2023)	England and Germany	Olympics	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis based on symbolism and propaganda theory	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)	Official Olympic films, documentation from organizing committees, political speeches, and news articles from the period	Nationalism, international peace, ancient Greek symbolism, Olympics, political propaganda	Method triangulation by combining data from various sources and different time periods to ensure consistency of findings
(Shen, 2020)	China	Olympics	Qualitative research with document analysis and	Qualitative History and	Policy documents from SCSPE and SGAS, and interviews with two SGAS	Olympic strategy, nationalism, political legitimacy, ideology,	Data triangulation by comparing various document sources and

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Characteristics of included studies

Study	Country	Research Objectives	Research Design	Methodology	Population and Sample	Main Topics	Data Validation
			interviews	Semi-Structured Interviews	officials, two senior officials from the Shanghai sports bureau, and three Chinese academics	elite sports policy in China	cross-verification with relevant academics and officials
(Pateraki, 2023)	Greece	Basketball	Qualitative research with a visual ethnography approach	Visual Anthropology	Athletes, coaches, physical education teachers, and sports fans involved in sports events in the Athens (Attica) and Patras (Peloponnese) regions	Nationalism, national identity, sports, Zorba dance, sports victory, visual anthropology	Method triangulation by combining data. Member checking done by confirming findings with several research participants
(Black, 2021)	Korea	Baseball	Qualitative research with historical analysis	Historical and Discourse Analysis	Korean newspaper archives, annual reports of American missionaries, and diaries of Korean intellectuals from the Korean Enlightenment and Japanese colonization period	Baseball, cultural imperialism, Korean modernization, international exchange, youth masculinity	Data triangulation by comparing analysis results from various related sources, as well as cross-checking with experts in sports history and culture to ensure accuracy and consistency of findings
(O. K. M. Scott et al., 2024)	Australia	Olympics	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis and self-categorization theory	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Self-Categorization Theory	Athletes mentioned in the primetime Seven Network coverage during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics	Nationalism, sports broadcasting, media representation, COVID-19 pandemic, Olympics	Method triangulation by comparing data from various time periods and sources to ensure consistency of findings
(Horky et al., 2019)	Germany, Ukraine, Poland, Northern Ireland	Football	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis and mixed methods	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Mixed Methods	Live broadcasts of the German national team matches against Ukraine, Poland, and Northern Ireland during UEFA Euro 2016	Nationalism, patriotism, Europe, live commentary, sports broadcasting, social identity	Method triangulation by comparing data from various countries to ensure consistency of findings
(K. Lee & Ok, 2022)	South Korea	Baseball	Qualitative research with a critical historical analysis approach	Critical Historical Analysis	Newspaper articles, annual reports, and diaries from the Korean Enlightenment and Japanese colonial periods	Cultural imperialism, nationalism, baseball, modernization, physical education, youth masculinity	Method triangulation by comparing data from various sources and time periods to ensure consistency of findings
(Nosal et al., 2023)	Poland	Football	Qualitative research with critical discourse analysis and content analysis	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Content Analysis	News articles, interviews, and reports related to transnational football players playing for the Polish national team from 1997 to 2022	Transnationalism, transnational football players, nationalism, deservingness, national identity	Method triangulation by comparing data from various sources and time periods to ensure consistency of findings
(Alabarces et al., 2024)	Argentina	Football	Qualitative case study with critical discourse analysis and historical approach	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Historical Approach	Newspaper articles, television broadcasts, and historical documentation from 1986 to 2022, as well as interviews with fans and key figures in Argentine football	Nationalism, national identity, football, political narrative, emotional patriotism	Method triangulation by comparing data from various sources and time periods to ensure consistency of findings

The studies included in Table 2 encompass various countries and different sports, such as cricket in Australia (Socolow, 2022), the Highland Games in Scotland (Whigham, 2023), Wushu in China and Southeast Asia (Kuo & Kuo, 2023), and football in various countries like China (Han et al., 2024) and South Korea (Kim, 2024). This diversity reflects efforts to understand how nationalism and national identity are mirrored and influenced by different types of sports in various cultural contexts.

Most studies employ qualitative approaches with various methods of analysis, such as archival document analysis, historical text analysis, and critical discourse analysis. For instance, Socolow (2022) and Murtha et al. (2021) use archival document analysis to explore nationalism and national identity through sports broad-

casting and physical culture. The use of data triangulation and validation of findings through cross-checking with secondary sources or relevant experts is an important step taken to ensure data accuracy and validity.

Almost all studies in this table have a primary focus on nationalism and national identity, analyzed through various perspectives and contexts. For example, Zhouxiang & Hong (2019) explore nationalism in China through various sports, while Jerreat-Poole (2023) analyzes how national identity and disability are represented in media coverage of figure skating at the 2022 Winter Olympics. Various theories and analytical approaches are used to understand the relationship between sports and nationalism. For instance, Kim (2024) uses Fairclough's theory for critical discourse analysis regarding the FIFA World Cup, while Molnár (2023) employs theories of

necropolitics and populism to analyze football in Hungary. The use of diverse theoretical approaches enriches the analysis and provides deeper insights into the complex dynamics between sports and nationalism.

Table 3.

The objectives of each study resulted in the main findings

Study	Data Analysis	Research Objectives	Main Findings
(Socolow, 2022)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis. Main themes identified include nationalism, the role of sports in media, and the influence of broadcasting on the development of national culture.	Investigate the role of sports broadcasting in the development of national radio and its contribution to Australian nationalism.	Sports broadcasting played a crucial role in expanding radio audiences in Australia and spreading a shared experience that supported the formation of an "imagined community" in modern nationalism.
(Whigham, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis, focusing on identifying main themes related to national symbolism and the role of sports in the construction of national identity.	Investigate the symbolic role of sports in relation to nationalism and national identity in contemporary Scottish society.	Sports in Scotland serve as a strong national symbol, combining historical mythology and ancient symbolism that continue to influence national identity and expressions of nationalism in contemporary Scotland.
(Kuo & Kuo, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis, focusing on identifying main themes related to national symbolism and the role of martial arts in the construction of national identity.	Evaluate the role of the Chin Woo Athletic Federation in spreading Wushu culture and Chinese nationalism among Chinese immigrants in Southeast Asia.	The Chin Woo organization helped spread Chinese national identity in Southeast Asia through martial arts, with strong support from local Chinese community leaders and businesses.
(Murtha et al., 2021)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis to identify main themes related to nationalism, fascism, and physical culture.	Investigate how physical culture was used to promote nationalist and fascist ideologies in the United States in the 1930s.	The physical culture promoted by MacFadden was used to reinforce nationalist and fascist ideals in America and Europe, with a strong body as a symbol of patriotism and national strength.
(Zhouxiang & Hong, 2019)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis to identify main themes related to nationalism, patriotism, and the role of sports heroes in the construction of national identity.	Evaluate the role of Chinese sports heroes in the construction of nationalism and national identity, and the political and social impact of international sports success.	Chinese sports heroes play a significant role in building nationalism and patriotism, but the pressure to win gold medals places a heavy burden on athletes expected to bring honor to the country.
(Han et al., 2024)	Data analyzed using thematic approach to identify key issues debated by Chinese society regarding the naturalization of football players.	Evaluate public attitudes towards the naturalization of football players and how this affects national identity and nationalism in China.	Chinese public attitudes towards naturalized players are influenced by ethnic and cultural nationalism, as well as pragmatic values that assess the players' contributions to national football achievements. Instrumentalism causes public views on naturalized players to be dynamic and changeable.
(O. Scott & Li, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and content analysis to identify differences in mentions and descriptions between Australian and non-Australian athletes, and how nationalism is expressed in television broadcasts.	Evaluate how nationalism is reflected in the coverage of the 2018 Commonwealth Games by Seven Network in Australia.	Australian athletes were mentioned more frequently and portrayed more positively than non-Australian athletes in the 2018 Commonwealth Games broadcasts, reflecting Australian media's tendency to emphasize nationalism through sports coverage.
(Jerreat-Poole, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and discourse analysis to identify narrative patterns and representations of athlete injury, vulnerability, and national sacrifice.	Analyze how the media reports disablement in figure skating and its impact on public perceptions of vulnerability and risk related to gender, race, age, and nationality.	Media often highlight narratives of athletes overcoming injuries as a form of national sacrifice, normalizing injury in sports, and setting cultural expectations of resilience as a symbol of nationalism.
(Chen et al., 2024)	Data analyzed using critical thematic analysis to identify main themes depicting nationalistic and patriotic narratives emerging from interactions between fans, anti-fans, and authorities.	Analyze the politicization of Yuzuru Hanyu's fandom in China during and after the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, and explore new methods in Chinese communication studies.	Fandom is used to decolonize communication studies on social media by showing how Chinese fans create nationalistic and patriotic narratives through their support and interactions with transnational athletes like Yuzuru Hanyu.
(Schep, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and framing analysis to identify patterns of nationalistic and national identity representation in Formula 1 coverage.	Analyze how the social and cultural framing of Formula 1 in French and English newspapers shapes and maintains national identity.	French and English newspapers use various framing strategies to reinforce national identity through Formula 1 coverage, including highlighting national success, downplaying foreign achievements, and using metaphors and narratives that support nationalism.
(J. W. Lee, 2021)	Data analyzed using thematic and content analysis to identify main themes in the representation of nationalism and national identity during the 2018 Winter Olympics.	Explore how nationalism is expressed and contested through sports during the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang.	The 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang became an arena of hegemonic struggle between various nationalistic views in South Korea, with each group seeking to assert the legitimacy of their national perspectives.
(Kim, 2024)	Data analyzed using thematic and discourse analysis to identify patterns of nationalistic and national identity representation in football coverage.	Investigate how the discourse of Korean sports nationalism has evolved with social changes, particularly the impact of neoliberal globalization.	Sports nationalism in South Korea has evolved from focusing on fighting spirit and sacrifice as national traits to a neoliberal meritocracy culture emphasizing individual success on the global stage.
(Agergaard, 2019)	Data analyzed using thematic and critical discourse analysis to identify main themes in the representation of nationalism and ethnic identity in women's football coverage.	Analyze how the Danish media portray ethnic minority athletes and how this affects perceptions of national identity and integration.	The Danish media often erase the transnational aspects of Nadim's identity and use nationalist narratives to promote national unity while also acknowledging the achievements of athletes from ethnic minority backgrounds.
(Molnár, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and critical discourse analysis to identify main themes in the representation of nationalism, populist politics, and national identity.	Analyze how the Fidesz coalition government uses sports to promote nationalism and necropolitical policies.	The Hungarian government uses national sports success and sports-related infrastructure development to build national identity and expand the concept of nationality, creating nationalist narratives that reinforce their political dominance.
(Muchnick, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and critical discourse analysis to identify patterns of nationalistic and ancient Greek symbolism representation in the context of the 1936	Analyze how ancient Greek symbolism was used in the 1936 Berlin and 1948 London Olympics to promote	The 1936 Berlin Olympics used Greek antiquity to promote fervent nationalism, while the 1948 London Olympics sought to present ancient Greece as a peaceful example from the past that could inspire international peace.

	Berlin and 1948 London Olympics.	different messages (nationalism vs. international peace).	Despite efforts to remove the Nazi spirit from Berlin 1936's classical elements, the 1948 London Olympics showed a disturbing alignment between pre-war German and post-war British Olympic messages.
(Shen, 2020)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis to identify main themes related to nationalism, the role of sports, and elite sports policy.	Analyze the role of ideology in China's elite sports policy in the 1980s and how elite sports were used to build the Chinese Communist Party's political legitimacy.	China's sports success in the 1980s was closely tied to nationalism and the Chinese Communist Party's political legitimacy, showing that performance-based legitimacy was more important than Mao's revolutionary ideology in transforming post-Mao Chinese society.
(Pateraki, 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and critical discourse analysis to identify main themes in the representation of nationalism and national identity through the performance of Zorba dance at sports events.	Investigate how national identity is negotiated through sports and dance at major sports events.	The Zorba dance is used as a national symbol at major sports events in Greece, highlighting how sports and dance performances can serve as performative sites of collectivity and solidarity, contributing to broader nationalization processes.
(Black, 2021)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis to identify patterns of baseball representation, cultural imperialism, and the interaction between American and Japanese cultural influences with active reception by Korean society.	Investigate the process of acceptance and popularization of baseball in Korea from 1876 to 1945, and understand the interaction between American and Japanese cultural influences with active reception by Korean society.	The acceptance and popularization of baseball in Korea were the result of complex interactions between American and Japanese cultural imperialism and the active reception by Korean society, which used baseball as a channel for expressing nationalism and youth masculinity.
(O. K. M. Scott et al., 2024)	Data analyzed using thematic and content analysis to identify patterns of nationalism representation and differences in descriptions of the success and failure of Australian and non-Australian athletes.	Analyze how Seven Network portrayed Australian and non-Australian athletes during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and its impact on nationalism.	There was a significant difference in how Seven Network portrayed Australian and non-Australian athletes during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The broadcast emphasized Australian athletes more, with more frequent mentions and more positive descriptions of Australian athletes compared to non-Australian athletes. Australian media presented a highly partisan program, focusing on a domestic audience in lockdown, contributing to high interest and viewership of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in Australia.
(Horky et al., 2019)	Data analyzed using thematic and content analysis to identify patterns of nationalism, patriotism, and globalization representation in live commentary during matches.	Analyze how live commentary in football matches can reflect and shape national and European identity through television broadcasting.	Live broadcast coverage emphasized sports action and European friendship more than ideological nationalism. Live commentary highlighted positive patriotism and transnational player friendships, showing the decreasing relevance of national broadcaster commentary due to the increasing use of similar feed images by sports organizations.
(K. Lee & Ok, 2022)	Data analyzed using thematic and discourse analysis to identify main themes in the representation of cultural imperialism, nationalism, and youth masculinity in the context of baseball.	Analyze the evolution of baseball culture in Korea and how baseball was used as a tool for expressing nationalism and masculinity during the imperialism period.	During the Japanese colonial period, baseball was used to express Korean youth nationalism and masculinity. International exchanges between American and Japanese baseball played a crucial role in popularizing baseball in Korea.
(Nosal et al., 2023)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis to identify patterns of baseball acceptance and popularization in Korea, and how baseball was used as a means to express nationalism and masculinity.	Analyze how transnational football players are perceived in the Polish national team and what factors make them considered deserving or not.	Baseball in Korea is the result of complex interactions between cultural acceptance and existing political, social, and cultural contexts, used as a means to express nationalism and masculinity, and as a tool for resistance against Japanese colonization.
(Alabarces et al., 2024)	Data analyzed using thematic and historical analysis to identify patterns of baseball acceptance and popularization in the political, social, and cultural contexts of Korea during the Enlightenment and Japanese colonial period.	Analyze how football serves as a tool to shape and promote national identity in Argentina over the past 36 years.	Baseball was initially introduced to Korea as a result of American and Japanese expansionism, but the acceptance and popularization of baseball in Korea were significantly influenced by the dynamic interaction of political, social, and cultural factors. Baseball became a tool for expressing nationalism and youth masculinity, helping to popularize the sport in Korean society.

Discussion

This research reveals various complex dynamics between sports, nationalism, and patriotism in different countries through a systematic literature review (SLR). The main findings indicate that sports serve as a crucial tool for disseminating nationalism and patriotism, creating national identity, and reinforcing social and cultural bonds in various contexts. For instance, Socolow's (2022) study in Australia shows how sports broadcasting via radio helped to expand audiences and create shared experiences that support the formation of imagined communities in modern nationalism. This demonstrates that sports media play a significant role in shaping national identity.

Additionally, this research identifies that sports nationalism is not limited to broadcasting but also includes various forms of symbolic representation and rituals. For example,

Whigham (2023) in Scotland highlights the symbolic role of sports in integrating historical mythology and ancient symbolism, which continue to influence national identity and expressions of nationalism in contemporary Scotland. This shows that sports can function as a powerful national symbol, capable of merging historical and cultural aspects to strengthen national identity.

This research also found that in some countries, such as China and South Korea, sports are used as a political tool to promote nationalism and political legitimacy. Zhouxiang & Hong (2019) and Han et al. (2024) demonstrate how sports heroes and naturalized players are utilized to build nationalism and patriotism in China. In South Korea, Kim (2024) found that sports nationalism has evolved alongside social changes, particularly the impact of neoliberal globalization, shifting the focus from fighting spirit and sacrifice to a meritocratic culture that emphasizes individual success on the

global stage.

Other findings reveal that media play a crucial role in shaping public perception of nationalism and patriotism in sports. Jerreat-Poole (2023) and Chen et al. (2024) highlight how media narratives about athletes overcoming injuries and fan interactions on social media can create nationalistic and patriotic narratives. This indicates that media do not merely report sports events but also shape narratives that influence public perceptions of nationalism and patriotism.

One of the intriguing findings in this research is the significant role of sports broadcasting in spreading nationalism. Socolow's (2022) study reveals how radio broadcasting in Australia not only served as a means of entertainment but also as a tool for shaping national identity. Through the broadcasting of cricket matches, horse racing, boxing, wrestling, and football, radio media created shared experiences that strengthened national bonds. This reflects Anderson's (1991) theory of "imagined communities," where media play a crucial role in forming collective identity.

Furthermore, this research shows that sports broadcasting not only expands the audience but also influences how society perceives their national identity. Broadcasts that emphasize national achievements and moments of national pride help create narratives that reinforce a sense of nationhood. This is evident in how sports broadcasts in Australia build narratives that support modern nationalism through shared experiences disseminated by the media.

Whigham's (2023) research in Scotland provides insights into how symbolism in sports can strengthen national identity. The Highland Games, Shinty, Golf, Football, and Rugby Union are not merely sports competitions but also embodiments of historical mythology and ancient symbolism that continue to thrive in contemporary Scottish society. These symbols play a crucial role in shaping national identity and reinforcing nationalism.

Studies by Zhouxiang & Hong (2019) and Han et al. (2024) in China illustrate how sports are used as a political tool to build nationalism and political legitimacy. Sports heroes in China are often portrayed as symbols of nationalism and patriotism, with the expectation that their success on the international stage will bring honor to the country. However, the pressure to win gold medals also creates a heavy burden on athletes, who are expected to consistently bring home victories.

Han et al. (2024) also highlight how the naturalization of football players in China is viewed as a strategy to enhance national sports performance. Public attitudes towards naturalized players are influenced by ethnic and cultural nationalism, as well as pragmatic values that assess the players' contributions to national football achievements. This indicates that nationalism in sports is not only about national identity but also about political and social strategies to improve national performance.

Media play a crucial role in shaping public perception of nationalism and patriotism in sports. Studies by Jerreat-

Poole (2023) and Chen et al. (2024) show how media narratives about athletes overcoming injuries and fan interactions on social media can create nationalistic and patriotic narratives. The media do not merely report sports events but also shape narratives that influence public perceptions of nationalism and patriotism.

Jerreat-Poole (2023) highlights how media often emphasize narratives of athletes overcoming injuries as a form of national sacrifice. This narrative helps create the image of athletes as national heroes fighting for the pride of the nation. Chen et al. (2024) show how fan interactions on social media can create nationalistic and patriotic narratives, with fans supporting national identity and patriotism through their support for specific athletes.

This research also shows that various theories and analytical approaches are used to understand the relationship between sports and nationalism. For example, Kim (2024) uses Fairclough's theory for critical discourse analysis regarding the FIFA World Cup, while Molnár (2023) employs theories of necropolitics and populism to analyze football in Hungary. The use of diverse theoretical approaches enriches the analysis and provides deeper insights into the complex dynamics between sports and nationalism.

These diverse theoretical approaches help in understanding how various social, cultural, and political factors influence the way sports are used as a tool to shape and disseminate nationalism. For instance, the use of necropolitics theory in Molnár's (2023) analysis reveals how the Hungarian government uses sports to promote a narrative of nationalism that reinforces their political dominance. This shows that sports are not only about competition but also about power and politics.

This study also shows that nationalism and/or patriotism in sports vary across different countries, depending on each country's social, cultural, and political contexts. For instance, in China, sports are used as a tool to build nationalism and political legitimacy, while in South Korea, sports are used to create a meritocratic culture that emphasizes individual success on the global stage. In Australia, sports broadcasting is used to shape national identity through shared experiences disseminated by the media.

This study shows that nationalism in sports is not only about national identity but also about how sport is used as a political and social tool to achieve various goals. This shows that sport has a complex role in shaping social and cultural dynamics in different countries. Therefore, future research could focus on how the younger generation views the role of sport in nationalism, especially in the digital era. The rapid growth of social media and digital platforms is changing the way nationalism is shaped and received by young audiences. Furthermore, research could explore the role of gender in sport nationalism, given the increasing role of female and non-binary athletes at the international level. This area is important to understand how sport, nationalism, and identity evolve amidst technological and social changes.

Conclusion

Sport has a multifaceted role in shaping social and cultural dynamics. First, sport is a political tool for building national identity, as in China, where gold medal-winning athletes are used as symbols of nationalism. In South Korea, naturalized football players are used to enhance national performance and reinforce ethnic-based nationalism. Second, sports broadcasting expands national narratives, as in Australia, where broadcasts of cricket and horse racing create collective experiences that strengthen national bonds. The media plays a significant role in spreading patriotism and strengthening national identity. Third, traditional sports such as the Highland Games in Scotland incorporate historical mythology and symbolism that continue to influence national identity. This symbolism serves as a connecting element between history and contemporary society. In addition, social media and gender representation also play a significant role in nationalism. In China, fan interactions on social media build narratives of patriotism, while recognition of female and non-binary athletes is increasing on the international stage. Thus, sport serves as a strategic vehicle for building national identity, strengthening social cohesion, and spreading political narratives across countries.

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