

A People's History of Football

A Graphic Chronicle

Pluto Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

20 April 2026

The rebellious, grassroots history of football gets the graphic treatment in this beautifully illustrated edition

Football has always been so much more than the billionaire buyers and seven-figure signing fees. With the women's game now more popular than ever, one thing is clear: when it comes to football, only half the story is usually told. Would the Lionesses ever have roared without the Munitionettes? If you look beyond the men in suits at FIFA and the corporate World Cup, you'll find a history unparalleled in the world of sport. From England, France and Germany to Palestine, South Africa and Brazil, A People's History of Football reveals how the 'beautiful game' has been a powerful instrument of emancipation for workers, feminists, anti-colonialist activists, young people and protesters around the world. This entertaining history from below is beautifully rendered by award-winning illustrator Lelio Bonaccorso, bringing players from history to life in vivid colour. From the game's unruly feudal origins right up to the present day, immerse yourself in the stories of professionals and amateurs alike, and feel the powerful force of a game that is as generous as it is subversive.

9780745352138

Paperback | 136 pages | £14.99

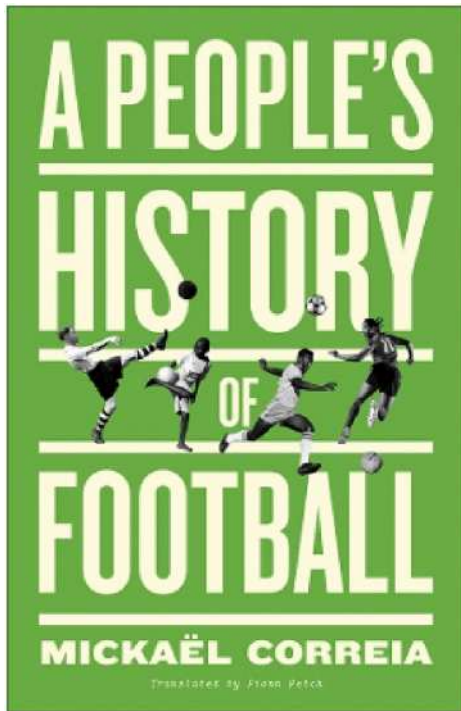
135 Line drawings, color

Graphic novels: true stories &
non-fiction
History of sport
Football (Soccer, Association
football)

Mickaël Correia is a journalist at Mediapart. He is the author of several books, and his work focuses on social and ecological struggles as well as working-class culture. He has written for Le Monde Diplomatique, Le Canard Enchaîné and La Revue du Crieur. His passion for football began when he was 4, with kickabouts on the streets of Roubaix. Jean-Christophe Deveney is a French comic book writer whose many publications include adaptations of stories by Haruki Murakami. Lelio Bonaccorso is an award-winning Italian comic artist and illustrator.







9780745346861

Paperback | 480 pages | £16.99

17 Plates, black and white

Football (Soccer, Association
football)

History of sport

Marxism & Communism

Mickaël Correia is a journalist at Mediapart. He is the author of several books, and his work focuses on social and ecological struggles as well as working-class culture. He has written for Le Monde Diplomatique, Le Canard Enchaîné and La Revue du Crieur. His passion for football began when he was 4, with kickabouts on the streets of Roubaix. Fionn Petch is a Scottish translator with a doctorate in philosophy from the National University of Mexico. As a translator, he has translated fiction, poetry, drama and children's books. He also works on books and exhibition catalogues on art and architecture.

A People's History of Football

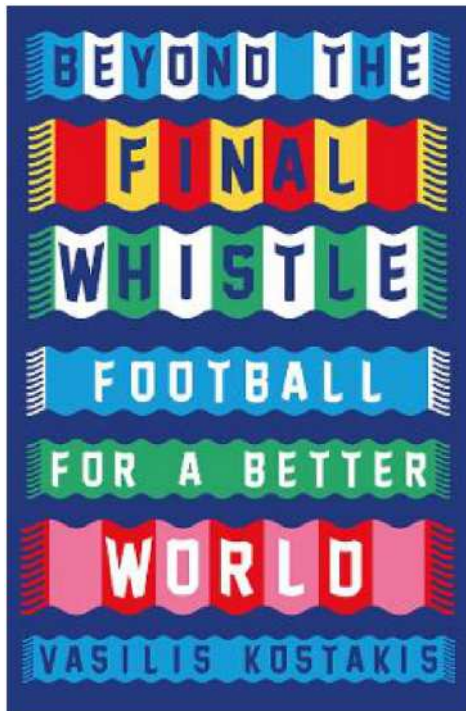
Pluto Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

20 October 2023

A unique people's history of football, providing a global and diverse perspective from its origins to the present day

'A fascinating journey through the game's history [as] a vehicle of change' Shaka Hislop 'Correia takes us around the world to examine how football has produced the kind of political energy that can change minds and even topple governments' Dave Zirin 'An essential read for football fans everywhere' Juliet Jacques Football is so much more than the billionaire owners and eye-watering signing fees that dominate the headlines. Look beyond the Premiership and the World Cup, the sublime brilliance of Messi and Mbappé, and you'll find a story unparalleled in the world of sport. From England, France and Germany to Palestine, South Africa and Brazil, A People's History of Football reveals how the 'beautiful game' has been a powerful instrument of emancipation for workers, feminists, anti-colonialist activists, young people and protesters around the world. Countering the clichés about football fans, Mickaël Correia dives into football countercultures born after the Second World War, from English hooligans to the ultras who played a central role in the 'Arab Spring'. And with chapters on anti-fascism, the women's game, and the rise in community-owned clubs, Correia reminds us that football can be a powerful social and political force - as generous as it is subversive.





9780745350738

Paperback | 144 pages | £14.99

4 Illustrations, black and white

Football (Soccer, Association
football)

History of sport

Social & political philosophy

Vasilis Kostakis is a Professor of Technology Governance and Sustainability at TalTech's Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance in Estonia. He is also a Faculty Associate at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society. Vasilis is the founder of the P2P Lab and a founding member of both the Tzoumakers rural makerspace and the Commonen energy cooperative.

Beyond the Final Whistle

Football for a Better World

Pluto Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

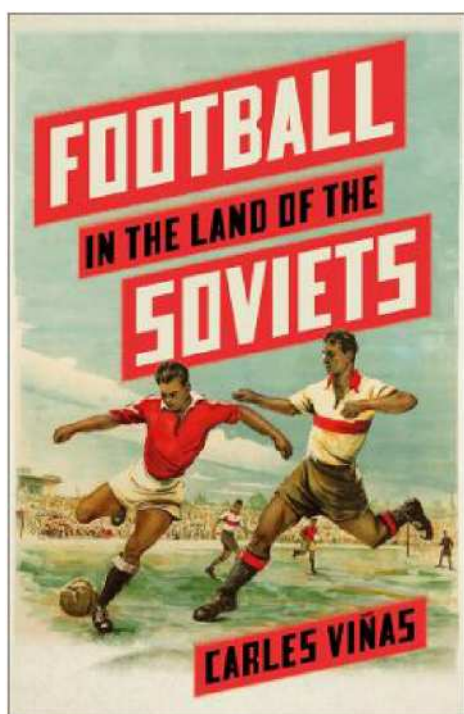
20 April 2025

Can football become a force for liberation or is it just another 'opium of the masses'?

'A profound reminder that football is far more than a sport; it's a canvas for building a fairer and more compassionate world' - Kelly Davies, former Wales international football player

Beyond the Final Whistle explores a new philosophy of football, showing how sport could lead to social change instead of propping up a hyper-consumerist society. Vasilis Kostakis tackles the meaning of the beautiful game, exploring how it is produced and played. From the dribbles of a young Zapatista, to the many goals of Messi, he imagines what football would look like in a post-capitalist world. How does football affect global inequality and the climate crisis? How does it teach our children empathy? What makes the game so captivating to billions of people, and how can this passion be used for liberation? With humour and insight, Beyond the Final Whistle is a love letter to football and revolution.





9780745347448

Paperback | 176 pages | £14.99

Football (Soccer, Association
football)
Social & cultural history
Marxism & Communism

Carles Viñas is an expert in football and skinhead culture. Exposing racism in the sport, as well as championing its radical history, his passion for the game has led him to write numerous books on the subject, including the award-winning *St. Pauli: Another Football is Possible*. Luke Stobart is an academic and writer, as well as a translator and interpreter. He is a lecturer in Spanish history and politics at King's College, London, and economic history at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He is currently writing a book on contemporary left-wing politics and movements in the Spanish state.

Football in the Land of the Soviets

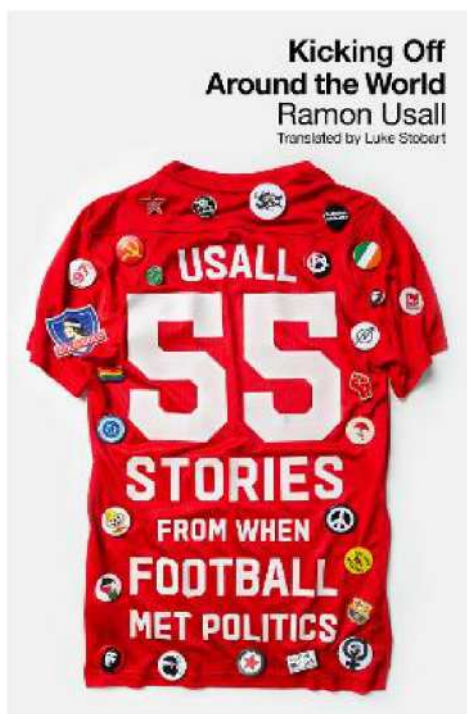
Pluto Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

20 October 2022

A popular history of the emergence of football in early twentieth century Russia

Mistrusted and derided, instrumentalised and adored - the story of football in Tsarist and early Soviet Russia is as wild and intriguing as that of the country itself. In many ways it is the same story... Football in the Land of the Soviets offers a fresh perspective on a momentous chapter in modern political history. Carles Viñas shows how the Russian game was transformed in just a few decades: from a minor émigré pastime, to a modernising driver of society, to a vanguard for Soviet diplomacy and internationalism, and finally, with the first championship of the Soviet League in 1936, into a truly mass phenomenon. So exactly how did a bourgeois game end up as the collective passion of the Soviet working class? And why does it matter? Football in the Land of the Soviets brings these questions to the fore in this thrilling, unorthodox account of the fall of an imperial dynasty and the rise of the world's first socialist state.





Kicking Off Around The World

55 Stories From When Football Met Politics

Pluto Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

20 June 2024

55 unbelievable stories of how football made history

'A tour-de-force that touches on how football is always mixed up with politics in every corner of the globe' Mehreen Khan, The Times and co-host of the 'Heroes & Humans' podcast 'Brings us closer to the overlooked aspects of football, the social and political ones, which truly imbue clubs with soul' Carles Viñas, author of St. Pauli: Another Football is Possible Think you know everything about football? Which football match triggered a war? How did 'the beautiful game' push back against the tyranny of dictatorship, and usher another into power? Kicking Off Around the World includes 55 incredible stories in which football clubs have been a mirror to—and a maker of—world history and politics. Full of anecdotes, surprising facts and illustrations, Ramon Usall mixes the grassroots with the greatest of all time; the unknown and the unforgettable. He looks at the women's game, football during the war in Ukraine, and stories of clubs from Britain to the US, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, from football under the Nazis to the communists and everyone in between.

9780745348797

Paperback | 336 pages | £16.99

30 B&W Photographs

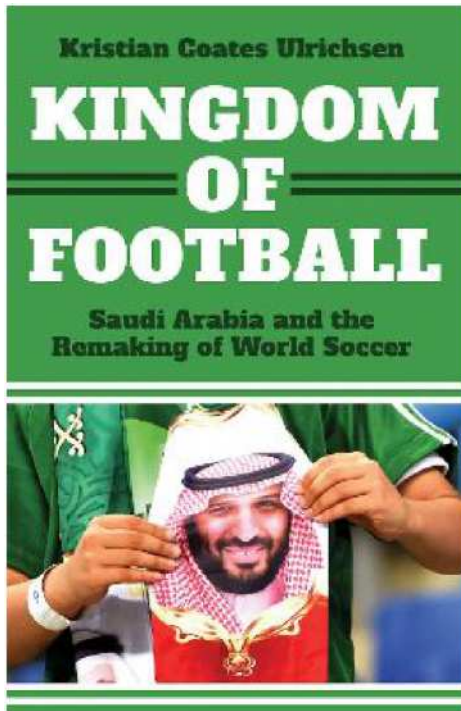
Football (Soccer, Association football)

History of sport

Marxism & Communism

Ramon Usall is a writer, academic and political activist. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Lleida, and regularly writes in different media on the relationship between sport, history, society and politics. He is the author of *Futbol per la llibertat*, which won the Josep Vallverdú Essay Prize. Luke Stobart is an academic and writer, as well as a translator and interpreter. He is a lecturer in Spanish history and politics at King's College, London, and economic history at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He is currently writing a book on contemporary left-wing politics and movements in the Spanish state.





9781911723660

Hardback | 264 pages | £20.00

Middle Eastern history
Football (Soccer, Association
football)

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen is Fellow for the Middle East at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. His books with Hurst include *Insecure Gulf* and *Centers of Power in the Arab Gulf States*. He supports West Ham.

Kingdom of Football

Saudi Arabia and the Remaking of World Soccer

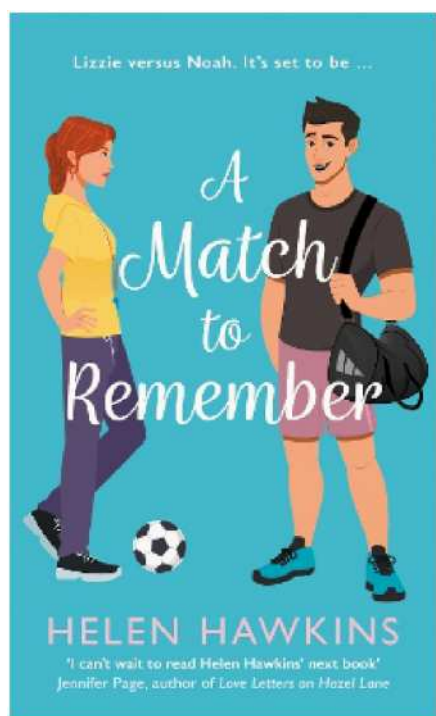
C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd (Macmillan Distribution (MDL))

16 October 2025

A fascinating account of how Saudi Arabia leveraged its massive oil wealth to alter the balance of power in world football.

Kingdom of Football explores how and why Saudi Arabia burst onto the landscape of world football in 2023, and examines what the speed and scale of Saudi engagement—as investor, owner, sponsor, host and competitor—might mean for the Kingdom and for football. Writing as both a football fan and a Gulf specialist, Kristian Coates Ulrichsen offers historical and comparative contexts for Saudi Arabia's startling emergence as a world football hub in the 2020s, exploring both previous Saudi investment in the game, in the 1970s, and national attempts elsewhere to kickstart the sport, as in the United States, Japan and China. Going beyond popular media labels such as 'sportswashing', this fascinating book examines what drives Saudi policymaking, connecting the move into football with domestic economic and social developments, as well as external and foreign policy considerations. It also examines how Riyadh's foray into world football both builds upon and yet differs from the approaches taken by other Gulf States, such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Finally, Coates Ulrichsen assesses the sustainability and durability of the Kingdom's engagement with the sport in the decade-long countdown to the 2034 FIFA World Cup, which Saudi Arabia is set to host.





A Match to Remember

An uplifting football romance set in the heart of the Cotswolds

Allison & Busby (Macmillan Distribution (MDL))

22 May 2025

An uplifting romance set in the heart of the Cotswolds.

Lizzie Morris is ready to put her tragic past behind her and make her late parents proud. There's her new start as a trainee teacher as well as her team's football tournament final. Coming face to face with Noah Hatton, however, was not part of the plan and seeing him drags up painful memories. When they are thrown together, their chemistry and competitive relationship reignites. Will Lizzie survive this blast from the past?

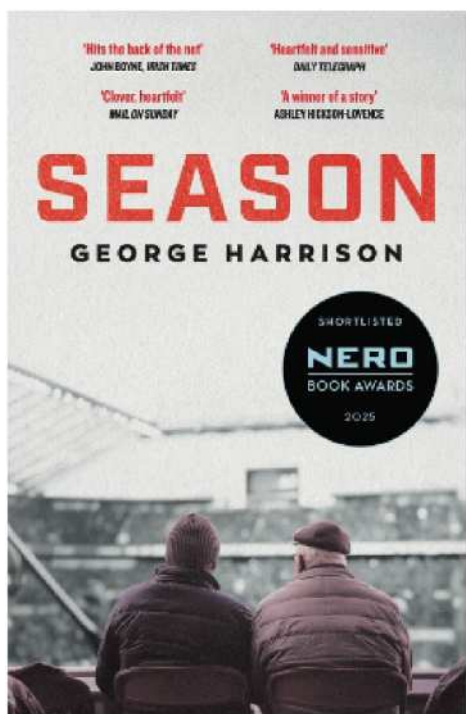
9780749031305

Paperback | 352 pages | £9.99

Adult & contemporary romance
Ball games

Helen Hawkins is a writer, editor and English teacher. Her first novel was shortlisted for Penguin's Christmas Love Story Competition and highly commended in the I Am In Print Romance Competition in 2022. When she is not writing, Helen can be found editing, singing and dancing with her local operatic society in Oxfordshire.





9781785634437

Paperback | 224 pages | £9.99

Modern & contemporary fiction
(post c 1945)

Football (Soccer, Association
football)

George Harrison is a writer based in Norwich. He has worked as a freelance editor and ghostwriter on an eclectic mix of non-fiction books; his editorial back catalogue ranges from the memoirs of a professional golfer to true-crime stories and a book about the life of a South African spy. Despite having grown up in the West Country, he is a lifelong Norwich City fan and is fortunate now to live just a short walk away from Carrow Road. He wrote *Season*, his debut novel, while attached to the Escalator Talent Development Programme at the National Centre for Writing.

Season

Shortlisted for the Nero Book Award for Debut Fiction

Eye Books (Book Source)

04 September 2025

The Young Man and the Old Man – two fanatics in adjacent seats – form a slow but steady friendship over the course of a football season. As their beloved club lurches towards relegation – and as they pour ever more of their hopes into the ailing team – both men come to realise how much they have in common

SHORTLISTED: Nero Book Awards SHORTLISTED: East Anglian Book Awards 'A beautiful novel about the beautiful game' Jonathan Pearce For ten months of the year, two men are drawn to adjacent seats in a stadium, carrying the burdens of life and pouring all their hopes into their beloved but ailing team. Fatherless and fretful, the Young Man is trying to nurture a precarious new relationship and to find his place in the world. The Old Man, an increasingly isolated carer for his fading wife, knows he has little left to look forward to. Neither fan is a comfortable talker. However, in a slow-motion play of nods, silences and guarded chats, they strike up a tentative friendship across the generational gap. Told through thirty-eight chapters – one for each game of the Premier League campaign – *Season* is a lyrical, hypnotic and gently uplifting study of loneliness and modern masculinity. About much more than football, it celebrates the healing, unifying and maddening role of ritualised sport in the lives of ordinary people.

