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Olimpiiskii perepolokh: zabytaia sovetskaia modernizatsiia [Olympic turmoil: forgotten Soviet modernization]

by Igor B. Orlov and Aleksei D. Popov, Moscow, Vysshaia shkola ekonomiki, 2020, 455 + 24 pp., #515 (hardcover), ISBN 978-5-7598-2165-6

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***Olimpiiskii perepolokh: zabytaia sovetskaia modernizatsiia* [Olympic turmoil: forgotten Soviet modernization]**, by Igor B. Orlov and Aleksei D. Popov, Moscow, Vysshaia shkola ekonomiki, 2020, 455 + 24 pp., ₽515 (hardcover), ISBN 978-5-7598-2165-6

Russia has hosted several large sports events over the last decade. In 2014, Sochi became the site of the first Winter Olympics hosted by Russia and, in 2018, eleven Russian cities hosted the FIFA World Cup. Both had a profound social, political, and cultural impact in Russian society; by bringing international tourists as well as mass media and their audiences, they reshaped Russia's global image. It is no wonder that the history of sport has recently become a popular field among Russian scholars.

This book is a collaboration between Igor B. Orlov and Aleksei D. Popov, who previously co-authored two volumes on the history of Soviet tourism. Now they have switched their focus to the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics. Using the lens of "soft power," the authors interpret the Games as a "mega-event," meaning that they were a "large-scale cultural event with a global reach" (58). This framing helps the authors to go beyond the narrative of a primarily "political" event and show its influence on other aspects of life.

The book's source base includes documents from state archives, local archives (e.g., records of the Moscow Executive Committee at the Moscow City Archive), recollections of the event subsequently posted on the Internet, and several collections of Soviet humour. The latter sources are often overlooked by sports historians, and their involvement makes the authors' perspective less state-focused than is often the case.

The book consists of two parts that are divided into a total of nine chapters. The first part focuses on the international aspects of the Olympics, putting them in a Cold War context. The second part deals with domestic issues; it tells the reader how the Soviet state used the Olympics as a tool for economic modernization. This structure raises several questions. The chapter on relations between the Soviet state and Olympic sponsors from abroad would have fit better in the second part, since it is mostly focused on the Soviet economy's financial troubles and attempts to solve them using partners from abroad. Chapter 9, which deals with the Olympics and public opinion, feels isolated. Nevertheless, this chapter is important: the authors show two opposing positions on the Games among the Soviet people. Supporters of the Olympics stressed the prestige of the event and their pride in being Soviet citizens. Skeptics focused on their being too expensive for the state. There was even opposition to the Olympics as a realm of consumerism. Some people were happy to gain access to scarce goods because of the Olympics, while others said the Games highlighted the issue of shortages, and that they were clearly a "showcase" primarily for foreigners (388).

The book's most important chapters describe the Moscow Olympics as an economic enterprise (Chapters 2 and 6–8). The authors show how the Soviet state intended to use the Games as an opportunity to initiate a significant modernization that included new roads, telecommunication systems, and, above all, investments in the service and hospitality sector. This last task demanded that the Soviet food and packaging industry be modernized, and the story of Soviet beer in cans sold at the Olympics shows how hard it was. Two different ministries ordered a production line from West Germany and cans from Japan. It turned out that they did not fit each other, so the state had to produce beer cans in the Soviet Union, importing metal for them. Then, it became clear that the Badaev brewery could not produce a beer that could be preserved in these cans. Finally, another brewery was found that could make a beer for metal cans, and it was transferred to the Badaev brewery in special tankers. This special line of beer was discontinued shortly after the Games and the officials who were responsible for the whole affair were punished, lost their bonuses, and received reprimands from the Party (130). Orlov and Popov show how the Soviet

state was unable to provide the Olympics' participants and guests with domestically produced consumer goods and had to rely on imports from Finland and other Western countries (128–29). The authors conclude that the Soviet state largely failed to improve its service industry and make it more accessible for Soviet citizens despite the significant resources spent on it.

Following this vein, the authors could have reflected more deeply on the role of Soviet consumer society and the "second economy" in the Olympics. They could have interacted more with the extensive literature on late Soviet consumption. Nonetheless, Orlov's and Popov's economic history of the Moscow Olympics challenges the picture of the Games as a primarily political event and presents a new approach to the history of Soviet sports.

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Prekmurje Slovene grammar: Avgust Pavel's *Vend Nyelvtan* (1942), edited and translated from Hungarian by Marc L. Greenberg, Leiden, Brill-Rodopi, 2020, xxvii + 215 pp., €99.00 (hardcover), ISBN 978-90-04-41911-7

Marc Greenberg, a Slavic linguist of broad background with a special affinity for Prekmurje Slovene, which he established with his 1990 UCLA dissertation, describes the historical circumstances at the time Avgust Pavel published his grammar as follows:

> During the Second World War, when the Prekmurje Region was reoccupied by Hungary, the Hungarian Educational Society of Prekmurje (Vendvidéki Magyar Közművelődési Egyesület) commissioned Pavel to write a Prekmurje grammar for the purpose of introducing it into the elementary school system as a tool of integrating Prekmurje ("Vend") dialect speakers into Hungarian-language schooling. Behind this approach was the view that by normativizing the dialect, the language would be perceived as separate from the Slovene language written and spoken in Yugoslavia, following the prevailing Hungarian view that the "Vend" people were of a different origin than Slovenes and, though their language was related, the people had a greater affinity to Hungary.

This historical introduction explains why Pavel's grammar came into being. Why did it remain in typescript until 2013, when it was first published in facsimile with a modern Slovene translation (by Marija Bajzek Lukač and Marko Jesenšek)? Simply because the grammar too meekly hewed to the concept of a special Vend language in Hungary, since Pavel, despite consistently using the term *vend nyelv* (Vend language), states explicitly in paragraph 4 of his grammar: "Vend is one of the South Slavic languages (like Slovene, Croatian, Serbian, Bulgarian), but in fact it is only a major, independent dialect of Slovene." Seven years after the publication of the facsimile edition and Slovene translation, we now have Greenberg's English translation of Pavel's grammar, which differs from the Slovene edition largely in that it contains, if I have counted correctly, 38 annotations in square brackets added by Greenberg.

The book begins with the dedication "To the good people of Prekmurje" in the Prekmurje dialect and standard Slovene but without an English translation. The following page offers a 2010 photograph of Greenberg standing by the bust of Avgust Pavel in Pavel's native village of Cankova, followed by the table of contents, a preface, acknowledgements, and an introductory