



Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil through Soccer

By David Goldblatt

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Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil through Soccer By David Goldblatt

No nation is as closely identified with the game of soccer as Brazil. For over a century, Brazil's people, politicians, and poets have found in soccer the finest expression of the nation's collective potential. Since the team's dazzling performance in 1938 at the World Cup in France, Brazilian soccer has been revered as an otherworldly blend of the effective and the aesthetic.

Futebol Nation is an extraordinary chronicle of a nation that has won the World Cup five times and produced players of miraculous skill, such as Pelé, Garrincha, Rivaldo, Zico, Ronaldo, and Ronaldinho. It shows why the phrase *O Jogo Bonito*—the Beautiful Game—has justly entered the global lexicon. Yet there is another side to Brazil and its game, one that reflects the harsh sociological realities of the “futebol nation.” David Goldblatt explores the grinding poverty that creates a vast pool of hungry players, Brazil's corrupt institutions exemplified by its soccer authorities, and the pervasive violence that has seeped onto the field and into the stands.

Futebol Nation illuminates both Brazilian soccer and Brazil itself; its brilliance, its magic, its style, and the fabulous myths that have been constructed around it; as well as its tragedies, its miseries, and its economic and political injustices. It is the story of Brazil told through its chosen national game.

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Editorial Review

Review

"In *Futebol Nation*, Goldblatt examines in absorbing detail the special place of the sport in the country's history, from the impact made by Charles Miller, the son of a Scottish father and an Anglo-Brazilian mother, who returned from his English public school in 1894 with two footballs and a copy of the rules of the game, through the rise in the 1960s of the torcidas organizadas, the powerful supporters' groups that became a law unto themselves, to the demonstrations held in protest against lavish government expenditure on this summer's tournament in a country whose poor still live in hovels."

Richard Williams, *The Guardian*

"[A]n impressive cultural historian ... Goldblatt introduces us to a host of fishy schemes and schemers..."

Toby Lichtig, *The Telegraph*

"Goldblatt has a knack for putting football into its socio-economic context, a gift for synthesis, and frightening eloquence."

Simon Kuper, *Financial Times*

"[A] breezy, readable and nuanced primer to the centrality of football to Brazilian life."

Jonathan Wilson, *New Statesman*

"Magisterial..."

Franklin Foer, *New Republic*

"As David Goldblatt's engrossing *Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil through Soccer* shows, the sport has long reflected both the best and worst of Brazil."

Economist

About the Author

David Goldblatt was born in London in 1965 and lives in Bristol. He shares his affections between Tottenham Hotspur and Bristol Rovers. In 2006 he published *The Ball is Round: A Global History of Football*. Since then he has made sport documentaries for BBC Radio, reviewed sports books for the *TLS* and the *Guardian*, taught the sociology of sport at Bristol University, the International Centre for Sports History and Culture, De Montfort University, Leicester and Pitzer College, Los Angeles, and gone swimming.

Users Review

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Robert Gibson:

The book with title Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil through Soccer has a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This book exist new information the information

that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you throughout new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Alla Haynes:

Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil through Soccer can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil through Soccer although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily draw you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

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