
Football and Politics: Serbia in Transition

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The Culture of Football: Power, Passion and Politics

Class: Political Economy of Football

From Football Fields to War Battles: The Story of Arkan, Delije and Tigers

Reputation building and FC Obilic



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:%C5%BDeljko_Ra%C5%BEnatovi%C4%87.jpg

See movie from 6:00 – 8:00 at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1DsSsKPrmM>

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INTERNATIONAL POLITICS



UN Security Council Resolution 757

[United Nations Security Council Resolution 757](#), adopted on May 30, 1992... the Council condemned the failure of the authorities in the [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](#) (Serbia and Montenegro) to implement Resolution 752.

(g) limit participation in sporting events in the country;...

The Council further decided that the sanctions should..



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POLITICS FROM THE PITCH

"Peace, not War" - unique message of the Italian Lazio players Sinisa Mihajlovic and Dejan Stankovic before the game Lazio-Milan



“Yugoslav football player Zoran Mirkovic protests against the NATO aggression wearing T-shirt saying in Italian "Peace, no War" as he sits on the bench of the Juventus Torino”

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NATIONALISM FROM THE STANDS



http://www.supersport.com/football/european-championships/news/101013/Platini_Blatner_condemn_Serbian_hooligans

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23277147/ns/world_news-europe/t/protesters-burn-us-embassy-serbia/#.T9fd6bVSTEU

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HOOLIGANISM

Hooligans or Gangsters?

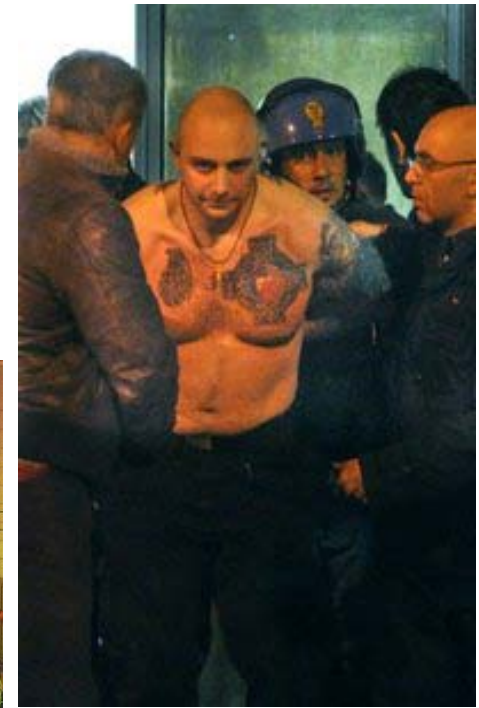
~ Wikileaks cable

...a mix of 'football toughs' and organized crime elements.

~ **Burning of the US Embassy**

“...organized crime is behind the hooligans who aim to destabilize the state due to government's actions in prosecuting mafia bosses .”

~ **Boris Tadic, President of Serbia**



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MONEY MARKET, HIDDEN TRANSACTIONS

During the international embargo on Yugoslavia in early 1990s, football was used as a means to illegally unlock foreign currency inflows through transfers of players abroad

Arkan and Zemun Clan

150 Transfers of FC Partizan

Arrests of Clans and Players

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STATE OFFICIALS: FOOTBALL AND CRIME

For almost two decades, the football industry was dominated by the organized crime, which was under the protection or involvement of state officials.

Former President Milosevic and Arkan

Former Deputy Prime Minister Slobodan Radulovic – Bankruptcy mafia, largest supermarket chain and member of the board of FC Red Star Belgrade

The former Prime Minister of Serbia, Mirko Marjanovic was the head of the board for FC Partizan until 1994, later to become an honorary president.

Mirko Vucurevic, who was involved in cigarette smuggling, was a board member of FC Partizan.

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FOOTBALL OFFICIALS AND CRIME

During the international embargo on Yugoslavia in early 1990s, football was used as a means to illegally unlock foreign currency inflows through transfers of players abroad

Terzic on the run **President of FC Belgrade: Suicide** **Branko Bulatovic, Assassinated**



Statement 1:

In the Balkans, sports help understand the past and ongoing struggles of the region's transition. The story of football in Serbia is no different. In the country, the sport can yield a set of complex relationships between politics, nationalism, and organized crime, which date back to the 1990s, when the dissolution of Yugoslavia began.

Statement 2

The story of football in Serbia is a story of transition, whereby state control and law enforcement has been at stake. It is a story where individuals and groups have used the gaps in the weak system to pursue their own interests: from political goals of Milosevic, to personal gratification, profit making and quest for reputation of people such as Arkan; from club officials who smuggled foreign currency through international borders to state officials' involvement in protecting their friends and conspirators; from those involved in match-fixing to club sponsors that made their fortune from the privatization process.

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