

# Sport And Spectacle In The Ancient World

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sport and spectacle in the ancient world has become a vital area of broad new exploration over the last few decades this handbook brings together the latest research on greek and roman manifestations of these pastimes to explore current approaches and open exciting new avenues of inquiry it discusses historical perspectives contest forms contest related texts civic and social aspects and use and meaning of the

individual body greek and roman topics are interwoven to simulate contest like tensions and complementarities juxtaposing for example violence in greek athletics and roman gladiatorial events greek and roman chariot events architectural frameworks for contests and games in the two cultures and contrasting views of religion bodily regimens and judicial classification related to both cultures it examines the social contexts of games namely the evolution of sport and spectacle across cultural and political boundaries and how games are adapted to multiple contexts and multiple purposes reinforcing social hierarchies performing shared values and playing out deep cultural tensions the volume also considers other directing forces in the ancient mediterranean such as bronze age egypt and the near east etruria and early christianity it addresses important themes common to both antiquity and modern society such as issues of class gender and health as well as the popular culture of the modern olympics and gladiators in cinema with innovative perspectives from authoritative scholars on a wide range of topics this handbook will appeal to both students and researchers interested in ancient history literature sports and games

the second edition of sport and spectacle in the ancient world updates donald g kyle s award winning introduction to this topic covering the ancient near east up to the late roman empire challenges traditional scholarship on sport and spectacle in the ancient world and debunks claims that there were no sports before the ancient greeks explores the cultural exchange of greek sport and roman spectacle and how each culture responded to the other s entertainment features a new chapter on sport and spectacle during the late roman empire including christian opposition to pagan games and the roman response covers topics including violence professionalism in sport class gender and eroticism and the relationship of spectacle to political structures

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