

Soccer: A Sport for All Ages 足球简史

There is something **innocent** in all children that makes them kick at a stone lying in their path. From this humble instinct, the world's greatest sport soccer has come to dominate the cultural landscape. Exactly when and where soccer began is **disputable**. Whether it was the Greeks or Romans, the Chinese or Japanese, there is evidence that they all played it **approximately** 3,000 years ago.

小孩的天真使他们对路上的石头踢上一脚。出于这点小小的本能，全世界最大规模的运动—足球—已逐步支配了文化领域。足球发源的精确时间地点还有争议。不论是希腊人或是罗马人，中国人或日本人，证据都显示大约在三千年前，他们就开始踢足球了。

However, for the first 2,000 years, soccer more likely resembled a fierce battle with no rules. In fact, there is evidence that the game may have started as military training, and may have been played with the head of a defeated enemy rather than a ball!

但在前两千年，足球只能算是一种没有规则的残暴搏斗。事实上，证据显示这项运动可能起源于军事训练，而且球员踢的不是球，而是败战敌人的头颅！

So violent was the game that, starting in the 1300s, English and Scottish Kings banned it. However, in 1815 rules were **adopted** that permitted **civilized** play. During the following decades, the rules were **refined**. No longer could one handle the ball with one's hands, nor could you **trip** or kick your opponent.

这项运动如此暴力，所以在 1300 年代，英格兰与苏格兰国王下令禁止。不过在 1815 年，文明竞赛的规则受到采纳。接下来的几十年中，规则变得更精细。球员不得再以手持球，也不能绊倒或踢到对方。

From these **primitive** beginning, soccer has evolved into world's most popular sport. It is played in **scores of** countries by millions of people. Professional teams play for hundreds of millions of dollars and children play it in parks around the world.

虽然起源是如此原始，足球却演变成全世界最受欢迎的运动。许多国家数以百万计的人口都会踢足球。职业队伍为了数亿美元踢足球，而小孩则在世界各地的公园里玩球。

The single greatest event in soccer is the [World Cup](#), which is played every four years. In a contest that lasts weeks, teams from around the world compete for the title of world champion. **Spectators** line up for days to buy tickets, and even well before entering the **arena**, their enthusiasm is similar to a battle cry. Maybe much has changed about soccer, but much is still the same.

足球界规模最大的赛事，为每隔四年举办一次的世界杯。在为期数周的赛程中，来自各地的劲旅为了取得世界冠军的头衔互相竞争。观众排队数天买门票，甚至在进场观战前，他们就已热情高涨，仿佛战场上的嘶吼。关于足球的种种，也许很多部份已经改变，但还有很多仍是不变的。

-by Murray Walker

Vocabulary

disputable [ˈdɪspjuːtəbəl] adj. 有争议的; 未确定的

approximately [əˈprɒksɪmətɪli] adv. 大概; 近乎

primitive [ˈprɪmətɪv] adj. 原始的

arena [əˈrɪnə] n. (周围有观众席的) 比赛场, 竞技场

More Information

innocent [ˈɪnəsnt] adj. 天真的, 单纯的

adopt [əˈdɒpt] v. 采取; 采纳

civilized [ˈsɪvəlaɪzd] adj. 文明的, 开化的

refine [rɪˈfaɪn] v. (慢慢地、微小地) 改进; 完善

trip [trɪp] v. 绊, 绊倒

scores [skɔːz] **of**: 许多, 几十 very many

spectator [spekˈtətə] n. (比赛等的) 观众