

Rein, Raanan. *Fútbol, Jews, and the Making of Argentina*. Stanford University Press, 2014.

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In *Fútbol, Jews, and the Making of Argentina*, Raanan Rein uses Club Atlético Atlanta as a rich example for his argument for the significance of sport in the creation of ethnic identity in immigrant communities. Rein's goal in this book is to fill the gap in the literature that doesn't address sport as a means for negotiation of ethnic identity in immigrant communities, particularly in Latin American countries. Rein establishes early on in his introduction that a second goal of this book is to create a narrative that focuses less on Jewish people solely as victims of their history, and instead addresses the rich influence of Argentine Jews on their immigrant communities and the ways they became increasingly mobile within their communities throughout generations.

After the introduction, Rein's book follows a relatively chronological structure, with chapters one through four providing extensive (but quite helpful) historical grounding for Rein's narrative, reminding readers of the context of the Jewish diaspora, changing political conditions in Argentina all throughout the 20th century, and the significance of fútbol (and sports clubs in general) in Argentina. In chapters five through seven, where more of the 'story' of Atlanta is told, Rein focuses more on the more recent history of Club Atlético Atlanta, honing in on the club's connections to politics, going into detail about the periods of prosperity and despair for Atlanta, and providing examples of Jewish Argentines embracing their ethnic identity in Buenos Aires through Club Atlético Atlanta. Each chapter follows its own particular theme, and there is

some chronological overlap, but overall the mostly chronological structure of this piece helps Rein to establish Atlanta as a success story in the history of Jewish immigrants in Argentina.

In *Fútbol, Jews, and the Making of Argentina*, Rein thoroughly addresses his argument for fútbol as means for expression of one ethnic identity as well as integration into another - there is almost no material presented in this book that doesn't contribute to the reader's understanding of Rein's argument. Nearly the first half of Rein's piece is oriented toward providing exposition. However, there was no lull in the presentation of engaging, relevant historical context that would help the reader to fully understand the significance of the role of Jewish Argentines in the faster-paced telling of Club Atlético Atlanta that comprises the last few chapters of the book. Additionally, Rein engages well with the sources he employed in this book, frequently citing other scholars, therefore tying his arguments into the broader historical narrative presented in other secondary sources. Rein also presents a helpful variety of primary sources, including club records and photographs.

Rein's argument for fútbol's vital role in the negotiation of an Argentine-Jewish ethnic identity, particularly through Club Atlético Atlanta, is quite strong. One of Rein's strongest points, which he introduced in chapter one and reinforced in chapter seven, is that the presence of Jewish stereotypes in sport, whether positive or negative, served as means for visibility of the large Jewish immigrant population in Argentina. Even though Club Atlético Atlanta was not a thoroughly Jewish club at its founding (despite the reputation it quickly gained, its legacy as the "Jewish club", Rein argues, is one of the forces that helped Jewish people both embrace their ethnic identity and integrate into Argentine society through common sport. The continuity of this argument throughout Rein's book, accompanied by an abundance of examples and evidence, helps him maintain a strong, cohesive argument. One shortcoming that could be perceived from

this book is the long exposition - presentation of background information in large chunks occurs through chapter four. While this may be off-putting to readers who already know all of this history by itself, it serves two positive purposes in Rein's narrative. First, the long expository sections broaden Rein's potential audience. One with little to no background knowledge on any of these topics would be able to fully grasp Rein's argument as well as where it fits in a broader historical context. Second, it helps readers who are already familiar with these topics to revisit this information through the ethnic lens of Rein's argument, which would further the effectiveness of the argument as readers would be able to reassess what they already know with a new layer of complexity added.

Overall, Rein creates a successful, broad-reaching, and widely applicable argument in *Fútbol, Jews, and the Making of Argentina*. In terms of scholarly audiences, sport historians would most likely reap the most benefit from reading this book. However, a variety of historians could benefit from this read - anyone studying any sort of history that involves immigration and ethnic and cultural identities would likely find Rein's work beneficial.

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