

Abstract:

The subject of this bachelor thesis is the question of the participation of the Great Britain in the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, and the related discussion of the possibility of boycotting them as a response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. This thesis focuses primarily on the diversity of British opinion on this issue. Mention is made not only of the views of the British political representation, but also of the sporting community comprising its bodies, led by the British Olympic Committee, the athletes, and the media as well. This picture is then illustrated by opinion polls. In particular, the author tracked the evolution of the debate, which has varied according to the international situation at that time. Other British reactions to the invasion are mentioned in the context of coordination with the Allies. The reactions of the closest allies are also mentioned, which help to paint the overall picture. An analysis of the role of the Olympic Games and sport in general during the 20th century, and an analysis of the invasion itself, is also an integral part of this work.