

Question/Prompt: Using the documents and your knowledge of world history, analyze factors that shaped the modern Olympic movement from 1892 to 2002.

Document 1

Source: Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement, speech to the Athletic Society of France, Paris 1892.

There are those who are called “utopians” because they speak of the disappearance of war, but there are others who speak of the reduction of the chances of war, and I do not see that as utopian. Through the Olympics let us export our oarsmen, our runners, and our fencers into other lands. That is the true free trade of the future; and the day it is introduced into Europe, the cause of peace will have received a new and strong ally. I ask for your help so that together we may attempt the splendid and beneficial task of reviving the Olympic Games.

Document 2

Source: Sybil Newall, British competitor in the 1908 games held in Great Britain, where 2 percent of the athletes were women, newspaper, England 1908.



Document 3

Source: Arnold Lunn, British Olympic team official at the 1936 games held in Germany, autobiography, 1956.

The young Nazis were encouraged to believe that a ski race was a competition in which Germans sought to prove not that they were better skiers than other people but more importantly, that Nazism was better than democracy. The only thing that mattered to them was victory, and all means to this end was justified. The downhill course was closed to all competitors the day before the race, but the Nazis, we soon learned, had practiced the course at dawn. They also turned the technique of making protests into a fine art. Any decision that could be challenged was challenged in order to provide themselves with some advantage.

Document 4

Source: Bob Mathias, United States competitor in the 1952 games held in Finland, magazine interview, 1972.

There were many pressures on American athletes because of the presence of the Soviet team in 1952. They were in a real sense the enemy. You just loved to beat 'em. You just had to beat 'em. It wasn't like competing against some guys from a friendly country like Australia. This feeling was strong down through the whole team, even among our athletes in sports where Russians didn't excel.

Document 5

Source: Ryotaro Azuma, mayor of Tokyo, and chairman of the committee that organized the 1964 games held in Japan, magazine interview, 1972.

It was a national crusade for Japan to host the Olympic Games. After the Second World War, we were still struggling under a defeated-enemy syndrome in the eyes of most of the world. Without the magic of the Olympics we might not have gotten what we needed to rise as a world trade power. I'd hate to think of the situation in Tokyo today if not for the Olympic Games.

Document 6

Source: Hassiba Boulmerka, Algerian competitor in the 1992 games held in Spain, where 29 percent of the athletes were women, newspaper interview, 1995.

My victories give me confidence, and they give confidence to my country. I represent my country and all the women in my country who aspire to be athletes. Nothing will deter me from that mission. For every critic denouncing my running in shorts, there are friends and family who urge me to continue. I have a tremendous spirit to run and win. A lot of women in my country are capable of becoming athletes, but psychologically, they don't think so. They have to become stronger in the mind, not just in the body.

Document 7

Source: Ali Kabir, sports writer for the Internet edition of the English language Pakistani newspaper Dawn, Pakistan, 2002.

The rise and fall of Pakistan's men's' field hockey team in the 2000 Olympic reflects our social values which have shrunk from that of national pride to self-promotion. After partition (from India in 1947), people were willing to sacrifice anything for the newborn country. Working tirelessly, our team finished second to its archrivals from India in the 1956 Olympics and won its first gold medal in 1960. However, the current national team is clueless and has tarnished the country's name. Unless changes are made, this era will be known as the darkest period in Pakistan's sports history.