

Jesse Owens:

The 1936 Berlin Olympics were heavily used by Nazi Germany as a propaganda tool to showcase their supposed Aryan superiority and the strength of their regime. Jesse Owens, who was a black American track and field star, won four gold medals, becoming the most successful athlete of the games. His victories were a great refutation of Hitler's claims of Aryan dominance.

As was customary at the time, some German athletes and officials, including those on the podium, performed the Nazi salute as a sign of allegiance to the regime while Owens did an American salute which was seen as a sign of resistance to Nazi propaganda and racist attacks.

Invictus:

The 1995 Rugby World Cup was a significant occasion for South Africa, taking place shortly after the end of apartheid and the country's first multiracial elections. The Springboks' victory in the final against New Zealand was a pivotal moment in the nation's healing process, symbolizing unity and hope for a brighter future. Nelson Mandela's support for the team, including wearing the Springboks jersey, played a crucial role in fostering national pride and reconciliation.

USA/USSR at JO:

During the Cold War, the Olympic Games became a symbolic battleground between the US and the USSR. Both superpowers used the Games to assert their dominance and showcase their systems' superiority. This rivalry manifested in medal counts, political boycotts, and intense competition. Notable moments include the US basketball victory in 1960 and the "Miracle on Ice" in 1980, which was an astonishing victory for the USA in ice hockey against the Soviets.

Munich 1972:

The 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich are most remembered for the tragic Munich massacre. A Palestinian terrorist group called Black September, infiltrated the Olympic Village and took eleven Israeli athletes and coaches hostage.

The terrorists demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. After a failed rescue attempt by German authorities, all eleven hostages, as well as a German police officer, were killed.

The Beijing Winter Olympics boycott:

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics faced a diplomatic boycott from several countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France and others. This boycott was primarily due to concerns over China's human rights record, particularly its treatment of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, its crackdown on political freedoms in Hong Kong, and its general authoritarian policies.