

Do international games such as the FIFA World Cup and the Olympic Games benefit the citizens of the host countries and cities in which they are held? For the first time ever, Brazil will host both of these massive games sequentially, and it is in the buildup to these games that I will look for an answer to this question. This project seeks to analyze the long-term impacts of international games at multiple levels, from the state's international standing, to the domestic politics, and down to the municipal impacts of the building projects and planning of space necessary for the games themselves. Furthermore, I want to examine the common ideologies that inform decision-making at all these levels, and the effects of trends such as globalization. To address these problems, I will first attempt to define the objectives of the games, then to evaluate the actors in local development projects, and subsequently I will address the popular resistance to the games as well as the government's response, before offering conclusions.

First, I will ask what exactly the games are meant to achieve. To do this, I will examine international benefits in prestige and trade that may come with hosting the games, particularly those benefits salient to Brazil as an emerging power. I will compare Brazil's potential benefits to those of fellow BRICS China and South Africa for their games in 2008 and 2010, respectively. Moreover, I will address the domestic political benefits to the different parties and actors in Brasilia. Finally, in examining planned projects, I will determine which individuals and local municipal actors stand to gain from the games, in both infrastructure such as improved transit and increased business, especially in Rio de Janeiro.

My next goal will be to evaluate how planning efforts are controlled and are likely to proceed. My approach will be twofold: I will look at the recent history of favela pacification in Rio to see how the state and city governments have interacted with and planned for non-

integrated communities, as well as the handling of the Pan-American Games in 2007, which Curi et al. note were “crucial in determining Rio’s capacity to host greater events later on”¹.

Simultaneously, I will turn to urban planning literature to examine how a neoliberal theoretical framework might guide state planning efforts, and to what extent communities will offer their own agendas, possibly found in radical planning or other alternative schools of thought.

Furthermore, in addressing popular resistance to the games, my main goal will be to identify the main causes and demands of the protests. My data will be drawn from the published works of opposition groups, their social media efforts, and local expert attempts at characterizing the protests. To track the government’s response, I will analyze the coverage by the conservative news corporation and Rio news monopoly, Globo, as well as official government statements.

Finally, I hope to arrive at a conclusion as to what motivates particular interests to secure and fund expensive international games, and what the real costs and benefits of said games are at all levels. I consider this project within my specialization of International Relations because games such as the Olympics and World Cup are inevitably used to discuss states’ places in the international system and how said places are changing. I am particularly interested in following Brazil as I spent a semester at PUC-Rio studying Portuguese and gaining an academic understanding of Brazilian foreign policy as well as studying the favelas from an anthropological, sociological, and social services perspective. Professor Alison Post has graciously offered her support for this project and I will be enrolled in her class on Sub-national and Urban politics in the Fall semester. Furthermore, I observed and took some part in the protests this summer which has motivated me to examine these events more deeply.

¹ Curi, Marti; Knijnik, Jorge; and Mascarenhas, Gilmar. “The Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro 2007: Consequences of a Sport Mega-Event on a BRIC country”. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*. Vol. 46 3 Feb 2011. Online.