



# Fanatics: Power, Identity and Fandom in Football

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Embracing studies of football fans across Europe, this book tackles questions of power, national and regional identities, and race and racism, highlighting the changing role of fans in the game. Combining new approaches to the study of fan culture with critical assessments of the commercialization of the game, this fascinating book offers a comprehensive and timely examination of the state of European football supporters culture as the game prepares itself for the next millennium.

The contributors, all leading figures in sports studies, consider:

- \* whether football remains the peoples game, or if it is now run entirely by and for club owners and directors who have overseen the flotation of clubs on the stock exchange, a new focus on merchandising and the escalation of players salaries
- \* the role of FIFA and UEFA in the struggle for control of world football
- \* manifestations of racism and extreme nationalism in football, from the English medias xenophobic coverage of Euro 96 to the demonisation of Eric Cantona
- \* media representations of national identity in football coverage in Germany, France and Spain
- \* the interplay of national, religious and club identities among fans in England, Scotland, Ireland, Portugal and Scandinavia
- \* the role of the law in regulating football
- \* the future for supporters at a time when watching the match is more likely to mean turning on the television than going to a football ground.

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