



Soccer Hooliganism

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Introduction

- [YouTube - Soccer Fans Fight Cops](#)
- [YouTube - ULTRAS GRANATA - invasione Toro-Milan](#)



Background

- The word “Hooligan”
 - Irish surname
 - Different theories:
 - Patrick Hooligan (1899)
 - Music hall song about an Irish family
 - Rapid development of street gangs
 - Charlie Clarke (1884)—the O’Hooligan Boys
 - **Modern Definition**
 - “‘Hooligan’ describes a person, more often than not, a youth, who takes part in destructive, unruly and anti-social behaviour.”



(Quinion, 1998; *Who*, 2009)

Background (cont.)

- Soccer and Violence
 - Dates back to 13th-century England
 - Medieval games between villages
 - Banned by Edward II in 1314
 - Reinstated by the aristocrats in the 1900s
 - Played according to Elizabethan values
 - First modern recording of hooliganism in 1885
 - Dissatisfied supporters attacked the players



Modern Development

- Abruptly interrupted by the inter-war years and the decade following the Second World War.
- Accelerated in the 1950s
 - Referred to as the “second wave”
 - Linked to the televising of matches
 - Working class re-claiming the game
 - Pitch invasions
- Spread through Europe with a 10-year delay
 - More common among rival clubs than rival countries



Defining the Issue

- No systematic recording of legitimate statistics
 - Who is the typical hooligan?
 - What are the most reoccurring incidents?
 - Away vs. home?
- No global definition
 - What should be considered a soccer-related incident?



(Fox et al., 1996; Marsh, 2007, p. 258)

Possible Causes & Influential Factors

- Culture
- Social Class
- Racism
- Alcohol
- Politics
- Media
 - State of sensationalism
 - Compete for attention
- Authorities
- Internet
 - Organize and report



(Fox et al., 1996; Marsh, 2007, p. 258)

The Three Stages of Hooliganism

1. Sporadic violence with a main focus on referees and players.
2. Violence between opposing groups of fans and against police and security inside the stadium.
3. Increase in violence between the same groups, but now the violence has moved outside the stadium.

Major Incidents

- Peru (1964)
 - More than 300 killed in a riot during a match between Argentina and Peru
- Argentina (1968)
 - More than 70 killed in stampede after fans threw burning materials into sections of rival fans
- Belgium (1985)
 - 39 fans are killed as Liverpool fans attacked opponents
- South Africa (1991)
 - 40 people are crushed, trampled, or stabbed to death

Heysel (1985)



Further Incidents

- Filippo Raciati (2007)
 - Killed outside stadium
- French supporter (2006)
 - Shot to death by police officer
- Two British supporters (2000)
 - Ambushed and stabbed to death in Istanbul
- Uros Misic (2008)
 - Sentenced to prison for assault of a police officer
 - Used a burning flare as weapon



Andres Escobar

- Colombian national team defender
- Scored an own goal in the 1994 World Cup
- Shot to death 14 days later



- Shot to death 14 days after the own goal
- Killer screamed “Goal” after each shot



Getty

(Seggev, 2008)

Anders Frisk

- One of the best referee's in the world
- Sent off Chelsea star Didier Drogba
- Received Death threats
- Retired in 2005
- Feared for the safety of his wife and children



(Frisk, 2005)

The Hatred

- “Make sure you bring your bats and don’t bring your kids.”
- “Let’s just pray that whoever it is pulls through ok ... unless they’re a West Ham c**t, then let them die.”
- “We hope you die like all those Italians at Heysel; You’re going to get your f*****g head stamped on like a Kosovan.”

Measures Taken

- Surveillance
- Monitoring
- Fan segregation
- Alcohol restriction
- Increased ticket prices
- Specific laws applied to hooliganism
- Fan coaching schemes
- Fan forums to encourage dialogue
- Suspension of games
- Fines and punishment for clubs
- Non-violent supporter groups
 - Roligans & Tartan Army



Fox et al., 1996; Nuttall, 1999; Zeller, 2007)

Trends & Conclusion

- The occurrence of catastrophes has decreased in severity and frequency
 - Improved safety
- Global efforts must be made
- Proactive approach
- New technology used by both hooligans and authorities
- Data needs to be collected
- There is no single solution



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