Hockey night in Canada: sport, identities and cultural politics.

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Abstract: This book examines ice hockey's relationship to various identities, Canadian cultural politics and how these relationships are defined by social change. It begins by exploring the clash between different interpretations of sport and culture in general, and hockey and Canadian culture in particular. This leads to an examination of the struggles surrounding hockey's transformation from a diverse...
collection of folk games to the intensely organized form that it has assumed today. Twelve chapters, divided into three parts, investigate the roots of the modern game. They discuss such elements as the everyday working world of professional hockey, hockey in small communities, violence in professional and minor leagues, and the profound changes and pressures on hockey within a growing global marketplace for commercial spectacle. The analysis draws out the game's associations with identities such as nationality, locality, consumerism, ethnicity, class, race, and gender, to illustrate the enduring popularity of the game.

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