



Globalization in Foer's *How Soccer Explains the World*

Jannis Rudzki-Weise

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Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,3, University of Maryland University College in Heidelberg, course: Non-Fiction, language: English, abstract: Most Americans would agree that watching football on the weekends and rooting for their favorite team is an integral part of Americanism. Therefore, it is not surprising that popular sports writing in the United States usually covers American football or baseball as stated in Don DeLillo's famous prologue "The Triumph of Death" to his novel Underworld. Franklin Foer breaks this tradition by introducing soccer to an American audience. Foer's book has been quite successful, as ESPN ranks it among the top four books written on the culture of soccer (Caple 1). Foer does not only discuss sports, but he also journeys from stadium to stadium around the globe to provide new insight on today's world events. He uses the globalized medium of soccer to explain political, economic and social occurrences. In this essay, I will look at chapters seven and nine in which Foer's argumentation is political. Therefore, this can be considered both sports, as well as political writing. How Soccer Explains the World is organized into ten chapters, which can be read as three different parts with regard to content. "The first third of the book explores globalization's failure to erode the game's great rivalries and the hatreds they can produce" (Young 1). Foer then elaborates on the role of soccer in politics and economics when he explains the rise of the oligarchs and the corruption that was included in this process. In the last part of the book, the role soccer plays in preserving nationalism and for returning to the idea of tribalism is looked at in-depth.

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