

**FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE**

However, economists Holzman, of Tufts University, and Portes, of the University of London, contend that Soviet dependence on Western technology is grossly exaggerated and that consequently no "linkage" policy can be successful. Imported technology represents only a small fraction of total Soviet investment, they say, and its acquisition, at best, can only be delayed by U.S. tactics.

Kiser, a research consultant in Soviet affairs, attacks the basic premise of Huntington's linkage proposal—the presumed U.S. technological superiority over the Russians. (U.S. engineering firms, he says, have been buying Soviet pipe welding technology superior to anything in the West.) Russia's technological "unevenness," he says, needs to be better understood if the "technology gap" is to be more than a self-deceiving U.S. political slogan.

### *The Politics of Sport*

"The Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat: Sport and International Politics" by Andrew Strenk, in *Orbis* (Summer 1978), 3508 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.

Sports are becoming increasingly politicized in the international arena as athletic contests become another form of highly publicized diplomacy. "As much as purists bemoan the fact, it is ever more evident that sports and politics cannot be separated," says Strenk, a historian at the University of Southern California and a former U.S. Olympic swimmer.

Sports have become a tool of diplomatic recognition or nonrecognition. For example, the United States and the Peoples Republic of China used "ping-pong" diplomacy in 1971 to help break years of diplomatic silence. And, in the 1960s, East Germany invested great sums of money and became so good in so many sports that it became difficult to ignore them or avoid competing with them.

The image of sports as a means of furthering international understanding and peace has been promoted by the International Olympic Committee, but ideological and political tensions can still create conflict. In 1962, when India protested Indonesia's refusal to admit Israel and Taiwan to the Fourth Asian Games, Indonesia broke off trade relations with India, and rioters destroyed the Indian embassy in Djakarta.

Sports can be used to register "protests," as with the "black power" gestures of black American athletes at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, and threats by various countries to boycott international sporting events that included South African teams. International sports have also been used as a propaganda vehicle to advertise a particular political system (e.g., the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin) and to gain international prestige and publicity (e.g., Japan's lavish investment of \$1.5 billion in facilities for the 1964 Olympics.)

The United States is now at a crossroads. Others invest ever greater funds in national sports programs. But the United States adheres to a "voluntary, privately subsidized, inefficient" system, which means that "many American no longer have a sporting chance in international competition" and U.S. prestige suffers as a result.