

David T. Mayeda, PH.D.  
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# ***FIGHTING* for *ACCEPTANCE***

*Mixed Martial Artists and  
Violence in American Society*

# Fighting For Acceptance Mixed Martial Artists And Violence In American Society

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## **Fighting For Acceptance Mixed Martial Artists And Violence In American Society:**

*Fighting for Acceptance* David Mayeda, 2008 In recent years mixed martial arts also known as ultimate fighting has become the fastest growing sport in American society but it is also considered the most controversial Based on interviews conducted with forty mixed martial arts athletes *Fighting for Acceptance* answers these questions Who are the ultimate fighters How did they become involved in the sport What goes on in their heads while competing Do the fighters feel a social responsibility to preach nonviolence out of the sport How do they see themselves fitting into today's society Authors David Mayeda a mixed martial arts fan and occasional fighter and David Ching explore these political and sociological issues through in depth interviews with fighters such as Randy The Natural Couture Quinton Rampage Jackson Dangerous Dan Henderson Jason Mayhem Miller Antonio McKee Frank Trigg Travis Lutter Chris The Crippler Leben and Guy Mezger *Fighting for Acceptance* is for the sport's fans and its critics alike as it delves into the ramifications of the athletic event This growing phenomenon is so controversial that many still question if it should even be considered a sport

**Fighting for Acceptance** David T. Mayeda, 2008-01-18 In recent years mixed martial arts also known as ultimate fighting has become the fastest growing sport in American society but it is also considered the most controversial Based on interviews conducted with forty mixed martial arts athletes *Fighting for Acceptance* answers these questions Who are the ultimate fighters How did they become involved in the sport What goes on in their heads while competing Do the fighters feel a social responsibility to preach nonviolence out of the sport How do they see themselves fitting into today's society Authors David Mayeda a mixed martial arts fan and occasional fighter and David Ching explore these political and sociological issues through in depth interviews with fighters such as Randy The Natural Couture Quinton Rampage Jackson Dangerous Dan Henderson Jason Mayhem Miller Antonio McKee Frank Trigg Travis Lutter Chris The Crippler Leben and Guy Mezger *Fighting for Acceptance* is for the sport's fans and its critics alike as it delves into the ramifications of the athletic event This growing phenomenon is so controversial that many still question if it should even be considered a sport

**Seeking the Senses in Physical Culture** Andrew C. Sparkes, 2017-02-24 The sensory revolution in the social sciences is transforming the ways in which the senses and the sensorium are studied and understood in relation to bodies in action This is the first book to investigate the impact and challenges of this revolution for those interested in physical culture Providing vivid examples of sensory scholarship in action from sport physical activity leisure and recreation this book brings together leading figures to discuss how we go about seeking the senses how we engage in somatic work and how we create meanings and come to understand ourselves and others as embodied beings in a variety of social settings over time Featuring original reflections on athletics running cycling sailing kayaking windsurfing glow sports jiu jitsu mixed martial arts and yoga this ground breaking collection showcases the latest sensory research in physical culture as well as paving the way both conceptually and methodologically for future work in this area *Seeking the Senses in Physical Culture* Sensuous scholarship in action is fascinating reading for

all those interested in physical cultural and body studies the sociology psychology and philosophy of sport leisure and recreation studies and physical education      *Diversity, equity and inclusion in sport and leisure* Katherine Dashper, Thomas Fletcher, 2016-01-08 Despite the mythology of sport bringing people together and encouraging everyone to work collectively to success modern sport remains a site of exclusionary practices that operate on a number of levels Although sports participation is in some cases at least becoming more open and meritocratic at the management level it remains very homogenous dominated by western white middle aged able bodied men This has implications both for how sport develops and how it is experienced by different participant groups across all levels Critical studies of sport have revealed that rather than being a passive mechanism and merely reflecting inequality sport via social agents interactions with sporting spaces is actively involved in producing reproducing sustaining and indeed resisting various manifestations of inequality The experiences of marginalised groups can act as a resource for explaining contemporary political struggles over what sport means how it should be played and by whom and its place within wider society Central to this collection is the argument that the dynamics of cultural identities are contextually contingent influenced heavily by time and place and the extent to which they are embedded in the culture of their geographic location They also come to function differently within certain sites and institutions be it in one s everyday routine or leisure pursuits such as sport Among the themes and issues explored by the contributors to this volume are social inclusion and exclusion in relation to class race and ethnicity gender and sexuality social identities and authenticity social policy deviance and fandom This book was published as a special issue of *Sport in Society*      *American Sports* Murry R. Nelson, 2013-05-23 America loves sports This book examines and details the proof of this fascination seen throughout American society in our literature film and music our clothing and food and the iconography of the nation This momentous four volume work examines and details the cultural aspects of sport and how sport pervasively reflects and affects myriad aspects of American society from the early 1900s to the present day Written in a straightforward readable manner the entries cover both historical and contemporary aspects of sport and American culture Unlike purely historical encyclopedias on sports the contributions within these volumes cover related subject matter such as poetry novels music films plays television shows art and artists mythologies artifacts and people While this encyclopedia set is ideal for general readers who need information on the diverse aspects of sport in American culture for research purposes or are merely reading for enjoyment the detailed nature of the entries will also prove useful as an initial source for scholars of sport and American culture Each entry provides a number of both print and online resources for further investigation of the topic

**Ultimate Fighting and Embodiment** Dale C. Spencer, 2013-06-19 Mixed martial arts MMA is an emergent sport where competitors in a ring or cage utilize strikes punches kicks elbows and knees as well as submission techniques to defeat opponents This book explores the carnal experience of fighting through a sensory ethnography of MMA and how it transgresses the cultural scripts of masculinity in popular culture Based on four years of participant observation in a local

MMA club and in depth interviews with amateur and professional MMA fighters Spencer documents fighters training regimes and the meanings they attach to participation in the sport Drawing from the philosophical phenomenology of Martin Heidegger Maurice Merleau Ponty and Jean Luc Nancy this book develops bodies centered ontological and epistemological grounding for this study Guided by such a position it places bodies at the center of analysis of MMA and elucidates the embodied experience of pain and injury and the sense and rhythms of fighting

**Cage Kings** Michael Thomsen, 2023-06-20

A propulsive and wildly engrossing Brad Stone author of *The Everything Store* account of how the UFC turned mixed martial arts into a multibillion dollar business and global pop culture phenomenon Decried as human cockfighting by Senator John McCain and dismissed by the New York Times as a pay per view prism onto the decline of Western civilization the UFC seemed by 2000 to be bleeding out The cage fighting promotion had been banned in thirty six states and was struggling to cover production costs for its next event But three buddies in Las Vegas an ambitious personal trainer and two young casino heirs saw something else in the UFC a vision of the future Over the next two decades the trio would transform the company into one of the most valuable sports properties in the world worth more than the Beatles catalog or the New York Yankees And along the way they would also transform the lives of some of the sport s biggest stars both for better and worse A captivating Christopher Leonard author of *The Lords of Easy Money* behind the scenes account of a once reviled subculture s strange path to pop legitimacy Cage Kings embeds you in a world of desperate fighters audacious promoters fanboy bloggers fatherly trainers philosophical announcers hustling sponsors and three improbable twentysomething corporate titans on a darkly comic odyssey to normalize a new level of brutality in American pop culture and make a fortune doing so For in an era of generational poverty eroding labor rights radical media transformations simmering political grievances and an obsession with winning at any cost the spectacle of two people fighting in a cage for another few months wages suddenly seemed to make sense Stylishly written and poignantly observed this must read for fans and the simply curious alike Matthew Polly author of *American Shaolin* offers a provocative look at how the hollowing out of the American dream and the violence of modern capitalism left us ready to embrace a sport like cage fighting

**The Bloomsbury Companion to the Philosophy of Sport** Cesar R. Torres, 2014-05-16

The Bloomsbury Companion to the Philosophy of Sport features specially commissioned essays from a team of leading international scholars The book by providing an overview of the advances in the philosophical understanding of sport and related practices serves as a measure of the development of the philosophy of sport but it also constitutes an expression of the discipline s state of the art The book includes a critical analysis of the historical development of philosophic ideas about sport three essays on the research methods typically used by sport philosophers twelve essays that address vital issues at the forefront of key research areas as well as four essays on topics of future disciplinary concern The book also includes a glossary of key terms and concepts an essay on resources available to researchers and practitioners an essay on careers opportunities in the discipline and an extensive annotated bibliography of key literature

Fight Sports

and the Church Richard Wolff, 2021-02-09 Fighting sports may seem at odds with Christian tradition yet modern ministries have embraced them as a means for evangelism and social outreach While news media often sensationalize fighting sports churches see them as a way to appeal to male congregants presenting a peace loving yet tough model of discipleship From martial arts programs at suburban churches to urban boxing ministries geared towards at risk youth this book examines the substantial history of church sponsored training in combat sports and presents arguments by Christian ethicists about their compatibility with church teachings and settings Interviews with boxing and martial arts ministry leaders describe their programs and the relationship between fight sports and faith      **Mixed Martial Arts and the Quest for Legitimacy** Mark

S. Williams, 2018-03-27 Mixed martial arts or MMA is widely regarded as the fastest growing sport Events fill stadiums around the world and draw vast television audiences earning strong revenue through pay per view at a time when other sports have abandoned it In 2016 the Ultimate Fighting Championship was bought by the massive talent agency WME IMG for 4 billion Despite this success much of the public remains uneasy with the sport which critics have denounced as human cockfighting Through an exploration of violence class gender race and nationalism the author finds that MMA is both an expression of the positive values of martial arts and a spectacle defined by narcissism hate and patriarchy The long term success of MMA will depend on the ability of promoters and athletes to resist indulging in spectacle at the expense of sport

*Krav Maga and the Making of Modern Israel* Andrea Molle, 2022-03-04 This book examines the profound interplay of martial arts combative and self defense disciplines with nationalism and ethno religious politics through the analysis of Zionism the birth of the State of Israel antisemitism and the life of the contemporary Jewish Diaspora in the United States It connects martial arts studies and political science spearheading the new field of political hoplology Focusing on the complex formative process of national communities their growth resilience and consequences for the individuals *Krav Maga and the Making of Modern Israel* presents the unique case of Krav Maga literally hand to hand combat a self defense system developed between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries which is now considered a staple of Israeli culture and a prime self defense practice Through its chapters the book provides strong evidence supporting the idea that physical violence is indeed needed as a unifying experience to allow national communities to emerge and thrive Furthermore it examines the growing importance of violence for modern democratic societies and suggests the existence of a gladiatorial effect or the need for a certain level of violence to exist to maintain a harmonious stable and cooperative society      *Hastings*

*Communications and Entertainment Law Journal (Comm/Ent)*. , 2009      *Mixed Martial Arts* L.A. Jennings, 2021-04-23 Mixed Martial Arts MMA is an international phenomenon with a fascinatingly diverse and complex history that stems from fighting sports around the world In *Mixed Martial Arts A History from Ancient Fighting Sports to the UFC* L A Jennings explores the vast global history of martial arts including Asian martial arts African fighting sports European pugilism and wrestling and the fighting styles of North Central and South Americas and how they gave rise to the modern sport of MMA Jennings shares

some of the most famous moments in fighting history alongside stories of the fighters themselves such as the infamous 1976 fight between Muhammad Ali and Antonio Inoki When the Ultimate Fighting Championship premiered in 1993 it introduced the world to the controversial cage fighting at a scale never seen before With the assistance of technological innovations and globalization MMA has become the fastest growing sport on earth the culmination of thousands of years of fighting for sport Featuring fascinating stories and photographs of fighters from around the world Mixed Martial Arts reveals the long and captivating history of this often misunderstood sport

### **American History through American Sports** Bob

Batchelor, Danielle Sarver Coombs, 2012-12-18 Filled with insightful analysis and compelling arguments this book considers the influence of sports on popular culture and spotlights the fascinating ways in which sports culture and American culture intersect This collection blends historical and popular culture perspectives in its analysis of the development of sports and sports figures throughout American history American History through American Sports From Colonial Lacrosse to Extreme Sports is unique in that it focuses on how each sport has transformed and influenced society at large demonstrating how sports and popular culture are intrinsically entwined and the ways they both reflect larger societal transformations The essays in the book are wide ranging covering topics of interest for sports fans who enjoy the NFL and NASCAR as well as those who like tennis and watching the Olympics Many topics feature information about specific sports icons and favorite heroes Additionally many of the topics treatments prompt engagement by purposely challenging the reader to either agree or disagree with the author's analysis

### American Examples Samah Choudhury, Michael J. Altman, Prea Persaud, 2022-12-06

The second volume of American Examples presents nine new essays with fresh multidisciplinary approaches to understanding the place of faith broadly understood in America broadly understood

### **Combat Sports** David L. Hudson Jr., 2009-05-13

Fistic combat represents the greatest human drama in all of sport Roman gladiators thrilled citizens and emperors alike when they entered the octagon to face an intense life threatening experience Boxing the sport of kings also has its roots in the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome Banned in 500 A D by the Emperor Theodoric it resurfaced twelve centuries later in England John Milton praised it as a noble art for building character in young men and sports writer A J Leibling dubbed it the Sweet Science Many of its major protagonists men such as Joe Louis Rocky Marciano and Muhammad Ali have become transcendent near mythic heroes But boxing is not the only combat sport and mixed martial arts in all their ferocious beauty represent the fastest growing sports genre in the world Ultimate Fighting Championships UFC has joined boxing in paying seven figures to some of its champions and draws millions in its pay per view events This book details leading figures in boxing sumo wrestling kickboxing Greco Roman wrestling and mixed martial arts including organizations such as Ultimate Fighting PRIDE K 1 Total Combat and SportFighting Over 150 entries cover champions contenders and other famous combatants from all over the world as well as legendary promoters managers trainers and events Also included in this encyclopedia are sidebars on controversies highlights brief bios and other noteworthy events

along with a general timeline

**Myth and Identity in the Martial Arts** Alexis McLeod, 2024-12-24 Myth and Identity in the Martial Arts Creating the Dragon is a study of the role of myth and ideology in the formation of social identity focusing on a variety of communities of practice involving the martial arts in East Asian and Western history Alexis McLeod argues that myths of the martial arts should not be understood as falsehoods created as means of legitimizing modern practices but should instead be understood as narratives that enable individuals and communities to formulate social identities and to accord meaning to their practices This book covers six influential sources of myth and identity formation in the history of martial arts early Chinese and Indian philosophy the formation of bushido thought in the Edo period of Japan Republican era Chinese conceptions of nationhood and physical culture Western contributions and the innovations of Bruce Lee African American conceptions of martial arts as a response to oppression in the twentieth century and the contemporary ideologies of mixed martial arts

Transforming Sport Thomas F. Carter, Daniel Burdsey, Mark Doidge, 2018-01-12 Sport sociology has a responsibility to engage critically with the accepted wisdom of those who govern and promote sport This challenging collection of international research is a clear call for enacting the transformation of sport The contributing authors argue that it is not enough to merely advocate for change Rather they insist that scholars need to take an active political stance when conducting research with the explicit purpose of attempting to transform the practices structures and the ways in which knowledge is produced about sport By exposing and challenging the power relations which perpetuate discrimination and inequality within sport it becomes possible to catalyse wider societal changes Drawing on a diversity of topics including sport for development and peace transnational feminism disability sport refugees and football activism FIFA the Olympics sports journalism and digital sports media this book makes a case for sport sociology as an agent of positive change in the hierarchies and institutional structures of contemporary sport Transforming Sport Knowledges Practices Structures provides valuable insights for all students and scholars interested in the sociology of sport and its transformative potential

Bodies Without Borders E. Casanova, A. Jafar, 2013-12-18 Globalization is often thought of as an abstract process that happens out there in the world But people are ultimately the driving force of global change and people have bodies that are absent from current conversations about globalization The original scholarly research and first person accounts of embodiment in this volume explore the role of bodies in the flows of people money commodities and ideas across borders From Zumba fitness classes to martial arts to fashion blogs and the meanings of tattooing the contributors examine migrating body practices and ideals that stretch across national boundaries

**Gender, Sexuality, and Intimacy: A Contexts Reader** Jodi O'Brien, Arlene Stein, SAGE Publications, Inc., 2017-01-13 This new anthology from SAGE brings together over 90 recent readings on gender sexuality and intimate relationships from Contexts the award winning magazine published by the American Sociological Association Each contributor is a contemporary sociologist writing in the clear concise and jargon free style that has made Contexts the public face of sociology Jodi O'Brien and Arlene Stein former Contexts Editors have chosen



pieces that are timely thought provoking and especially suitable for classroom use written introductions that frame each of the books three main sections and provided questions for discussion

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