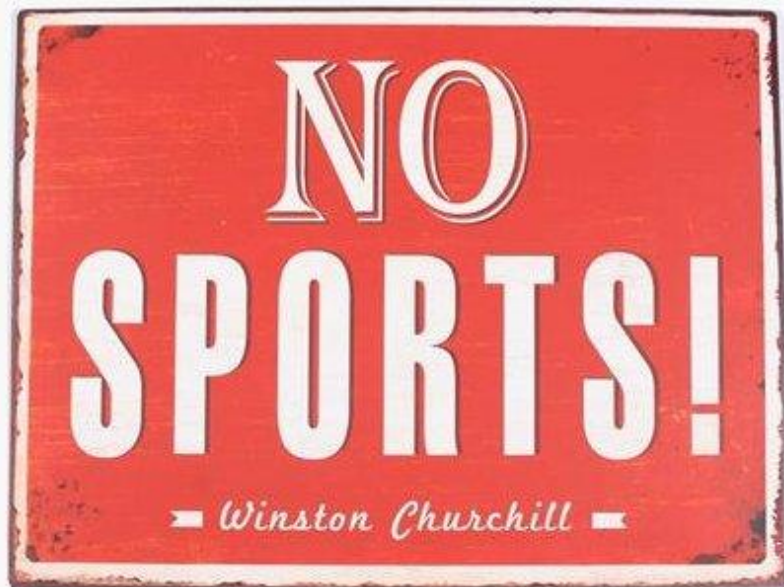


SPORTS



How the Black Power Protest at the 1968 Olympics Killed Careers (www.history.com)



It's an iconic image: Two athletes **raise their fists** on the Olympic podium. The photograph, taken after the 200 meter race at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, turned African-American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos from track-and-field stars into the center of a roiling **controversy** over their raised-fist salute, a symbol of black power and the human rights movement at large.

But look in the photo and you'll see another man as well: silver medalist Peter Norman, a white Australian runner. Norman didn't raise his fist that day, but he stood with Smith and Carlos. Though his show of solidarity ended up destroying Norman's career, the three athletes' actions that day would be just one in a line of protests on the athletic stage.

Smith and Carlos, who had won gold and bronze, respectively, agreed to use their medal wins as an opportunity to highlight the social issues roiling the United States at the time. Racial **tensions** were at a height, and the Civil Rights movement had given way to the Black Power movement. African-Americans like Smith and Carlos were frustrated by what they saw as the passive nature of the Civil Rights movement. They sought out active forms of protests and advocated for racial **pride**, black nationalism and dramatic action rather than gradual change.

It was only months after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and protests against the Vietnam War were **gaining steam** as well. In the lead-up to the Olympics, Smith and Carlos helped organize the Olympic Project for Human Rights, a group that reflected their black pride and social **consciousness**. The group saw the Olympic Games as an opportunity to **agitate** for better treatment of black athletes and black people around the world. Its demands included hiring more black coaches and cancelling Olympic invitations to Rhodesia and South

Africa, both of which practiced apartheid. Though the project initially proposed a boycott of the Olympics altogether, Smith and Carlos decided to compete in the hopes they could use their achievements as a platform for broader change.

Then, just 10 days before the opening of the Summer Games, an unarmed group of protesters assembled in Mexico City's Three Cultures Square to plan the next move of the growing Mexican students' movement. The Mexican government sent in bulldozers to **disperse** the thousands gathered, and troops fired into the crowd, massacring between four (the government's official count) and 3,000 students.

Carlos and Smith were deeply affected by these events and the plight of **marginalized** people around the world. "It was a cry for freedom and for human rights," Smith told *Smithsonian* magazine in 2008. "We had to be seen because we couldn't be heard."

The third man on the podium became part of the protest, too, albeit in a less direct way. Before winning silver, Norman was a working-class boy from Melbourne, Australia, born in 1942. His family members were devout members of the Salvation Army, an evangelical group connected with the charitable group better known to Americans. Part of that faith was the belief that all men were equal.

Though he was poor growing up, Norman was an extraordinarily fast runner, and learned to race on spikes that his father, a butcher, borrowed due to lack of funds. In 1960, the teenager burst onto the national running scene as a junior, winning his first major title in Victoria. From then on, he became a **major contender** in Australian track and field. A powerful sprinter, his specialty was his finishes—an area in which some short-course runners falter.

He displayed that skill during the 200 meter final on October 16, 1968, at Mexico City's Olympic Stadium. Though Norman had finished strong in the qualifying rounds, he was **underestimated** by the other runners—until, at the very end of the medal race, he **edged** in front of John Carlos at the finish line. "Out of nowhere, Norman stormed down the last 50 meters, taking the line before a shocked Carlos," writes CNN's James Montague. Norman finished his sprint second with a time of 20.06 seconds and qualified for a silver medal.

At the time, Australia was **experiencing** racial tensions of its own. For years, it had been governed by its "White Australia Policy," which dramatically limited immigration to the country by non-white people. While the Australian government welcomed new residents from predominantly white areas like the Baltics, it regularly turned down non-European migrants. In 1966, the government made the first steps toward abolishing the policy, but its effects

reverberated throughout Australia. Non-Australians weren't the only people **discriminated against**: Aboriginal Australians, too, were historically oppressed in the country, which forced Aboriginal children into boarding schools, while removing others from their families and placing them with white households.

Norman supported his fellow Olympians' protest, in part because of the intolerance he had witnessed in Australia. "Australia was not a crucible of tolerance," notes Steve Georgakis, a sports studies specialist from Australia. "Norman, a teacher and guided by his Salvation Army faith, took part in the Black Power salute because of this opposition to racism and the White Australia Policy."

As the athletes waited to go to the podium, Carlos and Smith told Norman that they planned to use their win as an opportunity to protest. Smith and Carlos decided to appear on the podium bearing symbols of protest and strength: black-socked feet without shoes to bring attention to black poverty, beads to protest lynchings, and raised, black-gloved fists to represent their solidarity and support with black people and oppressed people around the world.

"I looked at my feet in my high socks and thought about all the black **poverty** I'd seen from Harlem to East Texas. I fingered my beads and thought about the pictures I'd seen of the 'strange fruit' swinging from the poplar trees of the South," Carlos later wrote.

Carlos realized he had forgotten his gloves, and Norman suggested the American athletes share a pair. The Australian also asked how he could support his fellow medalists. They suggested he wear a badge for the Olympic Project for Human Rights. Norman didn't raise his fist, but by wearing the badge he made his **stance** clear.

As the American athletes raised their fists, the stadium hushed, then burst into racist **sneers** and angry insults. Smith and Carlos were rushed from the stadium, suspended by the U.S. team, and kicked out of the Olympic Village for turning their medal ceremony into a political statement. They went home to the United States, only to face serious **backlash**, including death threats.

However, Carlos and Smith were both gradually re-accepted into the Olympic fold, and went on to careers in professional football before retiring. Norman, meanwhile, was punished severely by the Australian sports establishment. Though he qualified for the Olympic team over and over again, posting the fastest times by far in Australia, he was snubbed by the team in 1972. Rather than allow Norman to compete, the Australians did not send a sprinter at all.

Norman immediately retired from the sport and began to suffer from depression, alcoholism and a painkiller **addiction**. “During that time,” writes Caroline Frost for the BBC, “he used his silver medal as a doorstop.”

Norman died without being acknowledged for his contributions to the sport. Though he kept his silver medal, he was regularly excluded from events related to the sport. Even when the Olympics came to Sydney in 2000, he was not recognized. When Norman died in 2006, Carlos and Smith, who had kept in touch with Norman for years, were **pallbearers** at the Australian’s funeral.

It took until 2012 for the Australian government to **apologize** for the treatment Norman received in his home country. But even though it cost him his career and much of his happiness, Norman would have done it over again. “I won a silver medal,” he told the *New York Times* in 2000. “But really, I ended up running the fastest race of my life to become part of something that transcended the Games.”

Carlos and Smith are still in touch today—and have been publicly supportive of other protesting athletes, including the NFL’s Colin Kaepernick. “What I did was right 48 years ago, and 48 years later it has proven to be right,” Carlos told *The Telegraph* in 2016. “In 1968 we were on a program for humanity—we are still on the same program today.”

PHASE 1:

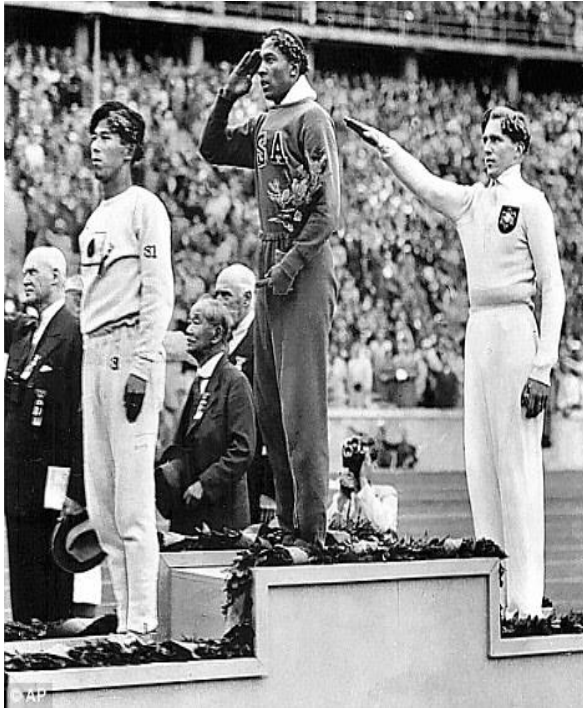
Look up the bold words in a dictionary and translate them into German.

Make a vocabulary list.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What did Carlos and Smith do? Why?
- 2) Find adjectives to describe the actions of Carlos and Smith.
- 3) Make sentences with the adjectives and a linking word.
- 4) List the problems that Australia faced at the time.
- 5) Explain the “strange fruit” reference.
- 6) What were the consequences of their actions for Carlos and Smith?
- 7) What were the consequences for Norman?
- 8) Has the situation changed in the USA?

The story of black Olympian Jesse Owens



Throughout the tortured history of sports and politics, one moment has always stood above the others: Jesse Owens's performance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

A black man entered Hitler's Coliseum and destroyed the theory of Aryan physical **supremacy** by winning four gold medals in track and field.

The Fuhrer, according to legend, was so horrified by Owens's triumph, he stormed from the Olympic stadium rather than shaking his hand, as he had with every other medalist.

Baldur von Schirach, the leader of the Nazi Youth movement at the time, supposedly suggested to Hitler that he let himself be photographed with Owens. Hitler replied: 'The Americans ought to be ashamed of themselves for letting their medals be won by negroes. I myself would never shake hands with one of them.'

Owens himself always **resisted** his role as a political symbol. Having grown up in the segregated American South, the grandson of slaves, he was **impatient** with American claims of moral superiority over the Nazis.

'After all those stories about Hitler and his snub, I came back to my native country and I couldn't ride in the front of the bus,' Owens recalled. 'I had to go to the back door. I couldn't live where I wanted. Now what's the difference?'

Owens was given a **tickertape** parade in New York. But when he arrived at the Waldorf Astoria hotel for a reception in his honour, he was instructed to take the service lift rather than the normal guest lift, which was reserved for whites.

Owens powering his way at the start of the 200m event, which he won, during the Olympic Games in Berlin where he captured four gold medals



President Franklin Roosevelt never **congratulated** Owens or invited him to the White House. 'Hitler didn't **snub** me - it was FDR who snubbed me,' Owens said.

And Owens had his own memories of Berlin which differed starkly from the propaganda version. While the Nazis **vilified** the black American athletes, the German people cheered on Owens and his team-mates, clamouring for photos and autographs.

Owens later said that his greatest memory of the Games was not the races, the medal ceremonies or the politics. It was of his German rival in the long jump, Luz Long. On the surface, Long was the **embodiment** of the Aryan dream: tall, blue-eyed and blond.

The American was struggling in the early rounds of the long jump contest and risked going out before the final. Long introduced himself. He said he had been watching Owens's jumps and made a mark a few inches before the take-off board and suggested Owens jump from there, to ensure he qualified.

'Instead of the endorsements or acclaim a modern athlete might expect, Owens was expelled from the American Amateur Athletics Union'

Owens took his advice and made it to the finals, which he won. The first person to congratulate him was Long.

The two men exchanged letters after the Games. 'It took a lot of courage for him to befriend me in front of Hitler,' Owens said. 'You can melt down all the medals and cups I have and they wouldn't be a plating on the 24-carat friendship I felt for Luz Long at that moment.

'Hitler must have gone crazy watching us embrace. The sad part of the story is I never saw Long again. He was killed in World War II.'

To this day, Owens still remains a role model to black American athletes

After the Olympics, the couple had two more girls. Owens would run sprints against athletes from other sports, even against cars, motorbikes, dogs and horses. He worked as a janitor at a children's playground and petrol pump attendant.

'People said it was **degrading** for an Olympic champion to run against a horse, but what was I supposed to do?' he said. 'I had four gold medals, but you can't eat four gold medals.'

'Sure it **bothered** me,' he said later in life. 'But at least it was an honest living. I had to eat.'

'After I came home with my four medals,' he said, 'everyone wanted to slap me on the back, shake my hand or have me up to their suite. But no one was going to offer me a job.'

He wrote: 'For a while I was one of the most famous people on earth, but I soon discovered how empty fame can be and how easily it could be **exploited** by those who would use it, and me, for gain.'

His post-Olympics experience, and the reality of being hailed as a hero in public, yet treated poorly in private, made him deeply suspicious of politics. Yet he was constantly being **solicited** for his opinions.

PHASE 1:

Look up the bold words in a dictionary and translate them into German.

Make a vocabulary list.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What did Owens do at the Olympics and why was it so significant?
- 2) List the sad things that happened when Owens returned to the USA.
- 3) How is the story of Owens different to the propaganda version?

How Money Has Changed Football for the Worst

www.wolfgangssport.com

Since the English Premier League started in 1992 only seven clubs have won the league – Arsenal, Man Utd, Man City, Liverpool and Chelsea having all won multiple titles. Only Blackburn in the 1994/95 season and Leicester in 2015/16 have been able to win the league outside the big five. It's getting harder and harder to win the Premier League title and it all comes down to money. Let's take a look at how money has changed football for the worst.

How Does a Football Club Make Money?

First let's take a look at the main ways football clubs make money:

- TV rights
- League naming rights
- Stadium naming rights
- Jersey sponsorship
- Gate receipts
- Transfer fee income

The Premier League is on a television broadcast deal worth more than a staggering \$2.2 billion annually. The MLS in comparison is only worth \$90 million per season. Premier League teams rely heavily on the revenue from the TV broadcasting deal to cover the costs or transfer fees and wage bills necessary to attract and keep the best footballing talent.

The bigger clubs have the advantage of attracting better sponsorship and commercial arrangements meaning more to spend. Better players usually means better results on the pitch and a better league position means European football, which is even money more in TV broadcast and commercial revenues.

Modern football is all about winning and without money, it's not possible. Money isn't only ruining football, its destroying it.

How Money is Ruining Football

Money's the reason some of the oldest clubs in football have gone bankrupt. Seduced by the riches of Premier League broadcasting revenue, clubs such as Bury, Chester City and Rushden & Diamonds all entered into administration and went bankrupt.

Attracting the best talent possible to be competitive and push for promotion means high transfer fees and wage bills.

The average English Championship annual salary is £200k and the average wage-turnover ratio for clubs an alarming 107%. It's a worrying trend as clubs in the Football League aim for the Premier League where the average annual player salary jumps to a whopping £3m per year.

Summer transfer spending in the Premier League topped £1.2b in 2016 and in 2020, clubs spent over £1.4b on signings. Only Brentford and Norwich have been able to make a profit in the transfer market over the last five years.

Spending doesn't guarantee immediate success. The biggest spending teams of each Premier League season has only won the league five times. Money certainly helps over the longer term. Blackburn built their Premier League title in the couple of years prior to their winning season by topping the league and spending in excess of £17m over two seasons.

Manchester City became the huge force that it is in English football when the Abu Dhabi royal family bought the club in 2008. It's no coincidence that their Premier League success is because of money. City spent £94m during their title winning 2011/12 run and they've added another four titles in the decade that has followed.

Financial Fair Play in the Premier League

Since Pep Guardiola joined Manchester City in 2016 they've spent almost £1b by the time the 2021-22 season kicked off.

Financial Fair Play (FFP) was introduced in 2009 as an attempt by UEFA to prevent clubs from spending more than they earn, calculated by revenue earned against wages and transfer fees. UEFA's attempt to ban Manchester City for alleged manipulating sponsorship numbers to pass FFP regulations was overturned by the the Court of Arbitration for Sport so it's effectiveness can be argued.

The Premier League has its own set of financial rules outside of UEFA's FFP but doesn't have the backbone to level the playing field. The main requirement of

the Premier League's financial rules is to ensure clubs pay transfer fees, salaries and tax bills on time. The league openly states that it's up to a clubs' directors and senior executives on how they spend their income.

It's a dangerous game as money is no guarantee to success in the Premier League. Leicester won the 2015/16 season having spent only £27m. Aston Villa suffered relegation that same season having spent £52m on transfers.

Although Villa were able to quickly return to the Premier League, that's not always the case and things can get very dangerous for a football club when the results on the pitch don't match the spending.

Doing a Leeds

'Doing a Leeds' is a phrase used in English football to describe a club that reaches dizzying heights only to fall in catastrophic fashion because of financial mismanagement.

After reaching the Champions League semi-finals in 2001, Leeds United failed to make the Champions League altogether in 2002-03 and missed out on the gate receipts and broadcasting rights revenue that comes with European competition. Leeds United faced crippling finances due to a wage bill and transfer fees that could not be covered and debt had spiralled out of control peaking at £119m.

The resulting fire sale of their best players wasn't enough to avoid administration and Leeds United were almost expelled from the Football League altogether. Leeds survived but freefell into League One with a 15 point penalty to start the 2007-08 season.

Winning trophies isn't even a guarantee to financial sustainability. Portsmouth, 2008 FA Cup winners, went into administration and were on the brink of bankruptcy only one year later. Portsmouth were relegated from the Premier League in 2010 and the club conceded that it would likely be liquidated. In 2013 they ended up in League Two and only because of a fan takeover were they miraculously able to announce becoming debt free in 2014.

Sunderland has their own 'Doing a Leeds' story with hundreds of millions of pounds in transfer fees blown in an effort to remain competitive in the Premier League. After suffering embarrassing back-to-back relegations, Sunderland went from Premier League football in 2016 to League One in 2018. Debt peaked at £200m and were bleeding about £35m a year.

It gets worse as Sunderland needs to keep reducing their wage bill to comply with League One regulations as well as servicing their debt. With very little TV

broadcasting revenue Sunderland now need to survive on commercial activities and gate receipts and a return to the Premier League suddenly seems impossible.

Premier League Relegation Impacts

For those clubs lucky to break into the Premier League it's another battle altogether to avoid relegation. So big is the financial impact of the drop, those teams relegated receive parachute payments over three years or until they return to the Premier League. The payments are proportioned based on a percentage of their broadcast revenue share from the time in the Premier League:

- Year 1: 55%
- Year 2: 45%
- Year 3: 20%

Parachute payments are designed to help teams integrate slowly back to life without Premier League broadcast revenue. Only about 30% of relegated teams earn immediate promotion back into the Premier League from the Championship the very next season.

Despite Sunderland's £35m parachute payment in 2017 they still got relegated to League One. And in a bitter blow for Sunderland, their fiercest rivals Newcastle are now the richest club in the world. Their new owners, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, are worth a reported £320b and well ahead of Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour's £23b fortune.

No longer are English clubs owned by local businessman, but rather by overseas investors where financial gain is more important than sporting glory. There's no doubt money has changed football. The modern football economy is nothing more than an arms race with clubs so desperate to try and keep up, they'll risk their very existence for a shot at glory.

STUDY CHECK:

1. How has money ruined the game of football according to the article? Give 2 reasons and write them out like arguments of an essay.
2. What is your opinion on this issue? Explain in detail.

The UAE is trampling human rights.

Man City must finally speak out

Simon Hattenstone – www.theguardian.com

What is the price of success? If you're a Manchester City fan with an interest in human rights, it's a crisis of conscience. I've been here before. Eleven years ago my club was bought by former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who had presided over "very serious human rights violations" according to Amnesty. At the time, I wrote a sports column for the Guardian, and said that I could no longer reconcile my love for City with Shinawatra's record so I was giving up on City.

Only football fandom is messier and more compromised than that. I soon discovered that I couldn't give up on City just because my conscience told me I should. The club was in my blood. I'd backed myself into a corner, so I returned to City and gave up my column instead. Thankfully Thaksin was forced to sell City within a year because £800m of his assets were frozen in Thailand, and my inner voice screaming HYPOCRITICAL BASTARD was temporarily silenced.

This time round it's even tougher. In 2008, Manchester City were bought by the United Arab Emirates' Sheikh Mansour. The UAE is not a democracy, it is a federation of hereditary absolute monarchies. In other words, what the royals say goes – in every sphere of life. Sheikh Mansour is not only a member of the royal family of Abu Dhabi, he is deputy prime minister of the UAE, minister of presidential affairs and half-brother of the president. Mansour has a lot of clout in the UAE.

In its 2017-18 report Amnesty condemned the UAE for unfair trials, lack of freedom of expression, a failure to investigate allegations of torture, discrimination against women and the abuse of migrant workers. City fans knew that the UAE had a dodgy human rights record. But many of us preferred to turn a blind eye. It was abstract – out of sight, out of mind. And there were endless positives. Mansour had invested billions in the club and the city; City were playing dream football – the first team to win 100 points in a Premier League season in 2017-18; we had the best manager in the world, and what's more he cared – Pep Guardiola wore a yellow ribbon for political prisoners jailed after campaigning for Catalan independence. What was there not to love about City?

Well yesterday we found out, when British academic Matthew Hedges, who had been accused of spying, was given a five-minute trial without a lawyer, and sentenced to life in jail. UAE prosecutors said he had admitted to spying, though others claimed he is innocent. Jeremy Hunt, the foreign secretary, called it “totally unacceptable”, said there was “no evidence for the charges laid against him”, and warned of “serious diplomatic consequences” for the UAE, which Britain regards as an ally.

As for City, unsurprisingly not a word.

Just to reiterate, Sheikh Mansour is not just a wealthy individual in the United Arab Emirates: he and his family run the country and make all the important decisions. People live and die by their rulings. If I were as principled as I’d like to be, I’d denounce my club and walk away – of course, human rights trump a football club. But I tried that in 2007 – and failed. So, for now, I’m sticking with City, while pleading with them to speak up for justice.

It is not good enough for the club to pretend this is not happening or it has nothing to do with them, and that if they ignore the fate of Matthew Hedges the issue will go away. It won’t – and the longer he is in the news, the more ethically bankrupt City will look– the glossy, globalised, media-friendly face of repressive government; launderer supreme of the politically unacceptable.

So, what can Manchester City do? I beg City officials to state publicly that handing down a life sentence to a man without a fair trial is unacceptable, and that the club will do what it can to pressure the UAE to change its mind, and to address its wider human rights issues. Just as Sheikh Mansour has transformed City for the good, City now has the power to change the UAE for the good. Pep, over to you. I look forward to seeing you explain why you are now wearing your yellow ribbon for a different victim of state injustice.

STUDY CHECK:

1. Why should Manchester City fans have a guilty conscience according to this article? Explain.
2. Do you support a sports team? Who are the owners? Find out more about the ownership and check if you should have a guilty conscience, too.
3. If you do not support a sports team, be an investigative journalist and find out more about the owners of Newcastle United FC. Share your findings with the class.

Why Steve Kerr's comments on Uvalde should stop you in your tracks

Chris Cillizza, www.cnn.com

Sometimes it takes someone not in politics to point out the insanity that dominates our current political moment.

On Tuesday night -- in the wake of a school shooting in Texas that left 19 children and two adults dead -- that person was Steve Kerr, the head coach of the NBA's Golden State Warriors. He was openly emotional, angry and frustrated.

You should watch his whole statement, but here's the key bit:

"When are we going to do something? I am tired. I am so tired of getting up here and offering condolences to the devastated families out there. I'm tired of the moments of silence. Enough. ... So I ask you, Mitch McConnell and all of you senators who refuse to do anything about the violence and the school shootings and the supermarkets shootings -- I ask you, are you going to put your own desire for power ahead of the lives of our children and our elderly and our church-goers? Because that's what it looks like. That's what we do every week. I'm fed up. I've had enough. We can't get numb to this. We can't sit here and just read about it and say let's have a moment of silence."

(For those who want to dismiss Kerr as *just* a basketball coach, it's worth remembering that his father was shot and killed in a 1984 at the American University of Beirut.)

Kerr specifically referenced HR 8, a House bill that would expand background checks to include private gun sales and gun show sales. The measure first passed the House in 2019 -- eight Republicans joined 232 Democrats in voting for it -- but didn't have a path in the Senate. It was reintroduced in the House (and passed again with bipartisan support) in 2021.

Last December, Connecticut Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy tried to pass HR 8 by unanimous consent, but was blocked by Senate Republicans. In a speech on the Senate floor Tuesday following the Uvalde shooting, Murphy castigated his colleagues for their lack of action.

"Guns flow in this country like water, and that's why we have mass shooting after mass shooting, and, you know, spare me the bullshit about mental illness," said Murphy. "We don't have any more mental illness than any other country in the world. You cannot explain this through a prism of mental illness because ... we're not an outlier on mental illness, we're an outlier when it comes to access to firearms and the ability of criminals and very sick people to get their hands on firearms. That's what makes America different."

At issue is the 60-vote threshold necessary to end debate in the Senate. Without 60 votes on *any* gun control legislation, there is no path forward. And at the moment -- and unless something major shifts -- there aren't 60 Senate votes for anything that is perceived as curtailing gun rights.

The closest the Senate came to addressing the country's gun violence epidemic was in 2013, when a bipartisan effort led by West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin and Pennsylvania Republican Sen. Pat Toomey that would have expanded background checks received 54 votes.

(Murphy, for what it's worth, was dismissive of using the Manchin-Toomey proposal as a blueprint for future action. "Manchin-Toomey is not just a background checks bill," he said Wednesday. "It's got lots of sweeteners in it designed to get the NRA's support.")

What's remarkable about the impasse on guns in the Senate is that -- as Kerr noted -- massive majorities of the public, regardless of political party, support some new gun restrictions. A 2021 poll from Pew Research Center showed that 87% of Americans supported preventing people with mental illnesses from buying guns, while 81% backed making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks. Two-thirds of Americans supported a national gun database and banning high-capacity ammunition magazines.

And yet, and yet, and yet.

During a speech Wednesday, McConnell said he was praying for those involved in the shooting and placed blame on the shooter, calling him a "deranged young man" and a "maniac," CNN's Ted Barrett reported. He didn't mention the shooter's access to weapons or any legislative solutions.

There are those who will argue that this proposal or that proposal would not have prevented what happened in Texas on Tuesday. Which, fine.

But go back to Kerr. This isn't about some dry legislative proposal. This is about who we are and who we want to be as a country. Do we want to just keep rinsing and repeating with these mass shootings? Do we want to grow numb (or number) to what happened in Uvalde or Newtown or dozens of other places around the country?

Or do we want to do what we can to change things -- with the recognition that no public policy proposal is perfect or will completely solve our gun violence problem?

"I've had enough," Kerr said as he walked away from the microphone. Same.

STUDY CHECK:

1. Find out details about what exactly happened in Uvalde and in Newton.
2. What is the "NRA"? Explain and find out more about their political power.
3. What is "partisanship"? Explain why it is a problem in this particular case.
4. Which different reasons are listed for these mass shootings in the article? Which ones do you agree with and which ones do you disagree with? Why?
5. Summarise Steve Kerr's position on the issue.
6. How is it possible that some politicians do not act in the interest of the people who voted them into power?

Doping in professional sports

www.statista.com

Doping refers to the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs by competitive athletes across a wide range of sporting events. The use of these drugs is generally considered to be unethical and is therefore prohibited by many international sports organizations such as the International Olympic Committee. Although performance-enhancing drugs are illegal, there are some athletes who nevertheless choose to dope and take explicit measures to evade detection. In 2019, for instance, the number of anti-doping rule violations worldwide totaled 1,914. During that same year, the share of anti-doping rule violations reported worldwide by outcome revealed that 57 percent of violations resulted in sanctions. Bodybuilding and athletics were the sports which recorded the most anti-doping rule violations worldwide in 2019. Overall, bodybuilding accounted for 22 percent of the violations in that year, while athletics accounted for 18 percent.

Doping in the Tour de France

The controversy surrounding Lance Armstrong is perhaps the most infamous example of doping in professional sports. In 2013, the former professional cyclist confessed to doping after being stripped of seven Tour de France titles. Since then, the famed bicycle race has had to contend with additional anti-doping violations. In 2021, the number of all-time anti-doping rule violations in selected cycling competitions worldwide revealed that nearly 200 Tour de France riders had been found guilty of doping throughout the tournament's history. The overall rate of doping in the Tour de France, however, is trending downwards. From 1968 to 2021, the share of Tour de France riders who committed anti-doping rule violations reached its lowest point in 2021. Despite this, the level of trust in Tour de France teams complying with the anti-doping rules varied in 2021. That year, the Groupama-FDJ team was awarded the highest level of confidence in complying with anti-doping rules.

Doping in the Olympics

At the Olympic Games, drug tests are frequently carried out and monitored to determine if an athlete has used a performance-enhancing drug. From 1968 to 2020, the most common doping violations at the Olympics varied by substance. Turinabol, an oral anabolic steroid, was listed in 65 positive doping cases as of 2020. The psychoactive component in marijuana, otherwise known as THC, was

also on the list of banned substances. In 2021, public opinion on whether THC should be a banned substance for professional and Olympic athletes in the United States was divided. According to the survey, 28 percent of respondents strongly agreed that THC should be a banned substance for professional and Olympic athletes, while 24 percent strongly disagreed. Regardless of the controversy surrounding which substances ought to be banned, Olympic athletes who are found to have violated anti-doping rules run the risk of losing their Olympic medals. As of 2020, the number of Olympic medals stripped in athletics varied by type. A total of 14 bronze medals, 23 silver medals, and 22 gold medals had been taken away from athletes due to anti-doping violations.

STUDY CHECK:

1. Be able to define the term “doping”.
2. What happens to athletes who are found guilty of doping?
3. What do you think motivates an athlete to use performance-enhancing drugs?
4. Case study: choose one athlete who was convicted for doping and tell her/his story to the class.