

## Ligris Abstract

In my thesis, I examine the three most commonly recognized football teams in Athens, AEK Athens, Panathinaikos, and Olympiakos. And while you may ask Stavros, that is cool and all but how does this correlate to life? Well, As a collective these clubs reflect the city's ingrained social, cultural, and political differences. The origins and development of each club are closely linked to the history and identity of particular Athenian communities: Olympiakos with the industrial, working-class populace of the port city of Piraeus; AEK with Asia Minor refugees and working-class neighborhoods in the north; and Panathinaikos with the city's elite and central neighborhoods. This work illustrates how football in Athens goes beyond sport by taking apart the clubs' histories, fan cultures, political ties, and contemporary dynamics. Conflicts between classes, historical & social identity, and even national political discourse are all expressed through these teams, all of which add to the uniqueness of the Athenian landscape.

The thesis presents Greek football as both a reflection and an active factor in forming Athens' fractured social landscape, drawing on the clubs history and findings, I reference modern match-day customs, and the contentious effect of club ownership. Ultimately this work sheds light on how political power, communal memory, and urban identity interact both on and off the field in modern-day Greece by examining this nexus between sport and society.