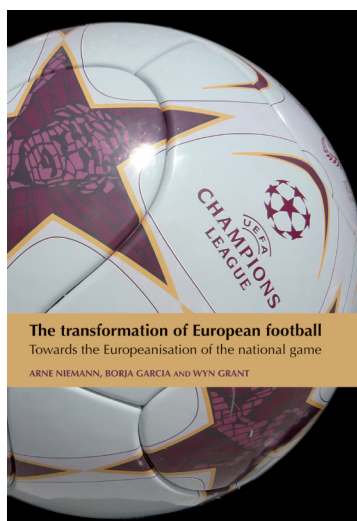


The transformation of European football

Towards the Europeanisation of the national game

Arne Niemann, Borja Garcia and Wyn Grant



The transformation of European football
Towards the Europeanisation of the national game
ARNE NIEMANN, BORJA GARCIA AND WYN GRANT

Arne Niemann is Professor of International Politics at the University of Mainz

Borja Garcia is Lecturer in Sport Management and Policy at Loughborough University

Wyn Grant is Professor of Politics at the University of Warwick

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The book examines the transformation of European football in recent years by focusing on the impact of Europe in general and the EU in particular on the way that the game has evolved in a broad cross section of European states. The book brings together two significant research agendas: first, that on the governance of sport in Europe/the European Union; secondly, that within European integration studies on 'Europeanisation' (most commonly understood at the process of change in the domestic arena resulting from European integration). The concept of Europeanisation and in particular 'top down' Europeanisation is used to shape the individual country case studies. Other transformational factors such as globalization are also assessed.

The three chapters in the introductory section set the context within which the transformation of European football has occurred with particular emphasis on the role of UEFA and EU institutions. The ten country studies in the central part of the book include the five leading football nations in Europe and smaller countries that are facing new challenges in the competitive environment of modern European football. They include an example of a country that is a recent accession state and one outside the EU. What emerges from these chapters is both the shaping influence of Europeanisation but also the extent to which it is countered and modified by national culture and structures. What is also noticeable is the sense of decline amongst some of the small and even larger footballing nations in the continent.

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