**The Need for Out-groups**

The effect of social context on group identification raises the question of whether in-group loyalty depends on the presence of a specific out-group. There is no doubt that salience of in-group identity is enhanced when a contrasting out-group is also made salient.

This was demonstrated in a field experiment with members of fifth-grade handball teams. The children on one team were given bright orange shirts to wear, as a symbol of team identity. Members of the opposing team wore their own shirts, which varied in shape and color. Thus, for the "orange team," the in-group was made salient and distinctive, while the out-group was less distinct. For members of the opposing team, it was the out-group that was more distinctive in this setting. Observations of the subsequent games revealed that the children on the orange-shirt team played much more aggressively (were more concerned that their own team won) than those on the nondistinct team. The distinctiveness of the in-group apparently had more effect on level of identification with the team than did out-group distinctiveness.