

Insights Into the History of the Olympic Games

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Abstract

With the upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris, who is not interested in having a closer look into the history of summer but also winter Olympics and the different success stories of athletes, countries and specifically India.

Keywords: Olympics, Summer, Winter

1. Introduction

With the upcoming Summer Olympics starting on July 26 in Paris, France, the general interest is rising again with regards to past Olympics, trends and the greatest athletes of all times. This news report will dig deeper into past Summer and Winter Olympics and analyse the performance of different countries, with particular focus on India and their successes. To keep it as brief and accessible as possible, the main part of this news report will be in bullet points.

2. Data

- The data used for this analysis is threefold:
 - Data on Winter Olympic Games
 - Data on Summer Olympic Games
 - General GDP and population size data

3. Analysis

3.1. India's performance compared to other countries

- India's performance in past summer Olympics compared to similarly sized economies (including South America)
 - Chose countries with relatively similar GDP per Capita that also participated in past Summer Olympics
 - Countries from South America: For example: Colombia

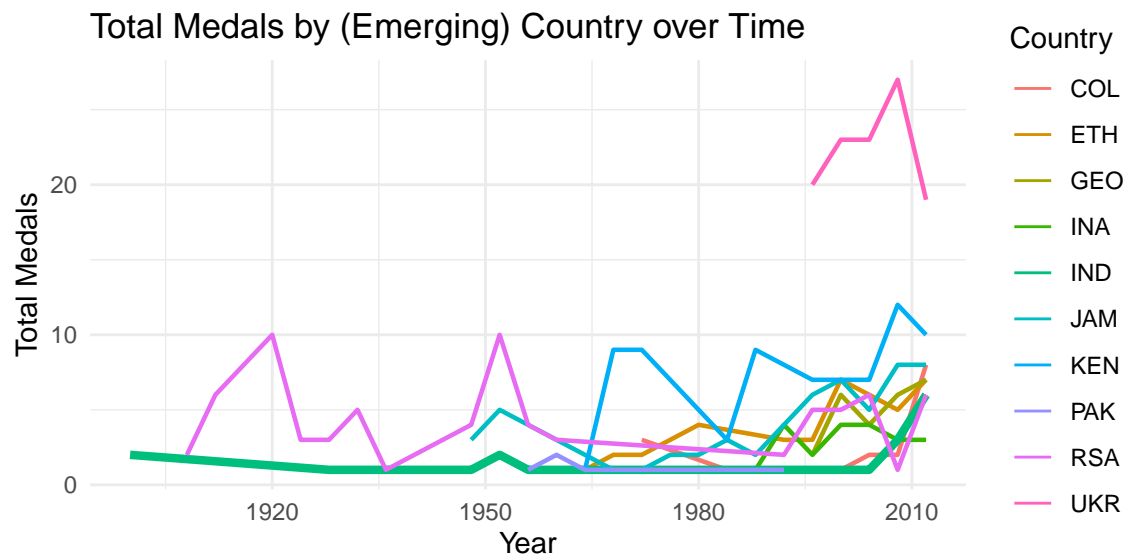


Figure 3.1: Medals Table for Emerging Country over Time

- Potential explanation for India's performance over time:
 - Main medals won in Hockey
 - Only assigned one medal for the whole team for a medal won in a team sport discipline during the Olympics

3.2. Dominant countries in Summer Olympics over time

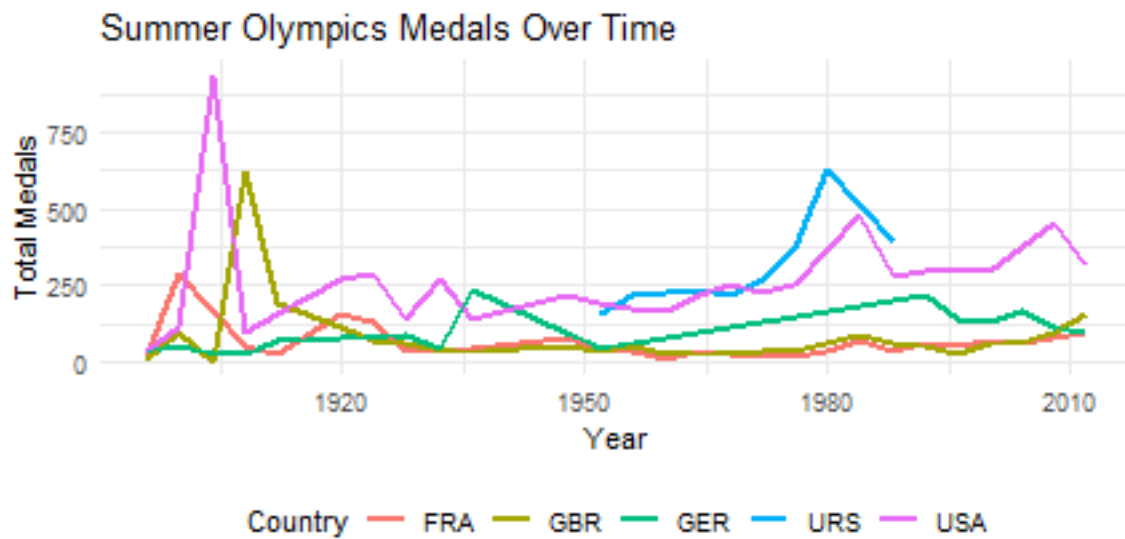


Figure 3.2: Top Countries Summer Olympics

- US generally strong over time in Summer Olympics
- Former Soviet Union also tended to be strong in Summer Olympics

3.3. Dominant countries in Winter Olympics over time

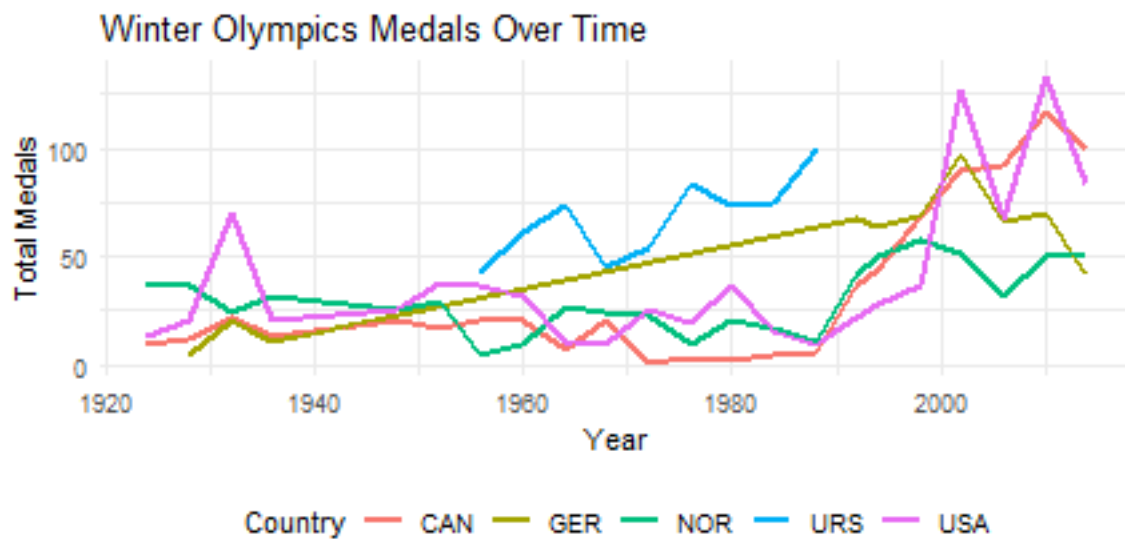


Figure 3.3: Top Countries Winter Olympics

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- US generally also strong in Winter Olympics
 - Generally northern countries with snow/ mountains more successful (which intuitively makes sense)
 - Former Soviet Union was also strong in Winter Olympics. Logically not anymore today, as it does not exist anymore.
 - Note that in the last two graphs there might be a bias, as I could not account for all the team sports in the data

3.4. Gold per Capita Summer Olympics

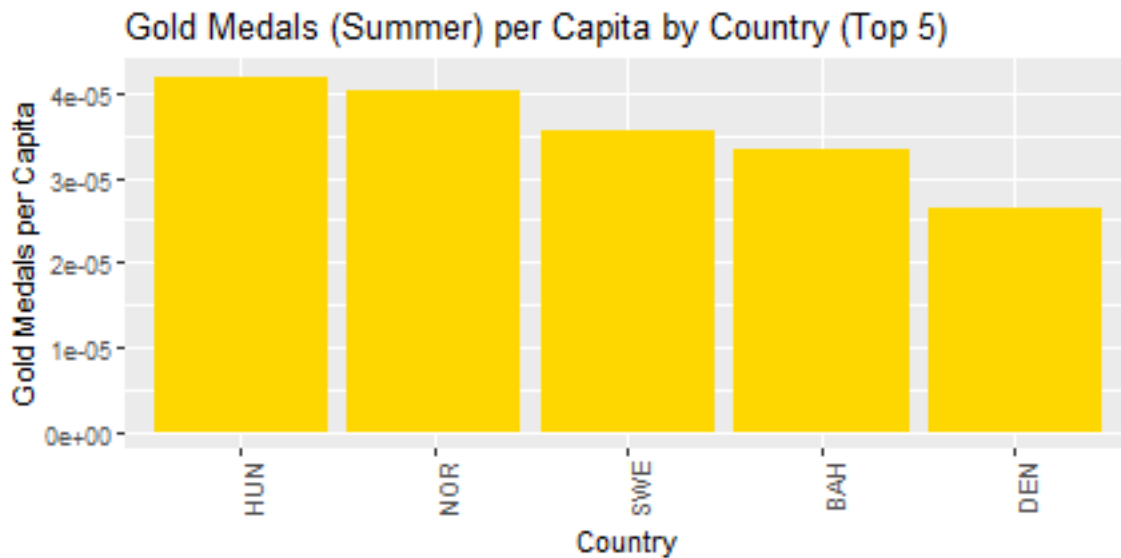


Figure 3.4: Gold per Capita Summer Olympics

- Hungary most gold medals per Capita
 - Followed by countries that as well do not have a big population which explains the result compared to for example the US

3.5. Gold per Capita Winter Olympics

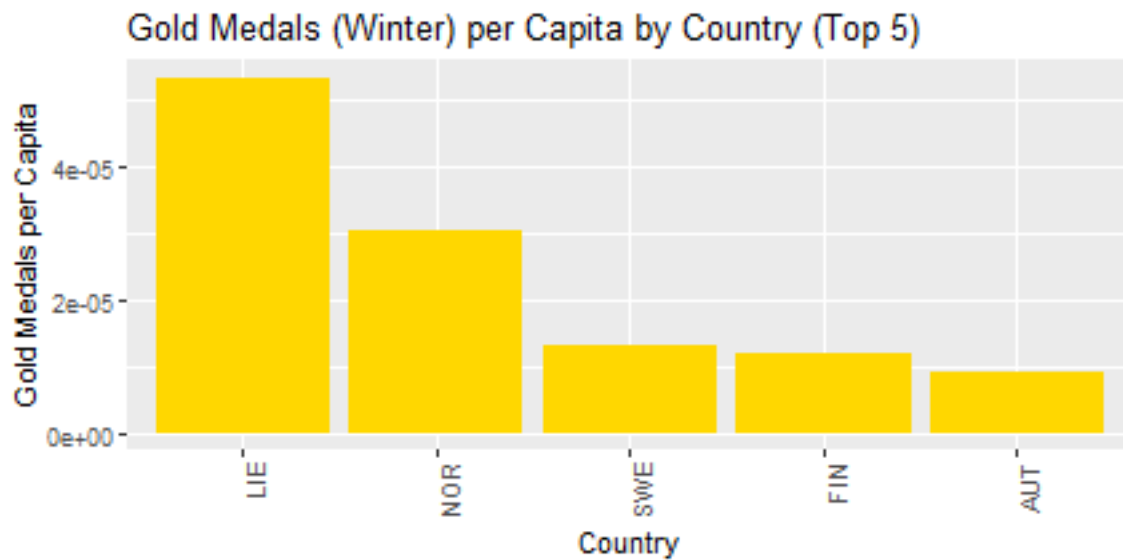


Figure 3.5: Gold per Capita Winter Olympics

- Interestingly Liechtenstein most gold medals per Capita
 - But makes sense as not a lot of inhabitants
 - Countries that follow also not extremely populated and countries that have mountains/ can do winter sports

3.6. Personal Favourite Sport - Slalom Alpine Skiing (Winter Olympics)

- Bar plot showing the top 10 athletes in Slalom Alpine Skiing by the total amount of medals they got over time

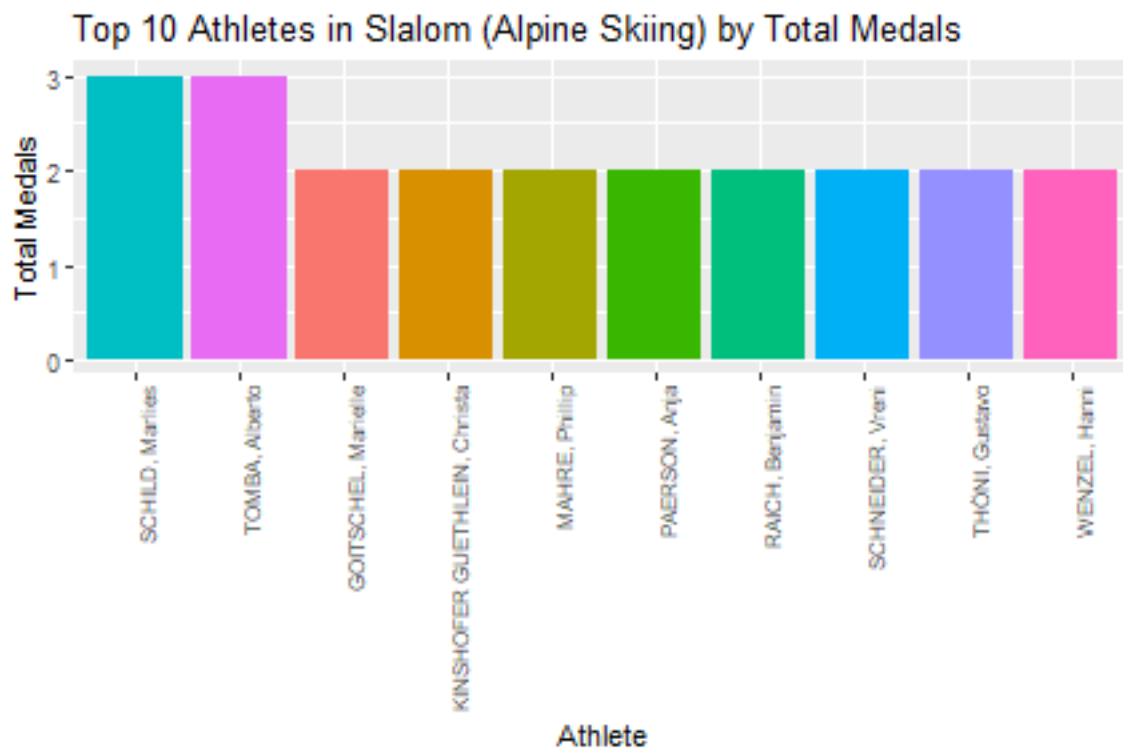


Figure 3.6: Top Athletes Slalom

- Marlies Schild and Alberto Tomba both best athletes
 - Only focusing on Slalom within Alpine Skiing; explains why maximum of medals is 3 per athlete

4. Conclusion

This report has hopefully helped to get you excited about the upcoming Summer and hopefully soon to be Winter Olympics, and to remind you of some of the historical figures in different disciplines within the Olympics and the performance of countries.