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Assignment #3 Olympia

Leni Riefenstahl’s *Olympia* is a German sports documentary, which focuses on the 1936 Summer Olympics. That year’s Olympics took place during the same time the Nazi governmental party was in charge, being held in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. With many politics surrounding Riefenstahl’s participation as a Nazi member, her film *Olympia* could be considered Nazi propaganda. Although it may seem that *Olympia* is just another sports documentary, that comes into question when discussing the actual intention of this film, as some considered it to be Nazi propaganda. Arguably, one of the best sports documentaries out ever, this film revolutionized future films, especially the recording with underwater cameras. The Opening Ceremonies from China 2008 Olympic games can be considered like Riefenstahl’s *Olympia* film. As it shows the difference in cultures of all the participating countries, one can see how the Olympics brings together a group of different people for one event. I observed while watching the Opening Ceremonies from China 2008 that every country had its own rituals, music, and entrance. I also noticed that every country had its own support systems, as some countries were louder than others, it showed me that the Olympics is more of a sporting event, it serves to enlighten others on different countries, an opportunity to learn about the various cultures present at the Olympics.

After watching both films, I was able to observe the similarities and differences within the two films. Both films tend to focus on the Olympic values present during the Olympics, rather than the other factors at play during the Olympics. The main difference I highlighted was the perspective of where both films were coming from. Riefenstahl’s film *Olympia* came from a Nazi perspective, as its director could be considered part of the Nazi party. The Opening Ceremonies from China 2008 Olympics came from a more neutral perspective, as it showed every countries’ entrance and rituals, while not focusing on one country more than the other.