

FIFA World Cup Analysis

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Abstract

The FIFA World Cup, a global celebration of football, has historically been dominated by teams from two continents: Europe and South America. Despite its worldwide appeal and participation, the tournament's competitive landscape has consistently favored nations from these regions, with European and South American teams winning all editions of the championship since its inception in 1930. This report delves into the reasons behind this dominance, analyzing factors such as player development systems, infrastructure, and football culture. It also examines the implications of this imbalance on the global growth of the sport, highlighting the challenges faced by teams from other continents in breaking this stronghold. The report concludes by exploring potential strategies to promote competitive parity and ensure a more inclusive and globally representative World Cup in the future.

Introduction

The FIFA World Cup is the pinnacle of international football, uniting nations and captivating billions of fans worldwide every four years. While the tournament boasts participation from countries across all six football confederations, its competitive dominance has been largely confined to two continents: Europe and South America. Since the inaugural World Cup in 1930, every winning team has hailed from these two regions, underscoring their supremacy in the sport.

This report aims to explore the underlying factors contributing to this regional dominance, including historical, cultural, and infrastructural advantages. It will also analyze the implications of this disparity on the global competitiveness of the World Cup, with a focus on the challenges faced by teams from Asia, Africa, North America, and Oceania. By examining these dynamics, the report seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the current state of global football and offer insights into fostering greater inclusivity and competitiveness in the world's most celebrated sporting event.

Dataset and Data Cleaning

The initial data set contained some variables that needed cleaning. We removed null values from the dataset and changed the values where needed.

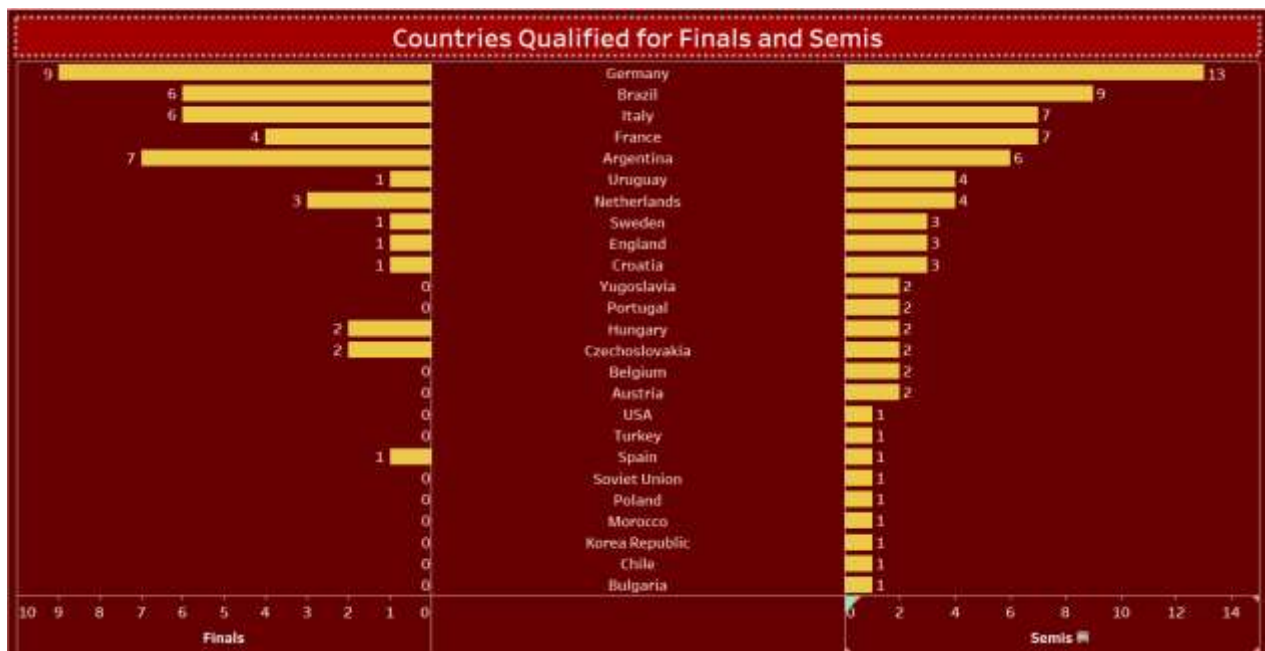
Data Analysis and Visualizations

1 - FIFA WORLD CUP WINNERS

FIFA World Cup Winners							
Argentina	Brazil	England	France	Germany	Italy	Spain	Uruguay
3	5	1	2	4	4	1	2

The "FIFA World Cup Winners" table summarizes the tournament's most successful teams and their achievements. Brazil leads with 5 titles, followed by Germany and Italy with 4 each. Argentina has won 3 times, while France and Uruguay each hold 2 titles. England and Spain round out the list with 1 championship each. The table highlights the dominance of European and South American nations in the tournament's history, reflecting their long-standing footballing prowess. It effectively showcases the legacy of the FIFA World Cup and the countries that have consistently excelled on the global stage.

2 Countries Qualified for Final and Semi Final



This chart displays the number of times countries have qualified for the Finals and Semifinals, likely in the FIFA World Cup. On the left, the Finals qualifications are shown, with Germany leading with 9 appearances, followed by Brazil and Italy with 6 each. Other notable countries include Argentina with 7, and several other countries with 1 or 2 qualifications. The 'Semis' section on the right shows Germany with 13 qualifications, Brazil with 9, Italy and France with 7 each, Argentina with 6, and many other countries with 1 or 2 qualifications.

France with 4, and the Netherlands with 3. Several other nations, such as Uruguay, Croatia, Sweden, and England, have fewer qualifications, with 1 each.

On the right, the chart highlights Semifinals qualifications, where Germany again dominates with 13 appearances, followed by Brazil with 9, and Italy with 7. France and Argentina also show strong performance with 6 and 4 Semifinals appearances, respectively. The Netherlands and Uruguay have qualified for Semis 4 times each, while countries like Sweden, England, and Croatia appear 3 times. Other nations, such as Yugoslavia, Portugal, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia, achieved 2 Semifinals appearances, whereas countries like Spain, Poland, Morocco, and Korea Republic reached the Semifinals just once.

The chart highlights the dominance of football giants like Germany, Brazil, and Italy, who consistently perform at the highest levels by reaching both the Semifinals and Finals multiple times. It also underscores the challenge of progressing to the Finals, as fewer countries achieve that milestone compared to Semifinals qualifications.

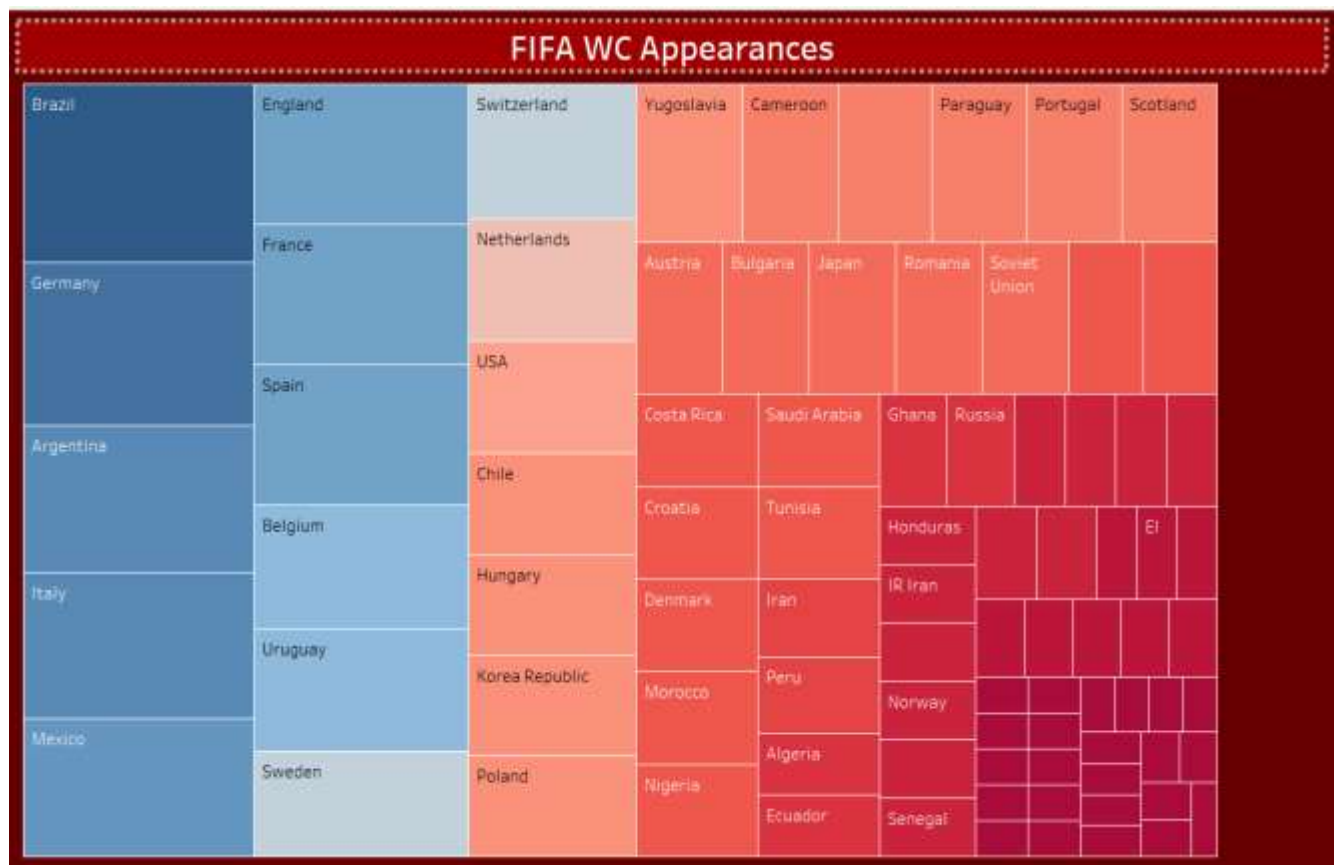
3 - Countries Hosted FIFA WC



This image showcases the countries that have hosted the FIFA World Cup along with the years they hosted the tournament. The map highlights nations across different continents, with some countries hosting multiple times. Brazil hosted in 1950 and 2014, while France hosted in 1938 and 1998. Similarly, Germany hosted in 1974 and 2006, Italy in 1934 and 1990, and Mexico in 1970 and 1986. The first World Cup was hosted by Uruguay in 1930. Other notable single-time hosts include Sweden in 1958, Chile in 1962, Spain in 1982, and the USA in 1994. The first co-hosted World Cup took place in 2002 in Korea/Japan, marking a historic collaboration. South Africa became the first African nation to host the tournament in 2010, while Russia hosted in 2018, and Qatar was the most recent host in 2022.

The map also highlights the global spread of the tournament over time. South American nations like Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay have hosted, alongside European powerhouses like Germany, France, Italy, England, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. North America saw Mexico and the USA host, while Asia was represented by Korea/Japan and Qatar. Africa's first host was South Africa, and Russia marked Eastern Europe's entry in 2018. This progression reflects the World Cup's growing global influence and its expansion to diverse regions over the decades.

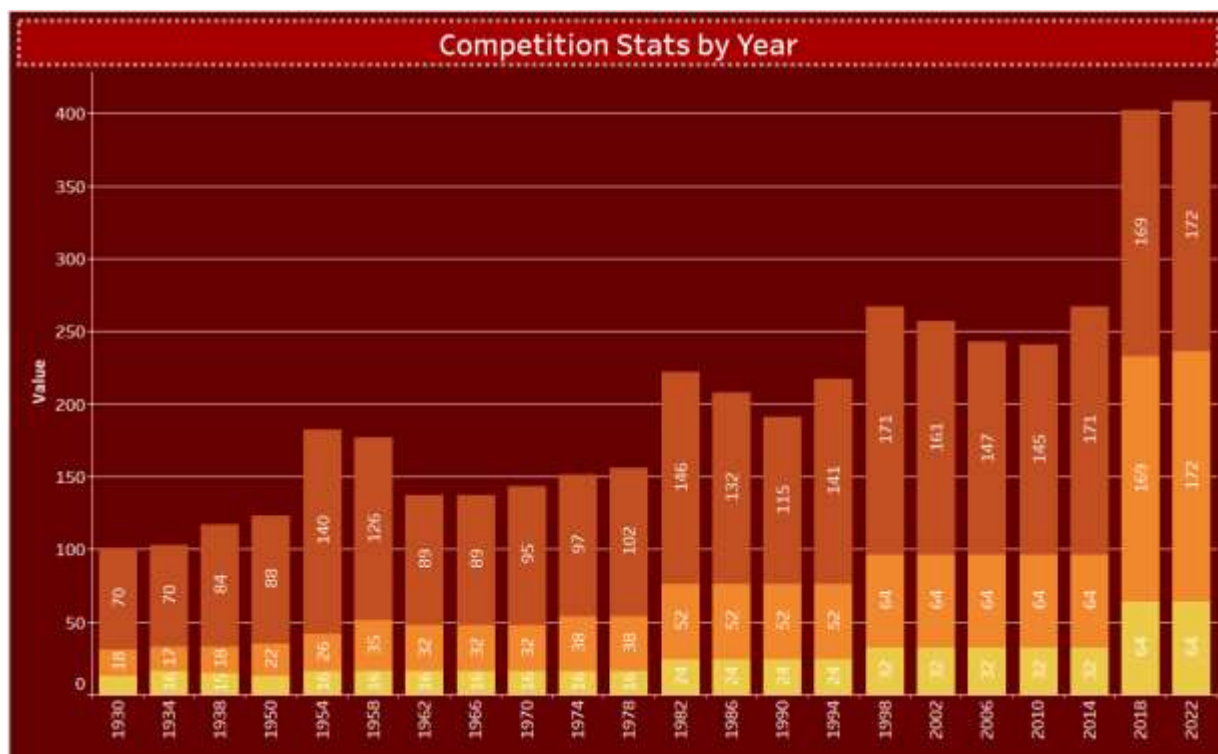
4 - FIFA WC APPERANCES



This treemap chart visually represents the number of FIFA World Cup appearances by various countries. The size of each box corresponds to the number of times a country has participated, with larger boxes indicating more frequent appearances and smaller boxes reflecting fewer appearances. Countries like Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Italy, and Mexico have the largest boxes, highlighting their dominance and consistency in qualifying for the tournament. In contrast, countries with smaller boxes, such as Senegal, Honduras, and Ecuador, have participated less often. The chart also uses a color gradient, transitioning from blue for countries with the most appearances to red for those with fewer. This combination of size and color makes

it easy to distinguish the traditional football powerhouses from those with more limited World Cup participation. Overall, the chart provides a clear and concise visual comparison of global World Cup appearances.

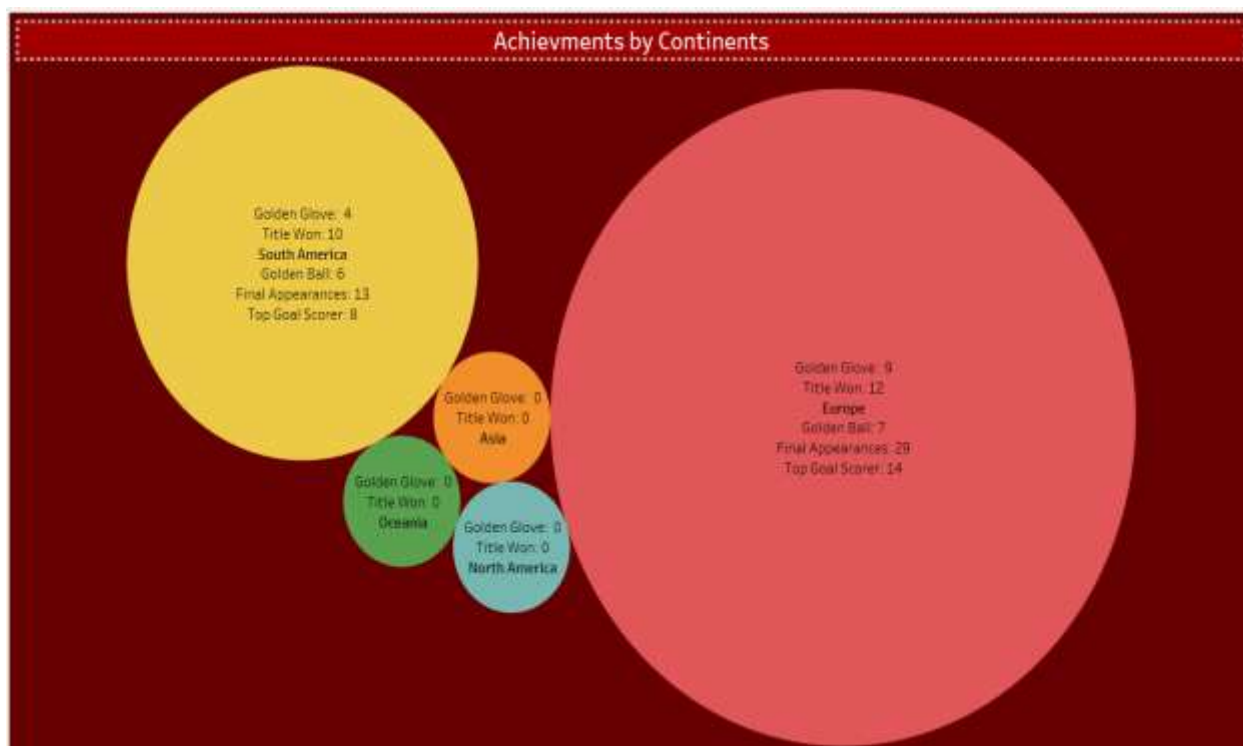
5 – Competition Stats by Year



This stacked bar chart titled "Competition Stats by Year" presents the progression of key FIFA World Cup statistics: qualified teams (yellow), number of matches played (light orange), and goals scored (orange) from 1930 to 2022. In the early tournaments (1930–1978), the number of qualified teams remained at 16, resulting in fewer matches played (16–18) and goals scored, with totals ranging between 70 and 88 goals. A significant expansion occurred in 1982, when the number of teams increased to 24, leading to a rise in matches to 52 and goals to 146. This marked a turning point in the tournament’s scale and intensity.

From 1998 onward, the World Cup stabilized at 32 qualified teams, resulting in 64 matches played in every tournament. This era saw a consistent high in goals scored, ranging between 145 and 171, culminating in a new record of 172 goals in 2022, the highest in the tournament's history. The chart highlights how the gradual expansion in the number of teams and matches has contributed to the overall growth of the competition, resulting in more opportunities for goals and a larger global impact.

6 – Achievements by Continents

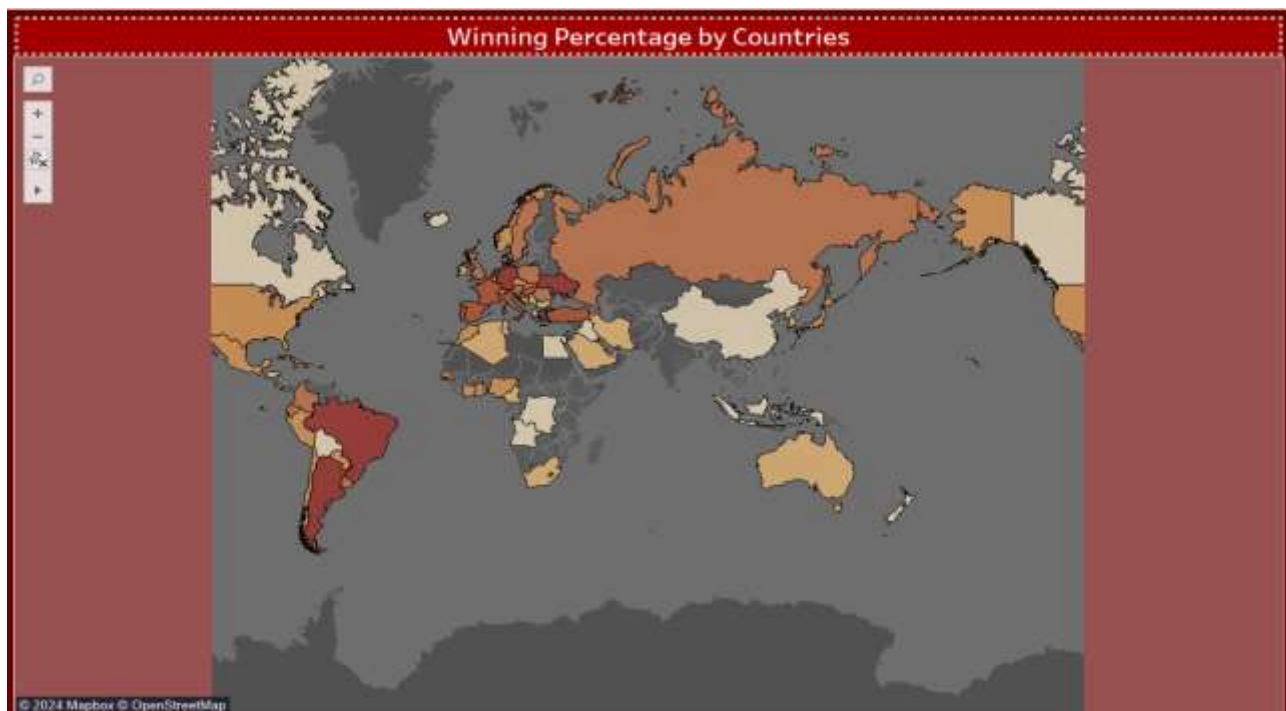


This bubble chart titled "Achievements by Continents" compares the achievements of different continents in FIFA World Cup history based on several key metrics: Golden Gloves (best goalkeeper), Titles Won, Golden Ball (best player), Final Appearances, and Top Goal Scorers. The size of each bubble represents the overall success and achievements of each continent, with larger bubbles indicating greater accomplishments.

Europe has the largest bubble, showcasing dominance in World Cup history with 12 titles won, 29 final appearances, and the most Top Goal Scorer awards at 14. Europe also leads in Golden Gloves (9) and Golden Balls (7), reflecting its consistent success and top-performing players. South America follows with a significant bubble, highlighting 10 titles, 13 final appearances, and 8 Top Goal Scorer awards, along with 4 Golden Gloves and 6 Golden Balls, cementing its status as a football powerhouse.

The other continents—Asia, North America, and Oceania—have much smaller bubbles, indicating limited achievements. None of these continents have won titles or earned Golden Gloves, and they remain less represented in top individual awards like the Golden Ball. This chart effectively highlights the historical dominance of Europe and South America in international football, while other continents lag significantly behind in World Cup achievements.

7 – Win Percentage of Countries



The image represents a world map showcasing the winning percentages by countries through a color-coded gradient. Darker shades, such as deep red and brown, signify higher winning percentages, while lighter shades indicate lower performance levels. When the cursor is moved over a specific country, it reveals detailed information, including the country name, its continent, and its winning percentage, making the map interactive and user-friendly. Notable trends can be observed, such as South America displaying higher winning percentages, particularly in countries like Brazil or Argentina, which are shaded prominently in dark red. Europe presents a mixed performance, with some regions achieving strong results while others show lighter shades indicative of lower percentages. In contrast, Africa and parts of Asia generally exhibit lighter tones, reflecting relatively lower winning percentages. The visual representation effectively communicates global performance trends, allowing for quick comparisons across continents. By combining color gradients with interactive elements, the map serves as an engaging and informative tool for analysing winning percentages worldwide.

8 – Countries Win and Loss



The visualizations provide a comparative analysis of wins and losses for various countries, represented by two distinct lines: the solid green line for losses and the dotted yellow line for wins. The data highlights clear disparities in performance, with most countries recording significantly higher losses than wins. This is evident from the dominant peaks of the green line across the charts.

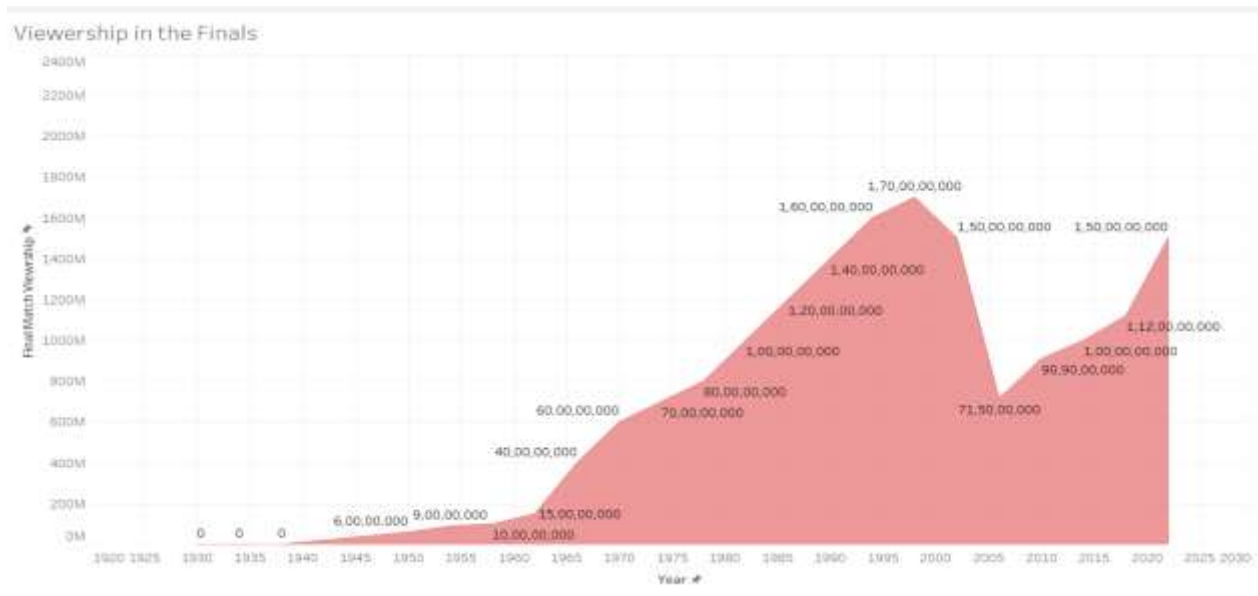
In the first chart, notable trends emerge for countries such as Yugoslavia, which stands out with a high count of 39 wins compared to only 14 losses, reflecting a historically strong performance. On the other hand, countries like Wales and Soviet Union exhibit fluctuating patterns, with notable spikes in both wins and losses. For example, Wales recorded 26 wins but also faced 21 losses, suggesting a competitive but inconsistent performance. In contrast, countries such as Slovakia and Serbia display low numbers for both wins and losses, indicating limited participation or fewer matches played.

The second chart offers a broader overview, with more countries included in the analysis. A significant finding is the performance of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which recorded the highest number of losses at 79, with no wins, showcasing a stark imbalance. Similarly, Israel experienced 46 losses with only 1 win, underscoring a significant competitive challenge. Countries like Mexico and France also stand out, with 30 losses and 41 wins, respectively, highlighting a mix of challenges and achievements. In contrast, smaller countries or regions, such as Cuba and the Dutch East Indies, report low counts for both wins and losses, likely due to limited participation in global events.

Another interesting observation is the performance of countries like Angola and Australia, which reflect a relatively balanced trend, with moderate wins and losses. For example, Angola recorded 7 wins and 12 losses, showing some level of competitiveness despite challenges. Similarly, Australia shows a closer balance between its 22 losses and 20 wins, suggesting steady performance.

Overall, the analysis reveals that while a majority of countries struggle with disproportionately high losses, a few nations demonstrate exceptional performances with higher win counts. Countries like Yugoslavia, France, and Mexico emerge as strong performers with notable peaks in wins, which serve as benchmarks for others. In contrast, the significant disparities observed in countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina and Israel highlight areas that may require focused strategies for improvement. Additionally, the lower totals for smaller regions indicate less participation or fewer opportunities, which may be factors to consider in future evaluations. These insights provide a comprehensive understanding of global competitive performance and highlight both strengths and opportunities for improvement among nations.

9 – Viewership in the Finals



The graph illustrates the viewership trends in the finals of a major event from 1920 to 2020, with the number of viewers represented on the vertical axis and years on the horizontal axis. The data reveals a steady growth in viewership starting in the mid-20th century, with significant milestones observed. From 1940 to 1950, viewership increased modestly, rising from 6 million to 9 million. However, starting in the 1960s, a more rapid growth phase emerged, with figures reaching 40 million in 1965 and doubling to 80 million by 1980. The upward trend continued through the 1980s and 1990s, peaking at 170 million viewers in 1995—the highest recorded value.

Post-1995, a noticeable decline occurred, with viewership dropping sharply to 71.5 million by 2005. Despite this dip, the trend shows a gradual recovery in the subsequent years, rising back to 150 million by 2015. By 2020, viewership rebounded to 112 million, demonstrating renewed interest but falling short of the earlier peak. The chart suggests a period of unprecedented growth between 1965 and 1995, followed by a temporary decline before stabilizing in recent years. This pattern highlights both the increasing global appeal of the event over decades and the challenges faced in sustaining peak viewership levels.

10 – Dashboard

