

Success at the summer Olympics became more globalised as a result of World War 2

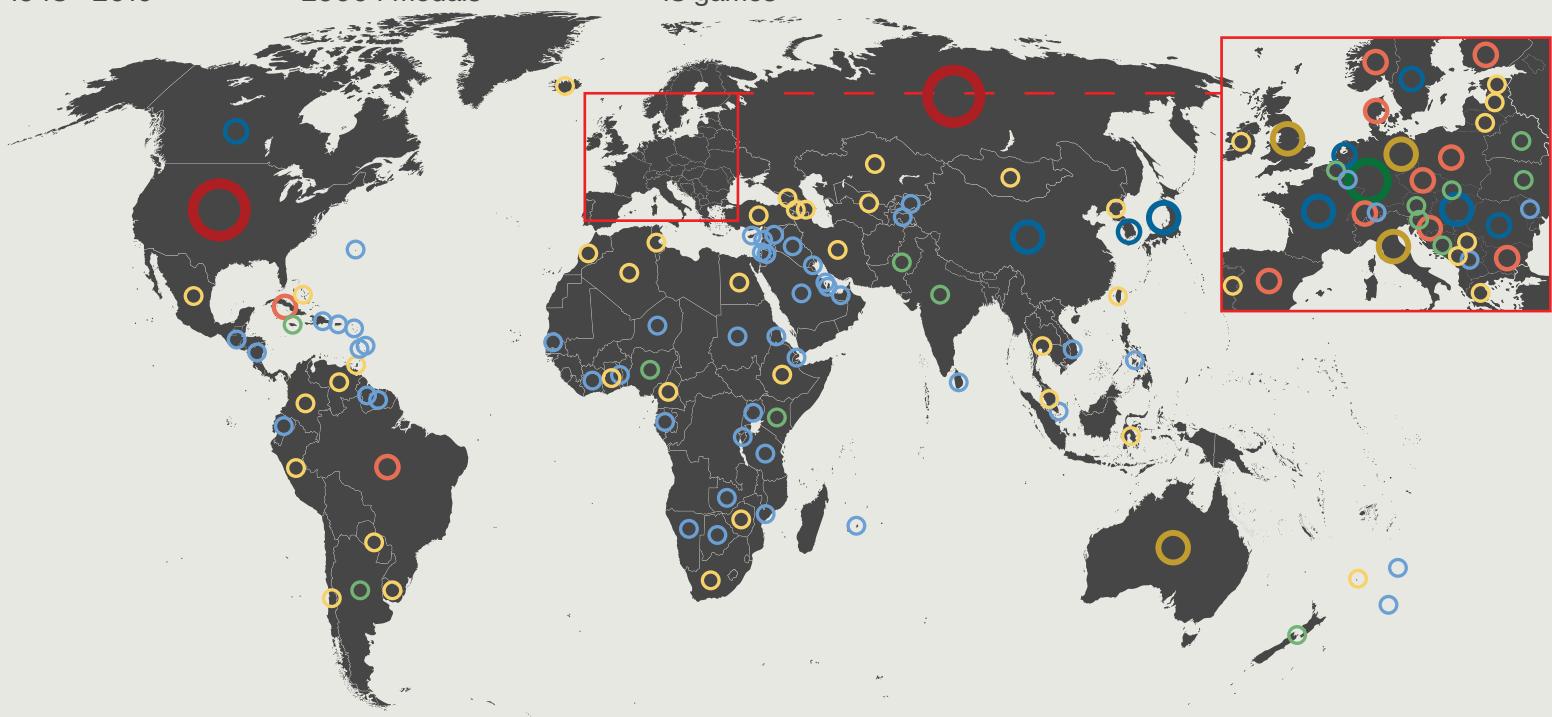
Pre World War 2

1896 - 1936 7798 medals 10 games

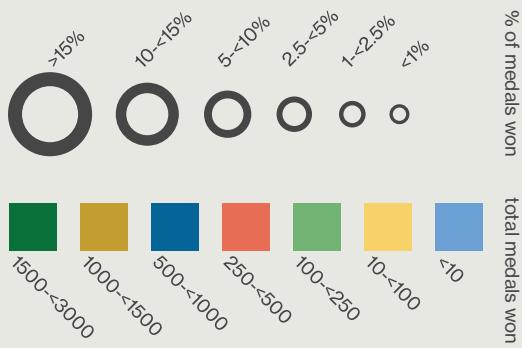


Post World War 2

1948 - 2016 29064 medals 18 games



Legend



This data visualisation contains two heat maps showing the number of medals won and percentage of medals won by every country both before and after World War 2 (WW2). The size of the rings placed on each country represents the percentage of medals won by that country; the colour represents the absolute number of medals won.

The visualised data shows that before WW2 the Olympic games was almost exclusively a competition between western, democratic and European countries but after the war countries of all ethnicities, political ideologies and location were involved and were able to challenge the previously dominating countries.

The pre-WW2 map shows that medals were mostly won by powerful, western countries. The post-WW2 map shows a much more diverse area of the globe winning medals and that many countries won a reasonable percentage of medals but given the dominance of a few nations, this represents a small percentage of the overall tally but still demonstrates that the distribution is becoming increasingly equal. This larger pool of countries were able to find success at the Olympics after WW2 due to changes brought about by a number of factors such as United Nations, globalisation and the increasing importance of international affairs.