

This work is dedicated to the transformation of football (soccer) in the process of social modernization and partially to influences of football on modernization. The goal of this work is comprehension of basic dynamics of modern football which assumes combination of theoretical and historical approach. The core of the analysis (exploiting plurality of theoretical approaches) is aimed at situation in Europe (and particularly in England) which was crucial for general development. However, non-European regions are not neglected.

At first is the work focused on characterization of premodern team ball games from which later resulted modern football. Analytical framework comprises relation of football to the four modernization trends and its selected displays: rationalization of society (creation of the formal rules, institutionalization of football and development of tactic), the market generalization and expansion of economic system (commercialization of football (including mass mediums), professionalization of players and particularities of football in state socialist countries), transformations of social bonds, identity and increase of nation states (nationalism and clubism) and displays of selected social inequalities in football and efforts to its change (class inequalities, global inequalities and gendered inequalities).