

THE IMPERATIVE NECESSITY OF A GLOBAL ANTI-OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

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THE ARGUMENT FOR AN ANTI-OLYMPIC POSITION

- The negative outcomes of the Olympic Games are not accidental, but programmatic and recurring:
 - Militarization (global arms trade and increased surveillance)
 - Gentrification and displacement (accumulation by dispossession)
 - Commodification of bodies (value extraction from tourists and athletes)
 - Single-use urbanism (white elephant stadia, hotels, etc.)
 - Erosion of democratic institutions and norms (states of exception)
 - Systemic abuse of athletes and youth (cultures of violence and exploitation)
 - Environmental degradation (carbon footprint of elite sport and 5* lifestyles)

WHY NOT INCREMENTAL CHANGE?

- The evidence of negative impacts for host cities and populations is overwhelmingly negative, for the IOC and their corporate partners, overwhelmingly positive.
- The IOC's business model is predicated upon power imbalances, elite privilege, and short-term profits. There is no incentive to change, only pressures to shape-shift.
- Strong evidence of a broad understanding of the Olympics as a highly mobile business that extracts value from urban territories, citizens, and nations:
 - Oslo, Calgary, Graz, Sion, Boston, Hamburg, Rome, Innsbruck, St. Moritz, Krakow, Stockholm, Munich have all rejected the Olympics in recent years. Agenda 2020 and Paris 24 / LA 28 are outcomes of this – **yet the Host City contract has not changed!**
- Monopoly rents depend on willing bidders, compliant media, and belief in Olympic mythology.

ANTI-OLYPMISM IS THE ONLY RATIONAL, HUMANIST POSITION TO TAKE

- Asking for incremental, internal reform does not solve immediate and emerging problems, nor account for past abuses.
- If we are to take the issues seriously, then we no longer abide the abuse and human rights violations inherent to the Olympic spectacle.
- Paradigm shifts can be sudden and our collective, global crises are being exacerbated through continuing down the garden path promised by infinite “sustainable” growth and unbridled consumption.

GLOBAL ANTI-OLYMPISM IS NECESSARY, INEVITABLE, AND UNDERWAY

- Cities are the resource from which the IOC extracts value – eliminating this supply is the easiest way to kill the business.
- Failing that, standing anti-Olympic committees promote proactive, not reactive urban politics.
- Social solidarity across space and time, knowledge sharing, and exchange are important.
- The Olympics are not just part of “the problem” (capitalism, nationalism, elitism, etc.) but they are integral to it.
- Resistance is not futile, it is necessary, imperative, and optimistic.

