

Abstract :

The history of Nazi indoctrination in Austria's skiing does not begin in March 1938. Even before that, a turn to National Socialism can be traced in large parts of organized skiing. An increasing ideologization and anti-Semitic atmosphere led to a policy of exclusion in the Austrian Ski Association ÖSV, which was reflected in the radicalism of National Socialism. Austrian ski sport officials and activists played an important role in the Nazi regime. Their diverse participation in the Nazi sport(system) becomes apparent when their biographies are not only viewed in the context of sporting achievements. Andreas Praher investigates power structures and scope for action in skiing before and during the Nazi era as well as in post-war Austria. For the first time, the history of skiing in Austria until 1938 is highlighted and processed in a global perspective on the basis of a broad-based basic research. Subsequently, the integration of Austrian skiing into the NS sports business is traced and analyzed. A separate chapter is devoted to the different roles of Austrian ski athletes in the National Socialist war of annihilation. The focus of the dissertation is on the actors involved, their individual patterns of action, participation and interpretation. Their stories are intended to illustrate the functioning of the Nazi regime in sports. The research tells the story of both the perpetrators and the victims, the marginalized and persecuted. The last chapter deals with Austrian skiing in the immediate post-war period until 1955 and how, despite the Nazi crimes, it was stylized into a national sport and its activists as "heroes" by the Second Austrian Republic.