**Excerpt 3:**

Sport has been linked to imperialism in various ways. Firstly, the historian Richard Holt has argued that sport in the British empire was an important means for the transmission of imperial and national ideas -ideas of 'Britishness', such as 'fair play'. This began in the British public schools, the headmasters of which were sometimes devout imperialists and invariably taught that it was better to be a poor scholar than a poor sportsman. 'In the history of the British Empire', wrote J.E.C. Welldon, headmaster of Harrow, 'it is written that England has owed her sovereignty to her sports' (quoted in [Holt, 1992](http://www.credoreference.com.libproxy.unm.edu/entry.do?id=10409103#bib21_bib11): 205).

Secondly, sport provided a cultural home from home for the colonial elite, strengthening their solidarity, buttressing their identity and preserving their exclusiveness while away from Britain. Lawn sports, such as tennis, house sports, such as snooker, and modern sports of the British elite, such as horseracing, cricket and rugby football all flourished in the imperial territories.

Thirdly, imperial sport often reflected a high military presence (a third of the British army was stationed in India in the late nineteenth century) and promoted the honing of military skills, such as shooting and horsemanship: pigsticking and polo are examples here.

Fourthly, sport was a means to the building of cultural bridges. Vast territories such as India could not be governed successfully by a foreign power without the acquiescence of local elites. For example, Indian princes regularly hunted and played polo with colonial administrators and several of them played cricket for England - notably Prince K.S. Ranjitsinjhi, later a Maharajah, who played 15 tests for England between 1896 and 1904.

Moreover, sports such as cricket helped to promote the loyalty of the 'white' territories, reconciling nationalism and empire loyalty in the form of what was widely referred to as 'colonial nationalism' (see e.g. [Eddy and Schreuder, 1988](http://www.credoreference.com.libproxy.unm.edu/entry.do?id=10409103#bib21_bib7)). As Holt observes: 'Affection for the "Old Country" was tinged with a sharply democratic "Jack's as good as his master" attitude' ([Holt, 1992](http://www.credoreference.com.libproxy.unm.edu/entry.do?id=10409103#bib21_bib11): 232).

Title: "[Imperialism/The Post-Colonial](http://www.credoreference.com.libproxy.unm.edu/entry/sageukss/imperialism_the_post_colonial)."

Source: Key Concepts in Sports Studies. London: Sage UK, 2009.

Database Info: Credo Reference. Web. 04 September 2013.