

Abstract

The thesis examines the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 and their subsequent boycott. This significant sporting event was adversely affected by the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan at the end of 1979. In response, the USA and several other countries decided to boycott the Moscow Olympics, with a total of 65 nations choosing not to participate, making it the largest boycott in the history of the Olympic Games. To understand the context, the international political situation in the 1980s is analyzed, along with the subsequent reasons for the boycott. The thesis also provides important facts regarding the organization of the Games (such as facilities, venues, the Olympic Village), the Soviet Union's preparations for the 22nd Olympic Games in Moscow, and the subsequent response of Soviet diplomacy to the boycott. A section of the thesis is dedicated to three athletes, of whom only one could participate in the Olympics. The objective of this work was not only to describe Soviet foreign policy but also to illustrate how sports can be exploited for propaganda. In the context of the Olympic Games, the relationship between the Soviet Union and not only the USA but also other countries is reflected. The thesis reveals that the easing of tensions was in the past, and there was a renewed deterioration in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, making the boycott an effective tool in foreign policy.