

# Sochi Winter Olympics 2014 - Reintroducing geopolitics?

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# Outline

- \* Olympic protests 1896-2008
- \* Case: Norwegian NGOs and Beijing Olympics 2008
- \* Sochi Olympics 2014: the reintroduction of geopolitics?

# Winter Games versus Summer Games

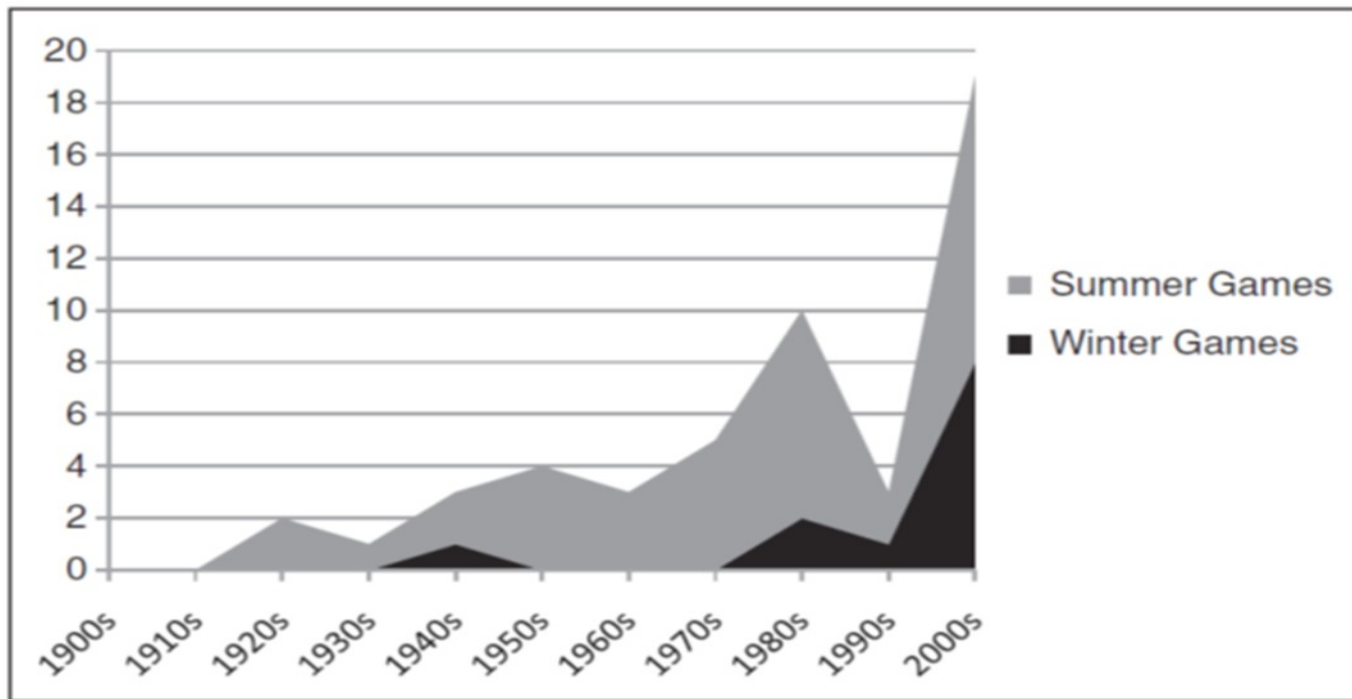


Figure I. Instances of Olympic protest, 1896–2008

M. Patrick Cottrell and Travis Nelson (2011)

# Olympic Protests 1896-2008

**Table 1.** Olympic protest by type

	1896–1924	1925–1949	1950–1974	1975–1999	2000–2008
Bans	2	2	2	1	1
Boycotts	0	2	4	9	0
Demonstrations	0	0	2	6	17

M. Patrick Cottrell and Travis Nelson (2011)

# Case: Norwegian NGOs – Beijing Olympics a success?

	Amnesty International Norway	The Norwegian Tibet Committee	The Norwegian Helsinki Committee	Norwegian P.E.N.	The Rafto Foundation for Human Rights	Network for Human Rights in China	The Norwegian Burma Committee	Norwegian Union of Journalists
Negative to Beijing Games		(X)				(X)		
Took advantage of Games	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Games worsened HR situation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(X)
Happy with own campaign	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Important and correct decision for the organization to use Beijing Games as an arena	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Present in Beijing								
Want to use future Games	X	(X)	X	X	X	(X)	(X)	X

# The Geopolitics of Sochi Olympics

- **Russia as a Super Power**
  - Olympic Truce (6 November?)
- **Russia as a Regional Actor**
  - Circassians
  - Georgian knot
- **Russia as a target for activists**
  - anti-gay law protests
- **Norway as a Winter Super Power**
  - Pressure on NOC and government