



World Football in the 21st Century: A Manifesto

10 Proposals for the reform *and* revolution of FIFA

Prof. Tim Walters
Okanagan College, B.C.,
Canada

www.timwalters.ca

Slavoj Žižek



“The most dangerous philosopher in the West”

- *The New Republic*

Žižekian analytical assumptions:

- a. “It’s the economy, stupid.”
- b. Solutions must be found beyond the football/capitalist *denkverbot*
- c. FIFA manages a globally shared resource: our love of football
- d. Capitalism struggles to manage problems of the contemporary commons
- e. (Football) capitalism has victims
- f. Football needs new ideologies (“unknown knowns”) if it is to change

10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA



“[i]n football we win if we obey the rules. In politics we win if we have the audacity to change the rules.”

- Slavoj Žižek

10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

1. Term limits of four years for every elected position within FIFA, as well as for each of its national associations and the confederations.



10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

2. Absolute governance and accounting transparency for the entirety of FIFA, as well as for each of its national associations and confederations.



10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

3. Moves towards broader, more direct, and greater involvement in football governance by all of its stakeholders and communities of interests.

10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

4. Abolish recently erected barriers to involvement.



10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

5. FIFA needs to get political (or stop pretending that it isn't) and take a stand in those areas where it can and should.

10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

6. The patriarchs of the FIFA family need to prepare themselves for austerity...



10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

7...and some of them should prepare for a lot worse than that.



10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

8. FIFA needs to properly represent all of the communities it represents.

10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

9. FIFA needs to get out of the business of deciding who gets to host the World Cup finals: they aren't any good at it. Let the players decide!



10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

10. FIFA should be made to be precisely what it claims to be: “For the Game. For the World.”

10 Proposals for the reform and revolution of FIFA

We can revolutionize FIFA while “struggling for freedom, for respect for human beings, for equality, for ample and unrestricted discussions, for a professional democratization of unforeseen limits, and all of this while preserving the ludic, and the joyous, and the pleasurable nature of this activity.”

- Socrates (footballer/philosopher)





Website: www.timwalters.ca
Email: TWalters@okanagan.bc.ca