

And the Sun Shines Now: How Hillsborough and the Premier League Changed Britain

Adrian Tempany

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'They should put this on the national curriculum.'
DAVID PEACE

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ADRIAN TEMPANY 

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Adrian Tempany : And the Sun Shines Now: How Hillsborough and the Premier League Changed Britain before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And the Sun Shines Now: How Hillsborough and the Premier League Changed Britain:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. INFORMATIVE By Whippany Reader Good overview of the modernization of British soccer from the 1980s to the current day, viewing Hillsborough (the author survived the

disaster) as a pivotal moment in the process. Very political - anti-Thatcher, anti-markets, and often thinly veiled or even overt socialism - but I found the book to be informative, and at times insightful. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Hillsborough Survivor Tackles Much More than Just the Disaster By Eddie Smith I have been fascinated with the Hillsborough Disaster since seeing ESPN's 30 For 30 Documentary on Hillsborough in April 2014, so much so that I picked up this book from the publisher even before it was available through . Author Adrian Tempany is a Liverpool fan who was caught in the crush inside Pen 3 at Hillsborough on April 15, 1989. The first two chapters of the book are as amazing as anything I have read about what it was like to be in the middle of the disaster. Tempany writes about a stack of bodies he believed to be alive simply falling over in a heap once the gates separating the pitch from the terraces were finally opened. He also writes about the stench of vomit, urine and excrement, and his entire body going numb from the crush of people inside the pens at Hillsborough. But only the first two chapters and the final chapter are about the Hillsborough Disaster itself. In between, Tempany focuses on the many changes to English soccer in the quarter century since Hillsborough. The book is fascinating, but it is also a long and difficult read at places. The book is 396 pages without any pictures. At times, the book takes a left-wing political slant in the context of how the Thatcher administration viewed soccer fans in the 1980s, and the working class in general. The book does go deep into a sociological examination of how English soccer has priced out working-class and lower middle class fans in the decades since Hillsborough. The book takes a harsh view of the emergence of the Premier League, skyrocketing ticket prices and television packages that mean viewers in Europe and the United States are more important to Premier League teams than the local supporters who identified with the clubs for generations. At various places throughout the book, Tempany openly laments that everything was so much better when he grew up in the 1970s - soccer wise and economically. Tempany opines many times throughout the book of the loss of terraces in the upper levels of English soccer as a result of Hillsborough, even though the cause of Hillsborough was a stadium lacking the proper safety certification to handle so many fans in the Leppings Lane end of the stadium. Tempany visits three clubs in Germany (FC Schalke 04, Hamburger SV and FC St. Pauli) and focuses a significant portion of the book to longingly describing the German model of club ownership, affordable ticket prices and terrace areas where supporters are still allowed to stand while watching games. The week spent in Germany leaves Tempany disillusioned with the state of English soccer, the sky-high prices for Premier League tickets in England and wealthy foreign owners gobbling up England's iconic clubs for use as rich men's toys. The book is a fascinating, albeit not an easy, read. Some of the political machinations in the book are a bit dry to plow through. But as an American, I learned so much about Hillsborough that I never knew before and how a native Brit feels that two decades of the Premier League has left fans like him behind for the sake of cultivating fans around the world. Tempany repeatedly makes the point that English clubs that used to be rooted in their local community are now nothing more than worldwide commodities not interested in whether or not local supporters can attend games. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. By Adam Burns One of the most comprehensive, thoughtful soccer books there is. About so much more than Hillsborough, but gives a riveting, chilling account of the events from the disaster and makes a compelling case for its role in the transformation of British society. The author knows his soccer and places it in the greater social scheme.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE GORDON BURN PRIZE FEATURED IN THE OBSERVER'S SPORTS WRITERS' BOOKS OF THE YEAR On 15 April 1989, 96 people were fatally injured on a football terrace at an FA Cup semi-final in Sheffield. The Hillsborough disaster was broadcast live on the BBC; it left millions of people traumatised, and English football in ruins. And the Sun Shines Now is not a book about Hillsborough. It is a book about what arrived in the wake of unquestionably the most controversial tragedy in the post-war era of Britain's history. The Taylor Report. Italia 90. Gazza's tears. All seater stadia. Murdoch. Sky. Nick Hornby. The Premier League. The transformation of a game that once connected club to community to individual into a global business so rapacious the true fans have been forgotten, disenfranchised. In powerful polemical prose, against a backbone of rigorous research and interviews, Adrian Tempany deconstructs the past quarter century of English football and examines its place in the world. How did Hillsborough and the death of 96 Liverpool fans come to change the national game beyond recognition? And is there any hope that clubs can reconnect with a new generation of fans when you consider the startling statistic that the average age of season ticket holder here is 41, compared to Germany's 21? Perhaps the most honest account of the relationship between the football and the state yet written, And the Sun Shines Now is a brutal assessment of the modern game.

About the Author Adrian Tempany is a Liverpool supporter and a journalist who has written for the Observer and the Financial Times.