URGENT

To: DR. HENRY KISSINGER  860-927-1198
From: FAREED ZAKARIA

Dear Henry,

This is superb, not just more than I had hoped for but a fascinating meditation that abstracts out the essential elements of soccer. I would not dare to say this is your real expertise but clearly a real passion.

My tweaks are all suggestions. It is brilliant as is. Just have your office email me a final before you leave for Europe.

All best,

[Signature]
ARTICLE

On June 9, host country Germany will open the competition for the 2006 soccer World Cup by playing Costa Rica, inaugurating a month of football frenzy. For the first two weeks, there will be three matches a day as the thirty-two survivors of a global competition that started three years ago are whittled down to sixteen by playing in eight groups of four. The top two teams of each group advance to a sudden-death round, culminating, after some 62 matches, in the final on July 9 in Berlin. Thus each team is guaranteed a minimum of three games, and the ultimate winner must prevail in seven games over the course of a month. Billions around the world will be glued to their television sets when the games are being played; this means early morning hours in Asia for the evening games. Millions will find ways to
interrupt their work schedules. The national morale in winners and losers will be affected particularly by the sudden-death elimination games.

I will be one of those viewers and have arranged my schedule to accommodate its necessities. Most viewers would find it difficult to describe what it is about the game that so enthralls the world. They would probably identify it with their passionate adherence to their favorite team—a passion that, in America, is shared only [by] the fanatical adherence of major college football teams.

I grew up in Fuerth, a little town in southern Germany, where soccer had the status of football in Green Bay. Soccer in the 1920s and 1930s was played by amateurs, and it happened that Fuerth won the German championship there [for the first] time in a decade. I have not lived in Germany for many more decades than I care to admit, [but] I still follow the fortunes of that club, which has fallen on
hard times in the age of high salaries and has been relegated to the
second division. It makes periodic efforts to emerge from this
condition but always manages to fall just short of the third place in the
standings, which would enable it to advance - thereby guaranteeing
the continuation of misery and hope that sustains the typical football
fan. (This is true even of Brazilian fans, whose national team wins
every third World Cup - a higher number than any other nation - but
not satisfactory to its irrepressible and buoyant fans.)

But those fans who go beyond the frenzy evoked by eleven men
on each side maneuvering a ball along a 100-meter long field into an
opposing goal [see] additional mysteries of the game reveal
themselves. For one thing, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged
distances requires an activity analogous to ballet. Especially teams
that concentrate on this aspect of the game - like the Brazilians and
many South American teams - astonish one with their versatility and
abandon. On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by
their artistry that they forget that the purpose of the game is to score
goals, and they are sometimes overcome by more elementary and
\textit{single-minded} tactically-oriented teams. [The former – dribbling & passing
but not scoring – are surely all tactics \& no strategy.]

This is because only the rarest players – Pelé for Brazil,
Maradona for Argentina, Platini for France – can score goals by
essentially solitary efforts. For almost all other circumstances, it is
teams, not players, which win games. The reductive quality of soccer
focuses on the almost intellectual penetration with which the best
teams move the ball down the field to solve the challenge, which
seems so simple but is prone to turn into a riddle: how to get a ball
past eleven opponents, with each side moving at high speed, one of
whom – the goalie – is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball.

This turns the game into an exercise like a mathematical equation, an
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to launch an unimpeded shot on the goal. The great field generals like Zidane or Beckenbauer had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed inconceivable in the abstract and self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is thus a game of complicated simplicity.

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The practical consequence is that goals are much harder to come by and that defense tends to dominate over offense, at least compared to the situation when I first became acquainted with the game. Teams therefore play first of all not to lose and rarely launch all-out attacks.

[you might note this is an interesting contrast to most other sports than have become more high-scoring over time.]
unless, of course, they find themselves behind. Since the number of points on the field from which a shot on goal has a prospect of leading to a goal is finite, a disciplined defense can occasionally thwart a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached Greek team defeated a Portuguese team of probably superior individual players in the 2004 European Cup, and a very disciplined German team overcame a marvelous team from the Netherlands in the World Cup of 1974. Similarly, almost every Italian national team over the decades has relied on its tenacious defense to wear down the opponent. These theoretical aspects can be illustrated by looking at the finals of the World Cup over the last twenty-five years. I have attended seven of the last nine and never cease to be mesmerized by their different character[s].

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In 1978, the Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid hometown crowd. In an extraordinary game, the Dutch tied an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European killer instinct in the last minute. But as four years earlier, they could not stay the course and lost in overtime to the home team, providing a demonstration of the healing power of soccer. Argentina was wracked
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after the Argentine victory, Buenos Aires celebrated with such
tumultuous abandon as to observe for a brief moment the bitterness of
the national style. [I don't quite understand this. Why]

In the remaining final, I saw Italy beat Germany in Madrid in
1982. An Italian team that had been lethargic in the early group
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Not having seen the national teams, I dare not make a prediction. I expect England to reclaim major role, though the recent injury of its star player Rooney reduces its prospects. This may be the year for an African team to emerge; their technical brilliance has so far been thwarted by lack of experience. The United States plays in a very difficult initial group. It would have to overcome Italy and [the] Czech Republic, both established soccer powers, to reach the elimination
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But those fans who go beyond the frenzy, evoked by eleven men on each side maneuvering a ball along a 100-meter long field into an opposing goal (see) additional mysteries of the game reveal themselves. For one thing, manipulating a ball by foot for prolonged distances requires an activity analogous to ballet. Especially teams that concentrate on this aspect of the game – like the Brazilians and many South American teams – astonish one with their versatility and
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On the other hand, they sometimes are so infatuated by activity they forget that the purpose of the game...
is to score goals and they are sometimes overcome by more elementary and tactically minded teams.

This is because only the recent players communicate - Peru for Brazil, Maradona for Argentina, Pelé for France - can score goals by essentially solitary efforts. For almost all other circumstances it is teams and players which win games. The deductive quality of soccer resides in its intellectual penetration with the ball which teams move the ball down the field to score the challenge which seems so simple but is proved true with a visible clean. How to get a halfback* throw opponent [will each side moving at high speed] one of whom allows the goalie is permitted to use his hands to intercept the ball. This turns the game into an exercise like a mathematical equation, an ability to find and uncover open space, and to a point from which to launch an unexpected shot and
the goal. The great field generals like Zahn or Beckenbauer had the uncanny skill of distributing the ball among their teammates in a manner that seemed inevitable in its abstract and inevitably self-evident in execution. Soccer at its highest level is thus a game of complicated simplicity.

And look to the rows of defenders in formation strategically. Robert Graves wrote the game in increasing complexity when it first started to become a law. The ten field players were distributed with five attackers, three midfield players, and two defenders. As a result, the attackers usually outnumbered the defenders—especially as the players wore other than white—were not as well conditioned as to play to stay on the field in their assigned positions. Thus, there was no radical change in deployment has taken place. It started with the midfield becoming ultimately, in effect, a strict defense, and one of the forwards taking its place at midfield. By now it has evolved into redeploying the attackers...
The 4:4:2 system is among the most widely used.

As a practical matter, one of the midfielders is usually assigned the role of libero in order to act as a "sweeper" on defense and with rematching to most threatened positions on the field. Bedrocken gave the role an additional significance by acting as a "quarterback" on defense and as an "offense" in directing the speed of modern games and the conditioning of the players against a kind of total football which means that whatever the original positions of his players his task is to reassign the center of gravity, attack or defense depending on the situation.

The practical consequence is that forces much harder to come by that defense tends to diminish once offense at least compared to the situation when
I first became acquainted with the game. However, the play itself is one that is rare and rarely found all over the world, unless of course they find themselves that behind. Since the number of good coaches field from which a good team has a high prospect of leading to a goal in front a disciplined defense can occasionally throw a technically superior team. Thus a superbly coached team defeated a slightly, team of the not so superior international players in the 2004 European cup and a very disciplined German team, which overcame a combative team from the Netherlands in the World cup of 1974. Both teams were not only to wear down the other. These theoretical aspects can be illustrated by the bowing of all the finals of the World cup over the last 25 years. Two extended never of the best win and never cease to be remembered by their different characters.
football, led by its incomparable Pelé toward an
all-but-inevitable victory, the Brazilian
them literally threw a very good team into the
grounded by a score of 4:1. The Italian team was
frighteningly successful in international football given
it the opportunity to apply its slickness with
frightening the opponent to such an extent by
a give-no-quarter defense. But Brazil did not
play by the book. It abandoned its tactical
formation and entered the game with each and every
player in a wild offense literally running the field.
Penalty was ruled
for the Argentinians
in overtime and
that Holland was
eliminated. While
tactically, the Dutch
made a psychological shift from the tables in 1974.

Game between the Netherlands and Germany, the Dutch
was elegant and offensive-minded. It was one of the all-time greats—Caryff. It had defeated Brazil in the semifinals by the simplicity of its movement. In the final, rather than the individuality of bootwork, the referee awarded a penalty kick on the outside of the box instead of a free-kick on the outside of the box. In the first minute, gaining a 1-0 lead, it was a posed goal. For it tempted the Dutch to abandon their finely tuned game in favor of a stilted style of defense. The Germans led by Beckenbauer, however, then swarmed into an all-out attack successfully defended by a seasoned home public. This led to a 2:1 lead which Germany defended tenaciously through its entire half. But 1978, the Netherlands found itself once more in a final before a rabid home crowd.

In an extraordinary game the Dutch faced an Argentine team playing with Brazilian flair and European resilience. Both teams had played earlier. As in the two previous games, they could not stay the course and
proceeding
but in strengthen to the team. Argentina a demonstration of the leading power of soccer. Argentina was reached difficult conditions that official thought for future guests had to more with armed events. But for forty-eight hours after the Argentina meeting, celebrated with end. 

Bremer, his most successful times, was to observe for a brief moment the northmen of the national stage.

In the soccer game, all together in Germany, the seven games I watched I saw Brazil twice and Argentina sent Italy three times and the Netherlands twice. The only team that\right\}
went through France

\text{What football meaning for the} \text{What to these the World Cup elite is}\text{historically small? Well this elite be branded in the World Cup about to left it stand to judge that had not make a prediction. I expect England to reclaim a place in the role through the recent signing of its star}
In the remaining games, Italy beat Germany in the final in 1982, and an Italian team that had been氐 through the 1970s, emerged as dominant early. France became dominant in its finals.

In 1990, an unimposing French national team became a lackluster and unimaginative Argentine. In 1998, an older French team overcame a Brazilian team which after a brilliant semi-final victory met the Netherlands. France inexplicably lost.

The most disappointing match for me was the final of the 1994 world cup at The Rose Bowl in Pasadena. As honorary chairman of the organizing committee, I last hoped for a life-saving match that might do for American soccer what its triumphs did for football fans of 1980's which inspired the public interest in professional football.

Unfortunately, this game was divided.
in a penalty shootout after 120 minutes of scoreless tactical maneuvering.

What was...
Player Rooney reduces his prospects. This may be the year for an African team to emerge. Their lack of technical brilliance has so far been outweighed by their fighting spirit.

The United States plays in a very difficult initial group. It would love to overcome Italy, both established soccer power, and equal Republic for reach the final elimination round. If it loses and faces the US team, many read the US as official. The German team has been a mystery. It has a new manager and a passionate public support.

If it gets in a roll, it could go far. Then stand this is always Brazil which will guarantee excitement and fans arriving for bygones rather than bygones. Even July 9? But we will know the answer in the meantime.

32 games guarantee to make the Chase for football of even the most critical fans - to its extent they had addiction to the game, pursuant to.