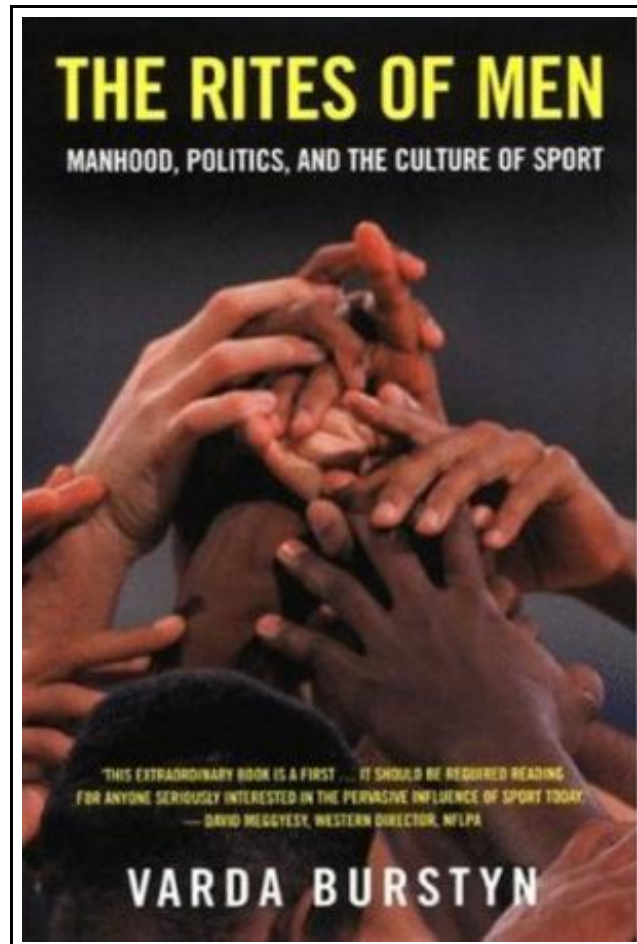


## The Rites of Men: Manhood, Politics, and the Culture of Sport



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## THE RITES OF MEN: MANHOOD, POLITICS, AND THE CULTURE OF SPORT



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University of Toronto Press, Downsview, Ontario, Canada, 1999. Soft cover. Condition: New. 388 Pages. (The Toronto Star, August 28, 1999) Varda Burstyn argues in the strongest possible academic language that too many men (as well as plenty of women), too often are sucked into the vortex of what she terms the 'sport nexus,' a sort of black hole of testosterone and boob-tube-induced stupor. (The Toronto Star, August 28, 1999) A feminist and leftist, Burstyn views modern sport as a bedrock foundation of capitalism and the gender war. Change it, as she desires, and you'd change society. Yes, she may well be a revolutionary. The Rites of Men challenges the status quo at every turn. It may outrage some readers, but open others' eyes. The writing is filled with copious anecdotes and references, carefully catalogued. The book will quickly, we predict, wind up in libraries and on university reading lists. The Ottawa Citizen, August 13, 1999 Ms. Burstyn invested 10 years of research into the workings of what she calls the 'sports nexus'--the 'web of associated and interlocking organizations that includes sport, media, industry, government, public education, and recreation'--and concluded that its appeal and reach will flourish in the next century, to the detriment of other forms of physical recreation. Sport, when it interacts with other forms of culture, generates the ideology of 'hypermasculinity'--the exaggerated ideal of manhood that is linked mythically and practically to the role of the warrior. Boys will be gladiators--or at least wannabe gladiators. 'Sport has become the great masculine secular religion of our era,' says Ms. Burstyn, 'And as such, it plays a profound and usually invisible role in our interpersonal, work, and political lives.' \$Q\$~ (The Globe and Mail, Toronto, July 24, 1999.) Top of the Editor's Choice list. From the...



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