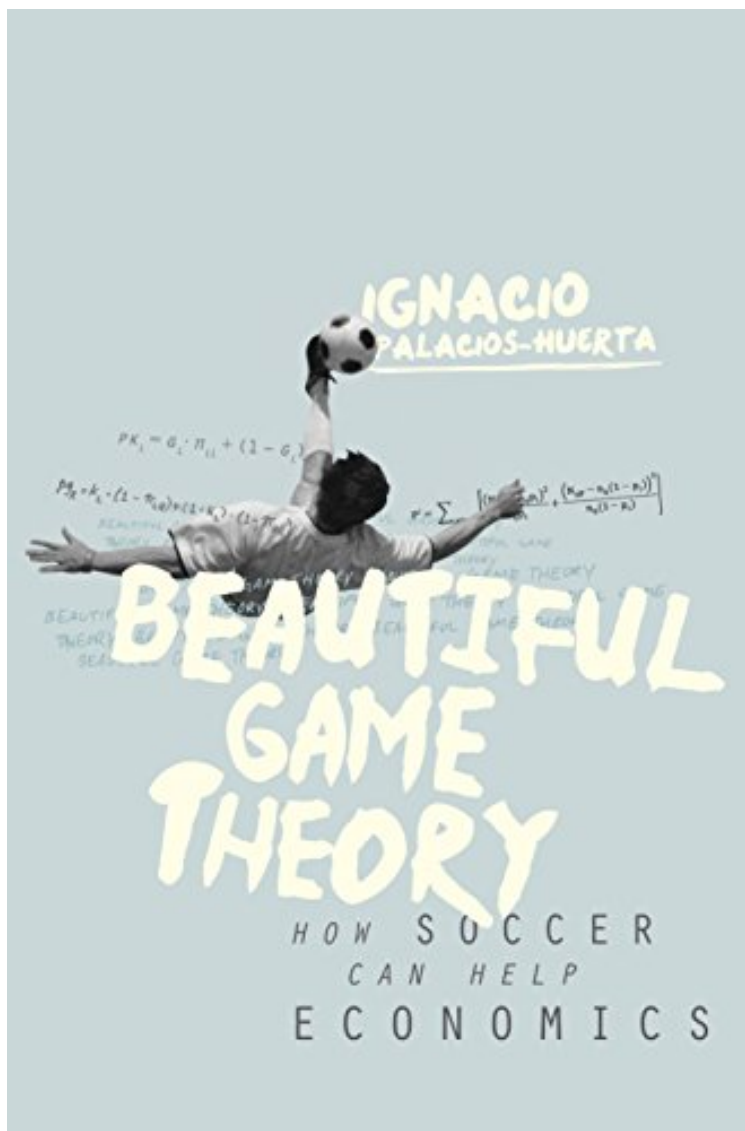


## Beautiful Game Theory: How Soccer Can Help Economics

Ignacio Palacios-Huerta

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**Ignacio Palacios-Huerta : Beautiful Game Theory: How Soccer Can Help Economics** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beautiful Game Theory: How Soccer Can Help Economics:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good natural experiment analysis, claims get tiresome. By Julio1ferThe book is a collection of articles, applying statistics and economic theory to analyze results and situations in series of soccer games (practically all of them in the Spanish Liga). Somehow I have the impression that each chapter was written as a stand-alone paper, and the book was made putting the individual papers together under some kind of structure. The phenomena analyzed cover most phases of the game: penalty shots, attendance, behavior of

referees under pressure. But be warned: this is not a book about soccer - it is a book about natural experiments (very well identified and isolated) on economic theory and game theory, analyzed with rigorous statistical tools. Scientifically, it is an excellent contribution. It would make an excellent text to use in an advanced course about experiment analysis or applied statistics (and of course, game theory). I found the book original and very readable. Why not more stars? The claims on the originality of the approach, the value of using the soccer model, and the value of the contribution are featured extensively in each of the chapters, often through several pages. It becomes a bit tiresome, after you read it for the Nth time. These claims would be understandable if you consider each chapter in isolation, as a typical paper in a journal, but the repetition is not really needed in a book. Maybe in a second edition the author will be able to trim these sections, or dedicate a chapter just to these claims. I hope more economists turn to sports as a model!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars  
By Iohannes Magnus  
A great (nontrivial) use of Game Theory using football (soccer in US) as examples.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Dr. Charles Saunders  
Wonderful book - unbelievably insightful way to look at game theory.

A wealth of research in recent decades has seen the economic approach to human behavior extended over many areas previously considered to belong to sociology, political science, law, and other fields. Research has also shown that economics can provide insight into many aspects of sports, including soccer. Beautiful Game Theory is the first book that uses soccer to test economic theories and document novel human behavior. In this brilliant and entertaining book, Ignacio Palacios-Huerta illuminates economics through the world's most popular sport. He offers unique and often startling insights into game theory and microeconomics, covering topics such as mixed strategies, discrimination, incentives, and human preferences. He also looks at finance, experimental economics, behavioral economics, and neuroeconomics. Soccer provides rich data sets and environments that shed light on universal economic principles in interesting and useful ways. Essential reading for students, researchers, and sports enthusiasts, Beautiful Game Theory is the first book to show what soccer can do for economics.

"[E]njoyably accessible to nonspecialists, especially sports enthusiasts, who will learn a great deal about soccer, economics, and human behavior more generally."--Foreign Affairs  
Beautiful Game Theory shows what it is like to think deeply about a sport and to test your ideas with data. . . . [I]t is a book I recommend unconditionally to those economists with even a passing sport."--John Considine, Sportseconomics.org  
From the Back Cover  
"This stimulating book shows that an understanding of economic ideas gives deep insights into soccer play, and that soccer provides important evidence to test various theories of economic behavior, such as efficient markets and social influences on behavior. You do not have to be a soccer fan to learn from and enjoy this engaging book."--Gary S. Becker, University of Chicago and Nobel Laureate in Economics  
"This is an excellent book by an author who has made innovative and powerful contributions to our understanding of soccer and economics."--Stefan Szymanski, coauthor of Socceronomics  
"Palacios-Huerta is perhaps the preeminent economist using sports applications to help us learn about economics."--J. James Reade, University of Reading  
About the Author  
Ignacio Palacios-Huerta is professor of management, economics, and strategy at the London School of Economics, and head of talent identification at Athletic Club de Bilbao, a professional soccer club in Spain.