

Melissa Clark
Professor Marcuse
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Jesse Owens
Hero of the 1936 Olympics

(1) Gay, Peter. "A Jewish Teenager Remembers the 1936 Berlin Olympics (1998)." In *The Nazi State and German Society: A Brief History with Documents*, edited by Roger G. Moeller, 86-87. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. Print.

Peter Gay was born in 1923 in Berlin and immigrated to America in 1940. He died in 2015. He's written many books but a majority of them are about the Enlightenment. Some of his works that are relevant are *Weimar Culture: The Outsider as Insider* (1968) and *Freud, Jews, and Other Germans: Masters and Victims in Modernist Culture* (1978). According to Wikipedia and a few obituaries, in 1939 Gay and his family fled from Berlin and entered the US via Cuba in 1940. Gay confessed in his memoir (1998) that he "encountered antisemitism personally only on the very rarest of occasions...and he otherwise lived the normal life of a German Boy." Furthermore, in his writings and throughout his life, Gay "upheld and reasserted not a narrow sense of the Jewish identity which the Nazis tried to force on him, but the wider values of the civilization which the Nazis tried and failed to destroy" (Evans, *The Guardian*). It seems that Gay's most positive memory of Nazi Germany was the Olympics that he attended with his father.

This source recalls Peter's memory of the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Gay makes his hatred for the Nazis clear in the passage, but also mentions something else. He describes how he and his father were rooting for the American runner, Jesse Owens, and called him "the Hero of the Olympics" (Moeller, 87). Because it is written almost sixty years after the events took place, one must be alert to any discrepancies, falsehoods, and bias that may have occurred without Gay's intention.

(2) Daley, Arthur. Wireless to THE NEW, YORK TIMES. 1936. "110,000 SEE OWENS SET WORLD RECORD AT OLYMPIC GAMES." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Aug 03, 1. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/101822299?accountid=14522>.

This article was written by Arthur Daley (1904-1974) for *The New York Times*. In 1936, Daley covered the Olympics in Berlin as the first *New York Times* sportswriter to receive a foreign assignment. He wrote, "Jesse Owens glides over the track with the grace of a streamlined express flying over the open prairie." The article describes Owens's win in the 100 Meters.

- (3) Daley, Arthur. Wireless to THE NEW, YORK TIMES. 1936. "Owens Captures Olympic Title, Equals World 100-Meter Record." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Aug 04, 1. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/101830891?accountid=14522>.

Daley mentions that "German nationalism and the prejudice that seems to go with it revealed themselves somewhat disagreeably this afternoon." This statement was made after Hitler retired to his quarters early and people took this as meaning he wanted to avoid shaking hands with African Americans.

- (4) Associated Press. 1936. "OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS IN EVENTS YESTERDAY." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Aug 06, 24. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/101797617?accountid=14522>

A specific author is not listed and it mentions Owens winning 200 meter title.

- (5) Associated Press. 1936. "Robertson Calls on Owens to Run on U.S. Sprint Relay Team in Race Today." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Aug 08, 7. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/101741611?accountid=14522>.

Describes Robertson's, the head coach of US Olympic Track and Field, decision to have Owens run on the US Sprint Relay Team because he wants to win. Snyder, Owens's personal coach, also quoted a few times.

- (6) Effrat, Louis. 1936. "OWENS, BACK, GETS HEARTY RECEPTION." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Aug 25, 25. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/101813358?accountid=14522>.

The article starts out with naming Owens as an international idol and Olympic hero. In this article Owens states that when he passed "the Chancellor he arose, waved his hand at me and I waved back at him. I think the writers showed bad taste in criticizing the man of the hour in

Germany ... there was absolutely no discrimination at all" (Effrat). The article also mentions Owens going back to Ohio State and that his father gave them an interesting fact. Jesse Owens does not have a first name, just a pair of initials of "J" and "C." It wasn't until high school that he became Jesse Owens.

(7) Owens, Jesse. Interview with Deutscher Rundfunk. Berlin, 1936. Radio.

<https://archive.org/details/InterviewWithJesseOwens1936>

Deutscher Rundfunk interview with Jesse Owens in Berlin in 1936. It was published on July 28, 1936. The interviewer asked Owens how he was liking the Olympic Village and if he gets American food. The transcript and recording are incomplete but it is a piece of history that has survived many years. The interview took place on July 28, 1936 during the Berlin Olympics with Jesse Owens about a week before his victories. The interview piece is 2 minutes and 48 seconds.

(8) *Olympia*. Dir. Leni Riefenstahl. Tobis, 1938. Film.

The film was the first documentary feature film of any Olympic Games and was used as German propaganda. It has video of Jesse Owens competing. It was made during the Olympics and showed many competitors from different countries. One of the many interesting things portrayed in the film is the friendship formed between Owens and his German rival, Luz Long. Long gave Owens advice that ultimately led to him qualifying for the long jump, which he won. Long was the first person to congratulate Owens on his win. The film also shows how much the crowd, including the Germans, rooted and supported Owens.

(9) Schaap, Jeremy. *Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler's Olympics*. New York: Mariner Books, 2008. Print.

The book documents Owens' journey to the 1936 Berlin Olympics and then the astounding victories he achieved. The author got interviews and aid from Owens' family, drew on unpublished interviews, and did lots of archival research. The book also describes how Owens captivated nations and dispels the rumor about Hitler's "snub" to Owens. This book is a tad stylized and the author goes into storyteller mode a few times to dramatize events. This isn't a dry, straightforward biography.

(10) *Race*. Dir. Stephen Hopkins. Perf. Stephan James, Jason Sudeikis, Jeremy Irons, William Hurt, and Carice van Houten. Focus Features and TriStar Pictures, 2016. Film.

Race is a 2016 German-American biographical sports drama film. The film recounts Owens' journey to the Olympics and the obstacles that he faced like heated debates, the question of whether or not the United States would boycott the Olympics in Nazi Germany, and racism, faced both at home and abroad. I haven't seen the film, but critics gave it a 60% and praised the performance of Stephen James as Jesse Owens.