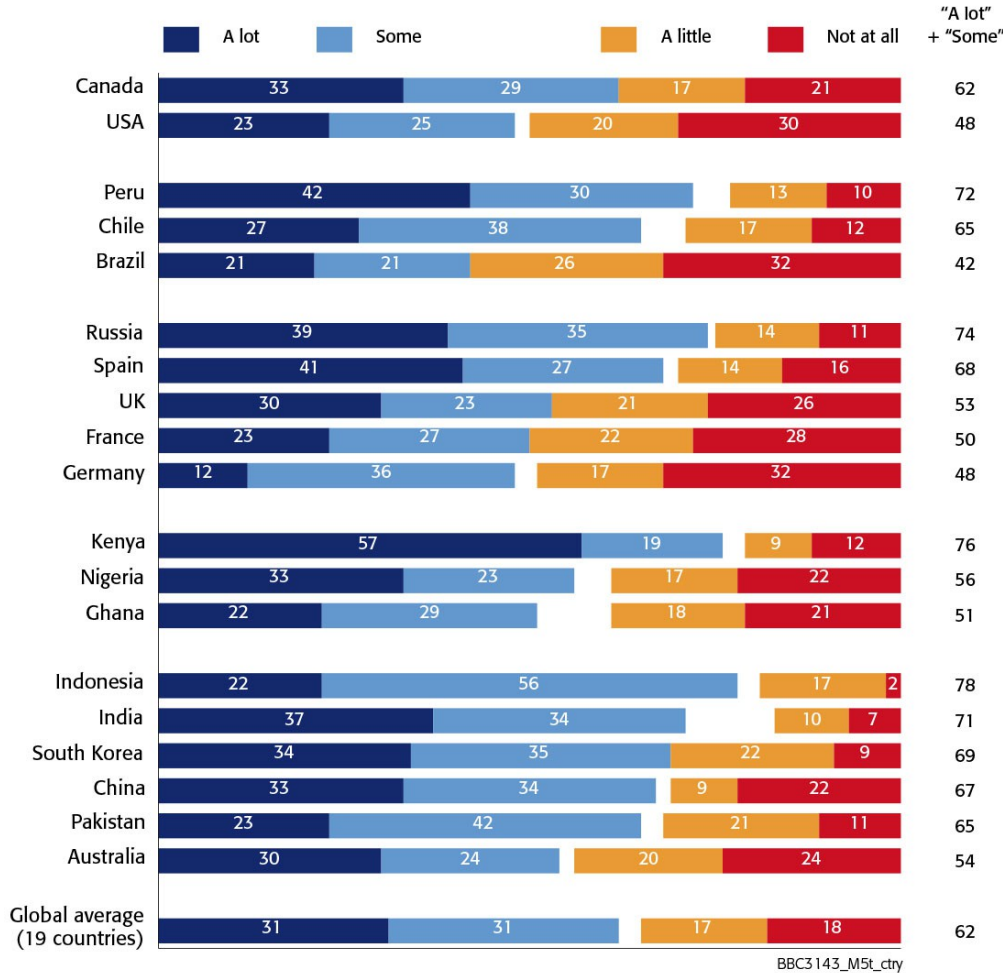


# How important are The Olympics for nations ?

## Doc.1

Effect of Olympic Performance on Pride People Feel of Being Citizens of Their Countries  
By Country, 2016



The white space in this chart represents "Don't know / not applicable."

## Doc. 2



### Doc. 3



July 31, 2016, Murad Ahmed and Joe Leahy

## Rio 2016: The high price of Olympic glory

*A brittle global economy means many cities can no longer afford to stage the 'greatest show on earth'*

[...] The Olympic movement is no stranger to crisis. Corruption and terrorist attacks have overshadowed previous games and fears over both have dogged Rio. [...] The run-up to the Rio opening ceremony has been dominated by a doping scandal that has seen several Russian athletes banned from taking part.

However, for many on the International Olympic Committee [...], it is the spiralling cost of putting on the [world's largest sporting event](#) that poses the greatest threat to its future. The bidding for the 2024 summer games has followed the pattern of the 2022 winter edition — with city after city ditching Olympic ambitions as residents balk at the price.

### Boom to bust

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In 2009 when Rio was named as the 2016 host, Brazil was going through one of its best periods. [...] Today, it faces its deepest recession in more than a century, sparked by a collapse in the global commodities market but compounded by interventionist government policies and corruption scandals. [...]

Public support for the games has fallen, [...] 50 per cent of Brazilians oppose its staging in their country [...].

The city government calculates that the games have cost \$4.1bn in direct expenses such as arenas and the athletes village, for which 80 per cent of funding has come from the private sector. That total does not include transport and other infrastructure costs. [...]

## Arguing about the economics

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Often promoted as a symbol of national vitality, governments have previously argued that the event creates a fiscal stimulus that outlasts the 17-day show but politicians are losing the argument over the games' economic value. [...]

“It is sometimes argued that the deficit will be made up in the long run through increased tourism, trade and investment,” [Stefan Szymanski ] says “The data doesn’t suggest that happens.”

## Changing the playing field

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[...] Host cities produce regeneration plans, while the IOC advises how the games could be designed to fit around those ambitions. Cities are encouraged to use existing stadiums. The preference for a “compact Games,” where most competitions and the Olympic Village are in a single location, has been abandoned.

Yet, the austere message is making little difference in the bidding to host the summer Olympics in 2024. [...]

Even with these troubles, Mr Payne insists the Olympics will thrive as long as it is watched by hundreds of millions of people and considered the pinnacle of sporting success. [...]

“You have to be asleep at the wheel to not notice there are cities pulling out, and that there is a deep problem,” he says. “But I think Rio will surprise people. It will look stunning on television. And remember, the IOC controls the TV signal.”

### Doc. 4



**Sam Amick,** *August 19, 2016*

## Kevin Durant: Olympics taking on new meaning in light of troubles in U.S.

Had he ever felt chills during an NBA game, the kind that made him feel the way he did in Wednesday’s Team USA win over Argentina when the player-inspired chants of “U-S-A” came pouring down?

“I had some chills when we went to the Finals in 2012 (with the Oklahoma City Thunder); a tear rolled down my eyes in that moment,” Durant, who signed with the Golden State Warriors last month, said after practice on Thursday. “But you can’t really put into words (what it feels like when) you’re so united like that.

“You look in the stands, and you see everybody that has an American flag on, or red, white and blue. And it’s not about the Warriors or the Raptors or the Clippers or the Knicks, it’s all about Team USA.”

All during the Olympics, a debate has circulated about the true meaning of a gold medal to the modern day NBA player. New York Knicks star Carmelo Anthony said his two Olympic golds were enough to complete his career, that he could retire content even if he never wins an NBA title. The Clippers’ DeAndre Jordan took an even stronger stance, saying he believed an Olympic gold was more valuable than an NBA ring that he still hopes to win.

But beyond the water cooler component of that discussion, it’s more a question of patriotism than anything. How do current players truly feel about this challenge that the rest of the world takes so seriously, and how should we view what they do at the Olympics in the scope of a player’s legacy? For the purposes of these Games, [...] it matters because, there’s a direct correlation between passion and performance. [...]

But Wednesday’s game went deeper than that for Durant.

As he looked up in the stands during those final minutes against Argentina – thousands of fans from both sides chanting, flags waving, the building booming in the kind of way you never see in the NBA – he soaked in the spirit of it all and thought about how much it contrasted to the troubling times back home. If only for a moment, America’s many problems - the racial tension, police brutality, political divides and all the rest - didn’t seem quite so big.

“To see that, and to feel that unity [...] with all that’s going on in our country right now, it was amazing,” said Durant, who looked plenty motivated in the 105-78 win over Argentina in which he had 27 points, seven rebounds and six assists. “Just to hear ‘USA,’ it just shows that we’re the most powerful and greatest country there is, and to see everyone come together no matter (the) race, no matter the background, anything, just to hear that, that’s what I thought about. It was amazing, man. I wish I could’ve taped that moment, but I didn’t have my phone on me. [...]

## The Washington Post

### 11 of the biggest political moments at the Rio Olympics

[...] The [goal](#) of the Olympic Movement is to "contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind, in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play."

Now that the Games are over, here's a quick look back at some age-old disputes and modern dramas that stole some of the limelight [...].

#### 1. The two Koreas: First, some good news

The Korean Peninsula may technically still be in a state of war, but two gymnasts made a little peace. North Korea's Hong Un Jong and South Korean rival Lee Eun-Ju posed for selfies together — a rare event that the IOC president called a "great gesture."

#### 2. U.S. politics: A message to Trump

Before Ibtihaj Muhammad became the first American woman to win an Olympic medal wearing a hijab, she had some words for Donald Trump: "I think his words are very dangerous," the fencer told CNN. "I'm African American. I don't have another home to go to. My family was born here. I was born here.[...]"

#### 3. Israel and Lebanon: And they're off ...

On opening night: The Israeli team was prevented from boarding a bus filled with Lebanese athletes and heading to the Opening Ceremonies. Israel described it as a hostile act, but Lebanon's chef de mission said it was "only a small problem" that was soon resolved.

#### 4. U.S. and Russia: The Chilly War

This dispute had some drawing parallels to the Cold War rivalries of the past: First, Lilly King pointed out that Russia's Yulia Efimova had failed two blood tests. Then, King beat her in the 100-meter breaststroke, "a feat she celebrated by slapping the water in Efimova's lane then adding a bit of finger-wagging." [...]

#### 5. Egypt and Israel: Judo gets political

Egyptian judoka Islam El Shehaby was sent home by the IOC for refusing to shake the hand of an Israeli competitor who beat him. [...]

#### 6. Australia and China: Pool Wars, Part II

Australian swimmer Mack Horton referred to a Chinese competitor, Sun Yang, as a "drug cheat" before the men's 400-meter freestyle final — he noted that Sun had tested positive for a banned substance in 2014. A Chinese newspaper quickly fired back, saying Australia exists " 'at the fringes of civilization' and even getting in a jab about its infamous past as a British penal colony."

#### 7. Brazil: Not in front of the guests

[...] Twice in one day, spectators were forced to leave their seats or were expelled from stadiums for protesting Brazil's unpopular interim president, Michel Temer. [...]

## **8. Refugees: The Champions**

For the first time ever, a refugee team competed at an Olympic Games — a recognition of the record 60 million refugees in the world today. The team included two Syrian swimmers, an Ethiopian marathoner, two Congolese judokas and five South Sudanese middle-distance runners.

A mural honoring the 10 members of the first-ever Olympic refugee team is revealed on Rio de Janeiro's brand new Olympic Boulevard.

## **9. The 'misunderstanding,' starring supermodel Gisele: The home team**

The dress rehearsal for the Opening Ceremonies "struck some viewers as cringe-worthy: the moment when supermodel Gisele Bündchen got seemingly robbed by a black kid from the slums." [...]

## **10. Kuwait: Independent actions**

The IOC had banned Kuwait from international competition, so Kuwaiti shooter Fehaid Aldeehani competed, and won a gold medal, as a member of the Independent Olympic Athletes team. [...]

## **11. Ethiopia: An unambiguous symbol**

Just after crossing the finish line of the men's marathon in second place, [Ethiopian runner Feyisa Lilesa crossed his arms above his](#) head, a defiant gesture protesting his government's treatment of the Oromo tribe. [...] "If I go back to Ethiopia, maybe they will kill me," Lilesa said.