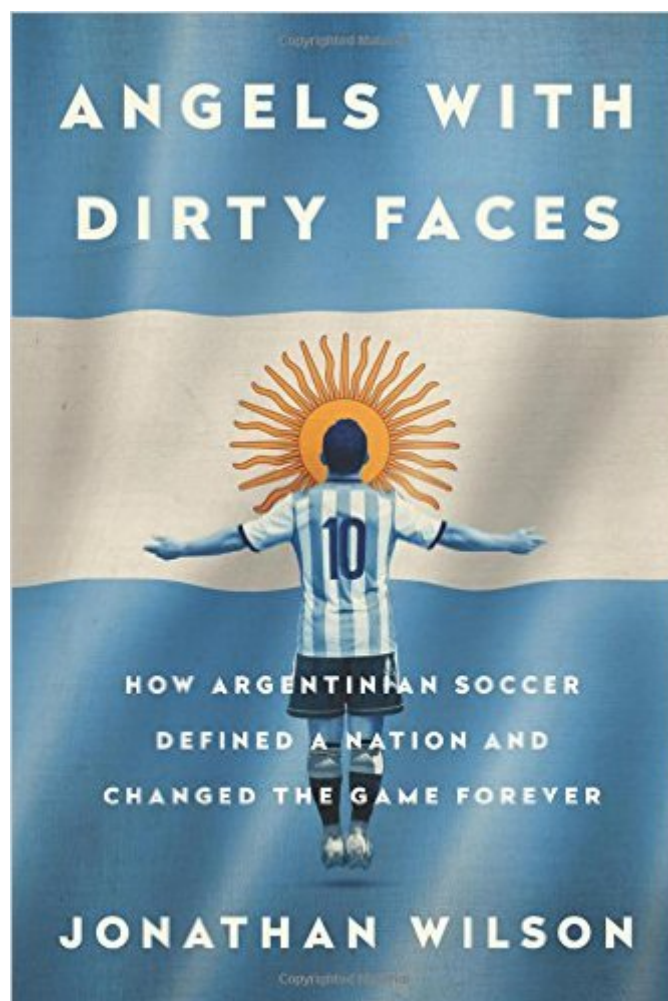


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Angels With Dirty Faces: How Argentinian Soccer Defined A Nation And Changed The Game Forever



Synopsis

Argentina has produced Alfredo Di Stéfano, Diego Maradona, and Lionel Messi; some of the greatest soccer players of all time. The country's rich, volatile history is by turns sublime and ruthlessly pragmatic. A nation obsessed with soccer, Argentina lives and breathes the game, its theories, and its myths. Jonathan Wilson lived in Buenos Aires, in an apartment between La Recoleta Cemetery; where the country's leading poets and politicians are buried; and the Huracán stadium. Like his apartment, *Angels with Dirty Faces* lies at the intersection of politics, literature, and sport. Here, he chronicles the evolution of Argentinian soccer: the appropriation of the British game, the golden age of *la nuestra*, the exuberant style of playing that developed as Juan Perón led the country into isolation, a hardening into the brutal methods of anti-fútbol, the fusing of beauty and efficacy under César Luis Menotti, and the emergence of all-time greats in Maradona and Messi against a backdrop of economic turbulence.

Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Nation Books; Trade Paper Original edition (August 23, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1568585519

ISBN-13: 978-1568585512

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is a well told story that covers the history of Argentinian soccer both within - the Argentina league - and without - in international competitions - the country. It also integrates the broader story of Argentina such as the dictatorship's attempt to use the 1978 world cup to enhance Argentina's reputation on the international stage. Though the book is not extremely technical, those without at least an intermediate level understanding of soccer tactics may wish to have Wilson's other book, *Inverting the Pyramid*, on hand to provide some background on the evolution of soccer more broadly. Overall, well worth the effort, even for those whose love of soccer is based largely on the European game.

My second Jonathan Wilson book after Inverting the pyramid, I wasn't disappointed. Painfully researched and beautifully written.

Great read

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