

Dempsey, Chris. *No Boston Olympics: how and why smart cities are passing on the torch*, by Chris Dempsey and Andrew Zimbalist. ForeEdge, 2017. 211p bibl index ISBN 9781512600582, \$27.95; ISBN 9781512600704 ebook, \$22.95.

An activist (Dempsey) and an economist (Zimbalist) walk into a bar. In *No Boston Olympics*, they recount Boston's two-and-a-half-year saga—from early 2015, when the US Olympic Committee chose Boston as its candidate to host the 2024 Summer Olympics, until July 2017, when everything came crashing down. They also cover prior-year actions leading up to Boston's bid and warnings for cities that court mega events. (The USOC replaced Boston with Los Angeles. Then, in negotiations with the International Olympic Committee, the 2024 Games went to Paris and to Los Angeles in 2028.) This detailed chronological account provides the blow-by-blow developments as the Boston bid and planning began to unravel and collapse into the bay. It is by no stretch an objective account of the people or the process but rather a one-sided, polemical rendering accompanied by all-too-frequent, mutual back-patting. Other “peasant revolts”—activists and other special-interest groups who battled over Chicago's bid for the 2016 Games and the Los Angeles candidacy for 2024 —have largely failed, so Boston may be a one-off occurrence. That said, the book provides a generalizable warning for government officials and a blueprint for those hell-bent on political or social change. Summing Up: Optional. General readers; upper-division undergraduates through professionals.