The Clue of Art: A Philosophical Interpretation of Ancient Greek Sports from the Philosophy of Art

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Abstract
With the rapid development of society, sports play a more and more important role in people’s daily life. Since four years, the Olympic Games have participated in various sports events, such as the National Youth Games, the elderly Games and the disabled Games. From the current international situation, sports have played a smaller and smaller role in protecting the country, but sports are becoming more and more important in people’s daily life. The ancient Greek city-state was the city-state of the gods and the society of sacrifice. Sports in ancient Greece is a kind of card reader for sports development. Through the sports development and philosophical interpretation of ancient Greece, we can clearly realize the importance of sports to the present society. Sports have become an indispensable part of the daily life of ancient Greek citizens, especially as part of military training and good health. Based on the analysis of the development of ancient Greek sports and the philosophical thought of ancient Greek sports, this paper summarizes the basic characteristics of the development of ancient Greek sports. This paper compares the development of ancient Greek sports with that of Chinese sports, gives some similarities and differences in their development, and gives the direction of sports development in the future.

Key words: Ancient Greek Sports, Philosophy, Chinese Sports

1. Introduction

In modern society, the crisis of human life is unprecedented, and the spiritual pain of human beings has exceeded the previous times (Fabian et al., 2018; Mckinzie, 2018; Maurer et al., 2017). The prosperous world of material world and the rapid development of science and technology have not brought the happiness and beauty originally expected, but have greatly increased the darkness of the world. The development of scientific and technological rationality increases human pride and pride, and the dependence on material and technology deprives people of the ability to feel in primitive life. Human beings rely on high consumption and exquisite life to protect their feelings and imagination, even though crazy and extreme ways to shock the numbness of the senses; Rely on advanced medicine to solve physical problems, rely on advanced psychology to solve psychological problems, rely on educational institutions to discipline children, rely on the Internet to communicate with people, rely on cars to walk; people live in a series of complex life patterns (Kitagawa and Aoyama, 2018; Depompeï and Glang, 2018). These patterns are separate from the real existence of life. And from people who master material and technology. The pursuit of good things is becoming more and more difficult to attract the natural power of moderation, humility and love in the depths of human thought. People live in unprecedented freedom and lack confidence and hope in the potential of life itself.

Due to the lack of sufficient physical activities and the deterioration of the natural ecological environment, the natural function of modern people has changed. The number of obese people is increasing and new diseases are emerging. Obesity, as a modern civilized disease, not only affects the health of individual patients, but also may be passed on to future generations, making their offspring more vulnerable to chronic diseases, disability and death. The fear of these diseases for individuals and families is enormous and difficult to solve through simple medical care.

The ancient Greek city-state was the city-state of the gods and the society of sacrifice. In order to express respect for God and heroes, the city-states pay more and more attention to sacrifice activities and invest a lot of
time and money in sports competitions prepared for sacrifice. According to Aristotle, one of the four-year festivals in Athens is to attend the Delos Festival (and a six-year festival) (Dodd, 2017). The second is Braunya, the third is Herakliya and the fourth is Eurenia. The fifth is the sacrifice Festival, which is held in different years from each of the above festivals. The Hef Estia section has now been added (Wang and Wang, 2018). Among them, there is a very large scale of competition. The prize for the winner is shield, and the prize for sports and horse racing is olive oil. Later, as the city-states competed for the honor of the cross-city competition, the prize was more valuable. “In Athens, for example, other cities have awarded five-star awards to their city winners,” he said. The athlete who wins the competition is exempt from duty and has the lifelong support of the city. Sports competitions are also highly valued in other festivals, such as Dionysus Festival 4, Athena Women’s Day, Salgarya Festival and the funeral of heroes.

Sports have become an indispensable part of the daily life of ancient Greek citizens, especially as part of military training and good health. Spartan male and female citizens have been sent to military camps since the age of 7, and the country has unified education and hard physical training. According to Plato, “men and women practice together in the gym.” The boy was trained to protect the status quo of the city-state. Girls are trained in “running, jumping, throwing, gymnastics and fighting” at the age of 18 to train healthy children. At about eight years old, Athenian young people began to practice at the coach’s house until they were 12 years old and went to school to learn to read (Bargiota et al., 2018). However, they spent a lot of time in the arena.

Professional physical education institutions and full-time teachers also began to appear (Ulucan, 2017; Yoon and Armour, 2017; Christou, 2017). “From the seventh century BC, from the children’s game in Pan-Greece, the coach began.” Many coaches have a school auditorium that can provide students with training places for sports. Many arenas are owned by personal coaches and named after coaches. At the same time, the city has also strengthened the physical training of ordinary citizens. Sparta’s physical training is basically a city-state sports training, so Sparta must have a national training institution; in Athens, the school is an institution of higher learning, commonly known as the “military school (Zhang et al., 2017; Lehtonen, 2017).”

Generally speaking, no matter what era sports are very important to people, whether military or political, in modern society, sports also play a more important role in ordinary people. Sports have become an important way for people to keep healthy. This paper mainly analyzes the characteristics of ancient Greek sports and the changes in the course of national development, deeply interprets the artistic philosophy in ancient Greek sports culture, and analyzes the importance that ancient Greece attaches to sports from the philosophical point of view. Finally, by analyzing the differences between ancient Greek sports and ancient Greek sports, this paper gives the main influencing factors between ancient Greek sports and ancient Greek sports, and summarizes the similarities and differences between them.

2. The Development and Characteristics of Ancient Greek Sports

Archaeologists can more accurately construct the physical form of society. The most lost is historical materials, especially the earliest historical materials. However, prehistoric Greece did not leave any written historical data, not linear B mud in the late Bronze Age. According to legends, countless myths and legends make up primitive materials, some dating back to 2000 BC, when Greeks usually thought these scattered things were the history of their ancestors.

In ancient Greece, as early as the Crete period, there was a sports ritual in the palace frescoes of the new palace in Kenosos (Cañellas-Bolí, et al., 2018). It describes some young people performing “Human and Bull Dance” at the ceremony, that is, “sowing cattle and jumping”. Since ancient times, ancient Greek sports have been brought into the ancient Greek religious activities system, and gradually developed into an important part of the city-state ceremony. Finally, he worshipped Zeus at the ancient Olympic Games, which reached its peak. In ancient Greece, there were three major sports events that coexisted with the Olympic Games: the first was the sacrifice of Poseidon for the Eastmore Games in Seychelles, and the second was the worship of the Apollo Peto Games (Kim et al., 2018). The third is to sacrifice Hercules’ Hermione track and field. In addition, there are only women in Hera Games, who participate in Hera, the goddess of etiquette. But without exception, they are all designed to sacrifice gods. Therefore, the discussion of the origin of ancient Greek sports changed from the beginning to the origin of competition in the field of religion. The development of ancient Greece has gone through the following stages, the main stages of which are shown in the figure below:

![Figure 1. Map of the development phase of Greece](image-url)
2.1. Religious Theory

The first use of words to clearly record the ceremony of the graveyard was the sports meeting after the funeral of Achilles’ comrade Patrocles in the 23th volume Homer’s epic Iliad. Patlock Ross was killed by Hector, the son of King Troy (Loraux and Pritchard, 2018). He not only killed Hector, but also held a grand funeral in memory of the dead hero.

Homer used almost a chapter to describe the intensity and excitement of the graveyard race. It also reflects the popularity of graveyard competition; otherwise Homer would not have used so much space to describe graveyard competitions that had nothing to do with war. In addition to mentioning Patroclus’ funeral contest, Homer also mentioned the funeral of King Oedipus and Elis Amalin’s priest’s graveyard in several chapters. In addition, Herciod mentioned in his work and time that he took part in a funeral competition for smart Amphidas.

“Take only one bronze tripod with the child, dedicated to the literary goddess of Helikon Mountain.”

As for the origin of graveyard sacrifice, many scholars have expressed their own views (Dufour et al., 2018; Beau et al., 2017). Richway draws lessons from the myth of ancient Greek mythology writer Juhi Myros, that is, the historical point of view, in his book the Origin of tragedy. I think mythological people compete in graves in memory of the souls of the dead in memory of heroes. Therefore, he put forward competitive activities and plays, which come not from witchcraft rituals, nor from worship of gods or demigods, but from the idea of holding funerals in front of the tombs of historical figures. Fraser pointed out in his book Golden Branch that the funeral said he could not explain all Olympic-related legends, but he still supported Professor Reich’s view. It is believed that the Olympics were founded in memory of Perots, while the Olympics and other Greek competitions may initially be in memory of real people. After their funerals, they held the races next to their graveyard. Conford believes that although Perots beat Onomas, in the horse race, he died at Ornomas instead of Perops. The Olympic Games are held every four years, and the hero worship ceremony next to Perops’s tomb is held every year. As a result, the idea that Perops was worshipped at Olympia is more persuasive than funerals. This is only because funerals say it involves the significance of hero worship and its status in the history of Greek religion. With regard to the different views of the above scholars on funerals, I think we can analyze it through the background of the times and religious beliefs in daily life.

2.2. Life Theory

“The origin of sports is a complex process: organized sports behavior originates from the transfer of labor skills, witchcraft and imitation games; The initial forms of competition were formed in primitive rituals and adult rituals, which were formed in the process of producing the original leaders of the ethnic group; Some recreational sports activities may result from playful behavior in the animal stage or the reproduction of labour and military activities; Various forms of movement are partly due to instinctive activities inherited by the ancestors of human animals, while others are produced as a result of improvements in labor or military activities. The foundation of sports development has always been closely related to the needs of society and human life and some of its skills, such as walking, running, jumping and casting to form a special cultural background. Figure 2 shows the milky pan-Athens stadium (photo source and http://www.Notbad.cn/blog_detail.asp?id=147489).

Figure 2. Pan Athens Stadium
In the Neolithic period of ancient Greece, humans migrated with animals and lived through collection and hunting (Parvis, 2018). In the process of chasing wild animals, human beings have improved the ability to run, jump, climb and so on, and according to the needs of human beings, produce cross-comparison ability, constantly domesticate themselves, and constantly develop physical transcendence. Therefore, in the struggle against the natural environment, climatic conditions, birds and beasts, games, games and competition in the survival of ancient human beings, in the various actions taken by people to compete for prey, gradually formed an instinct. And learn survival skills through games and games. It eventually evolved into an important part of human cultural activities.

2.3. War Theory

The famous hero of Troy was eager to try in the funeral of the Greek soldier for Patrokles. The Trojan hero’s game project is easy to remind us of the nomadic tradition of the game, and also to our other association. In the war, to commemorate the lost war hero, the content of a sports game cannot be an entertainment game, but it is more likely to show the advantages and skills related to combat. No doubt, whether to throw, run, archery or drive, it is directly related to the war, and boxing and wrestling have no direct relationship with a large war like Troy. But it may be a struggle for people to invent a good weapon. The history of the nomadic people is often the history of the war and the plundering. It is likely to evolve into a competitive game that is a unique expression of war heroes. (The following pictures are from http://blog.sina.cn/dpool/blog/s/blog_48da23d20100lndv.html?md=gd).

![Figure 3](Figure 3. Pictures of soldiers on ancient Greek pottery bottles and pots)

The explanation of the origin of the above four kinds of sports, from different angles into the analysis, and can reflect each other, in fact, is a rough but relatively complete form of sports sketch (Hag et al., 2017). Through the above analysis, we can see that ancient Greek sports produced a free, unfettered, brave, devout race. “With a large number of state-owned countries, we have a broader view of life.” The origin of sports is the inevitable result of religious, military and national life. In addition to the traces left by war heroes, the individual image is vague and almost indistinguishable (Palmer et al., 2018). In this particular population, for individuals, sports are open to collective space, which is a necessary way for individuals to integrate into and adapt to the religious and military life of ethnic groups and to become members of ethnic groups; For ethnic groups, sports is a direct connection between this special group and God and dead souls, and it is protected. It is also the strength foundation for the survival and development of the group.

2.4. The Characteristics of Sports Development in Greece

The ancient Greek movement finally formed a smear point through long-term development, the basic characteristics of which are shown in the figure below.

In order to further describe the above characteristics, the following are the detailed answers to each feature.

1) The rigorous birth physical examination system: the strong physique and body-building of the ancient Greek people, to a large extent, depends on the strict infant-born physical examination system that the ancient Greeks adopted at that time (Rohrig et al., 2017). The system of physical examination of the baby’s birth is to guarantee the superiority of the ancient Greek nation in the physique, lay a solid foundation for the ancient Greek people who are strong and strong in the future, and provide high-quality soldiers for the prosperity of the people.
3. The Philosophical Connotation of Ancient Greek Sports

3.1. The Decline of Ancient Greek Sports

At the end of the 5th century BC, the long war caused the Greek economy to decline and the social
atmosphere began to decline. The savage aspect of the ancient Olympic Games tarnished the sanctity of the Olympic ceremony and gradually declined. The war led to the decline of the ancient Olympic Games, secular interests defeated the worship of God, and sports competitions became a means for people to pursue wealth. The model of the ancient Olympic Games has been challenged unprecedented. The war created a new mode of competition for the Olympic Games and alienated the Olympic Games. The city country has great privileges over Olympic champions, greatly improving the material and social status of athletes. Let heroes pay more attention to real interests and real life, and gradually lose their spiritual pursuit. The gradual failure of the Olympic Games made it unsustainable and finally went to the abyss. In the history of Greek civilization, the decline of the ancient Olympic Games is very complex, the severe war that has stood out, the chaotic Greek city-state problem, the change of psychological thinking driven by the interests of the people and the change of the Olympic system. All of these affected the development of the ancient Olympic Games and led to its inevitable decline.

Greece is a country where supernatural and supernatural spirits are worshipped in fantasy. It is a sacred force that exists outside reality. So the Greeks thought it was God who dominated everything. In the form of sacrifice, the ancient Olympic Games represented the characteristics of the ancient Greek people and gods, as well as the dance of the gods. Therefore, God decided that the ancient Olympic Games had the illusion, mystery and ability to transcend everything. Even the heroes of the Olympic Games became the object of worship by the Greeks. This is also the reason why Greek sports exist widely and for a long time. However, with the development of society and the establishment of democratic system, people's thoughts began to change, and under the influence of war, athletes gradually moved towards specialization under the impetus of democratic political enlightenment and social legalized management. Interests replaced the sanctity and faith of the past, and Zeus, who could do anything, was abandoned by reality. The traditional Olympic model has gradually disappeared, replaced by savage games, gradually lost its sanctity and elegance, and the secular Olympic Games have lost the supreme status of the Greeks. Taken together, the main causes of decline are shown in the figure below

![Schematic diagram of the decline of the Greek movement](image)

**Figure 5.** Schematic diagram of the decline of Greek movement

### 3.2. The Philosophical Connotation of Ancient Greek Sports

In the history of the development of ancient Greek sports, we can find that ancient Greek sports are not unique, but developed with the development of ancient Greek religion, politics, philosophy and art. The cultural and spiritual context embodied in the ancient Greek world outlook and life view endows ancient Greek sports with profound philosophical connotation.

The concept of sports spirit refers to the valuable ideological style and consciousness contained in sports, which has enlightenment and influence on the survival and development of human beings. It reflects the extreme desire of the participants to win the game. Overcome all emerging and imminent difficulties; it reflects the enthusiasm of participants for sports and is willing to work hard to maximize their sports skills and standards; It achieved the fundamental goal of Mr. Coubertin to revive the Olympic Games, that is, to educate young people through sports competitions. “For life, what matters is not victory, but battle.” The motto of life. It teaches participants to explore and analyze the enemy’s confrontation subtly and to use the right strategy to defeat all the opponents they face in actual combat.

Ancient Greek sports embodied a sense of competition or competition. The prizes of the game are usually corolla made of branches, as well as bronzes and painted pottery. As a result, the most popular sports champion in ancient Greece did not pay off substantially, but was a supreme honor. These sports heroes are regarded as national heroes by their respective city-states and are sought after and worshipped. Poets and writers describe their superb skills and brave feats in beautiful language; musicians write songs to celebrate their talents and dreams; and sculptors use marble to portray their bodybuilding image and place it at the center of the city. On the contrary, this honor also brings political prestige and economic interests, which is why these real interests are inspired. Athletes will devote themselves to their pursuits and dreams.
The ancient Greeks paid attention to the health and exercise of the body and paid more attention to the perfect improvement of the soul. They believe that a healthy spirit lies in a healthy body, both of which are indispensable. Democritus said: “the beauty of the body, if not combined with wisdom, is an animal.” So they pursue “physical and mental harmony” in sports. The current Olympic Charter describes Olympism as “Olympism is a philosophy of life that combines physical, spiritual and spiritual qualities in a balanced manner and promotes it.” This is the inheritance of the sports spirit of ancient Greece.

4. Philosophy of Art and Ancient Greek Sports

Art and sports are the products of the development of human civilization. In ancient Greece, the two factors had conflicted and integrated with each other. Starting with the clues of art and philosophy, we look for spiritual elements that should belong to sports.

4.1. Artistic Philosophy

The ancient Greeks left a perfect and strong body and became a model of human aesthetics all over the world. In the history of art, ancient Greece determined the significance and value of material existence. Exercise is not only for good health, but also for understanding harmony, balance, order and rhythm through physical training. This harmony, balance, order and rhythm are the basis of ancient Greek philosophy, which in turn affects the aesthetics of ancient Greeks.

Archaeological findings show that many ancient Greek sports grounds have training grounds, and at Aristotle’s Philosophy College, sports are listed as important items. It can be seen that ancient Greece is a philosophical system based on fitness. Socrates and Aristotle were the most famous thinkers in ancient Greece. Socrates became aware of the importance of physical strength by participating in many wars in his life. In the eyes of Socrates, without a sound body, it is impossible to learn culture well and it is more difficult to defend the country. He repeatedly stressed that doing anything in a person’s life was “inextricably linked to a strong body and mind” and strongly advocated trying to exercise. In Plato’s Republic, I recorded Socrates’ thoughts about lifelong physical education: “physical education, such as music education, should be accepted by them from an early age. In addition, sports training should be very careful and must last a lifetime.

4.2. The Art of Ancient Greece

Aristotle not only directly affirmed “technology”, that is, “technology” for a certain purpose, but also affirmed the Noumenon of “skill”, that is, the perfection of form and skill itself. These two aspects add up. The form of poetry, that is, the rhythm and skill of poetry, is also “noble beauty, kindness and happiness”. If it is painting, it not only means the plot of painting, but also the content is “noble beauty, kindness and happiness”. Moreover, the painting graphics, colors, skills and so on are also “noble beauty, kindness and happiness.” This is in sharp contrast to Plato’s concept of “art”, which is formed in the critical affirmation of craftsmanship and, more importantly, the ethical essence based on content. There is no doubt that it is closer to the modern concept of art.

However, just as we treat Plato’s artistic concept, Plato’s discussion of poetry, painting and music is not the same as Plato’s overall “art” view of poetry, painting, and music and so on. Then here, Aristotle’s affirmation of “skills”, the affirmation of “imitation”, the affirmation of the subject of “technology” form, in addition to the content, as well as the affirmation of poetry, and so on, this is not the affirmation of “art” as a whole. Including poetry, painting, and music and so on, even if Aristotle in poetics, the content and form of poetry have been affirmed, so it is a comprehensive affirmation of the individual art form. Like Plato, it is different from Aristotle’s comprehensive explanation of artistic point of view. Or, undeniably, Plato’s critical affirmation of art ethics, as well as Aristotle’s comprehensive affirmation of the content and form of individual art forms, was the climax of the artistic and aesthetic thoughts represented by the ancient Greeks. However, ancient Greek art and aesthetic thought, on the one hand, due to the unfinished nature of Plato and Aristotle’s philosophy, on the other hand, because of the reality of the development of ancient Greek society, as an independent social existence and politics, Compared with other social mechanisms such as economy and law, art is far from a relatively independent social mechanism or system. Therefore, the ancient Greeks, represented by Plato and Aristotle, could not construct an independent field of thought about art. Therefore, Aristotle supplemented and promoted Plato’s artistic conception in the ethics and Noumenon interpretation of Technology and Poetry (Meyer, 2017). Together with Plato, it created conditions for the emergence of modern artistic philosophy and aesthetics.

4.3. Ancient Greek Sports Art to Chinese Sports Art

For the sake of politics and economy, the ancient Greeks expanded and plundered and experienced military wars, which promoted the rapid formation and development of competitive sports in ancient Greece. On the contrary, through the summary and summary of history, we can also see that it is precisely because of excessive...
foreign war that the sustainable development of social experience has been ignored. Also because of the excessive emphasis on physical education, neglecting ideological education and people’s cultural education, there is no training a large number of high-quality talents with ability and political integrity. It led to the demise of ancient Greece and the decline of sports culture. Compared with ancient Greece and our country, in the 19th century, under the erosion of western capitalist forces, it became a semi-colony, and the corrupt Qing Dynasty was increasingly destroyed. In the face of the invasion of the coalition of eight powers, the failure of the country led to the demise of the country, and since ancient times, the excellent sports culture tradition of the country has gradually disappeared and disappeared. With the import of a large number of opium seriously damaged the physique of our people, the Chinese were once called “East Asian patients” and were discriminated against and despised by westerners.

With the establishment of the Republic of China, the national economy is booming. In 1980, China resolutely returned to the international Olympic family. From 32 medals in 1984 to 63 medals in 2004, it fully demonstrates the rapid development of China’s sports industry. In the process of successfully hosting the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, Chinese sports athletes fought bravely, winning 100 medals in one fell swoop, ranking first in the gold medal table. This event makes us feel that in sports culture, we should fully carry forward China’s fine tradition and actively adopt the essence of internal and external culture. In order to strive for outstanding achievements, we should first avoid gold medals; we should not only train sports elites, but also pay attention to mass sports, supplement Chinese and foreign advantages, and integrate eastern and western cultures. “One world, one dream”, together to build a harmonious society and a harmonious world for a long time.

In order to clearly compare the speed of the development of sports culture between the two countries, the main influencing factors in the development of sports culture in this paper are shown in the following table.

Table 1. Comparison of Sports Culture between the two countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influencing factor</th>
<th>Ancient Greek</th>
<th>China</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City-state political system</td>
<td>The Education of traditional Confucianism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmers’ economic stability</td>
<td>Backward productive forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>The fading of competitive Spirit</td>
<td>The cruel tyranny of superstructure</td>
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</table>

In order to explain the importance of the influencing factors of the development of sports in ancient China and Greece, the proportion of influencing factors is given in this paper. See the figure below. Sports in ancient China were mainly restricted by the limitations of traditional Confucian culture. It was believed that thought was more important in that society at that time, at the same time, the social productive forces were relatively backward, coupled with the cruel and tyranny of the upper leadership in some times, the people were in dire straits. It is impossible to carry out other activities. The sports developed in ancient Greece at the beginning of the period were mainly based on the needs of the war at that time. People’s sports mainly served and fought. The influence of the war was very disadvantageous to the social development at that time. With the stability of the society, The malpractice of the political system between the city-states has been gradually exposed, and the ancient Greek sports have gradually declined. As a result, the economic stability of farmers is reduced, and people are no longer able to develop sports and competitive sports.
Figure 6 shows that no matter which country it is, if those in power are brutal and incompetent and the political system is decadent and backward, the whole country will regress or even die out irreversibly. Only a wise system and a perfect legal system can maintain the prosperity and development of this society. In figure 6, the city-state political system is the main influencing factor for ancient Greece, and for China, the cruel tyranny of superstructure is also the main factor affecting the development of Chinese sports. To show the decline of sports in Greece and China, figure 7 shows the curve of their decline.

![Figure 7. Graph of sports development](image)

The picture above shows the trend of ancient Greece and ancient China in the development of sports. For ancient Greece, due to the needs of a long war, sports have been more important since the same time, but after a long period of war, the people are poor. Sports gradually decline, but Chinese sports are different from ancient Greece. With the change of historical dynasties, sports in China have a kind of ups and downs. With the change of time, sports sometimes decline and develop.

5. Conclusions

The ancient Greek nation created a brilliant ancient Greek culture, which was very different from that of other nationalities in the environment of survival and development. The culture of ancient Greece is restricted and influenced by this spiritual concept. This spirit is humanism, which runs through the multi-cultural field of ancient Greece, refers to a kind of thought and attitude, and argues that the primary significance of anything is the value between people. Through the analysis of the development of ancient Greek sports, this paper mainly analyzes the process that the origin and characteristics of the development of ancient Greek sports have declined, and compares the ancient Greek sports with Chinese sports culture. It reflects the contribution of current sports culture to the world and is also the artistic philosophy of ancient Greek sports culture.

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