A truly harrowing account of the enormous public and emotional toll of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio. Andrew Zimbalist and the other contributors to this volume provide an eye-opening tale of how the Games were sold and packaged as a showcase and economic catalyst and ended up being a billion-dollar boondoggle, taking a huge toll on the city and its neighborhoods. A cautionary tale for cities looking to the Olympics to somehow boost their global city status.

RICHARD FLORIDA, author of The Rise of the Creative Class and The New Urban Crisis

Andy Zimbalist is the smartest mind I know when it comes to seeing through all the ballyhoo of big-time sports and telling us what adds up, and what doesn't.

SCOTT SIMON, host of NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday

At their best, the Olympic Games are glorious, exciting, and memorable, and a source of pride for the host city. But, that is only part of the story. An important and less glorious Olympic reality can be found in these pages.

BOB COSTAS

Rio 2016, a collection of deeply reported essays, brilliantly explores the contradictions inherent in hosting mega-sporting events. It should be required reading for government and corporate leaders as well as for community activists. Written in plain English, not academic jargon, this is a perfect book for college courses on globalization, economic development, and sports and society.

AMBASSADOR DEREK SHEARER, Chevalier Professor of Diplomacy and Director, McKinnon Center for Global Affairs, Occidental College

ANDREW ZIMBALIST is the Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics at Smith College and a noted sports economist and sports industry consultant.