



(202) 455-0510 - info@socialists.us – <https://socialists.us>

SHOULD FIFA BE PRIVATIZED?

The recent idea proposed by Gianni Infantino, as first reported by UEFA, is mostly a bad idea and a way for capital to grab a public good and turn it into a private enterprise for the benefit of private equity.

This is a pattern that we see everywhere in New York City, where Donald Trump and his acolytes have been privatizing public housing.

FIFA is a non-profit organization that doesn't take any risks, yet reaps the rewards of organizing events, while the host cities are left with the ultimate bill for any downfall caused by the event.

The cities end up with the bill under the guise that they will collect tax revenues from what the fans spend in the host city.

The current proposal to go private is another way for these billionaires to stash billions by the millions.

I personally saw this happen when Time Warner Cable paid Time Warner \$40 billion to spin off Time Warner Cable using investors' money and, ultimately, consumers' money to create a new company that was later sold to Charter, allowing the CEO to walk away with a \$90 million payout regardless of how many cable workers lost their jobs, ultimately causing 1,800 New York IBEW Local 3 members to walk off their jobs.

FIFA going private could also be a good thing if the investment came from the people, allowing the middle class to participate fully in the buyout and ensuring that the profits were returned to the owners, a bit like the Green Bay Packers.

The current plan is simply for Gianni Infantino to receive a similar payout to what Time Warner Cable CEO Rob Marcus received in 2016. This is a scheme hatched by Trump and his acolytes to turn soccer fans into an even bigger cash cow by changing soccer's rules for a financial payout.

This paper is simply intended to launch a discussion about what could be an alternative way to bring soccer back to the people. To participate in the discussion, please join us on our Mobilize page: <https://www.mobilize.us/socialists/event/1001241>.

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