

BEIJING: Commentary

**Adolf Hitler used
'Nazi Olympics'**

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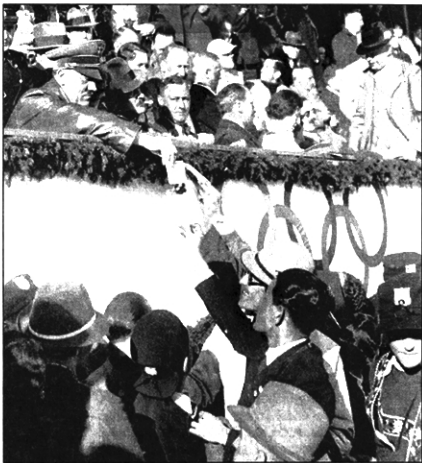
1936 Berlin Games

Indeed, the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing may turn out to be like the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. The IOC awarded Berlin the 1936 Games to give an economic and psychological boost to a Germany that had been plagued by economic and political anarchy since the end of World War I. Adolf Hitler had other ideas. The Nazi Party leader and chancellor of Germany used the 1936

Olympics in Berlin to promote a more aggressive, nationalist and racist Germany to the world.

Although the great African-American athlete Jesse Owens put a bit of damper on Hitler's show by winning three gold medals, the 1936 Olympics strengthened Hitler's hand in

Europe and are often called "the Nazi Olympics." It was not one of the IOC's finest moments.



AP FILE

German Chancellor Adolf Hitler, left, reaches out to people below him at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Hitler used the event to promote his nationalist and racist Germany to the world.