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How Does Capitalism Desensitize Us to the Suffering of Others?

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How Does Capitalism Desensitize Us to the Suffering of Others?

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Source Project, Social Sciences

Michael J. Kelly, Judaic Studies and
Comparative Literature

Introduction/Abstract

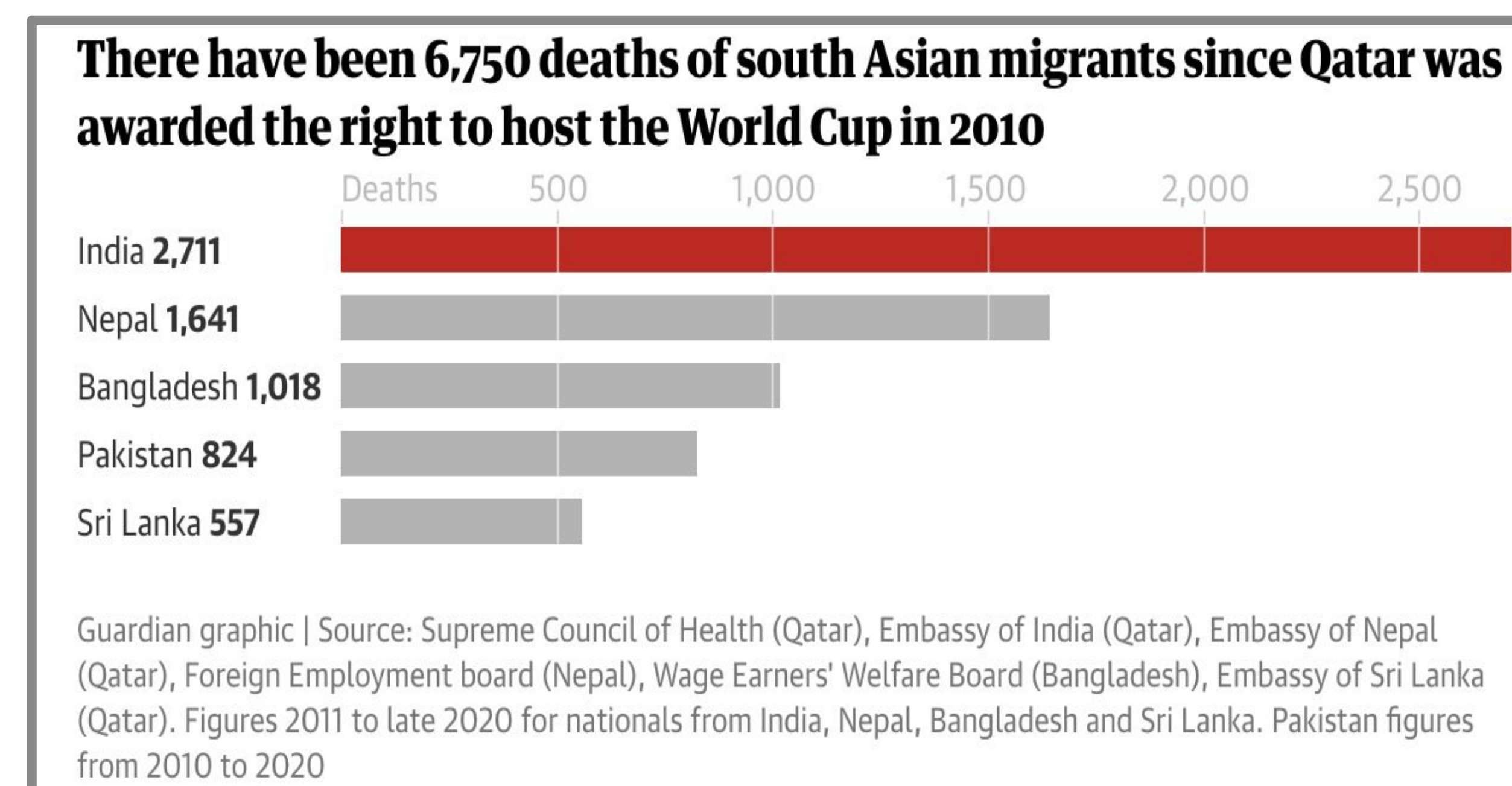
While football (soccer) is widely known for its captivating atmospheres and immense camaraderie, one must not be blinded to the sinister behavior of the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* (FIFA) [International Federation of Association Football] in recent times, especially amid the sought-after World Cup, hosted in Qatar, involving massive projects made possible through irresistible sums of money. The power-hungry Gulf-state has prioritized enticing profits over the lives of migrant workers, many of whom were employed under unimaginable conditions and initially reeled in by the false potentiality of reliable, well-paying occupations. This research demonstrates how, within capitalism, the overwhelming demand for self-gratification, here via the entertainment of football and case-study of the World Cup, numbs us to inequity.

What is the main function of capitalism?

Capitalism operates as a double-edged sword being that it is more than capable of bringing about growth and prosperity while simultaneously producing social conflict and human degradation, which is often disregarded by the former. Capitalism generally produces an impact in which the individual worker is completely separated from the means of production. Humans are essentially brought down to the level of animals and exploited solely for the maximization of profit.

Exploitation of Migrant Workers

The outlandish conditions these workers were subject to included suffocating heat and confiscation of passports. Despite Qatar being one of the most affluent countries, a permitted minimum wage of just 1,000 Riyal or €230 per month was imposed.



Influence on Participants & Supporters

- Likelihood of injuries among players increased due to congested schedules.
 - Rising costs of flights, match tickets and accommodations were unideal for fans.
- The England men's national team initially decided on their captain wearing a 'OneLove' armband in opposition to homophobia within Qatar, but ultimately surrendered to a potential ban in hopes of sustaining profitable relations.



Works Cited



How has the sinister behavior of FIFA developed over time?

- João Havelange and Sepp Blatter were involved in the corporatization of FIFA during the early 1970s.
- A neoliberal or free-market capitalist system was later implemented and this formerly beloved football association underwent a complete reconstruction.
- The prevalence of wealthy nations such as Qatar, who are not necessarily 'footballing nations' by most standards, is a byproduct of this development. The Qataris had never qualified for a single World Cup before and would subsequently become the first host nation to lose all three group stage matches, but were more than willing to reap the benefits of various globalization efforts.

Concluding Thoughts

It has been proven that one's profit in the form of self-fulfillment, whether that may be of an institution or a state, tends to conceal the humanitarian toll. This is directly related to sportswashing which involves the active usage of sports to suppress wrongdoings.