Soccer is a sport that has blown up immensely in world culture with roots hundreds of years old, but modern upbringings taking place in England where it has grown and become more popularized. At the time this happened the world was starting to industrialize and communication and travel became much easier, allowing for different countries to pick up on soccer and eventually grow it into the sporting giant it has become today. Multiple leagues across multiple different countries now exist due to its mass appeal.

Out of the numerous leagues only a few identify as the “best” or highest level leagues, the British Premier league is known for having the most competitive play, with the most international players, and of course the largest amount of money. This league gains international attention and its teams have become most popular in terms of fans and followers. With many games being shown on television all over the world it is relatively easy to see why the British Premier League is the focus of so many soccer fans. Another such league attributed as being top level is the La Liga of Spain, largely known for its housing some of the world’s very best teams and players such as Leo Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, gaining much more mass appeal for it.
In soccer it has become increasingly more common for fans of teams to be located across the world from where the team plays, and the same goes for many international players that choose to play soccer in countries with cultures vastly different from their own. The reason why for this is because these fans and players now can. Even less popular soccer leagues in the past dominated by a specific nationality such as English players with the BPL, and Germans with the Bundesliga, are changing, and more international players can be found now in these leagues and many more. In class we have talked about “cultural supermarkets”, and such supermarket would be the soccer leagues that now cater to numerous cultures that now have people that identify with them playing at high levels of soccer making “it is possibly even more entertaining to follow the smaller, lesser-known countries on their path for unprecedented glory” giving people from these countries reasons to feel empowered. Due in large part to the internet, it is now much easier to follow the numerous leagues, teams and players that exist in soccer today. From the largest most popular leagues to the smaller less known leagues around the globe, it is unmeasurably easier to follow various teams and players. In a world becoming more and more culturally diverse, the internet and social media has compacted the huge sport of soccer. From apps for FIFA to youtube channels to twitter and facebook feeds dedicated to certain leagues and players, it has become increasingly simplified for people with interests in specific aspects of the sport to directly follow them, even if you are a fan of an international league in a country you do not even speak the common language of. An example of this is the German Bundesliga YouTube channel, in which has English commentators and many videos of specific player
accomplishments, top plays, and random knowledge for anyone with an internet connection and a screen to dive into. This channel for a German soccer league gives international players such as South Korean Heung-Min Son “It definitely gave me goosebumps because the fans were chanting my name. I’m really happy about that right now because I’ve never experienced anything like that in my career” (Gonsherowski) recognition that would have been unobtainable for him decades ago.

Soccer has become an aspect of pop culture for me that rivals no other. This is due to the present ability to be able to seamlessly follow the global sport no matter where I am or what kind of culture I am. I am not confined to a single team and because of the popular culture of soccer I, an American, can choose identify with a large empire of a team in England, or even a small market team in Germany.

"8 World Football Prodigies Who Will Lead Their Small Nations to Global Relevance."
