

From Athens To Beijing

2,395 Competitors, 137 Countries, 149 Champions, 501 Medals

In its issues of 2006 and 2007, **World Weightlifting** tried to summarize, under the title “On the Road – From Athens To Beijing”, what happened at the world challenges following the 2004 Olympic Games. Now, in the Special Olympic Issue of **World Weightlifting**, immediately prior to the next Games, we are offering our Readers another summary titled “From Athens To Beijing”. The headline is though the same, the contents are entirely different. This time, the first “Athens” does not mean 2004, but 1896. This is a unique synopsis of developments in weightlifting through the 112 years spanning between the beginning in 1896 and 2008, i.e. from Athens to Beijing. At the outset, we should proudly mention that ours is one of those few sports that have been present in what is undoubtedly the world’s most prestigious sporting event for the third century: in the 19th, the 20th and in the 21st. Our Olympic history running from 1896 to 2004 may be summed up briefly, in figures, as follows:
2,395 competitors participated
137 countries were represented
501 medals found their winners
149 weightlifting Olympic champions were proclaimed

On the next pages we shall present a breakdown of these figures according to countries and continents. For instance, we can discover that the former Soviet Union, between 1952 and 1988, entered 57 competitors to 9 Olympic Games; of them 39 athletes captured Olympic champion titles and the USSR won altogether 62 medals. The United States, in exactly 100 years (1904-2004), launched 97 weightlifters at 17 Olympic Games. Their produce: 12 champions, 41 medals, of which 15 gold. The host nation, China, was present in 8 Games since 1936 with 47 male weightlifting Olympians, among them eight took the gold medals. The total number of medals won was 26, including 9 silver and 8 bronze medals. As far as the women are concerned, only two Olympic Games have so far offered the opportunity for statistics. The figures are, logically, much lower than the men’s. Nevertheless, China already towers above the rest. In both Sydney and Athens, China could enter the maximum four competitors. Of them seven ladies won the Olympic title and the eighth took “only” the silver medal. That’s enough for a prologue; now let’s see the history of Olympic weightlifting’s 108 years in figures and data.

Legend to the Table columns:

1st – First participation in the OG
Last – Last participation in the OG
Times – Number of OG attended
All – Total number of athletes participating
Ol.Ch. – Number of Olympic champions
Si+Br – Number of Silver and Bronze medal winners
Gold – Number of Gold medals won
Silv. – Number of Silver medals won
Brz. – Number of Bronze medals won
All – Total number of Olympic medals won



That is history... on 22 July 1996 in Atlanta, Suleymanoglu became the first weightlifter with three Olympic gold medals. The other medal winners were: Valerios Leonidis, GRE and Xiao Jiangang, CHN

From Athens To Beijing



W o m e n

AFRICA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 ALG	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 CMR	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 EGY	2000	2004	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 MRI	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 NGR	2000	2004	2	5	-	1	-	1	-	1
6 SEY	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 TUN	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 UGA	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

ASIA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 CHN	2000	2004	2	8	7	1	7	1	-	8
2 INA	2000	2004	2	5	-	3	-	2	2	4
3 IND	2000	2004	2	3	-	1	-	-	1	1
4 JPN	2000	2004	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 KAZ	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 KOR	2000	2004	2	5	-	1	-	1	-	1
7 MGL	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 MYA	2000	2004	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 PRK	2000	2004	2	4	-	1	-	2	-	2
10 THA	2000	2004	2	7	2	3	2	-	3	5
11 TPE	2000	2004	2	5	-	2	-	1	1	2
12 VIE	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

EUROPE

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 AZE	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 BEL	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 BLR	2000	2004	2	3	-	2	-	1	1	2
4 BUL	2000	2004	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ESP	2000	2004	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 FIN	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 FRA	2000	2004	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 GBR	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 GER	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 GRE	2000	2004	2	6	-	1	-	-	1	1
11 HUN	2000	2004	2	5	-	2	-	2	-	2
12 ITA	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 POL	2000	2004	2	3	-	1	-	1	1	2
14 ROU	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 RUS	2000	2004	2	5	-	3	-	2	2	4
16 SVK	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 TUR	2004	2004	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	1
18 UKR	2000	2004	2	5	1	-	1	-	-	1

OCEANIA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 AUS	2000	2	1	5	2	5	-	-	-	-
2 FIJ	2000	2004	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 GUM	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 NRU	2000	2004	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 NZL	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 PLW	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 PNG	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

PAN-AMERICA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1 ARG	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 BRA	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 CAN	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 COL	2000	2004	2	5	1	1	1	-	1	2
5 DOM	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 ECU	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 ESA	2000	2004	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 MEX	2000	2004	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	1
9 PER	2004	2004	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 PUR	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
11 USA	2000	2004	2	4	1	1	1	-	1	2
12 VEN	2000	2000	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

OLYMPIC SUMMARY - WOMEN

Continent	Countries in OG	Athletes participating			Medals			
		All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 AFRICA	8	14	-	1	-	1	-	1
2 ASIA	12	48	9	12	9	7	7	23
3 EUROPE	18	49	2	9	2	6	5	13
4 OCEANIA	7	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 PAN-AMERICA	12	20	3	2	3	-	2	5
	57	144	14	24	14	14	14	42

In the old days: at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki the lifters are waiting for their turn



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Gold – Number of Gold medals won
Silv. – Number of Silver medals won
Brz. – Number of Bronze medals won
All – Total number of Olympic medals won

men

AFRICA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 ALG	1980	2004	6	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 CMR	1988	2004	4	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
3 COM	2004	2004	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
4 EGY	1920	2004	16	54	5	3	5	2	2	9
5 KEN	1984	1996	4	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
6 KSA	1948	2004	7	16	–	–	–	–	–	–
7 LBA	1980	2004	4	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 MAD	1992	1992	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
9 MAR	1960	2004	6	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
10 MRI	1988	2004	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 SEY	1996	2004	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
13 SLE	1988	2000	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
14 SUD	1960	1992	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
15 SWZ	1984	1988	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
16 TUN	1984	2004	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
17 UGA	1984	1996	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
18 ZIM	1980	1980	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–

ASIA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 CHN	1936	2004	8	47	8	15	9	9	8	26
2 INA	1952	2004	11	22	–	–	–	–	–	–
3 IND	1948	2000	14	24	–	–	–	–	–	–
4 IRI	1948	2004	11	45	3	5	4	3	5	12
5 IRQ	1952	2004	9	23	–	1	–	–	1	1
6 JPN	1952	2004	13	65	1	8	2	2	8	12
7 KAZ	1996	2004	3	11	–	2	–	2	–	2
8 KGZ	2000	2004	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
9 KOR	1948	2004	13	59	1	4	1	2	4	7
10 KUW	1992	1996	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
11 LIB	1952	2000	9	10	–	1	–	1	–	1
12 MAS	1956	2004	5	12	–	–	–	–	–	–
13 MGL	1972	1992	3	9	–	–	–	–	–	–
14 MYA	1948	1980	7	10	–	–	–	–	–	–
15 NEP	1980	1996	4	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
16 PAK	1948	1976	6	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
17 PHI	1948	1988	9	13	–	–	–	–	–	–
18 PRK	1972	2004	7	20	–	4	–	2	3	5
19 QAT	2000	2004	2	3	–	1	–	–	1	1
20 SIN	1952	1976	5	9	–	1	–	–	1	1
21 SRI	1984	1992	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
22 SYR	1980	1996	4	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
23 THA	1964	2000	7	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
24 TKM	2000	2004	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
25 TLS	2000	2000	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
26 TPE	1956	2004	11	30	–	1	–	–	1	1
27 UZB	1996	2004	3	6	–	–	–	–	–	–

EUROPE

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 ALB	1972	2004	5	8	Á	–	–	–	–	–
2 ARM	1996	2004	3	16	–	1	–	–	1	1
3 AUT	1924	2004	16	56	3	5	3	4	2	9
4 AZE	1996	2004	3	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
5 BEL	1920	2000	12	31	1	3	1	2	1	4
6 BIH	1992	1992	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
7 BLR	1996	2004	3	17	–	3	–	1	2	3
8 BUL	1952	2004	12	63	11	21	12	16	8	36
9 CIS	1992	1992	1	10	5	4	5	4	–	9
10 CRO	2000	2004	2	1	1	–	1	–	1	2
11 CZE	01920	2004	18	54	3	3	3	2	3	8
12 DEN	1896	1992	12	21	1	1	1	2	–	3
13 ESP	1960	2004	9	15	–	–	–	–	–	–
14 EST	1920	1996	5	18	1	4	1	3	3	7
15 FIN	1948	1996	13	33	1	2	1	–	2	3
16 FRA	1920	2004	20	76	8	4	9	2	3	14
17 GBR	1896	2004	20	81	1	4	1	3	3	7
18 GDR	1956	1988	8	25	1	8	1	4	6	11
19 GEO	1996	2004	3	5	1	–	1	–	1	2
20 GER	1896	2004	18	105	7	11	7	9	10	26
21 GRE	1896	2004	14	37	3	4	6	5	1	12
22 HUN	1896	2004	15	62	2	12	2	7	9	18
23 IRL	1960	1972	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
24 ISL	1968	1980	4	9	–	–	–	–	–	–
25 ISR	1960	1996	6	11	–	–	–	–	–	–
26 ITA	1920	2000	19	58	5	6	5	4	5	14
27 LAT	1924	2004	6	11	–	1	–	1	–	1
28 LTU	1928	2004	4	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
29 LUX	1920	1960	5	10	–	1	–	1	–	1
30 MDA	1996	2004	3	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
31 MON	1964	1964	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
32 NED	1920	1968	6	19	–	3	–	–	3	5
33 NOR	1952	2004	7	10	1	–	1	–	–	1
34 POL	1952	2004	13	58	3	18	4	4	19	27
35 POR	1924	1996	9	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
36 ROU	1952	2004	12	40	2	7	2	6	3	11
37 RUS	1996	2004	3	19	3	5	3	2	5	10
38 SMR	1980	1988	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
39 SUI	1920	1984	12	34	–	3	–	2	2	4
40 SVK	1992	2004	3	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
41 SWE	1920	1996	17	51	–	4	–	–	4	4
42 TUR	10924	2004	11	33	3	1	7	–	1	8
43 UKR	1996	2004	3	16	1	2	1	1	1	7
44 URS	1952	1988	9	57	36	16	39	21	2	62
45 YUG	1972	1996	3	5	–	–	–	–	–	–



From Athens To Beijing



OCEANIA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 ASA	1988	2004	5	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 AUS	1948	2004	15	52	1	2	1	1	2	4
3 COK	1988	2004	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
4 FIJ	1996	1996	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
5 FSM	2000	2004	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
6 GUM	1988	1992	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
7 KIR	2004	2004	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 NRU	1992	2004	4	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
9 NZL	1948	2000	11	13	–	–	–	–	–	–
10 PNG	1988	1996	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
11 SAM	1984	1996	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 SOL	1984	1992	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
13 TGA	1992	1996	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–

PAN-AMERICA

Nation	Participation in OG			Athletes participating			Medals			
	1st	Last	Times	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 AHO	1960	1972	4	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 ARG	1924	2004	12	25	–	1	–	1	1	2
3 ARU	1996	2004	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
4 BAR	1968	1972	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
5 BOL	1988	1992	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
6 BRA	1952	1996	9	10	–	–	–	–	–	–
7 CAN	1948	2004	14	35	–	2	–	2	–	2
8 CHI	1996	1996	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
9 COL	1956	2004	10	26	–	–	–	–	–	–
10 CRC	1968	1988	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
11 CUB	1948	2004	13	43	2	1	2	1	1	4
12 DOM	1968	2000	8	13	–	–	–	–	–	–
13 ECU	1968	2004	5	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
14 ESA	1968	1996	2	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
15 FWI	1960	1960	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
16 GUA	1968	2004	8	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
17 GUY	1948	2004	6	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
18 HAI	1960	1960	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
19 HBR	1968	1968	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
20 HON	1992	1992	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
21 ISV	1968	1968	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
22 JAM	1948	1988	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
23 MEX	1948	1984	10	13	–	–	–	–	–	–
24 NCA	1968	2000	5	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
25 PAN	1952	2000	12	12	–	–	–	–	–	–
26 PER	1948	1992	5	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
27 PUR	1952	2000	11	19	–	–	–	–	–	–
28 TRI	1948	1968	50	4	–	2	–	1	2	3
29 URU	1988	1996	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
30 USA	1904	2004	17	97	12	12	15	16	10	41
31 VEN	1960	2004	7	7	–	1	–	–	1	1

This was the last Olympic medal ceremony.

On the dais: silver medallist Scerbatihs LAT, gold medallist Rezazadeh IRI and bronze medallist Cholakov BUL

◀ In Atlanta 1996, **World Weightlifting** tried to take a group photo of all the Olympic champions together. We succeeded in getting seven out of ten on one picture. From left: Chemerkin RUS, Taimazov UKR, Kakhiasvilis GRE, Petrov RUS, Dimas GRE, Zhan Xugang CHN, Tang Ningsheng CHN

OLYMPIC SUMMARY – MEN – 1896–2004

Continent	Countries in OG	Athletes participating			Medals			
		All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br	Gold	Silv.	Brz.	All
1 AFRICA	18	140	5	3	5	2	2	9
2 ASIA	28	456	13	43	16	22	31	69
3 EUROPE	45	1206	104	157	117	106	101	324
4 OCEANIA	15	98	1	2	1	1	2	4
5 PAN-AMERICA	31	374	14	19	17	21	15	53
	137	2274	137	225	156	152	151	459

Notes:

- The number of athletes participating is correctly 2251, because 23 weightlifters represented two different countries.
- The number of Olympic champions is actually 135, because Kakhiasvilis and Kurlovich won gold medals for two countries

AGGREGATE OLYMPIC STATS – MEN AND WOMEN COMBINED

	All	Ol.Ch.	Si+Br medals	Gold medals	Silv. medals	Brz. medals	All medals
MEN	2251	135	224	156	152	151	459
WOMEN	144	14	24	14	14	14	42
All together	2395	149	248	170	166	165	501

Jenő Boskovics

Olympic champions in Athens 2004. From left: Mutlu TUR, Asanidze GEO, Tyalan TUR, Polsak THA, Thongsuk THA and Sagir TUR

