

■ London, 1908:

Irish athletes, angered at Britain's refusal to give Ireland its independence, boycott Games. 22 other countries take part



Century of Olympic protests

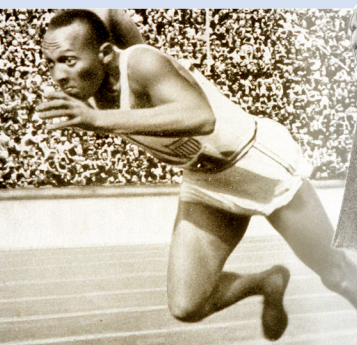
The unprecedented international demonstrations against the Olympic torch relay are the latest in a long line of political protests against the Olympic Games. This year's protests are the first to target the torch relay since it was introduced under the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler in 1936



■ Los Angeles, 1932: Italian **Luigi Beccali**, 1500m Olympic champion, makes political protest with fascist salute from podium

■ Berlin, 1936 – Nazi Olympics:

Despite international calls for boycott over Hitler's extreme racist policies, 49 countries attend, providing Nazi dictator with major propaganda victory



Performances of nine Jewish medal-winners and black U.S. athlete **Jesse Owens** (above) – who wins four gold medals – makes mockery of “Aryan racial superiority”



■ Melbourne, 1956: **Suez Crisis**, attack on Egypt by Britain, France, and Israel, and Soviet Union's **invasion of Hungary** lead to boycotts by Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland

■ Mexico, 1968 – Tlatelolco massacre: Fearing that riots will disrupt Games, Mexican security forces shoot dead 200-300 student protestors. During Games, American sprinters **Tommie Smith** and **John Carlos** make **Black Power** salutes from podium



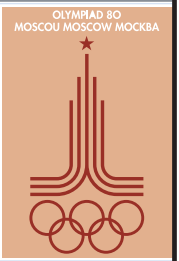
■ Munich, 1972: First terrorist attacks on Games. Gunmen from Palestinian **Black September** group break into Olympic Village and hold 11 Israeli athletes hostage. Two murdered in initial attack, rest massacred during failed rescue attempt



■ Montreal, 1976: Twenty-six African nations mount boycott after unsuccessful bid for expulsion of New Zealand because their rugby team had toured racially-segregated South Africa



■ Moscow, 1980: Boycott led by U.S. President **Jimmy Carter** sees some 60 teams boycott Games in protest of **Soviet invasion of Afghanistan**. Among U.S. allies, Great Britain, France, Italy and Sweden attend



■ Los Angeles, 1984: Soviet Union leads 17-nation Eastern bloc tit-for-tat boycott over 1980 actions. 140 countries attend

■ 2004, Athens: **First international torch relay since 1936**

■ 2008, Beijing: Torch relay becomes focus for protests over China's human rights record in Tibet. Protestors also target Beijing's support for Sudan despite international outrage over genocide in western Darfur region

