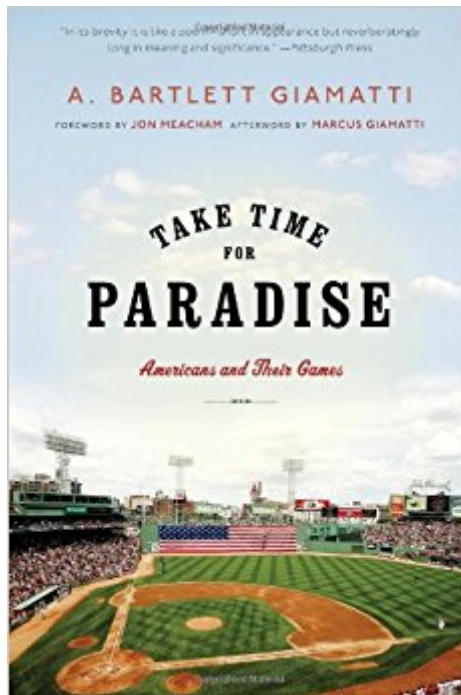




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# Take Time For Paradise: Americans And Their Games



## Synopsis

A philosophical musing on sports and play, this wholly inspiring and utterly charming reissue of Bart Giamatti's long-out-of-print final book, *Take Time for Paradise*, puts baseball in the context of American life and leisure. Giamatti begins with the conviction that our use of free time tells us something about who we are. He explores the concepts of leisure, American-style. And in baseball, the quintessential American game, he finds its ultimate expression. "Sports and leisure are our reiteration of the hunger for paradise- for freedom untrammelled." Filled with pithy truths about such resonant subjects as ritual, self-betterment, faith, home, and community, *Take Time for Paradise* gives us much more than just baseball. These final, eloquent thoughts of "the philosopher king of baseball" (*Seattle Weekly*) are a joyful, reverent celebration of the sport Giamatti loved and the country that created it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A. Bartlett Giamatti served as commissioner of Major League Baseball from April 1, 1989, until his death on September 1, 1989. He had previously been the president of the National League, starting in 1986. He was a scholar of the English Renaissance at Yale University, a beloved professor, and later became its youngest president.

Mr. Giamatti was a university professor and Commissioner of Baseball. In *Take Time for Paradise* he writes more as a professor than as titular conscience of baseball. This is an academic book, mainly philosophical, about the connections between sport and the human condition. Do not read it

in expectation of learning insights about the administration of baseball, or what the Commissioner of Baseball or President of the National League actually does on an average day in the office. Do read it for a very smart appreciation of the role that organized sport plays in a day in the life on an average person. In the end the reader is left wondering about two things that Professor Giamatti could have told us more about: the NCAA and Pete Rose.

Great book about American's and the reason sport is important to our overall psyche. Particular emphasis on baseball and it's spot on. Good for all, not just sports lovers. Helps you understand how games say more about who we are than just about anything we do. Recommend to all who have even the slightest interest in sports, as well as anyone interested in philosophy or American political science.

A Bartlett's above (far above I mean) me in writing in his style is a little hard to get used to ... and the book itself is short - 94 pages w/o his son's Afterword. The book delves not just w/ baseball, but how Americans spend their free time - their leisure. Almost like taking a graduate level course.

As always Doris Kearns Goodwin does a great job writing. It was nice to get a glimpse of a real person's view of the importance of the National Past- time.

A wonderful peroration to sport, games, and their resonance to life.

A. Bartlett Giamatti wrote this book immediately prior to his unexpected death in 1989. It appeared in print posthumously. That he would pen a paen to baseball at the height of the Pete Rose scandal, as his last published work, is ironic. His prose is sublime. The slender volume is a monograph on the nature of the game of baseball. It is timeless because it is not tied to temporal events. With little alteration, the book could have been written a hundred years ago, or (I hope) a hundred years hence. The Commissioner of Baseball and former Yale Professor of Renaissance Literature explores the intellectual fascination of the game. From the geometry of the diamond to the Homeric nature of the baserunner's struggle to reach home again, Giamatti's story is enlightening as well as entertaining. Insights into the nature of our society flow naturally, given that sport in general should be seen in the context of the civilization that spawns it. One that I found to be especially memorable was on the commonalities of learning that change from generation to generation. Giamatti wrote of how the rising generation would understand the world through a computer screen, even as their

progenitors had seen it through books, and of the differences, both great and small, that it would make to the thought patterns of our young. All this against the literally timeless fabric of a game played without a clock. -Lloyd A. Conway

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Take Time for Paradise is a really Interesting read. There are three parts to the book and being approx. 130 pages it is a relatively quick read. Part 1 is more philosophical and the terminology may slow you down if you are not familiar with it. I found the comparison of sports and leisure fascinating and really well argued. The American reverence for both is dissected too. I also really liked the theory that sports is something by which people come together and is an outlet of sorts for fans to share hopes and dreams and root for the home team. In fact, one of the reasons why it took me so long to read the book after I received my free copy from the Goodreads Giveaway was because my Dallas Mavericks were playing in the playoffs and went on to beat the Miami Heat to win the 2011 NBA Finals and become the National Champion. The atmosphere and camaraderie that resulted from the Mavs' win was exactly like the book talked about. Community and fans of all kinds came together to support, cheer, and celebrate each and every win. Part 3 is where the baseball references come into play. I love baseball and my whole family practically grew up playing, watching, or going to games. This part of the book talks about baseball as America's favorite past

time and how it started out as a gentlemen's sport compared to today's business/career/entertainment industry. All in all, Take Time For Paradise is a great read especially if you are interested in the philosophical, mental, sociological aspects of what sports have meant to history and spectators alike.

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