

Ping Pong Qiu: Negotiating the Net and Impacting the World

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## Process Paper

Table tennis has been a recent interest of mine, and when I heard this year's theme, I was struggling to come up with any ideas that inspired me. I went through many other interests of mine like chess and food, but they didn't elicit the same historical impact compared to table tennis. I initially struggled to connect table tennis to the theme, but further research uncovered multiple historical events regarding table tennis, such as "Ping-Pong Diplomacy." The reason I incorporated China's involvement in the sport is because they have been so dominant for so long. This led to me wondering where it started and events and turning points that have led up to the modern day.

My initial research was conducted by using the internet to find articles regarding the history of Chinese table tennis. This resulted in finding multiple primary sources and secondary sources regarding events such as "Ping-Pong Diplomacy," the state of China during that time, and the overall historical success table tennis. A curiosity of a variety in perspectives led me to find sources from Chinese newspapers and conversations held with the people involved. I got a book about ping-pong diplomacy that I found very useful. It provided many different perspectives of the events and some of the games' history.

The overall creation of my project went in the normally, starting with my introduction. I varied from my graphic organizer because I hadn't prepared it to write this paper. In addition, I wrote a paper because I thought that this story was well told in words, and the NHD Website Builder was inconveniently difficult and annoying to use. I also enjoyed the overall process of putting together sources and commentary to form something historically accurate and entertaining. I also made many edits after the regional tournament. The judges had put in the

feedback form to integrate the theme and my thesis claim more. Another piece of feedback was to incorporate perspectives of other countries, which I completed.

Chinese table tennis relates to the theme of “Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas” because many people, places, and ideas of table tennis in the late 20th century pushed frontiers. The players, newspaper workers, civilians, and politicians who were involved in this sport all contributed to historical events that would change history. The historical significance of this topic is great, events such as Ping-Pong Diplomacy have shaped the world, and throughout history, the overall success of Chinese players has captured the admiration of millions of people around the world. During a time of great turmoil in the newly Communist country, table tennis shone as comfort for all levels of financial experiences. From this passion, a national team arose along with unlikely diplomatists (the players) who influenced international relations, helping China gain friendships with other countries.

## Ping Pong Qiu: Negotiating the Net and Impacting the World

### Introduction

Table tennis may be seen as a simple back-and-forth hitting of a white plastic ball, but has proven to be more. In the Chinese language, ping pong translates to ping pang. When the characters overlay, it means “soldier”<sup>1</sup>; however, when translated separately, they translate to “enormous peace,” meaning that “diplomacy [is] embedded in its characters ...”<sup>2</sup> (Appendix A). The history of table tennis and its influence on many people, places, and cultures during the Cold War, broke through social and geopolitical frontiers beginning with an accidental interaction that blossomed into a diplomatic solution for many countries. This single interaction between two players from China and America would push the geopolitical frontiers of international diplomacy. The history of Chinese table tennis is a story of fame, success, persecution, and breaking through social and geopolitical frontiers between communist China and the world.

Table tennis was first invented as an after-dinner party game in England. The term “Ping-Pong” was first coined by the English company J. Jaques and Son, who sold equipment for this sport.<sup>3</sup> The Chinese repurposed this name as “ping-pang qiu”. The significance of ping-pang began with Chairman Mao Zedong, the leader of Communist China, who influenced the history of Chinese Table Tennis. He enjoyed playing and even made it the national sport of China

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<sup>1</sup> Griffin, Nicholas. 2014. *Ping-Pong Diplomacy : The Secret History behind the Game That Changed the World*. New York: Scribner.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, *Ping-Pong Diplomacy*.

<sup>3</sup> “Ping-Pong.” n.d. *Ping-Pong*. Accessed May 9, 2023. [https://www.jcschools.us/cms/lib/MO01909951/Centricity/Domain/3617/History\\_Rules%20Ping%20Pong.pdf](https://www.jcschools.us/cms/lib/MO01909951/Centricity/Domain/3617/History_Rules%20Ping%20Pong.pdf).

because table tennis required less space than other sports and was not popular in the West.<sup>4</sup> Due to his support of this sport, the Chinese quickly became pioneers of the game and changed the sport's history. China's adherence to table tennis gave rise to a worldwide arena that affected diplomacy and has impacted the perspectives of its players.

### **ITTF and Introduction of Table Tennis in China**

Table tennis, the national sport of China, has an interesting history with fame, death, heroism, and world peace. Despite this impact, table tennis was not created in China; it was invented in England and introduced as an after-dinner party game in 1890. Later, Ivor Montagu took it to the next level, forming the ITTF in 1926. He was the spark that set off the Ping-Pong craze in China.

Once recognized by the government, table tennis was taken very seriously in China. To illustrate, 108 of the best table tennis players gathered for winter training prior to the 1960 world table tennis championships.<sup>5</sup> He Long, the former Vice Premier of the PRC, had said how "he wanted to use the sport to raise the spirit of the people."<sup>6</sup> In a country with a burgeoning famine resulting from the Great Leap Forward, a national industrialization effort<sup>7</sup>, the athletes were living with relative privilege. They were provided with new equipment when the previous equipment was worn, and most importantly, they had food. The players underwent rigorous

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<sup>4</sup> Lubin, Gus. 2016. "Why China Is so Staggeringly Good at Table Tennis." Business Insider. August 18, 2016. <https://www.businessinsider.com/why-china-is-so-good-at-table-tennis-2016-8>.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*, Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*, Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

<sup>7</sup> "Great Leap Forward | Definition, Facts, & Significance." 2018. In Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Leap-Forward>.

training every day to get them in shape to succeed. The team was now expected to bear the weight of all of China on their shoulders.

During this time, relations between the U.S. and China were "clouded by Cold War propaganda, trade embargoes, and diplomatic silence."<sup>8</sup> The People's Republic of China (PRC) did not have good ties with any country. Multiple bloody border skirmishes with the Soviet Union proved that China was not looking to maintain previous friendships.<sup>9</sup> Enemies now surrounded the Chinese. Because of this political desperation, they looked to none other than the U.S. to forge foreign relations and accidentally did this through table tennis.

### **International Relations: Ping-Pong Diplomacy**

The Cold War positioned authoritarian communist countries such as China against democratic countries in an economic and political-ideological conflict over power and influence of the global order. Diplomatic solutions were needed to cross these social and geopolitical frontiers, which had been further harmed by propaganda and the Korean War.<sup>10</sup> Through table tennis, China was able to start brokering peace with other countries, done accidentally during the 1971 World Table Tennis Championships in Nagoya, Japan.<sup>11</sup>

The Chinese team was directly ordered not to speak to any of the American team players, but the top player, Zhuang Zedong, disobeyed when Cowan stepped onto the wrong bus after

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<sup>8</sup> Andrews, Evan. "How Ping-Pong Diplomacy Thawed the Cold War." History Channel, 8 April 2016.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid*, Ping-Pong Diplomacy

<sup>10</sup> Andrews, Evan. 2018. "How Ping-Pong Diplomacy Thawed the Cold War." HISTORY. October 19, 2018. <https://www.history.com/news/ping-pong-diplomacy>.

<sup>11</sup> "Ping Pong Diplomacy: 1971 World Champion Recalls Legendary Exchanges between China and U.S. Players." n.d. News.cgtn.com. Accessed May 16, 2023. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-11-24/VHJhbnNjcmlwdDYwNTk0/index.html>.

practice. Ten minutes passed as an awkward silence followed.<sup>12</sup> Zhuang greeted and handed him a gift, a silk art piece with a mountain. Cowan later reciprocated the kind gesture, giving him a Beatles t-shirt saying, "Let It Be." This silk gift was not a complete accident, as Zhuang admitted, "Before I left China, I went to a warehouse to get a large silk screen portrait for an American[.]"<sup>13</sup>

What followed would be a trip known as the very first "Ping-Pong Diplomacy." Chairman Mao Zedong invited a group of Americans to China to play table tennis and talk diplomacy. This invitation and the following tour were a result of the possibility of peace between these two large and very different countries. A frontier was created between China and the whole world through multiple actions leading to this political isolation. The event pushed this diplomatic frontier, allowing the PRC to interact positively with one of the most powerful countries in the world at the time.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was greeted with a banquet organized by Zhou Enlai, the former Premier of China. The Chinese army played American songs, and Nixon and Zhou Enlai clinked glasses.<sup>14</sup> This detente included a private meeting with Chairman Mao and a performance for the U.S. President by Chinese athletes and table tennis players. Reciprocation of this visit was immediately set upon, and the Americans soon hosted the Chinese table tennis team to visit the United States for the first time.

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<sup>12</sup> Martin, Douglas. "Zhuang Zedong, Skilled in China Foreign Relations and Ping-Pong, Dies at 72 (Published 2013)." *The New York Times* [New York City], 11 February 2013.

<sup>13</sup> *ibid*, Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

<sup>14</sup> *ibid*, Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

The Chinese Team played exhibition matches in the U.S. The crowd enjoyed the skill that was displayed by the Chinese players.<sup>15</sup> Despite this, the distaste for the communist Chinese became more prominent. Another exhibition match in Detroit showed a banner unfurled above the seated Team: "Send us our POWs, not Ping-Pong players. Next, hundreds of anti-Communist leaflets spiraled from the upper levels of Cobo Hall. Finally, dead rats came floating down...." One even had a red coat on it and the name Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. Secretary of State.

<sup>16</sup>

Despite this rather cold introduction, the Chinese delegation continued to tour the country. The group toured a Chrysler production plant. The visiting players set up a table and played some casual matches.<sup>17</sup> In addition, they visited the White House and met with President Richard Nixon. (Appendix B)<sup>18</sup> This diplomacy trip was vital to the tentative forming of a geopolitical friendship between China and the U.S. This relationship broke through political frontiers to a length that had never before been achieved through Chinese sports and the most prominent international affair by the young communist government.

### **Perspectives Throughout History**

Many different perspectives of different people throughout the history of Ping-Pong in China have impacted the perspectives of players and global citizens alike. U.S. player Connie

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<sup>15</sup> Schumach, Murray. "China's Table Tennis Team Visits City, Plays at U.N." New York Times [New York City], 20 April 1972, para. 19.

<sup>16</sup> *ibid*, Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

<sup>17</sup> Flint, Jerry M. "China's Table Tennis Smash in Detroit." New York Times [New York City], 14 April 1972, para. 13.

<sup>18</sup> Leffler, Warren K, photographer. President Richard Nixon greeting members of the Chinese National Table Tennis Team on the lawn of the White House, Washington, D.C. / WKL. United States Washington D.C. China, 1972. [18 April] Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2015647169/>.



Sweevis, and her husband, Dell Sweevis, were on the Team that traveled to China in 1971. In an interview, former women's U.S. champion Sweevis detailed her experience playing exhibition matches in China, including her impressions on the Chinese Delegation and Men's Team. Her account highlights the 1971 table tennis competition between Communist China and the United States, which laid the groundwork for a foreign relations breakthrough of these previously chilly relations.<sup>19</sup>

Fu Qifang was a strong Chinese table tennis player but is most commonly known as the head coach of the Chinese team. "After retiring, Fu Qifang served as the coach of the Chinese table tennis team since 1958, coaching the famous Rong Guotuan and other players".<sup>20</sup> Fu Qifang heavily impacted the lives of the more famous table tennis players, such as Rong Guotuan and Zhuang Zedong, through his years coaching the national team. Despite this impact, Fu Qifang suffered from the Cultural Revolution and committed suicide in 1968. This player is another perspective, of many, of how table tennis has impacted the lives of millions in history and today, forming frontiers and extending them in different ways.

### **Short-and Long-Term Impact**

Chinese table tennis has made frontiers in both short and long-term historical events. The short-term impact of the first Ping-pong diplomacy led the way for more diplomacy efforts to take place as seen by a later diplomacy tour between the PRC and Mexico. In addition, a little-known ping-pong diplomacy event occurred in Switzerland in late 1972. A video details the exhibition matches and some of the conversations, speeches, and interviews given between the

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<sup>19</sup> Campagna, Jeff. 2011. "Connie Sweevis, Ping-Pong Diplomat .2011.

<sup>20</sup> Sohu Sports. "男乒直板高手:容国团三连冠 马琳坎坎坷坷(图)." Sohu Sports, 5 December 2018.

players, fans, journalists, and Swiss officials.<sup>21</sup> The aforementioned proceedings were immensely significant in the political opening of the PRC. These frontiers were superseded because they created compromises with multiple large countries to pull themselves out of the eclipse of good relations.

An example of a player and person who pushed the frontiers of the Chinese table tennis culture is Rong Guotuan. Rong was the world table tennis champion in 1959 and China's first world champion in any sport. He enjoyed this success with the Chinese National Table Tennis Team, but it did not last for long. The Cultural Revolution was initialized, and he and other athletes were persecuted, humiliated, and tortured. This could have been a result of the government's suspicion of citizens interacting with the outside world. Rong was persecuted as a spy. He committed suicide on June 20, 1968. Rong Guotuan left a note in his pocket stating, "I am not a spy. Please do not suspect me. I have let you down. I treasure my reputation more than my own life."<sup>22</sup> Rong Guotuan was a revolutionary in historical table tennis success, as he was the first Chinese player to win a world championship.

An example of a long-term impact is the 2021 Houston World Table Tennis Championships. In this event for the 50th anniversary of Ping-Pong Diplomacy, Chinese national team players Lin Gaoyuan and Lily Zhang paired in the mixed doubles category. The same happened with Wang Manyu and Kanak Jha.<sup>23</sup> This was the first time in history that the U.S. and China had paired in the World Table Tennis Championships. Unfortunately, it is not likely that

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<sup>21</sup> *Sino-Swiss friendship*. (1972, December 8). [Video]. Las Archives De La RTS. Retrieved March 29, 2023, from <https://www.rts.ch/archives/tv/sports/camera-sport/3442225-1-amitie-sino-suisse.html>

<sup>22</sup> "In memory of China's 1st world champion Rong Guotuan[1]- Chinadaily.com.cn." China Daily, 4 April 2014.

<sup>23</sup> "Historical China-USA Pairs Enter World Table Tennis Championships on 50th Anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy." ITTF, 22 November 2021.

another “Ping-Pong Diplomacy” will happen with China because of the hardening and decline of communism in the modern-day world and how closed off the PRC has been for the past decade.

Another long-term diplomatic event was declared at the Korea Open in 2018. North Korea and South Korea, in like fashion to the U.S. and China, paired for the doubles events in this tournament. Four doubles pairs were formed, and the two countries were unified through table tennis.<sup>24</sup> An event such as this exemplifies the long-term impact of Chinese table tennis diplomacy. The 1971 Ping-Pong Diplomacy has, even today, impacted the ways that people have thought about this sport and its ability to transcend frontiers of political dissoluteness with different countries and people.

The short- and long-term impacts of not just Ping-Pong Diplomacy but Chinese table tennis have impacted the world and created frontiers in international success. From Rong Guotuan to the newest talent throughout history and today, Chinese table tennis will continue to extend and surpass frontiers in every category.

## **Conclusion**

No sport has captivated a country as table tennis does China. It was announced as the national sport of China in 1952 and has had unprecedented success there ever since. Ping-pang has done much for this country with diplomacy and as an origin of nationalistic solidarity in otherwise hopeless times. This allowed for the sport to thrive and paved the way for people to push frontiers in history.

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<sup>24</sup> ITTF. 2018. “North & South Korea to Join Forces at ITTF Korea Open.” International Table Tennis Federation. <https://www.ittf.com/2018/07/16/north-south-korea-join-forces-ittf-korea-open/>.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

Campagna, Jeff. 2011. "Connie Sweeris, Ping-Pong Diplomat | Arts & Culture." Smithsonian Magazine. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/connie-sweeris-ping-pong-diplomat-1094661/>.

This interview with former women's U.S. champion Connie Sweeries detailed her experience playing exhibition matches in China and how everything played out. It gave me an idea of the perspectives of the players.

"Historical China-USA Pairs Enter World Table Tennis Championships on 50th Anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy." ITTF, 22 November 2021, <https://www.ittf.com/2021/11/22/historical-china-usa-pairs-enter-world-table-tennis-championships-50th-anniversary-ping-pong-diplomacy/>. Accessed 10 October 2022.

This source is an online article. I used it as an example of the long-term impact of table tennis. This proved my thesis statement by showing how table tennis has impacted the world, even in today's world.

International Olympic Committee. "MA Long wins historic second straight Olympic gold in men's singles table tennis." Olympics, 8 September 2022,

<https://olympics.com/en/news/ma-long-wins-historic-second-straight-olympic-gold-in-men-s-singles-table-tennis>. Accessed 27 September 2022.

I used this article to demonstrate the success of modern Chinese table tennis. Ma Long has pushed frontiers in international table tennis history, so that's why I used it to demonstrate my thesis.

ITTF. 2018. "North & South Korea to Join Forces at ITTF Korea Open." International Table Tennis Federation.

<https://www.ittf.com/2018/07/16/north-south-korea-join-forces-ittf-korea-open/>.

This source is an article. I used this source as an example of the long-term impact of the first "Ping-Pong Diplomacy". This is because I thought it was a really good example of the effect that Chinese table tennis diplomacy has had on other countries.

Leffler, Warren K, photographer. President Richard Nixon greeted members of the Chinese National Table Tennis Team on the lawn of the White House, Washington, D.C. / WKL. [18 April] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <[www.loc.gov/item/2015647169/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2015647169/)>.

This is an image that I used to help give the imagery of the interaction between Nixon and the Chinese table tennis team. It was part of my point about Ping-Pong Diplomacy. This photograph gives more understanding of the meeting. (Appendix B)

“Ping Pong Diplomacy: 1971 World Champion Recalls Legendary Exchanges between China and U.S. Players.” n.d. News.cgtn.com. Accessed May 16, 2023.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-11-24/VHJhbnNjcmlwdDYwNTk0/index.html>.

This is an interview done by one of the former Chinese national team players, Liang Geliang. I included it as knowledge of the 1971 World Table Tennis Championships in Nagoya, Japan. This helped me introduce Ping-Pong Diplomacy in my paper.

*Sino-Swiss friendship*. (1972, December 8). [Video]. Las Archives De La RTS. Retrieved March 29, 2023, from

<https://www.rts.ch/archives/tv/sports/camera-sport/3442225-l-amitie-sino-suisse.html>

This source is a video recording from the 1970s. It regarded a tour of Switzerland from the Chinese national table tennis team. It was used as an additional source and example of ping-pong diplomacy in other countries than just the U.S.

Tiyansan, Ediz. “Table Tennis champ Connie Sweeris discusses her experience playing in China.” CGTN, 23 November 2021,

<https://newsus.cgtn.com/news/2021-11-23/Connie-Sweeris-discusses-her-experience-playing-in-China-15pBsNGtv5S/index.html>. Accessed 22 September 2022.

This is an interview. I used this source as an example of a perspective throughout history. Sweeris was one of the players who were in China for diplomatic purposes. This source further explained how the players were impacted and their experiences there.

World History Archive. Mao Zedong playing table tennis (Ping Pong) during the Long March; 1935. Mao Zedong (1893 - September 9, 1976), was a Chinese communist revolutionary who became the founding father of the People's Republic of China (PRC), which he ruled as the Chairman of the Communist Party of China from its establishment in 1949 until his death. 23 August 2019. Alamy Stock Photo, Alamy Stock Photo, <https://www.alamy.com/mao-zedong-playing-table-tennis-ping-pong-during-the-long-march-1935-mao-zedong-1893-september-9-1976-was-a-chinese-communist-revolutionary-who-became-the-founding-father-of-the-peoples-republic-of-china-prc-which-he-ruled-as-the-chai>. Accessed 27 September 2022.

This source is an image. I used this source as evidence that Mao Zedong played table tennis and supported the sport as the national sport of China. He proclaimed it the national sport in 1954. This helped to contribute to the fact that Chairman Mao supported this sport.

Xinhua News Agency. Chinese three-time world champion Ping Pong player Zhuang Zedong (left) presented a Yellow Mountain silk weaving art piece to American athlete Glenn Cowan (right) on April 4, 1971. 4 April 1971, Nagoya, Japan. National Museum of American Diplomacy,

<https://diplomacy.state.gov/artifact-collection-highlights/ping-pong-diplomacy-historic-1971-u-s-table-tennis-trip-to-china/>. Accessed 20 September 2022.

This is an image from 1971. I used this to show Zhuang Zedong giving a gift to Glenn Cowan. This image gave me more details and a better understanding of what the gift he gave was.

### **Secondary Sources**

Andrews, Evan. "How Ping-Pong Diplomacy Thawed the Cold War." History Channel, 8 April 2016, <https://www.history.com/news/ping-pong-diplomacy>. Accessed 20 September 2022.

I used this source to demonstrate why the relationship between the U.S. and PRC was so strained. This is an article. I also used it to help detail the lead-up to Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

Britannica Encyclopedia. "Ping-Pong diplomacy." *Britannica Kids*, <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/Ping-Pong-diplomacy/312985>. Accessed 25 September 2022.

This is an online article. I used this source as a form of background information and for paraphrasing a section. This was about the 1971/72 U.S. tours of China, which played a big role in pushing the frontiers in place during this time.



DeHart, Jonathan. "The Legacy of Ping-Pong Diplomat Zhuang Zedong – The Diplomat." *The Diplomat* [Washington, D.C.], 13 February 2013, <https://thediplomat.com/2013/02/the-legacy-of-ping-pong-diplomat-zhuang-zedong/>. Accessed 28 September 2022.

This source is an article. I used it to provide information about Zhuang Zedong, his life, and his success in table tennis. This was part of my short and long-term impact section, and I used this source for a short term to demonstrate the success of Chinese table tennis.

Flint, Jerry M. "China's Table Tennis Smash in Detroit." *New York Times* [New York City], 14 April 1972, para. 13, [https://s1.nyt.com/timesmachine/pages/1/1972/04/14/82219563\\_360W.png?quality=75&auto=webp&disable=upscale](https://s1.nyt.com/timesmachine/pages/1/1972/04/14/82219563_360W.png?quality=75&auto=webp&disable=upscale). Accessed 21 September 2022.

This is a newspaper article by the NY Times about the Chinese table tennis team in the U.S. I used it to give an example of where the team visited. The excerpt I used was about them visiting a Chrysler plant and playing some games there. This proved my thesis by demonstrating a result of Chinese table tennis and diplomacy.

"Great Leap Forward | Definition, Facts, & Significance." 2023. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Leap-Forward>.

This source is an article. I used it as historical context about the Great Leap Forward. This helped prove my thesis statement by showing what table tennis players had.

Griffin, Nicholas. *Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World*. First Scribner hardcover ed. Scribner 2014.

This source is a book. I used this source a lot to look at the different perspectives of the countries and even individual people. There was much more historical information about China and what the people experienced during times such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution—a lot of insight in this book I didn't see from any of my sources online. I also used this to see where table tennis started in England and the story of how it got to China.

Hallow, Ralph Z. "China Ping-Pong Team in Mexico." *Pittsburgh-Post Gazette* [Pittsburgh], Vol. 15 ed., no. No. 191, 1 May 1972, p. 36,  
<https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=qIBIAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=Lm0DAAAIBAJ&pg=2965%2C9323>. Accessed 21 September 2022.

This source is a newspaper article. It is about a Chinese table tennis team's visit to Mexico City. I used it as an additional source and example of ping-pong diplomacy in other countries. This was another historical perspective I didn't see before.

“In memory of China's 1st world champion Rong Guotuan[1]- Chinadaily.com.cn.” China Daily, 4 April 2014, [https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/sports/2014-04/04/content\\_17409143.htm](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/sports/2014-04/04/content_17409143.htm). Accessed 27 September 2022.

This newspaper was used to give information about Rong Guotuan, his life, and what he experienced. I used this source to give information about one of the most influential table tennis players in table tennis history. He is also an example of the suffering of the Cultural Revolution.

“Ping-Pong.” n.d. Ping-Pong. Accessed May 9, 2023.

[https://www.jcschools.us/cms/lib/MO01909951/Centricity/Domain/3617/History\\_Rules%20Ping%20Pong.pdf](https://www.jcschools.us/cms/lib/MO01909951/Centricity/Domain/3617/History_Rules%20Ping%20Pong.pdf).

This source is a pdf article document. I used it as a reference to explain the origins of the term “Ping-Pong”. This helped provide some historical context before reading the content of the paper.

Lubin, Gus. “Why China Is so Good at Table Tennis.” *Business Insider*, 18 August 2016, <https://www.businessinsider.com/why-china-is-so-good-at-table-tennis-2016-8>. Accessed 20 September 2022.

This is an online news article. I used this article to explain why Mao Zedong chose table tennis to be the national sport of China. This topic was an important part of my background and provided a reason why table tennis is so successful and popular in China.

Martin, Douglas. “Zhuang Zedong, Skilled in China Foreign Relations and Ping-Pong, Dies at 72 (Published 2013).” *The New York Times* [New York City], 11 February 2013,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/12/world/asia/zhuang-zedong-winner-in-china-foreign-relations-and-ping-pong-dies-at-72.html>. Accessed 21 September 2022.

This source is a news article. I used it to talk about Zhuang Zedong and his impact on Ping-Pong Diplomacy. I also used this source to write about his influence on the history of Chinese table tennis as a whole.

Segal, David. "China Takes Past to Birthplace of Table Tennis at Olympics." The New York Times, 30 July 2012, <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/30/sports/olympics/china-brings-its-past-to-ping-pongs-birth-place.html>. Accessed 19 September 2022.

This source was used to tell about the result of humiliation and torture brought upon the Chinese table tennis players during the Cultural Revolution. It is a newspaper. This source also told about the famous Double Happiness company formed after Rong Guotuan won the world championships in 1959.

Schumach, Murray. "China's Table Tennis Team Visits City, Plays at U.N." New York Times [New York City], 20 April 1972, para. 19, <https://www.nytimes.com/1972/04/20/archives/chinas-table-tennis-team-visits-city-plays-at-un-chinese-team-pays.html?searchResultPosition=9>. Accessed 21 September 2022.

This is a newspaper article from 1972 written by the New York Times. I used this source to give a better understanding of the exhibition matches in New York. This source contained information of how the fans reacted, which I used.

Sohu Sports. “男乒直板高手：容国团三连冠 马琳坎坎坷坷(图).” Sohu Sports, 5 December 2018, <https://sports.sohu.com/20140502/n399059369.shtml>. Accessed 28 September 2022.

This source is an article. I used it to provide different perspectives, such as that of Chinese newspaper writers. It is about Fu Qifang, who was also a very influential table tennis figure.

Vonnard, Quin, & Sbeti. (2017, December 18). *Beyond Boycotts*. De Gruyter Oldenbourg. [https://search.lib.asu.edu/permalink/01ASU\\_INST/pio0a/alma991048394404003841](https://search.lib.asu.edu/permalink/01ASU_INST/pio0a/alma991048394404003841)

This source is a book. I used an online version of this book. This source is about the Cold War and how sports were impacted. It includes a section regarding another “ping-pong diplomacy” in Switzerland. It used a video as a source, which I ended up using as well.

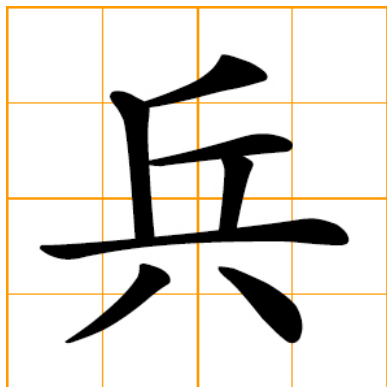
Yglesias, Jose. “Chinese Ping-Pong Players Vs. the Press: Love All.” New York Times, 14 May 1972, para. 12, [https://s1.nyt.com/timesmachine/pages/1/1972/05/14/91331090\\_360W.png?quality=75&auto=webp&disable=upscale](https://s1.nyt.com/timesmachine/pages/1/1972/05/14/91331090_360W.png?quality=75&auto=webp&disable=upscale). Accessed 19 September 2022.

This is a newspaper article that I used to highlight the perspective of a newspaper worker.

This source was used to represent the perspectives of more than just table tennis players.

This connects to my point about table tennis causing more than just exhibition matches.

## Appendix A



乒乓球

pīngpāngqiú

Appendix B

