



**CAN A FIGHT
EVER BE 'JUST A
FIGHT'?**





CONFLICT & UNCERTAINTY

People often divide the world into groups.

Allies

Enemies

Insiders

Outsiders

Us

Them

*"We? Who's we?
There is no we anymore."*





WHAT COUNTRIES

do you think these two fighters came from?

A

USA vs Germany

B

USA vs South Africa

C

UK vs Germany

D

South Africa vs Germany

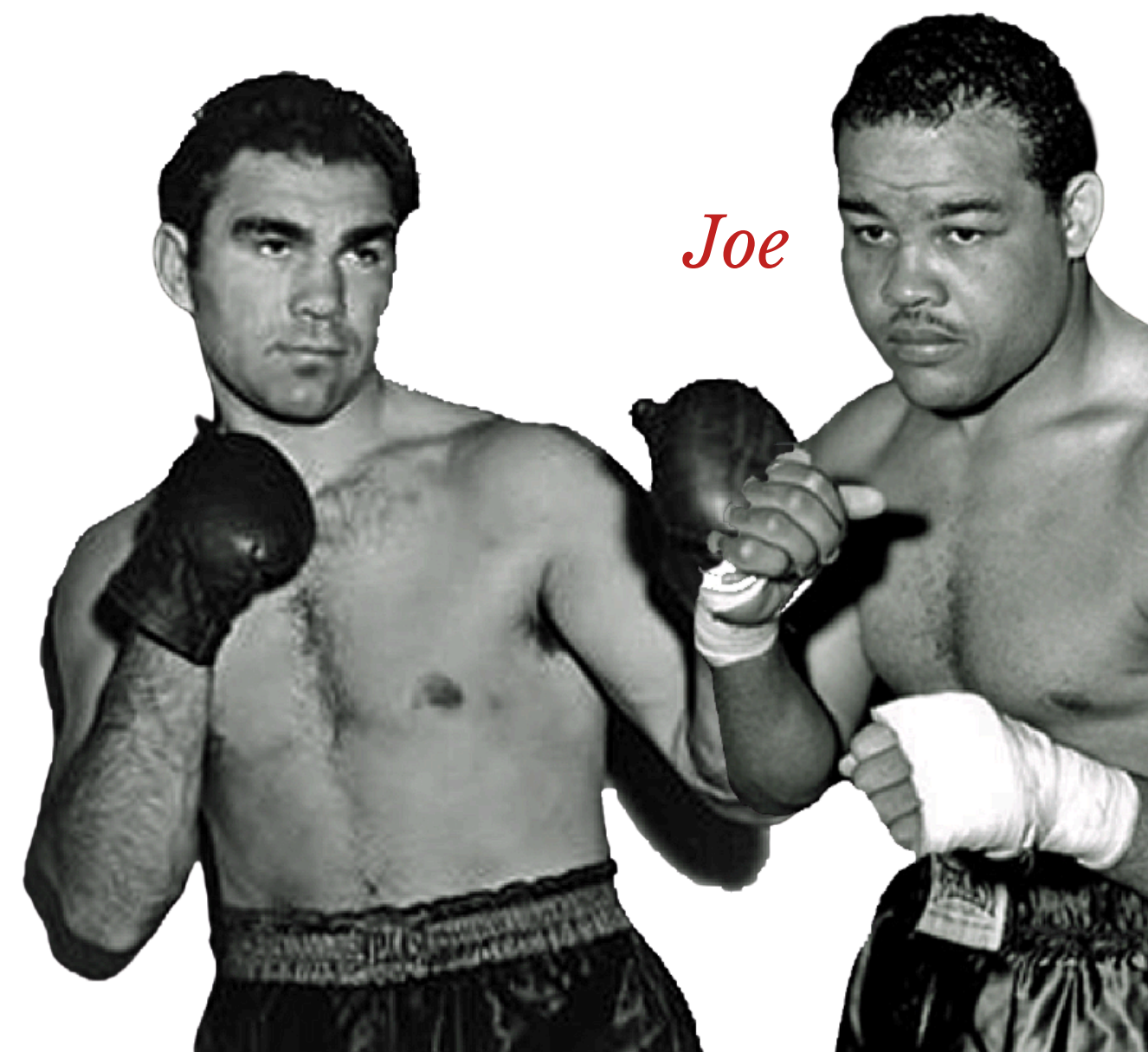
**Symbolic Showdown between
Democracy vs Dictatorship**

Pre-World War II

1938

Max

Joe





*What a creature is the Jew.
Not even his own women he likes.
To share himself a German wife.
He thinks just cute. You bet your life!
Look at Jew and girl right here:
'Tis sure he can't be thought her peer!*

RACIAL SUPERIORITY

*ideologies were amplified and spread
more widely across Europe with the
rise of Nazi power in Germany.*



A cartoon and an extract from its accompanying poem, from a children's book, *Trust No Fox on His Green Heath and No Jew on His Oath*, written by Elvira Bauer.

The book was published in 1936 by Julius Streicher's notoriously anti-Semitic Stürmer Publishing House. The poem was translated by the University of South Florida library and edited by Professor Randall Bytwerk.



UNITED STATES = DEMOCRACY??

*in reality, racism and segregation
were still very common in the U.S*





“Chocolate Chopper”

“Mahogany Mauler”

“Mahogany Mauler”

“Chocolate Chopper”

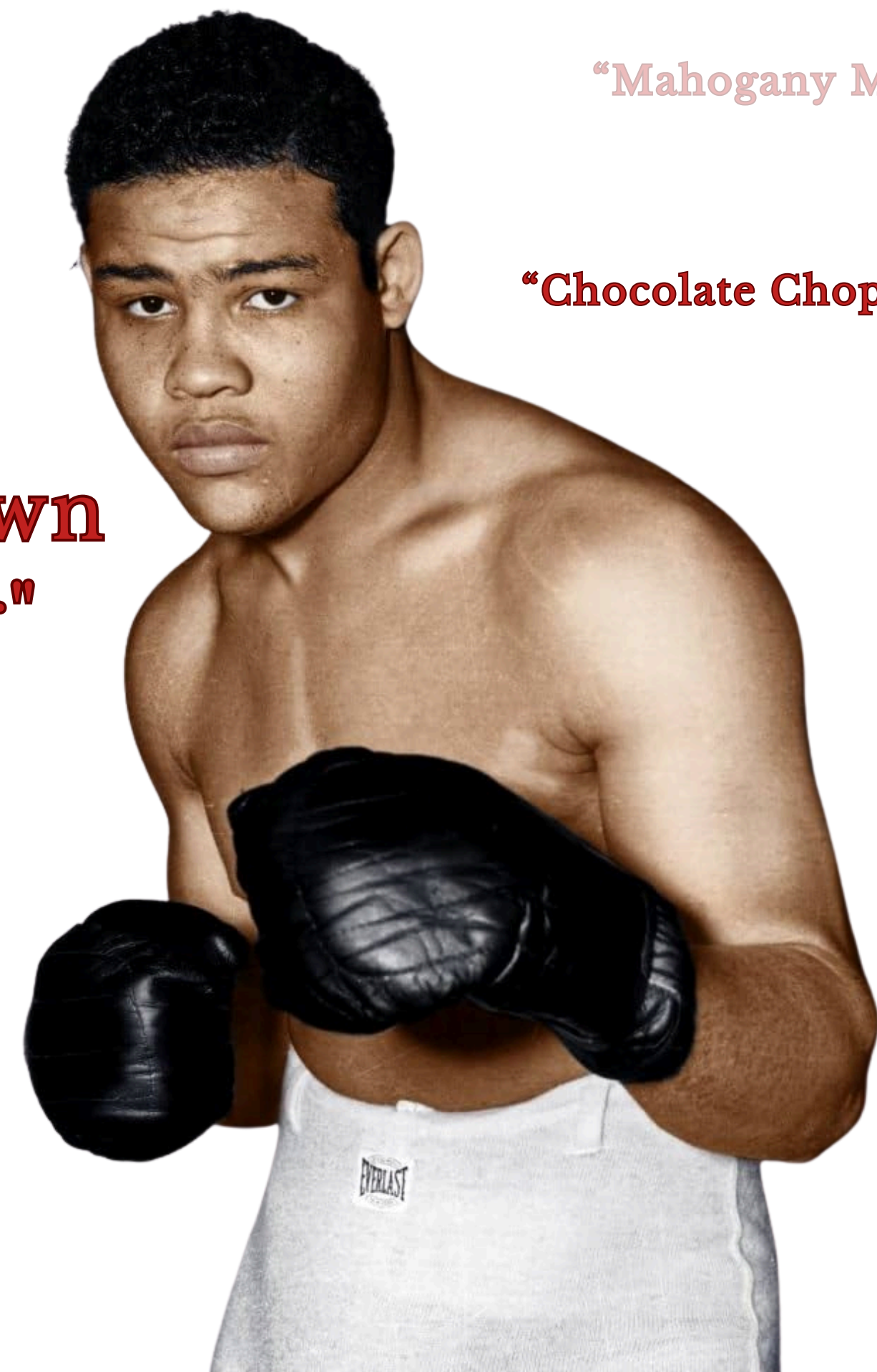
JOE LOUIS

often faced unfair treatment and were not given the same rights or respect as white Americans.

“The Brown Bomber”

“Chocolate Chopper”

Safari Sandman





Watch video on YouTube

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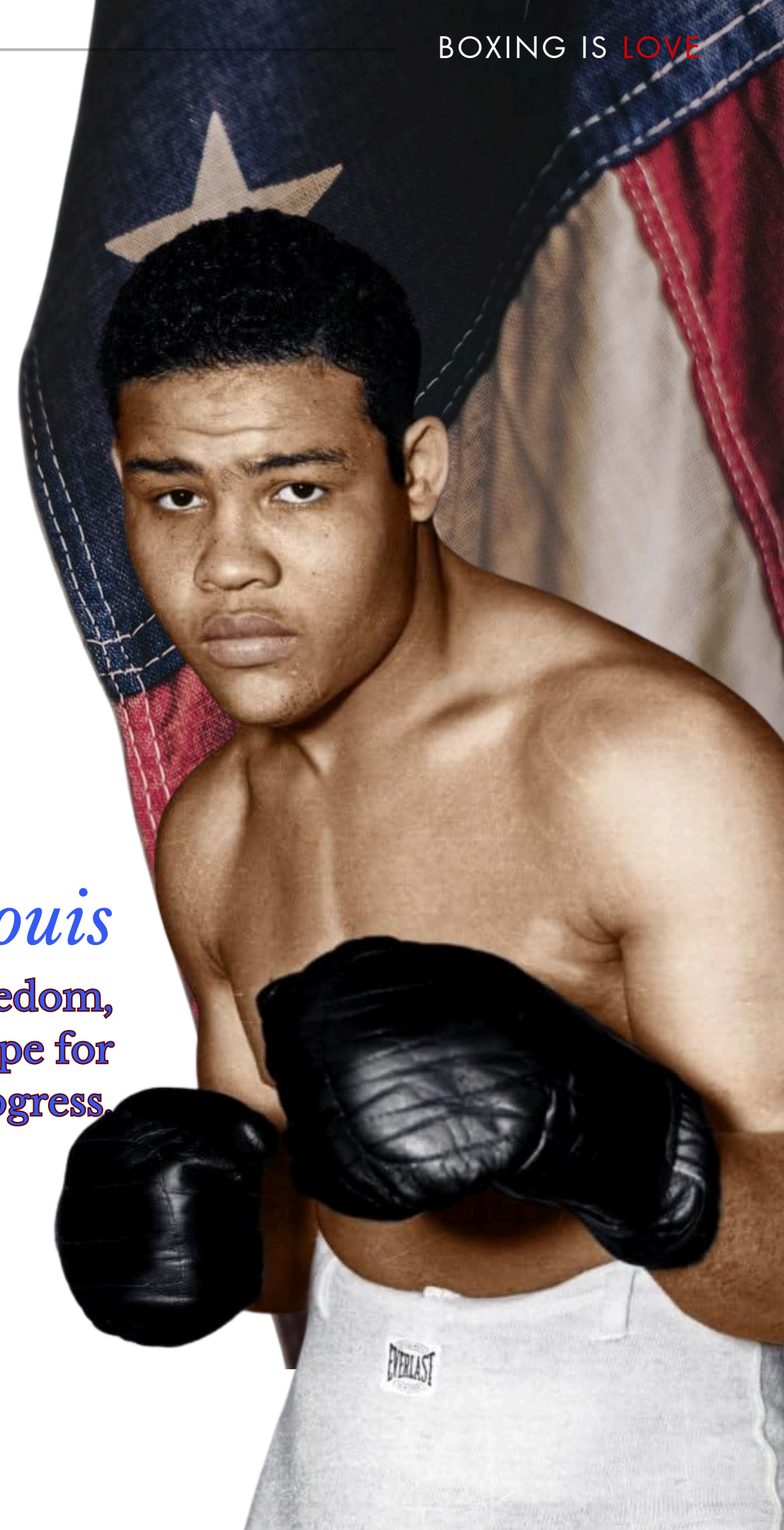
POLITICAL BATTLE IN THE RING

Max Schmeling

Represented Hitler's
racist beliefs and
dictatorship.

Joe Louis

Represented freedom,
democracy, and hope for
racial progress.



NOTE: **Max Schmeling was not a Nazi.** He personally saved the lives of two Jewish children by hiding them in his Excelsior hotel room in Berlin.

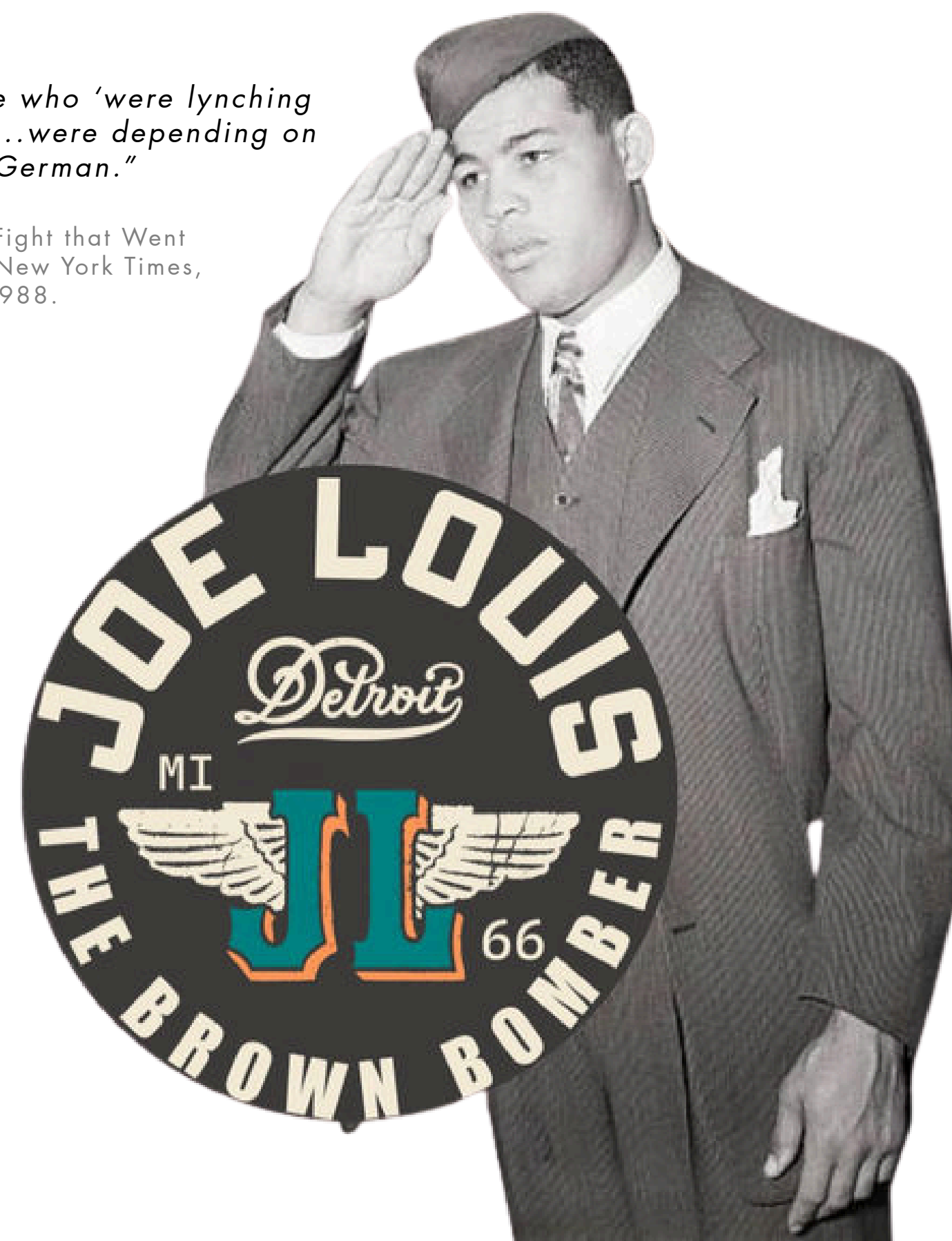


"Even racist white people who 'were lynching Black people in the South...were depending on me to K.O. a German."

"The Championship Fight that Went Beyond Boxing," The New York Times, June 19, 1988.

RACISM PERSISTS

Although Joe Louis defeated Max Schmeling in the first round and was celebrated as a hero, he continued to face racism at home.





CONTRADICTIONS

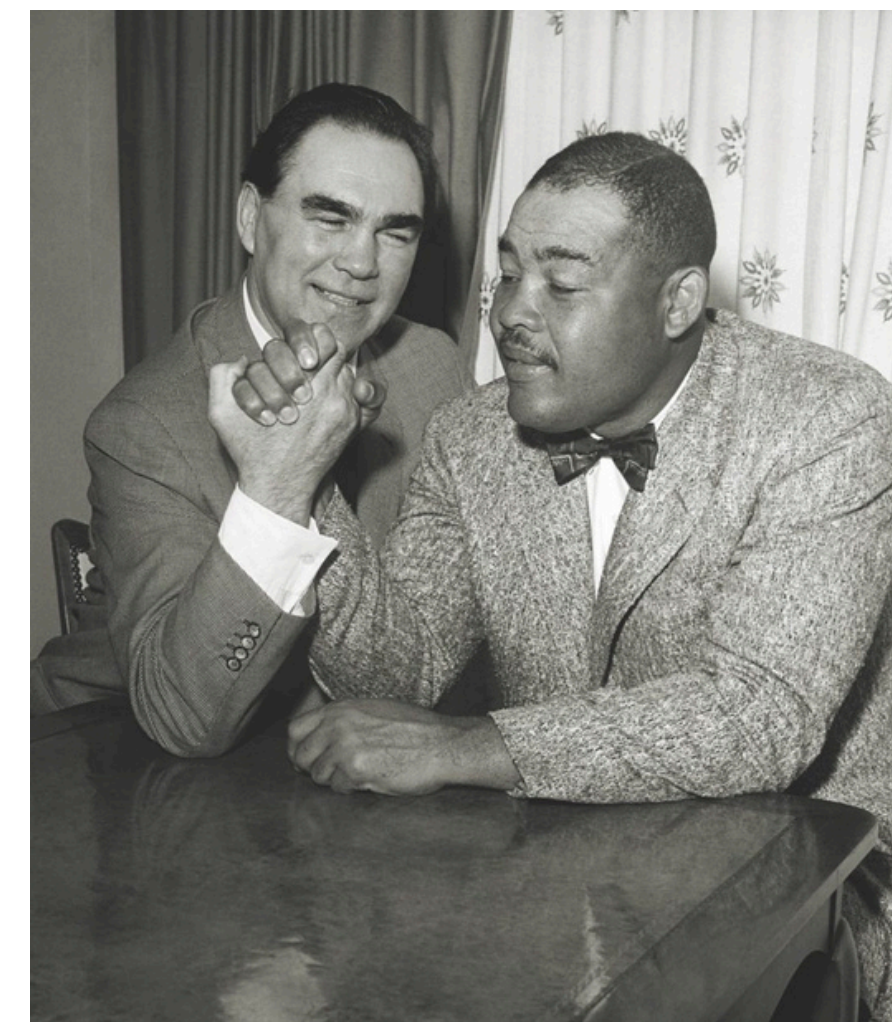
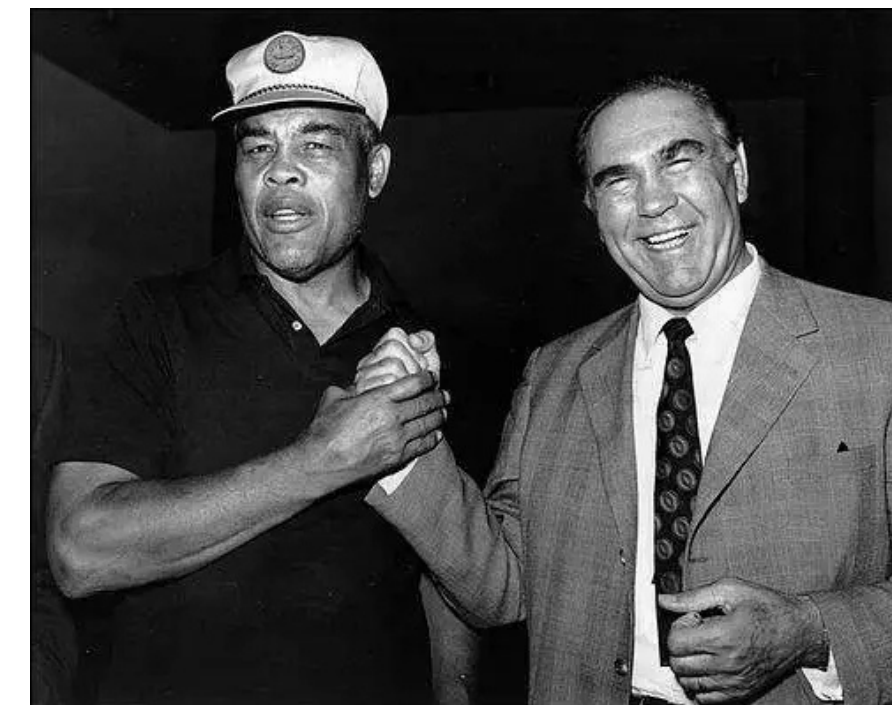
in American Society

“There is no doubt that white America will accept a black champion, applaud and reward him, as long as there is no white hope' in sight... But what white America demands in her black champions is a brilliant, powerful body and a dull, bestial mind—a tiger in the ring and a pussycat outside the ring.” (Eldrige Cleaver)



CONSTRUCTED “US” VS “THEM”

The simple narrative of “us vs. them” and reminds us that such divisions are often constructed by governments, by media, and by public imagination, and can be broken down.





QUESTION:

Can you think of modern examples where sports reflect political, social, or racial issues?

