

who's running the world

who's running the world is a question that has captivated thinkers, politicians, activists, and everyday citizens for centuries. From political leaders and corporate magnates to social movements and technological innovations, the question of power and influence remains complex and multifaceted. In today's interconnected world, understanding who truly holds the reins involves examining various layers of authority, economic power, cultural influence, and technological control. This article explores these dimensions in detail, providing insights into the intricate web of power that shapes our global society.

The Political Sphere: Governments and International Bodies

Nation-States and Political Leaders

At the most visible level, governments and their leaders play a significant role in shaping policies, laws, and international relations. Countries like the United States, China, Russia, and members of the European Union wield substantial influence through their military strength, economic size, and diplomatic reach. Political figures such as presidents, prime ministers, and monarchs directly impact global events through decisions on trade, security, and diplomacy.

International Organizations

Beyond individual nations, international bodies coordinate efforts across borders and hold a degree of collective power:

- United Nations (UN): Fosters international cooperation on issues like peacekeeping, human rights, and climate change.
- World Trade Organization (WTO): Regulates global trade rules and disputes.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank: Influence global financial stability and development projects.

While these organizations are sometimes seen as mediators rather than rulers, their policies and decisions can have profound impacts worldwide.

Economic Powerhouses: Corporations and Financial Institutions

Multinational Corporations

In the modern era, corporations wield enormous influence that often rivals or exceeds that of some governments. Tech giants like Apple, Google, Amazon, and Microsoft shape consumer behavior, influence legislation through lobbying, and drive innovation that transforms society.

Key aspects of corporate influence include:

- **Market Capitalization:** The total value of a company's outstanding shares often surpasses national economies.
- **Lobbying and Political Contributions:** Corporations fund campaigns and advocate for policies favorable to their interests.
- **Global Supply Chains:** Companies impact economies, labor standards, and environmental policies across continents.

Financial Institutions and Investment Power

Banks, hedge funds, and investment firms control vast pools of capital that can sway markets and economies:

- **Federal Reserve and Central Banks:** Set monetary policies influencing interest rates and inflation.
- **Major Investment Firms:** BlackRock, Vanguard, and others manage trillions in assets, affecting corporate decisions and shareholder priorities.

Their decisions can trigger economic booms or recessions, demonstrating their influential role.

Technological Dominance: The Digital and Information Age

Tech Companies and Data Control

In a world driven by information, control over technology and data has become a new form of power:

- **Social Media Platforms:** Facebook, Twitter, TikTok shape public discourse, influence elections, and sway cultural norms.
- **Cloud Computing and Data Centers:** Manage vast amounts of personal and corporate data, impacting privacy and security.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** The development and deployment of AI technologies can redefine

industries and labor markets.

The Role of Cybersecurity and Cyber Warfare

As dependence on digital infrastructure grows, so does vulnerability:

- State-sponsored cyber attacks can destabilize nations or manipulate information.
- Cybersecurity firms and government agencies work to defend critical infrastructure, illustrating the ongoing digital power struggle.

Social Movements and Cultural Influence

Grassroots Movements and Civil Society

Power isn't solely held by formal institutions; social movements have historically shifted societal paradigms:

- Black Lives Matter, MeToo, Climate Strikes: Mobilize millions, influence policies, and reshape cultural conversations.
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs): Advocate for human rights, environmental protections, and social justice globally.

Media and Cultural Institutions

Media outlets, entertainment industries, and educational institutions shape perceptions and values:

- Major News Outlets: Influence public opinion and political agendas.
- Hollywood and Global Pop Culture: Spread ideas, lifestyles, and ideologies across borders.

Their role underscores that perceptions are often as powerful as policies.

The Interplay of Power: Who Ultimately Runs the World?

The real answer lies in recognizing that no single entity or group holds absolute power. Instead,

influence is distributed across a network of actors, each wielding power in different contexts. For instance:

- Governments set policies and enforce laws but are often influenced by economic and technological interests.
- Corporations and financial institutions fund and lobby for policies that favor their growth.
- Technological giants shape the digital landscape, affecting privacy, communication, and even political processes.
- Social movements challenge existing power structures and push for change.
- International organizations attempt to coordinate efforts but often lack enforcement power.

This interconnected web suggests that the question of “who’s running the world” is better framed as “who has the most influence in shaping our collective future?”

The Future of Power: Emerging Trends and Challenges

Global Shifts and Power Realignment

The rise of China and other emerging economies signals a potential shift in global dominance. Multilateral institutions may evolve or weaken, altering the existing balance.

Technological Disruption

Advancements in AI, quantum computing, and biotechnology could redefine power dynamics:

- Data sovereignty and privacy concerns will intensify.
- Autonomous systems and AI decision-makers may challenge human authority.

Environmental and Ethical Challenges

Climate change and resource scarcity threaten stability, prompting calls for new leadership models focused on sustainability and ethical governance.

Conclusion: A Complex Power Landscape

In sum, “who’s running the world” is not a straightforward answer. Power is diffused among political entities, economic forces, technological innovators, and social movements. It is a dynamic, ever-shifting landscape where influence flows across borders and sectors. Recognizing this complexity is essential for understanding current events and shaping a future where power is exercised responsibly, ethically, and inclusively. As global citizens, staying informed and engaged with these various forces can help ensure that power serves the collective good rather than narrow interests.

Ultimately, understanding who runs the world requires a holistic view, acknowledging the multiple layers of influence that operate simultaneously and shape our shared destiny.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is often credited with the phrase 'Who's running the world' in popular culture?

The phrase is famously associated with Beyoncé's song 'Run the World (Girls),' which celebrates female empowerment and leadership.

In the context of global leadership, who are considered the most influential figures today?

Influential global leaders include heads of major nations such as the President of the United States, the General Secretary of China, and the European Union's key officials, along with influential business and cultural figures.

How does social media influence who 'runs the world' today?

Social media platforms empower individuals and movements to shape public opinion, mobilize support, and influence political and cultural trends, effectively shifting power dynamics.

Are women truly 'running the world' in terms of political and economic power?

While women have made significant strides in politics and business, they still face disparities in representation and influence, though some countries and sectors are leading the way toward greater gender equality.

What role do corporations play in determining who 'runs the world'?

Major multinational corporations hold substantial economic power and can influence policies, consumer behavior, and global markets, often shaping societal trends and priorities.

Is the concept of 'who's running the world' more about power structures or cultural influence?

It's a combination of both; political and economic power structures, along with cultural influence like media and entertainment, collectively determine who 'runs the world' in various contexts.

Additional Resources

Who's running the world? This question has intrigued scholars, politicians, activists, and everyday individuals for centuries. In an era characterized by rapid globalization, technological innovation, and shifting geopolitical alliances, the answer is more complex than ever before. Power is no longer concentrated solely in a single nation or a handful of elites; it is distributed across a web of

institutions, corporations, social movements, and technological platforms. This article delves into the multifaceted landscape of global leadership, examining the key players, structures, and influences that shape our world today.

The Traditional Power Structures

Nation-States and Governments

Historically, sovereign nations have been the primary actors on the world stage. Their governments wield authority through policy-making, military strength, and economic influence. Superpowers like the United States, China, and Russia continue to dominate geopolitics, shaping global norms and conflicts.

Features of nation-states' influence:

- Military capabilities and defense alliances (e.g., NATO)
- Economic strength, including trade and investment
- Diplomatic influence through international organizations like the UN
- Cultural exports and soft power

Pros:

- Clear sovereignty and accountability
- Ability to enact broad policies affecting millions

Cons:

- Risks of nationalism and conflict
- Bureaucratic inertia
- Limited scope in addressing transnational issues

Despite their enduring importance, nation-states are increasingly challenged by non-state actors and global issues that transcend borders.

International Organizations

Organizations such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and World Health Organization aim to coordinate efforts among nations on issues like peacekeeping, trade, health, and environmental sustainability.

Role and influence:

- Facilitating dialogue and treaties
- Setting international standards
- Providing platforms for multilateral cooperation

Pros:

- Promote global consensus
- Address issues beyond national capacities

Cons:

- Limited enforcement power
- Political biases and disagreements
- Dependence on member states' cooperation

While influential, these organizations often reflect the interests of powerful nations, which can limit their effectiveness.

Economic Powerhouses and Corporations

Global Financial Centers and Economies

The financial hubs of New York, London, Tokyo, and others wield enormous influence through banking, investment, and currency markets. Economies like the U.S. and China dictate global trade patterns and financial flows.

Features:

- Central banks and monetary policies
- Major stock exchanges (NYSE, NASDAQ, TSE)
- Multinational corporations influencing markets

Pros:

- Drive innovation and economic growth
- Provide employment and technological advancement

Cons:

- Economic disparities and inequality
- Financial crises with global repercussions
- Potential for regulatory capture

Multinational Corporations (MNCs)

Large corporations such as Apple, Google, Amazon, and ExxonMobil operate across borders, often wielding more influence than some governments.

Features:

- Global supply chains
- Market dominance in various sectors
- Significant lobbying power

Pros:

- Innovation and consumer choice
- Economic development in host countries

Cons:

- Tax avoidance and regulatory evasion
- Impact on local industries and labor
- Ethical concerns over practices like environmental impact and data privacy

The power of corporations is a double-edged sword—fostering growth but raising questions about accountability.

The Rise of Social Movements and Civil Society

Grassroots Movements and Activism

In recent decades, social movements—such as Black Lives Matter, climate activism, and MeToo—have challenged traditional centers of power, influencing policy and shifting cultural narratives.

Features:

- Mobilization via social media
- Advocacy for marginalized groups
- Influence on legislation and corporate policies

Pros:

- Amplify marginalized voices
- Accelerate social change
- Hold powerful entities accountable

Cons:

- Risk of misinformation
- Fragmentation and polarization
- Potential co-optation by political interests

These movements demonstrate that power is increasingly decentralized and participatory.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Think Tanks

Organizations like Amnesty International, the Gates Foundation, and the Council on Foreign Relations shape policy debates, provide aid, and influence public opinion.

Features:

- Policy research and advocacy
- Humanitarian aid and development programs
- Public awareness campaigns

Pros:

- Fill gaps left by governments
- Promote transparency and accountability
- Innovate solutions for global challenges

Cons:

- Dependence on donor funding
- Potential biases
- Limited enforcement capabilities

They are vital in shaping the narratives and priorities that influence global decision-making.

Technological Platforms and Information Ecosystem

Big Tech Companies and Digital Platforms

Platforms like Facebook, Google, Twitter, and TikTok have become central to communication, information dissemination, and even political influence.

Features:

- Control over vast amounts of data
- Algorithm-driven content delivery
- Opportunities for activism and mobilization

Pros:

- Connect people globally
- Promote awareness and activism
- Innovation in commerce and services

Cons:

- Spread of misinformation and fake news
- Privacy violations
- Potential manipulation of public opinion

The influence of these platforms is immense, often shaping perceptions and behaviors on a mass scale.

Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

AI, blockchain, and other emerging technologies promise to revolutionize industries and societal functions. They also pose new risks related to control, ethics, and security.

Features:

- Automation of decision-making
- Data-driven insights
- Decentralized systems like cryptocurrencies

Pros:

- Increased efficiency and innovation
- Enhanced security and transparency
- Potential to solve complex problems

Cons:

- Job displacement
- Ethical dilemmas
- Concentration of power among tech giants

The future of who's running the world increasingly hinges on how these technologies evolve and who controls them.

Conclusion: Who's Running the World?

The landscape of global power is a complex mosaic rather than a straightforward hierarchy. Traditional nation-states remain influential, especially in geopolitics and military affairs. However, their dominance is challenged by multilateral organizations, multinational corporations, social movements, and technological platforms. Power today is distributed across various sectors, each with its own pros and cons, and often intertwined in complex ways.

Understanding "who's running the world" requires recognizing that influence is multifaceted and dynamic. No single actor or institution holds absolute control; instead, it is a constantly shifting balance among governments, corporations, civil society, and digital platforms. The question is less about who rules and more about how these diverse forces interact, compete, and collaborate to shape our collective future.

As we move forward, the key to navigating this complex landscape will be fostering transparency, accountability, and inclusive participation. Only by understanding the multiple layers of influence can we hope to influence the direction in which our world is headed. Ultimately, the power to shape the future lies not just in the hands of those who currently hold it but also in the collective will and actions of individuals, communities, and organizations worldwide.

Who S Running The World

who s running the world: What Every American Should Know About Who's Really Running the World Melissa Rossi, 2005-11-29 Most of us know the big players politically in the United States. But ever wonder who's pulling their strings? Who the movers and shakers are around the globe? In sharp, witty prose, What Every American Should Know About Who's Really Running the World spells out exactly who to watch and what they've done (and are still doing). Get the lowdown on: • Pfizer • Monsanto • Oprah Winfrey • WTO & IMF • Wal-Mart • Rupert Murdoch • Al Qaeda Filled with hard facts, global issues, and profiles of the heavy hitters, What Every American Should Know About Who's Really Running the World is essential reading for all Americans who want a handle on the movers and shakers behind the headlines.

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often joined by local supporters and fellow runners, curious children and bemused passers-by. Telling their stories alongside his own, Nick captures the unique spirit of each place he visits and forges a new relationship with the world around him. *Running the World* captures Nick's journey as he sets three world records and covers over five thousand miles. As he recounts his adventures, he shares his unique perspective on our glorious planet, celebrates the diversity of human experience, and reflects on the overwhelming power of running.

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who s running the world: Running the World's Markets Ruben Lee, 2010-12-28 The efficiency, safety, and soundness of financial markets depend on the operation of core infrastructure--exchanges, central counter-parties, and central securities depositories. How these institutions are governed critically affects their performance. Yet, despite their importance, there is little certainty, still less a global consensus, about their governance. *Running the World's Markets* examines how markets are, and should be, run. Utilizing a wide variety of arguments and examples from throughout the world, Ruben Lee identifies and evaluates the similarities and differences between exchanges, central counter-parties, and central securities depositories. Drawing on knowledge and experience from various disciplines, including business, economics, finance, law, politics, and regulation, Lee employs a range of methodologies to tackle different goals. Conceptual analysis is used to examine theoretical issues, survey evidence to describe key aspects of how market infrastructure institutions are governed and regulated globally, and case studies to detail the particular situations and decisions at specific institutions. The combination of these approaches provides a unique and rich foundation for evaluating the complex issues raised. Lee analyzes efficient forms of governance, how regulatory powers should be allocated, and whether regulatory intervention in governance is desirable. He presents guidelines for identifying the optimal governance model for any market infrastructure institution within the context of its specific environment. *Running the World's Markets* provides a definitive and peerless reference for how to govern and regulate financial markets.

who s running the world: This Is a Picture and Not the World Joseph Natoli, 2012-02-01 In *This Is a Picture and Not the World*, Joseph Natoli employs the lingua franca of film itself—screenplay dialogue—as well as the more recent form of the political blog to present a hyperreal account of popular film as both a creator and a reflector of our post-9/11 mass psyche. Drawing on both classic and contemporary film examples, the book also offers a quasihistory of film genres, including science fiction, the western, film noir, and screwball comedy, emphasizing how these genres have been shaken up, recontextualized, recombined, turned self-reflexive, and parodied over the past couple of decades. Taken together, these satirical parodies of screenplays and blogs

reveal and perform how our very gaze has shifted from modern to postmodern, from a direct view of the world to a filtered one.

who s running the world: THE SHARP SWORD R.O. Gunther [Dryfuss W. Driftwood], 2014-07-22 This is the third in the series of three volumes featuring the adventures of our hero, Charles. The first two were: *The Life and Times of Charles* and *Charles-Spy Extraordinaire!* In those two publications Humor and adventure are rampant. Charles's world travels forced his contact with the bad-guys. In these encounters, Charles' unique personality and astonishing ability always won-out. He and close companions became members of the International Good-Guy Spy Agency, with headquarters in The Hague, Holland. It's the good guys against the bad guys, Guys! However, the closing Chapters reveal that Charles had become awakened to a terrible reality: they had failed to defeat the bad guys of the world. This fact shocked him into deep depression. While at home in England and at his emotional lowest; King, fellow agent and archaeologist, came. Charles was startled when he was informed that research in Bible lands had disclosed an incredible conclusion. That famous old book, The Bible, is in reality—accurate world history! Charles, jolted, “Why! That's impossible; the Bible is an old religious book that practically nobody pays any attention to.” But, he had been shaken out of his lethargy. His drive, now, was to research King's unbelievable assertion; which drive launched the production of *The Sharp Sword*. Personal opinion, pride, are cast aside. Could God exist? Could God be the source of this incredible work? Can it answer our most imposing questions? The life and times of Charles takes a drastic turn for the best as he sharply researches the Bible. Is it really God's two edged sword, activated for us today?! The reader is invited to join right in, participate—become a fellow researcher.

who s running the world: *Run for Your Life* Raymond Ten Eyck, 2019-10-28 *Run for Your Life: A Guide to Street and Road Running* humorously compares and contrasts running in urban and rural environments. The book will inspire beginning runners, while veteran runners will also find it funny, familiar, and interesting. As Stupido, “Ray” recounts many of his own amusing running episodes, using his experiences as guidelines for others to enjoy the thrills of running, while at the same time avoiding some common road hazards. The alluring tourist routes of Washington, D.C., and the exciting vistas of “wild and wonderful” West Virginia are explored, as readers learn how to maximize running pleasure in both rural and urban areas. *Run for Your Life* details how to run safely in high traffic areas and on dangerous city streets. It also provides basic rules of thumb for running up steep hills, around dangerously sharp curves, and on lonely country roads that often have little or no shoulders. Readers will learn how to maximize their running pleasure, while minimizing physical and environmental hazards. This funny and easy-to-read book is great for runners, would-be runners, and non-runners of all ages.

who s running the world: *Women Who Run* Shanti Sosienski, 2010-01-08 Women run for all kinds of reasons. We run for health, to ease tension, for strength, to challenge ourselves, to be social with friends, as professional athletes or the dream of being one, to turn our minds on, and to turn them off. Whether running a marathon, taking a quick jog around the neighborhood, or trying to reach the top of Pikes Peak, women of all ages and abilities have discovered running. In *Women Who Run* a wide range of women, including Olympians, marathoners, ultra runners, young track phenoms, and recreational runners, talk about why they run, what drives them, and what continues to spark their interest in the sport. *Women Who Run* features Bobbi Gibb, the first woman to run the Boston Marathon; Louise Cooper, breast cancer survivor and finisher of the grueling 135-mile Badwater Marathon; Kristin Armstrong, who found solace and camaraderie in running with other women post-divorce; Olympic runner and two-time LA Marathon winner and Kenyan Lornah Kiplagat, Wall Street Journal reporter and Muslim women's activist, Asra Nomani; Pam Reed who ran 300-miles in one run—and many more. This book will inspire and motivate you to get off the couch and find your inner runner.

who s running the world: *Running with Purpose* Jim Weber, 2022-04-26 Discover how Brooks Running Company CEO Jim Weber transformed a failing business into a billion-dollar brand in the ultracompetitive global running market. *Running with Purpose* is a leadership memoir with insights,

inspirational stories, and tangible takeaways for current and aspiring leaders, entrepreneurs, and the 150+ million runners worldwide and those in the broader running community who continually invest in themselves. This leadership memoir starts with Jim Weber's seventh-grade dream to run a successful company that delivered something people passionately valued. Fast forward to 2001, Jim became the CEO of Brooks and, as the struggling brand's fourth CEO in two years, he faced strong headwinds. A lifelong competitor, Jim devised a one-page strategy that he believed would not only save the company but would also lay the foundation for Brooks to become a leading brand in the athletic, fitness, and outdoor categories. To succeed, he had to get his team to first believe it was possible and then employ the conviction, fortitude, and constancy of purpose to outperform larger brands. Brooks' success was validated when Warren Buffett made it a standalone Berkshire Hathaway subsidiary in 2012. In the pages of *Running with Purpose*, you will find: Brooks' bold strategy and unique brand positioning that fueled its move from the back of the pack to lead. The key to building a purpose-driven brand that is oriented around customer obsession, building trust, competing with heart, and having fun along the way. The six clear leadership lessons Jim has learned along his path and applies at Brooks to develop staff into authentic leaders. How Berkshire Hathaway's support and influence provided a tailwind for Brooks' business and brand to surge. An inside look at the ups and downs of Jim's personal journey, which led to his conviction that life is too short not to enjoy what you do and the people by your side.

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who s running the world: *Holstein-Friesian World* , 1923

who s running the world: Ready to Run Kelly Starrett, 2014-10-21 Push the reset button to unleash your body's power and endurance for running naturally. If you're like 80 percent of runners, an injury is going to force you to stop your running routine at some point this year, and the demands of daily life only add to the wear and tear on your body. Life in the modern world has trashed and undercut dedicated runners' ability to transform their running. The harsh effects of too much sitting and too much time wearing the wrong shoes has left us shackled to lower back problems, chronic knee injuries, and debilitating foot pain. What if you refocus the energy you put into maintaining your current running regimen on forming new habits that can improve your performance and reduce your risk of injury? With *Ready to Run*, you can take responsibility for what's going on in your body, take care of business, and harvest any performance that's hiding in the shadows. In a direct answer to the modern runner's needs, Dr. Kelly Starrett, author of the bestseller *Becoming a Supple Leopard: The Ultimate Guide to Resolving Pain, Preventing Injury, and Optimizing Athletic Performance*, has focused his revolutionary movement and mobility philosophy on the injury-plagued world of running. In this book, Starrett shares twelve performance standards that will prepare your body for a lifetime of top-performance running. You will learn • How to tap into all of your running potential and access a fountain of youth for lifelong running • How to turn your weaknesses into strengths • How to prevent chronic overuse injuries by building powerful injury prevention habits into your day • How to prepare your body for the demands of changing your running shoes and running technique • How to treat pain and swelling with cutting-edge modalities and accelerate your recovery • How to equip your home mobility gym • What mobility exercises to use for restoring optimal function and range of motion to your joints and tissues • How to run faster, run farther, and run better

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Orwell, Henry Rider Haggard, Mary Shelley, Malcolm Jameson, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Lewis Grassie Gibbon, Otis Adelbert Kline, C. J. Cutcliffe Hyne, Edwin A. Abbott, Arthur Dudley Vinton, Gertrude Barrows Bennett, Hugh Benson, Margaret Cavendish, Yevgeny Zamyatin, 2023-12-26 The 'Sci-Fi Ultimate Collection: 170+ Space Adventures, Dystopian Novels & Lost World Classics' invites readers to traverse the vast realms of imagination, exploring the speculative landscapes of both familiar and uncharted worlds. This anthology offers a remarkable spectrum of narratives that range from tales of space exploration to foreboding dystopias, and riveting accounts of hidden civilizations. With classic stories that have stood the test of time, it illuminates a wide array of philosophies and futurist visions. The varied literary styles—from the imaginative foresight of H.G. Wells to the penetrating social critiques of George Orwell—combined with a focus on timeless themes such as the nature of humanity and the limits of technological advancement, create a tapestry as diverse as the authors themselves. The collection is a convergence of pioneering voices who have individually and collectively shaped the trajectory of science fiction. These authors hail from different eras and cultural backgrounds, enriching the anthology through a melding of unique perspectives. As stalwarts of literary movements, ranging from the Romanticism of Mary Shelley to the Modernism of Aldous Huxley, their works echo through time, reflecting the fears and hopes of their respective generations. Together, they illuminate the resilience of human imagination and the endless pursuit of knowledge across the universe. This anthology is an essential tome for those eager to engage with the visionaries who laid the groundwork for contemporary speculative fiction. It offers readers a chance to immerse themselves in a myriad of worlds, each crafted with precision and creativity, fostering a deeper understanding of the genre's evolution. A gateway to insightful discourse, 'Sci-Fi Ultimate Collection' encourages readers to not only appreciate the individual masterpieces but also to partake in the rich dialogues crafted across the centuries, making it an indispensable treasure for enthusiasts and scholars alike.

who's running the world: Long Run to Glory Stephen Lane, 2023-09-05 On the morning of August 5, 1984, four of the greatest marathoners of all time lined up for one of the most important and long-awaited races in history. By then, they had dominated their competition for at least five years, upending a century's worth of preconceived notions of what marathoners could do. By decade's end, they had lowered the world record a total of 13 minutes, won 27 major marathon titles, and swept every Olympic and World Championship held in the 1980s. And, in their careers, only once did all four—American Joan Benoit, Norwegians Grete Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, and Portugal's Rosa Mota—square off in the same race: at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, in the first-ever Women's Olympic Marathon. Such was their talent that Benoit, the world record holder, entered the race as the underdog. She'd had knee surgery in April, and no one, least of all Benoit herself, was certain she could hold up for 26 miles against her three rivals. Waitz, the former world record holder, was the favorite—she had destroyed the field at the 1983 World Championships and had never lost a marathon she had finished. Kristiansen, who had beaten Waitz twice in the summer of 1984 (albeit at shorter distances), was considered the fastest woman in the race: she held world records at 5,000m and 10,000m, and would break Benoit's marathon record in 1985. Mota had beaten Kristiansen at the 1982 European marathon championships, and was already earning a reputation for raising her level in the biggest races. This is their story, and the story of the first women's Olympic Marathon.

who's running the world: The Runner's World Big Book of Running for Beginners Jennifer Van Allen, Bart Yasso, Amby Burfoot, Pamela Nisevich Bede, Editors of Runner's World Magazine, 2014-04-08 Every day, people are reaching their get-up-or-give-up moments and resolving to change. And they're realizing that running is the simplest, cheapest, and most effective way to lose weight, gain confidence, and relieve stress. For newcomers, the obstacles are fierce. There are fears of pain and embarrassment. There are schedules jam-packed with stressful jobs, long commutes, endless meetings, and sticky-fingered toddlers. The Runner's World Big Book of Running for Beginners provides all the information neophytes need to take their first steps, as well as inspiration for staying motivated. The book presents readers with tips for smart nutrition and injury prevention that enable

beginning runners to achieve gradual progress (by gearing up for a 30-minute run, a 5-K, or even a 5-miler). Above all, it shows newbies just how fun and rewarding the sport can be, thanks to the help of several real runner testimonials.

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