

## PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS: A UNIQUE EDITION



I had the opportunity to attend the XXXIII Olympic Games in Paris. I was lucky enough to attend the 1968 Olympics in Mexico. This time I enjoyed it a lot because I attended with part of my family and it was a great experience.

Let's go back a bit to history. The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece, around 2,800 years ago. They are called so because they were held in the city of Olympia. It was not until the end of the nineteenth century that a Frenchman named Pierre Frèdy, Baron de Coubertin, took up the idea. If the Olympics of yesteryear united the Greek world through sports competitions, the idea today is also the same: to unite humanity every four years regardless of our differences.

Parisians basically fled during the Olympic festivities. At times, the city could feel half-deserted. There was, however, plenty of security: in addition to the French security forces, there were many others from countries around the world. Mexico was no exception, as it sent elements of the National Guard. On the other hand, the opening was a great spectacle, which not even the rain could stop. The delegations of athletes strolled along the Seine, and the largest boat was from the



United States. There were also many participants on the Spanish boat. The Mexican boat was not bad at all.

The organization has been excellent. For example, there were uniformed and trained volunteers who guided and supported those attending the events. On the other hand, the competitions have taken place in iconic places. For example, archery was held at Les Invalides. Fencing and taekwondo at Le Grand Palais. And horse riding at the Versailles Palace. These are venues with a great history, truly unique and extremely beautiful. And, without a doubt, this makes the Olympics even more enjoyable.

Most of the medals have been won by participants from developed countries. France has set an example of how to make the Olympic Games more sustainable. For now, they set a very high standard for future host countries, and I am very pleased to have been able to attend.