

Preface

The Very Unusual Book About Chess

You are holding a very unusual book in your hands. Properly speaking, I even don't know which title would be more precise: "The Book About Chess" or "The Textbook of Chess". Or maybe "Chess Anatomy"? The reason is that I try to penetrate into the essence of chess, to understand "what it is made of", although it is very difficult to understand what such an inexhaustible subject comprises of. I try to throw light on its conformities to natural laws as well as its distinction from the norm, and to formulate laws, which are the basis of gifted and strong chessplayers' games, and methods used by them.

But if we are only acquainted with method (and there is absolutely no difference if we are talking about chess or music or a heart operation), it doesn't mean we have become proficient in it and will be able to successfully use it throughout our life. No! A method can become our property – and even our favourite – only after reiteration! I offer exactly this to my readers.

The most important is that I teach the reader to think correctly during the game!

There are many books with titles such as "The Textbook of Chess", "How to Play Chess" etc. with examples like "35 ♖d2 – only move!", "29...h6! The most exact!".

Sorry! Why the most exact? It is probably clear to players rated 2600-2700, but it is far from clear for somebody around 2300. And absolutely unclear for chessplayers below 2000. But this is the level of the majority of chessplayers.

I try to explain everything in my book, to make each move clear to the eyes of the reader.

The book is basically dedicated to middlegame problems and a little bit to endings. Why do I "ignore" openings? The matter doesn't lie in underestimation or shortage of ideas in the opening. I attach great importance to openings. There are many novelties of mine in the Chess Informant and the Yugoslav Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings. I have found them either while preparing at home for a game, or already during a game. But I am fully confident that the result of the struggle depends on playing the middlegame successfully (for about 80-90%), and my coach experience confirms this! Many chessplayers can obtain a decent or even a good position from the opening. It is difficult to lose a better or a winning ending, although everything is possible... The conclusion? I have been hearing chessplayers for all my life commenting: "I had a good position after the opening, but after that..." And what is necessary to do? Get to work

on the middlegame - and my book, I sincerely hope, will offer you a strong helping hand.

I have been working as a trainer for a long time already. Chessplayers from more than 30 countries come to study in my Chess Academy. They are from USA and Denmark, Germany and Kuwait, France and Mexico, Spain, Norway, UK, Brunei, Finland, Malaysia, Italy, Turkey... Among the material I offer to them there are fragments from my special collection of more than 10000 examples of grandmaster and master games.

My students and I are always very glad with the results of our joint work! Their level is raised by working on many examples of the same theme, examples that are sparkling and stick to their memory. You will see the most interesting of them in this book. In passing, I would like to mention that working on these fragments will change your style to a much more active one. This is indispensable if you want to win! And please pay attention to the special

rules and/or aphorisms (“Dembo-rules”) mentioned in the text, which will help you to subsequently come up with strong and nice moves quickly.

But excuse me, I am writing about the “Dembo-rules” without explaining what these are. “Dembo-rules” are...

Ah, but I guess I have written (and you have read) enough for a preface. Let’s get on to the chess!

I don’t lay claim to the absolute truth (whoever is able to claim so, “let him cast stones at me”!). I herewith cite MY thoughts, MY opinion on chess. I see it in exactly this way - it is a wonderful art, where the best results can be achieved by utilising several hundreds of concrete methods in the middlegame and the endgame (the opening is the subject of another discussion!). I offer you... chapters explaining these methods. And when you study and play over them again and again, you will certainly play much better than before encountering this book. I guarantee you so!

So, let’s move on to our examples!