



Winning Chess Strategies

Yasser Seirawan , Jeremy Silman

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A complete overview of proven chess principles that teaches readers how to deploy their pieces using the right moves at the right time to build small advantages into effective, long-range strategies.

Winning Chess Strategies Details

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From Reader Review Winning Chess Strategies for online ebook

William Herbst says

I found this volume of the series to drag quite a bit. Not sure that reading this helped my game in any respect.

Nathan Albright says

Humorously enough, I finished reading this book shortly after playing my first face-to-face chess game in a few years, which I lost (alas) in a tough endgame after a largely closed position on the board. I suppose like many people I can read about chess [1] better than playing it. As this is the third book by the authors I have read, I have to say that this is the first of those books that I felt spoke to where I am at as a chess player. The first book I read from them was a bit too challenging as it was aimed at people who looked to become chess masters, something I have not decided to do. The second book I read of theirs was a bit too basic and had a political angle I was not in favor of, and so it was even more disappointing of a read than the first volume. This third book, though, I think gets the balance right. The book is aimed at positional and strategic play and does so in a pleasant and enjoyable and worthwhile fashion, making this the first book by the authors I have read that I can wholeheartedly recommend for a reader like myself.

This book of a bit more than 200 pages is divided into twelve chapters after its acknowledgements and introduction and before its glossary and index. The authors begin a discussion about the importance of strategy in building a long-term pattern of victory in chess (1). After that the authors talk about how one makes the most of a material advantage (2) and stops enemy counterplay by giving the other person's pieces nowhere to go and nothing to do (3). There is then a lengthy discussion of understanding where the pieces go (4)--something that some readers might (mistakenly) think of as an obvious and trivial issue, before the author talks about superior minor pieces (5) and how to properly use pawns (6). After this the authors discuss various positional matters such as the creation of targets (7) through moves and sacrifices as well as territorial domination that hems in positions (8). After this the authors discuss how to attack the king (9) and some faulty strategies that readers should avoid (10) before closing the book with a historical discussion of some great masters of strategy throughout the last 150 years or so like Steinitz, Rubinstein, Capablanca, Nimzovich, Petrosian, and Karpov, with some apologies for not including Botvinnik and Fischer (11) and giving solutions to the book's various problems (12).

It is clear that without attempting a detailed discussion of positional thinking that this book seeks to provide the authors with an entry into the overall celebration and encouragement of positional principles among chess players. Properly speaking, there are several different ways that players can approach chess. Some players are heroic and romantic tactical players that seek to win through grand attacks. There are also players, especially nowadays, who seek to win scientifically through the pursuit of engine-like play. In between these two approaches, though, there is room for those who pursue sound positional play without the calculation of every option, and who seek to pursue gradual elements of permanent advantage that can be turned into (eventual) victory. As those who have played chess against me are well aware of, I tend to be a grinder when it comes to patient and gradual play that takes a lot out of people. Perhaps with time and a lot more practice I will be back where I feel comfortable playing chess with other people face to face a lot more often, but in the meantime at least there are good books to provide thought-provoking material on the subject.

[1] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2018...>

Robert Isaac Akin says

Aight. I didn't find it as informative as his other books.

Ian Mullet says

Yasser Seirawan:

"Hundreds of thousands of books have been written about chess. What can you hope to learn from this one? With all due modesty, a lot.... In this book, I show you chess as a *science*.

ps if you're in austin come to chess night at the carver library!

pps we'll be switching to thursday nights after new year's.

Aaron says

This was an interesting publication, as it is Microsoft Press; meaning that it was first put together on Word. Let me first say that there is an error on page 246 (there's a funny joke about publishers who thought they published an error-less book - they got the title wrong). Some manuals do not "give a King's point count as 3 1/2". Some manuals give a Knight's point count as 3 1/2.

This was the first serious chess book I have read through, and let me tell you, I got my analysis board good and broken-in. The other neophytic chess books I've read have been no where near 257 pages.

As a chess and chess literature newbie, I really learned a lot. I learned of pawn structures; I learned to read the position and know whether to prefer knights or bishops for the endgame; I learned of territory, and of targets.

Seirawan, towards the end, becomes a bit more conversational in his writing; and I like that. He even references a "prose-like" chess work, which I have now forgotten. I wish I had taken notes with a voice recorder, or used a highlighter at least, so that I could look up the books he mentioned. It will take a while to go back through. There was just so much good information; and yet, after every couple of paragraphs, you are given theory to work through on your analysis board.

The diagrams given half-way through notations were really helpful. Many times, I found I had erred. Wishing to glean as much knowledge as I could, I would start over from the beginning anyway.

Seirawan and Silman proved to me with this book that I really enjoy the nightly ritual of chess reading. My 5" magnetic sheesham wood set and I look forward to more.

Steve says

I love attacking and mixing it up, but after spending a few weeks with this and adopting a more defensive posture at the board, I find that not only have I not lost in several weeks, but I'm now handily beating people I used to consider my equals (or, in a couple of cases, my betters.)

Tony says

A good overview of chess strategy.

Ça?layan Tayba? says

Yasser Seirawan fark?yla yaz?lm?? harika bir satranç kitab?. Satrançtaki temel stratejik ilkeleri örneklerle ve büyük ustalar?n maçlar? üzerinde ö?renmek için okuman?z? tavsiye ederim. Seirawan satranç anlat?rken esprili üslubuyla okuyucuyu hiç s?km?yor ve birçok zaman güldürmeyi de ihmal etmiyor.

Abner Rosenweig says

Seirawan is a master--or should I say grandmaster?--at making difficult chess concepts accessible to the amateur. His books are always a pleasure to work through. WCS provides a clear discussion of what chess strategy is, then dives into multiple ways to accumulate and maintain strategic advantages throughout a game (material, stopping counterplay, using the pieces, pawn structure, targets, space, how to attack, faulty plans). Many amateur players are tactical fiends and don't appreciate positional play. This book gives the reader an appreciation for the subtlety of the game and gets him thinking and playing on a deeper level. I only wish the book went deeper into the concepts. However, now that I'm more versed in strategic ideas, I feel ready to go beyond this book, and that is probably Seirawan's intention.
