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## Questions of Modern Chess Theory (Chess Classics)

*Isaac Lipnitsky*

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Chess Classics

Isaac Lipnitsky  
Questions  
of Modern  
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#609616 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2008-09-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .75 x 6.00l, .87 #File Name: 1906552037232 pagesAuthor: Lars SchandorffPages: 228 PagesPublication Years: 2008 | File size: 50.Mb

**Isaac Lipnitsky : Questions of Modern Chess Theory (Chess Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Questions of Modern Chess Theory (Chess Classics):

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Deep Soviet Era Chess InsightsBy R. TobiasThis is a book I admittedly had not been aware of until Quality Chess did the chess-playing public a service by translating and publishing it. It is a very insightful, sophisticated look at chess theory, looking at primarily the middlegame, but also the opening. I would have to say that it is ahead of its time, when comparing it with books of like vintage, eg, Fine's "The Middlegame In Chess", or especially Znosko-Borovsky's book of the same name. Lipnitsky was already

speaking of a more concrete approach to chess, long before Watson started talking about 'rule-independence'. Chapter titles like 'Positional Flair', 'How Long Does a Novelty Last?' and 'Reevaluation of Values' let you know that this is no primer of chess, but instead is strong meat, dished out for advanced players. A bonus of 10 of Lipnitsky's games against such luminaries of the day as Keres, Tolush, Geller and Suetin adds to the value of the book. These games are insightfully and extensively analyzed by Lipnitsky himself. This is a book that I would suggest that you tackle only after you have assimilated the material in a more standard middlegame text like Pachman, Euwe or Nimzovich. (Unlike another reviewer, I do not agree that eliminating obsolete opening material on the Ragozin Defense to be a shortcoming. Who tries to learn antiquated and obsolete opening material when current material is vastly more accurate?) Highly recommended for advanced players. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. One of the Greatest Chess books written!

By MAYANKING This book is one of the best books ever written on how the play chess from opening to endgame! The best part of this book is Chapters 6-9! You will learn how to think and choose moves in the middlegame and understand why certain moves are better than others! It will help you to understand GM games a lot better. It goes without saying that Fischer, Botvinnik, Karpov all praise this book. I think Lipnitsky does a better job of explaining chess strategy than even the modern books on this subject even though it was written over 50 years ago! What he has to say is still relevant and you will also learn from the great chess players of that era and before! After studying this book you can't help but play better chess and understand chess a lot better! I am a chess expert and I learned a lot and will continue to learn a lot as I reread this book over and over again, for this is a book along with Fischer's My 60 Memorable Games, Kasparov's Test of Time books to reread again and again! These three books will always teach you something new as you get better and better in chess. 27 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Superb chess theory book

By Frodo55 This is a superb general chess theory book. Similar to Watson's 'Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy' in terms of its main purpose - to describe the philosophy of chess strategy and the applicability of strategic rules and principles, but much better - nonarrogant, clear in style, and more correct on many issues including "rule-independence" (the term is from Watson's book). Very easy to read and yet very deep. Clear explanations and examples. Fischer read this book and it is mentioned in his 'My 60 Memorable Games' in game 26 vs Reshevsky. There is a misprint of the first page, but the rest is ok and it's just a duplication of pages. It does contain practical advice, but it is not a practical book by its design. By that I mean that it only contains select topics, and is not as comprehensive as other books (it does not describe hundreds of different positions to cover all of chess strategy, but again, this is not its point). For more comprehensive practical advice on positional play you can read Pachman's 'Modern Chess Strategy' (that book is great, by the way, despite old notation) or similar works. However, it is highly rewarding to read "Questions of Modern Chess Theory", especially chapters 7 and 8. Lipnitsky rightly observes that there may exist rules that are correct in a given position, but have not been discovered yet (to be fair, Watson mentions a similar idea in passing, but does not stress it). Lipnitsky also says that in a given position, creative, or concrete, approach should be used to decide which rules or laws apply and which do not. There is also such a thing as balance between many different rules or features of the position, where one of the features (or the interaction of positive vs negative features) will dominate, and therefore the rule associated with that(those) feature(s) will prevail. Another point in Lipnitsky's work is that there are positions ('critical', or unclear, positions) that require concrete analysis, i.e. precise calculation, and there are positions that are "settled" and therefore easier to interpret using "rules". He also points out that in the process of analysis we try to reach those settled positions, otherwise analysis is impossible. Watson missed much of that.

By the way, more detailed reviews can be found if you google the title, for example at [...] 'Questions of Modern Chess Theory', although originally written in the 1950's and only published in English in 2008, does a better job of addressing the philosophy of modern chess strategy in a much more correct, nonarrogant, and clear way than Watson's Secrets of Chess Strategy. It is still very relevant today (except obviously some opening variations given in examples). If you want to understand who is right, Nimzowitsch or Watson or Aasgard etc about whether chess rules exist, are still applicable, etc, read this book. After reading it you will feel like Galileo did when he discovered that earth orbits the sun, and not vice versa.

Questions of Modern Chess Theory is the lost masterpiece of Soviet chess literature. It was written by a double Ukrainian Champion, and published in the Soviet Union in 1956. Russian experts say it is one of the most influential chess books of the 20th century, yet it was never published in English. It has been edited to make it useful for the 21st century and is now accessible for the first time to an English-speaking audience.

Questions of Modern Chess Theory is without doubt one of the best chess books of all time. ChessVibes The author doesn't need many pages of tiresome exposition to make his point. He explains complicated chess theory in no time with excellent game examples and clear and logical language. Martin Rieger, Europa Rochade