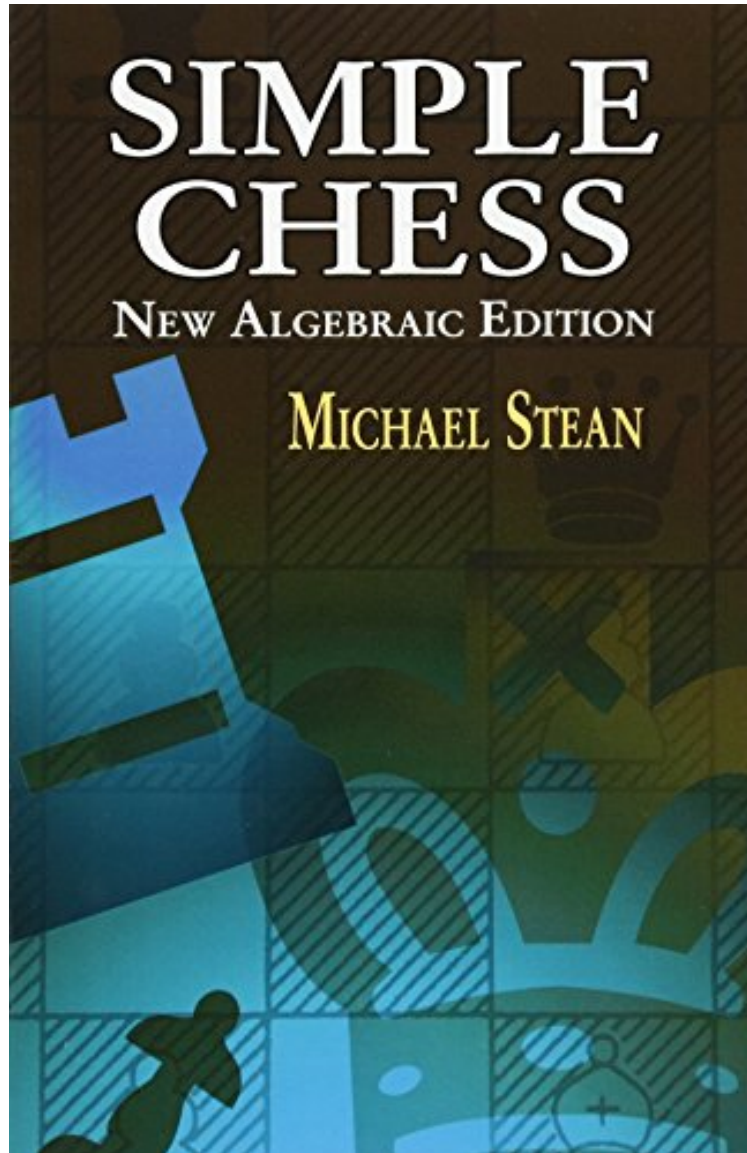


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Simple Chess: New Algebraic Edition (Dover Chess)

Michael Stean

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8.25 x 5.25 x .50l, .41 #File Name: 0486424200176 pagesAuthor: Michael SteanPages: 160
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Michael Stean : Simple Chess: New Algebraic Edition (Dover Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Simple Chess: New Algebraic Edition (Dover Chess):

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. "Was blind, but now I see."By GoosemeyerIf you see this in a bookstore look at his analysis of the first game in the introduction (Botvinnik-Szilagyi). If that doesn't sell you then

nothing will. This is the most instructive chess book I own (sadly, I own many). I have all the "standards" - Silman, Chernev etc - but this is simply the best. I won't dwell on its quality, because other reviewers have covered that. I will say that you will never look at the board the same way again after reading it. The book does assume some previous reading on positional concepts, but it doesn't assume any competence (trust me). Everyone's read some inappropriate positional tome early in their career, so this shouldn't be a problem for most people. Another reviewer has said something to the effect that every sentence has some instructive value, and I couldn't agree more. When I first read it I glossed over some things as I was caught up in the prose and the "main point", but on subsequent readings I realized that there is a whole second layer - a kind of indirect, subconscious instruction - in the writing when he sets context or alludes to alternatives. Take a relaxed read first up, by all means, but I urge you to give it a real serious word by word analysis subsequently. The prose is very deliberate. There are no throw away lines. It is a gold mine. I remember reading that a publishing house was trying to do a new edition of the original (descriptive notation) edition in the late 90s but that Stean was uninterested. I am so glad he changed his mind. It is a pity that such a talent has remained silent for so long. I wish he would write again. Anything. Study tactics, and read this. Maybe chess is simple after all. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Holy Moly! By VCAThis is without a doubt, the best chess book I've read, period. For class C players even more of a Godsend, simply because it takes important aspects of position and clearly states what it is and why it's important, then gives you the plan. All games used as instructional games are master games so it's great to see how a master would see a positional advantage and work around just that one positional advantage for the rest of the game. I've read a small handful of books myself in search of getting stronger and I've never understood why there were so many variations printed, and why the author would talk about so many different things, I would be confused as to what am I supposed to be learning, but this book gives you the positional read, and then focuses on the plan, which will take you deep into the game, mostly into endgame. And if you study endgame and technique, the win should be fairly simple to attain. The book mentions an important positional aspect and then the rest of the chapter is solely devoted to that aspect with very few lines of variation (which I'm not a fan of in other books). I read Jeremy Silman's Amateurs Mind a long time ago and thought it was really good. But I could never see the board, or know how to look at the board like the Experts on up, then I ran into this book and it blew my mind. I wish Simple Chess was as thick with information as Amateurs Mind and vice versa, for a beginning to intermediate player this would be a great combination, but is probably a great combination either way. I've always been a positional type player and I had a hard time trying to understand other books cause they usually emphasize tactics and material or never really go into strategy, i.e. "White is better." WHY?! He mentions in this book that great tactical combination's that lead to material advantage or even mate arise from superior positions first. This book really holds true to it's title. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not a book for beginners. Fantastic for the right audience. By Joshua S. InfiestoI made the mistake of purchasing this book as a beginner. It collected dust on my shelf for a long time. I've since read it, and it's probably one of the best books on Chess I've ever read. After reading the first couple chapters, I promptly went out and trounced someone rated 200 points higher than me. It's great. It's also short, so it can be easily read in a couple of days. Also, work through the games. You won't get much out of it if you don't. At least not the first time through.

Written by a young Grand Master, this introduction to chess strategy is aimed primarily at players for whom a game plan is utterly enigmatic. By isolating the basic elements and illustrating them through a selection of Master and Grand Master games, Simple Chess breaks down the mystique of strategy into plain, easy-to-understand ideas only a knowledge of basic chess terminology is assumed. More than a lesson in chess fundamentals, this book illustrates an increasingly prevalent and successful style of play a method that begins by slowly accumulating small but permanent advantages, saving the outright attack for later in the game. Newly converted into the current algebraic chess notation, this edition of Simple Chess offers a strategic weapon for players at every level of expertise.