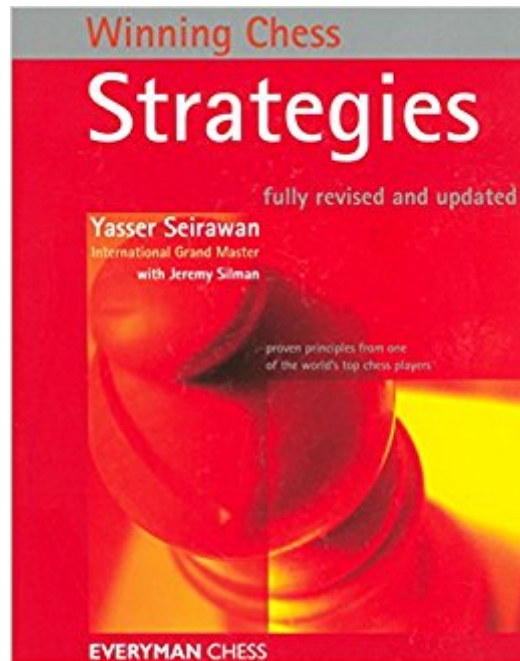




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# Winning Chess Strategies (Winning Chess - Everyman Chess)



## Synopsis

Readers will gain the advantage over their opponents with easy-to-remember strategies from one of the world's top chess players! Strategy--it's the ultimate secret weapon for championship players around the world. Drawing on his considerable experience in tournament play, International Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan shows players how to apply flexible strategic principles to every part of their game. Using Seirawan's simple and effective planning and analysis techniques, they will enter each game with confidence and energy, ready to play forcefully and intelligently--the way they need to play so they can win every time! Learn to: > Knock opponents off balance with bold opening moves > Formulate an overall game strategy before the middle game > Interpret the motivation behind an opponent's every move > Position for a winning endgame Diagrams throughout the book illustrate game positions, and readers will meet history's greatest chess strategies--learning from them move by move! Whether for reference during practice games or simply for pleasure reading, *Winning Chess Strategies* is an information packed resource players will turn to again and again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the third of Seirawan's four-volume series, which takes the reader from chess greenhorn to a player advanced enough to understand grandmaster play. Here, Seirawan shows how to set long-range goals for a game and systematically gain a superior position. His deft explanations give anyone with basic chess knowledge (covered in his previous books) the insights to leap levels in play. As usual, he tackles the subject with an infectious enthusiasm, communicating the sporting

thrill as each piece of a meticulous plan comes together. Throughout the book, engrossing chess puzzles help teach strategic points. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

"Seirawan does a great job with this book."--Chesscorner.com"These two books will teach you enough to beat most of your friends and family and all the kids on your block."--Evan Kreider, ChessPraxis

The third and final part of a series by renowned International Grand Master Yasser Seirawan and International Master Jeremy Silman, *Winning Chess Strategies* is also the most difficult to devour. The book follows the same format Seirawan and Silman used in *Winning Chess Tactics*, taking one strategic element of chess at a time and spending an entire chapter on it. Each are explained, explored and exemplified individually to help the aspiring chess amateur develop these lines of strategic thought. More knowledgeable chess enthusiasts will likely recognize a lot of this material. Strategic concepts like material advantage, stopping enemy counterplay, target creation and the dynamics of a successful king attack aren't exactly new concepts in chess. The amateur, however, will probably find a goldmine of interesting new ideas. The difference between a well placed bishop and a poorly placed bishop, for example, or the proper placement of powerful pieces like the queen and rooks. As usual, Seirawan's discussion of pawn use is superior. Probably the most puzzling and arguably most helpful chapter to the amateur mind is the chapter on faulty strategies. This chapter discusses the typical mistakes and pitfalls made by amateurs trying to adopt a strategic style of play, such as attacking prematurely, complacency and "playing from the gut". This chapter was reminiscent of Silman's "The Amateur's Mind" and is probably more representative of his work rather than Seirawan's. As with *Play Winning Chess* and *Winning Chess Tactics*, Seirawan and Silman spend a chapter discussing the strategies of the great masters. Specific games of Steinitz, Rubinstein, Capablanca, Nimzovich, Petrosian and Karpov are chosen to exemplify strategic and positional play rather than tactics, with apologies to Lasker, Alekhine, Tal and Kasparov. Like the other two parts of the series, which I recommend reading before this one even if you're familiar with the material, I was bothered by the writing style rather than the information. *Winning Chess Strategies* seems to be written for children, and is sprinkled liberally with chess axioms and rules that the authors then give contradictory examples for. Every once in a while the text is interrupted by a quick positional quiz, to which the solutions only come at the end. Though the material is golden, the format and style detract significantly from the immersion. It stands in stark contrast to Silman's other work, which leads me to believe that Seirawan was the primary writer. All in all, though,

Winning Chess Strategies is a very useful piece of work that I think will greatly help the amateur chess enthusiast on the road to mastery.

I purchased this the same time as Seirawan's "Tactics" book. I enjoy the author's writing style and he knows his stuff. He uses a good sense of humor to keep the reading lively and his background on the annotated masters games is informative, interesting, and engaging. The only reason I give "Tactics" 5 stars over this one's 4 is that Tactics is just easier to read and work through. Due to the topics of this book the examples are long, some even full games, so while the explanation of the principals of the chapters is simple and straightforward it takes some serious set-aside study time to work through the examples with your own chessboard. (Tactics on the other hand with its short term calculations can be done in your head). The format of having test questions at the end doesn't gel with the subject matter as well as Tactics, but is consistent with the format of the other books of the series. The examples take longer to work through than to get the point of the chapter--with several chapters I could correctly answer the end of chapter tests without working through the examples. You can quickly review the points of the chapters just by looking for the italicized print, and that is often enough information to answer the end of chapter questions correctly. I'm sure working through all the examples would increase the value and understanding of this book but I am someone who does not have hours a day to devote to studying chess. Again it is an excellent book and I recommend it, I do believe it has improved my play. Just plan on scheduling serious study time when you want to read through some of it, it's not something you can read casually on your nightstand.

My son is a chess player who is competitive on the national scholastic stage. Like most of his peers, he has great intuitions about tactics but suffers from a lack of strategic foresight. His coach recommended this book and I have been reading it to him for the past few weeks. Overall, this is a good introductory text. My son has learned quite a few new concepts, although he still rolls his eyes when an example of slow positional play is presented. He used to complain about not knowing what to do next when no quick tactic maneuvers are available. Such occurrences have become less frequent. I think players between 750 and 1250 will find this book helpful, particularly if they are tactically inclined to begin with. I am not giving this book five stars because there are two problems with it. Firstly, it has not been carefully proof-read and consequently contains a good number of errata in the chess diagrams, presenting a real headache for the readers. Secondly, not all examples are convincing. On occasions, after the key move suggested by the book, my son asked

me why he should not respond by doing something. Upon consulting Rybka, I found that his idea actually led to a winning or drawing position. I understand that good strategies sometimes aim to make it very difficult but not impossible for the opponent to counter correctly. But trying to explain that to a first grader is a chore I would rather avoid.

Excellent!

The author has a deep understanding of chess. I am learning things I did not think were possible.

I have read several books on chess strategy, but Seirawan's is the most lucid introduction to the subject. All the books in the "Winning Chess" strategies are excellent and the serious, developing tournament player will benefit by carefully reading through all of them. What I liked about this book in particular is that it is never dull and does not inundate the reader with complex examples. Each position or game chosen clearly illustrates the point of chess strategy that is being made. I read this after reading Silman's "Reassess Your Chess" (another excellent book), which is probably why this book was easier to read through. However, each are worth possessing and reading several times. It's just too bad that they seem to be going out of print.

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