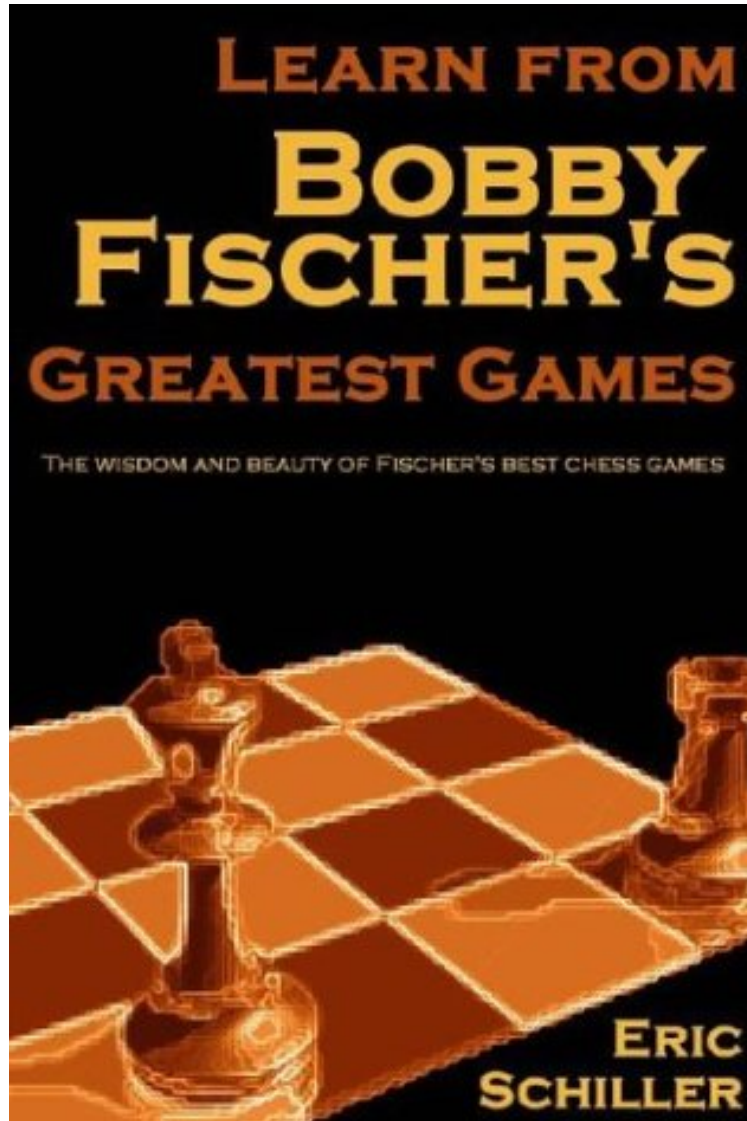


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Learn from Bobby Fischer's Greatest Games

Eric Schiller

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Eric Schiller : Learn from Bobby Fischer's Greatest Games before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Learn from Bobby Fischer's Greatest Games:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Good idea, horrible bookBy John T. Adamo Jr. Why doesn't have a zero star rating, or minus stars? I have a chess library of close to 200 books, and I'm sure this is the most poorly put together book I've ever seen. It looks as though it had no editor or proof reader at all. As just one egregious example, I'll address Game 12, The Case Of The Wrong Rook. First of all, the chapter doesn't indicate who is White or Black. However, all chess publishing uses the convention of listing the player with the white pieces first, as the book properly

does in other games. The problem here is that they list Fischer first, but in fact, he is Black in this game. This mistake would be confusing enough, but the text goes on to treat the game as though Fischer is playing White, such as the following sentence after 7. e3: "This is not a particularly ambitious move. Bobby doesn't seem to be aiming for much in the opening." It is so obviously wrong. The move was by Byrne, not Fischer. Aside from the fact that most serious chess players know this game well already, it becomes clear later in the game that Fischer is Black, but the writer/editor does not notice the discrepancy. Shortly thereafter, there is another major gaff. After the commentary at move 14. Rfd1, there is the following note: "The problem is that Fischer failed to consider the importance of the pin of the knight at c3 by the bishop at g7 ..." This is the second instance in this game where Fischer is criticized for making a move Byrne made. If anyone was half awake during the editing, one would think they would start to wonder why this book about learning from Bobby Fischer was repeatedly criticizing his moves. By move 15, the notes are properly praising Fischer's moves as Black. Still, the editor doesn't notice that he has switched the color of the players in the middle of the game. It is beyond my comprehension how mistakes this gross could have gotten by. I stopped reading after about a third of the book, but it was riddled with typos, unclear language and other miscellaneous mistakes. Unfortunately, with few exceptions, most of Schiller's books that I've seen are filled with the same, although this is by far the worst. Only his books on the Tarrasch and Caro Kann are well done. The rest were churned out for a quick buck. This is tantamount to stealing the buyer's money. I find it hard to believe that the few positive reviews on this book are not planted by Schiller and company. This book is absolutely awful. My specific criticisms here only scratch the surface. Let the serious chess student beware of any book by Schiller, or any chess book by Cardoza. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Poor book By Chess Lover I bought the book as the title reminded me of a book that I planned to buy. Later, after bringing home the book, I realized that I confused it with the one from Elie Agur ("Bobby Fischer: His Approach"). After reading the first pages, I felt very disappointed as it was way below my expectation. I was not sure if it was for a beginner or what. But, even if you are a beginner, I would not recommend it. To give you an illustration on how I felt, take the first "lesson" from Game #1. Learning from how Fischer won the game, these are the recommendations from the writer (page 21): 1. You want a pawn or two in the center of the board (e4, d4, e5, d5) 2. Your king must be castled to safety. 3. Your rooks should be able to see each other. 4. At least one rook should take up a position on an open line, preferably on the d-file or e-file. Hello? Is this a general lesson of playing chess or what? I expect that the writer made a deep study on Fischer's specific style and unleashed the strategy or any pattern that the writer learnt during the process. From the title, I wanted to learn how Fischer was different with Tal, for example (or even with Alekhine, Karpov,...). But not a general 'tips' like you should complete your development before attacking your enemy.. For a general strategy of chess, we could pick a lot of far better, more organized, more structured books. "My System" by Aron Nimzowitsch, as an example, would be a great book for a general strategy of chess (not specifically to a specific style of a player). "Attack with Mikhail Tal" written by Tal himself and Iakov Damsky is a good example on how a book can describe a specific style of a player and how we can learn from it. In short: Not Recommended. It was a disappointment to spend my dollars for the book. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. decent book, but errors are distracting By H. Minh (Howard) Huynh I think Mr. Schiller does a decent job of presenting some of Bobby Fischer's great games to players who are generally just starting out and seeking inspiration from one of the greatest chess players in history. However, as already mentioned by one of the reviewers, the book does have some flaws that detract from its overall quality. Script errors in the written analyses are constant distractions (makes some games hard to play out), and along with numerous spelling and grammar errors, gives the sense that the book was rushed to publication without any serious attempts at editing and consideration to readers. Though I agree and admit that errors sometimes do (though rarely) manage to sneak through the editing process, the fact that there are so many in this book (and some other titles by this author) makes you wonder about the sort of editors they have working for Cardoza Publishing. That being said however, the book is useful in its prose, analysis, and commentary. Explanations with respect to how each game was played are relatively clear and concise, and generally instructive to novices who are making some concerted efforts in improving their own game. A caveat I would relay to anyone reading this book is to keep an open mind, both in interpreting the games and the commentary. Though advice given by master players are instructive and beneficial, one cannot generally treat all of it as gospel. Attentive observation, persistent questioning, and the independent formulation of your own views and opinions are just as important to improving one's own craft and approach to chess. Overall, this book does have its place in terms of inspiring players to improve their own play at chess. However, being it is a book, the aforementioned flaws in the text are distracting, and degrade the overall presentation of the material in my opinion. I think many players would agree that the games of Bobby Fischer are to be cherished, and having them presented in this manner is disappointing and does not do them justice.

The first book about the great American chess champion Bobby Fischer written for the average player-90% of the chess playing audience- Schiller focuses on the lessons players can learn from his games. Packed with diagrams and easy-to-understand pointers showing what Fischer was thinking and how players can apply these concepts and strategies to their own games, this great learning tool borrows from the wisdom and beauty of Fischer's greatest

games and passes it on to new generations.

About the Author Schiller, widely considered one of the world's foremost chess analysts, writers, and teachers, is internationally recognized for his definitive works on chess. Schiller is a National and Life Master of the United States Chess Federation and holds titles of FIDE Master, International Arbiter and International Organizer from the World Chess Federation.