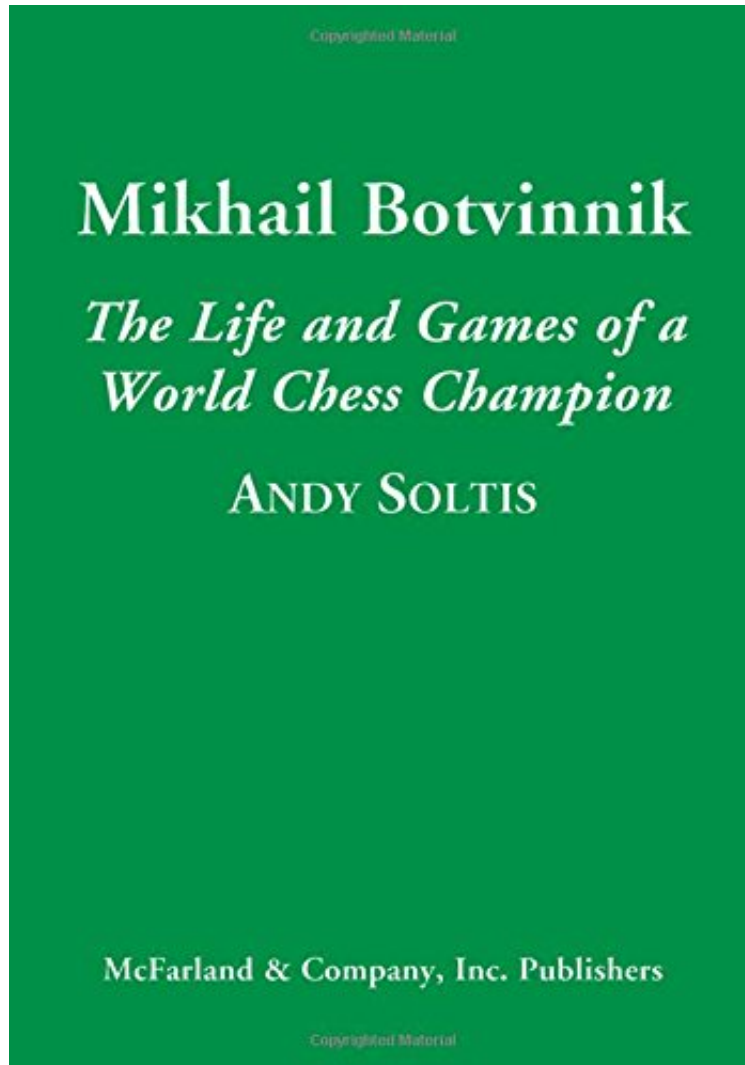


(Mobile ebook) Mikhail Botvinnik: The Life and Games of a World Chess Champion

Mikhail Botvinnik: The Life and Games of a World Chess Champion

Andy Soltis

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Andy Soltis : Mikhail Botvinnik: The Life and Games of a World Chess Champion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mikhail Botvinnik: The Life and Games of a World Chess Champion:

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Very good book, could be better By M. A Oberly If you have read Soltis' book 'Soviet Chess', you will have a good idea of the style of this one. It seems somewhat slender for a bio of a

figure as large as Botvinnik, but I think it covers enough ground for the audience for which it is intended. It is not the definitive biography, more the outline of a great career. I found Soltis's game comments interesting and enlightening, but, again, if you have read his other books, you know what to expect. His annotations cover the critical points of the game, rather than exhaustive variations. (It does drive me a little crazy when authors such as Soltis append a move like "28 e5!" with an !, when software such as Houdini notice nothing special in such moves -- I don't care that the computer programs don't see anything special in the move, but it would be nice to see an explanation as to why the author does. In Soltis' defense, he generally does, in this book, at some point explain why he gives an ! or ? to a move) Soltis is one of my favorite chess writers, and he does not disappoint me here. A perfect biography in the style of Edward Winter would be impeccably sourced, and I would really like to see such a book. But for now, this is an extremely entertaining read, and the physical quality is quite high. (although more typos than one would expect) Probably the best book on the subject, but still a figure whose career is shrouded in mystery, and will likely remain so. 8 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Soltis Makes It Clear. By Boomer49 What Soltis makes clear is that Botvinnik was a man of his times. Suspicious, vengeful, paranoid, practical. In short-a survivor in a time when it was quite hard to stay out of trouble. It is so obvious that he was 'protected and favored' by the authorities that it kinda smears his reputation. All he wanted was to 'stay on top' and he would do whatever it took to stay there. Kasparov has better analysis and game coverage but is grossly slanted in his view of Botvinnik. Fischer was right all along-the russians cheated and collaborated and forced events to go their way. I do not blame him for giving up chess. The russians really would have tried to poison him to get 'their title' back. And Botvinnik would have led the way! 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Soltis produces another solid product. By Robert B. Tanner While not offering much that is new, Soltis' latest book gives a very solid outline of Mikhail Botvinnik's life and chess career. The 85 games all include light notes that give the flavor of the games without often giving detailed variations. Soltis relies heavily on Botvinnik's own works, with an appropriate dose of skepticism injected. Above all the book is a very enjoyable lucid read in the typical Soltis vein. Production qualities are superb as usual with McFarland publications. I give this book four stars due to it only being an outline (albeit a very good one) of the sixth world champion's life. I would love to have a comprehensive biography of Botvinnik of this quality (a life's work), but for the player not familiar with Botvinnik's life it is a great start.

The games of Mikhail Botvinnik, world chess champion from 1948 to 1963, have been studied by players around the world for decades. But little has been written about Botvinnik himself. This book explores his unusual dual career--as a highly regarded scientist as well as the first truly professional chess player--as well as his complex relations with Soviet leaders, including Josef Stalin, his bitter rivalries, and his doomed effort to create the perfect chess-playing computer program. The book has more than 85 games, 127 diagrams, twelve photographs, a chronology of his life and career, a bibliography, an index of openings, an index of opponents, and a general index.

"another Soltis tour-de-force...a fascinating book that is must reading for anyone wishing to learn more about this fascinating figure"--IM John Donaldson (JeremySilman.com); "a fascinating story...a brilliant account, the best book written on Botvinnik by far"--Chess News; "meticulously researched...combines a multitude of Soviet and American sources to paint a rich and detailed picture of one of the game's most enigmatic and powerful players"--Chess Life; "a really excellent read...an interesting and comprehensive account of Botvinnik's life...respect is etched on every page and considerable effort has obviously been made both at the editing and writing stages. Botvinnik himself would surely have nodded approval"--British Chess Magazine; "recommended"--Kingpin Chess Magazine; "Soltis has written another fine book. He makes you aware of Botvinnik's myriad achievements and gives you a good sense of his life and times"--Manchester Chess Federation; "covers more background information on the person Botvinnik, that I ever have ever seen on print before!"--Chessbook s; "Soltis tells a fascinating story...a brilliant account, the best book written on Botvinnik by far"--Huffington Post; "an excellent job...recommended"--Chess Life; "Soltis's best book so far"--Dale Brandreth, Caissa Editions; "Grandmaster Andy Soltis exceeds all expectations in this epic life of chess' most enigmatic world champions. McFarland Publishers have set very high standards in the world of chess publishing with many of their titles winning prestigious book awards. With this new work on Botvinnik, McFarland has again raised the bar for excellence. Soltis presents a wonderful selection of games with stories behind their competitive significance. The games are well analyzed by Soltis. Soltis has written a modern day classic chess biography. Soltis' readable portrait of one the great players of all time, once picked up, is very hard to put back down"--The Birmingham News; "Soltis exceeds all expectations in this epic life of chess most enigmatic world champions. McFarland Publishers have set very high standards in the world of chess publishing with many of their titles winning prestigious book awards. With this new work on Botvinnik, McFarland has again raised the bar for excellence. Soltis has written a modern day classic chess biography. Soltis' readable portrait of one of the great players of all time, once picked up, is very hard to put back down"--al.com. About the Author Grandmaster Andy Soltis, eight times champion of the Marshall Chess Club, New York Post editor and Chess Life columnist, is the author of dozens of chess books. He lives in New

York City.