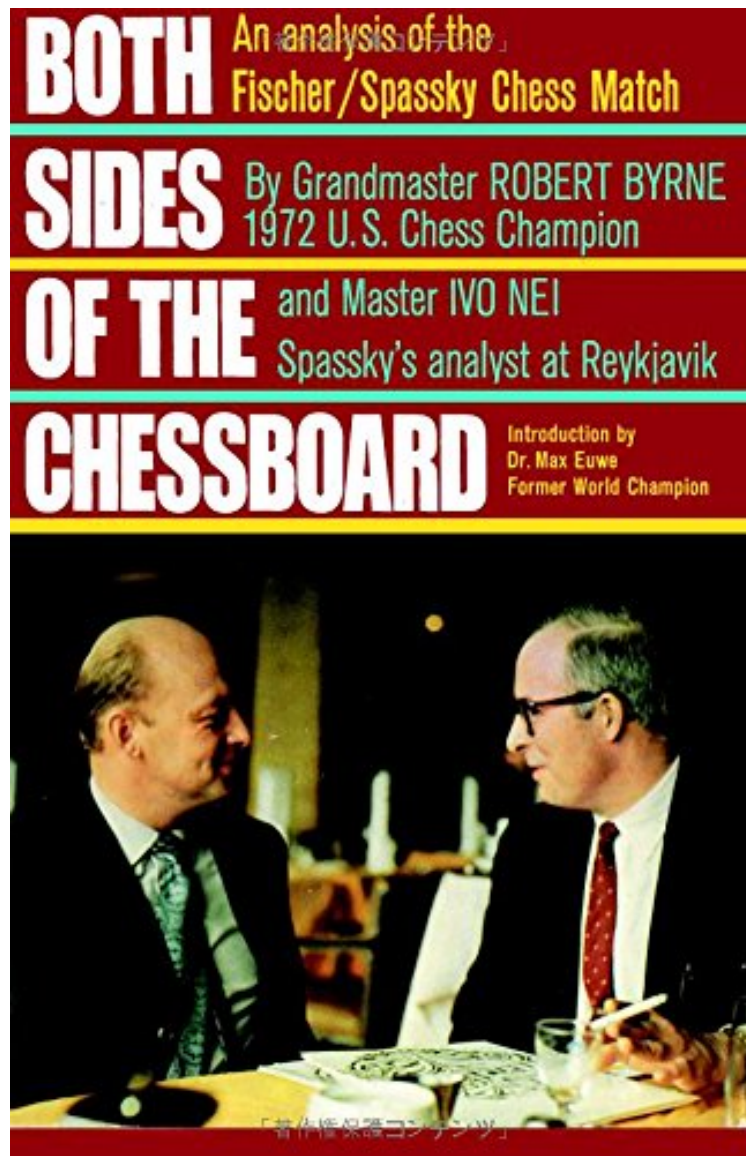


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## Both Sides of the Chessboard: An Analysis of the Fischer/Spassky Chess Match

*Robert Byrne, Ivo Nei*

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#1941975 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2013-05-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .58 x 5.50l, .73 #File Name: 4871875377256 pagesAuthor: Ivo Nei,Robert ByrnePages: 258Publication Years: 2013 | File size: 54.Mb

**Robert Byrne, Ivo Nei : Both Sides of the Chessboard: An Analysis of the Fischer/Spassky Chess Match** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Both Sides of the Chessboard: An Analysis of the Fischer/Spassky Chess Match:

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Everything is fineBy BerndNothing to complain. It is in the shape as it was described, so nothing to complain about. Would buy it again!26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. The best book on a fabulous chess matchBy Jill MalterThis is an excellent book about Robert Fischer's Candidates Matches and World Championship match. In 1972, Fischer won the World Chess Championship due to his superb play in these matches.Robert Byrne's descriptions and analyses of these games tend to be extremely good. And for the games against Boris Spassky for the Championship, we see additional analysis from Ivo Nei, a member of Spassky's team.The book starts with Fischer's 6-0 win against Mark Taimanov. I have always been very impressed by Taimanov's play at the piano keyboard. But I admit I was astonished by some of Taimanov's blunders in this chess match. In Game Two, Taimanov threw away an endgame that even I would have drawn easily against anyone. I've seen grandmasters make some crazy errors, and this was one of the most amazing. In Game Five, Taimanov made another incredible mistake, soon after adjournment no less, to throw away an obvious draw. Still, these errors merely shortened the match by a game. I liked all of Byrne's notes to these games.Next is Fischer's 6-0 win against Bent Larsen. Game One was truly exciting, and I wish Byrne had given a better analysis of the position at move 25. Game Four was a shock to me: down 3-0, I expected Larsen to play something safe for White against Fischer's King's Indian Defence, maybe 6 Be3 (which Larsen had done very well with in the previous few years). But Larsen proved in his games with White that he had no intention of drawing any games against Fischer. And he sure didn't, even though he certainly could have drawn at least two of them had he been willing to.After that, we see Fischer's slaughter of ex-World Champion Tigran Petrosian. Petrosian prepared very well for this match, but that meant having to get into some wild positions. Petrosian got big advantages in the openings of the first three games, but he still had only one win, one draw, and one loss from them, which is not surprising considering that Fischer was simply a better overall player and that Petrosian was a little out of his element in a couple of the good positions he got into. After two more draws, Fischer won the next four games and the match. Byrne once again does a fine job of describing everything.The match with Spassky was one of the best chess matches ever (although I may be more than a little biased, given that I attended some of the games). And this is the book to get to read all about it. That includes descriptions of some truly strange moments, such as Fischer's forfeit of Game 2. Game 15 was absolutely fantastic and unforgettable, but several other games were almost as exciting.There are a number of changes that one might want to make in the analyses, given the knowledge of some of the positions that the past three decades have brought. But not as many as one might expect: that is a great testament to Byrne's expertise and hard work in writing this book.Still, I'll give a couple of examples of very minor things I would have said differently. In Game 10, Spassky could not save the endgame after adjournment because Fischer could not be stopped from winning Spassky's Bishop. Not only that, Spassky's Bishop could be taken at any point, so Fischer could improve his position as much as he wanted to before taking it. Rather than simply say this, Byrne merely praises Fischer's play before winning the Bishop. That is reasonable, but it fails to explain what really made Spassky's position so bad. When Fischer finally wins the Bishop, Byrne comments "Another little added touch - the Bishop is won by force." That misleading comment is, in my opinion, Byrne's worst error in this entire book. Nei, of course, confirms that he and Spassky realized the position at adjournment was hopeless, but he also fails to explain all this.Another comment I dislike is Byrne's description of the end of Game 17. The game reached adjournment, but as Ivo Nei explains in this book, he and Spassky realized that it could not be won. Since there is nothing to be gained by trying to avoid a draw in an unwinnable position (Taimanov and Larsen had already shown that), they clearly decided to take the draw. When Spassky showed up to play out the adjournment, he did something unique in the match (I was there so I saw it). He played his moves as fast as he could, taking something like a second per move! It was obvious to me that he was settling for a draw; there was no other possible explanation. Byrne does not mention this, merely saying "Spassky's falling into a threefold repetition of the position right at the start of the second playing session seemed strange." And he says that Spassky looked unhappy when the referee confirmed the repetition! I think that's misleading; it looked to me that Spassky was actually trying to repeat the position a fourth time when the referee stopped the game.Anyway, these are extremely tiny problems with the best book I've seen on this glorious chess match. I highly recommend this book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An interesting analysis of the 1972 campaign, culminating with the Iceland matchBy chaoswebThe commentary is from both Robert Byrne and Ivo Nei, and in my hardcover edition, an intro by Max Euwe, so you have some insight from 3 top level chess players/official. The book covers Fischer v. Taimanov, Fischer v. Larsen, Fischer v. Petrosian and culminates with the Fischer v. Spassky match of 1972. I was very pleased to see the matches leading up to the championship because Fischer won the qualifiers with an unprecedented perfect record.

An analysis of the 1972 World Championship Chess Match from both sides of the chessboard - a Russian and an American analysis. After all the rush books on the most dramatic chess confrontation in history - Bobby Fischer vs. Boris Spassky have had their brief dry in the sun, this deeply considered and unique volume makes its bid for classic status. International Grandmaster ROBERT BYRNE, distinguished chess columnist for The New York Times and the 1972 U.S. Chess Champion, who is justly famed for the thoroughness, accuracy and penetrating insight of his chess analysis: He debunks much of the erroneous analysis published within weeks of the match in books admirable for their

timeliness but understandably lacking in depth; He provides a new view of the games since he is aware of the tensions and psychological burdens of both great masters.' International Grandmaster IVO NEI, a Spassky confidant, one of Russia's leading theoreticians and a member of the Soviet team at Reykjavik and himself a brilliant annotator: He reveals many intriguing secrets of the match for the first time anywhere; He sheds new light on the hitherto dark side of Soviet chess, pre-match preparations. The definitive book on the match . . . objective, thorough, revealing, penetrating . . . no chess lover will want to be without.

About the Author Robert Byrne was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 20, 1928. He was the 1972 U.S. Chess Champion. He was also The New York Times chess columnist. He became an international master in 1952 and a grandmaster in 1964. Byrne won third prize at the 1973 Leningrad Interzonal, which qualified him for the Candidates Matches. A graduate of Yale, Byrne was an Honorary Director of the Manhattan Chess Club as well as an International Best Games Judge. Robert Byrne died in Ossining New York on April 12, 2013. IVO NEI won the junior chess championship of the Soviet Union in 1948. He has been national chess champion of Estonia six times. He became an international master in 1964, winning the Beverwijk International Tournament ahead of 8 grandmasters, including Bent Larsen and Lajos Portisch. In the Tallinn International Tournament, 1969, he shared second place with Paul Keres. A physicist by profession, he is director of a chess school in Tallinn. He has been the trainer and the second to Nona Gaprindashvili, women's world chess champion. He was trainer of the Soviet Team in the European Championship in Austria, 1970. In the 1972 World Championship Match, he was one of Spassky's seconds. He resides in Tallinn, Estonia with his wife.