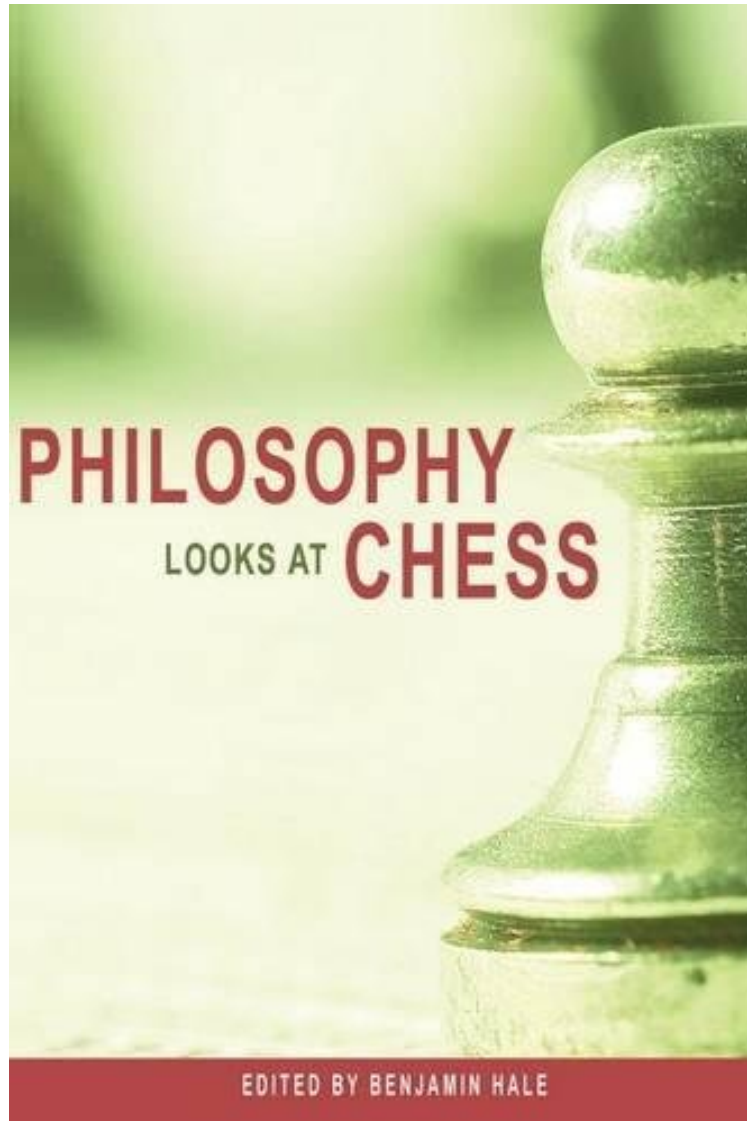


[Read free] Philosophy Looks at Chess

Philosophy Looks at Chess

From Brand: Open Court
*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#650134 in Books Open Court 2008-09-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.75 x 6.00 x .75l, .75 #File Name: 0812696336288 pages | File size: 32.Mb

From Brand: Open Court : Philosophy Looks at Chess before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Philosophy Looks at Chess:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It's definitely philosophical By Peter B. This is an interesting read about the various topics surrounding chess. But it helps to have a fairly good knowledge of philosophy to thoroughly enjoy it. It's a discussion of the 'issues' in and around chess, such as whether an intelligent computer actually "understands" what it's doing when it plays chess, what it means to be intelligent, what it means to understand, and so on along these lines. Essays refer to many of the classic publications in philosophy to make their point, with lots and

lots of footnotes -- so typical of analytic academic philosophy. There are also essays about chess itself -- for e.g. whether it's actually a game. Of course that depends on how you define "game." If you enjoy chess but don't enjoy the many "variations" that come up in a philosophical discussion, this book may not hold your attention for long. I enjoyed it, but I love philosophy as much as I love chess!

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Its diminutive comprehensions are almost too copious for my extremetive cogitations

By Keith Halonen
I must predicate this review by declaring that I have given short shrift to psychological purviews of chess as presented in several books I've reviewed here at . In general, many who think about chess do so to a depth which seems to reveal more about the thinker than it does about the experience of most of its players. However, I have an all-immersive goal to which I've decided to dedicate my spare time. Enjoying chess as much as I do, I decided to spend a few years reading books ABOUT the game for entertainment when I am not reading HOW-TO manuals addressing the nuances of improving my playing skills. Yes, I have Chess Fever (do see the 1925 Russian silent comedy of the same name). This book turned out to be so much more than I bargained for! At the onset, I realized that I needed my 10-pound 4-inch dictionary ever-present during the read! Also a must is a pencil and a note-pad where I can jot down both the new words that crop up every 2-3 pages as well as their definitions. I swear, dear readers, that there is a gallifmaufry of new words in this book. That's right... a gallifmaufry! For these, I am certain, we have philosophers to thank. Without a doubt, they look at chess far more deeply than psychologists, who mostly seem obsessed with Oedipal lust and patricide. The book is a series of essays by different philosophers, making for each chapter having a new voice even though the theme remains the same. This is not a quick read, but it certainly is an eye-opener with respect to the root intentions of the discipline of philosophy. You won't need a hatful of brains but a couple pounds or so can't hurt, and be sure you have that massive dictionary nearby!

15 of 17 people found the following review helpful. A highly intellectual discussion that philosophers and chess players of all experience levels can enjoy

By Midwest Book Review
Philosophy Looks at Chess is an anthology of twelve essays by expert philosophers, each of which critically examines fascinating (and sometimes playful) philosophical questions that draw upon chess as a reference point, metaphor, or source of inspiration. Among the topics discussed at length are "Do chess players think in words?", "Is chess really a game?", "Does chess explain how a benevolent God might exist in a world permeated by evil?", and "Is Garry Kasparov a cyborg?". "The moves chess players make during chess games are in large part determined by the threats they see to the aspects of the game they choose to value most. For example, chess players who place the highest value on their queen would be less likely to sacrifice that piece for attacking chances or mating possibilities. Just as players who value their pawn structure would be less likely to accept an open file as a compensatory justification for double pawns. These dispositions are in large part related to narratives we play by in a game, or the myths that we believe determine the 'right moves'." A highly intellectual discussion that philosophers and chess players of all experience levels can enjoy.

Chess, the ancient strategy game, meets the latest, cutting-edge philosophy in this unique book. When 12 philosophers weigh in on one of the world's oldest and most beloved pastimes, the results are often surprising. Philosophical concepts as varied as phenomenology and determinism share the page with a treatise on hip-hop chess tactics and the question of whether Garry Kasparov is, in fact, a cyborg. Putting forth a remarkable array of different views on chess from philosophers with varied chess-proficiency, Philosophy Looks at Chess is an engaging read for chess adherents and the philosophically inclined alike.

"This book is highly recommended to anyone who is interested in chess not as a sport, not even as an art. But as a way to think about life, the universe, and everything." Arne Moll, ChessVibes.com, 7 November 2008