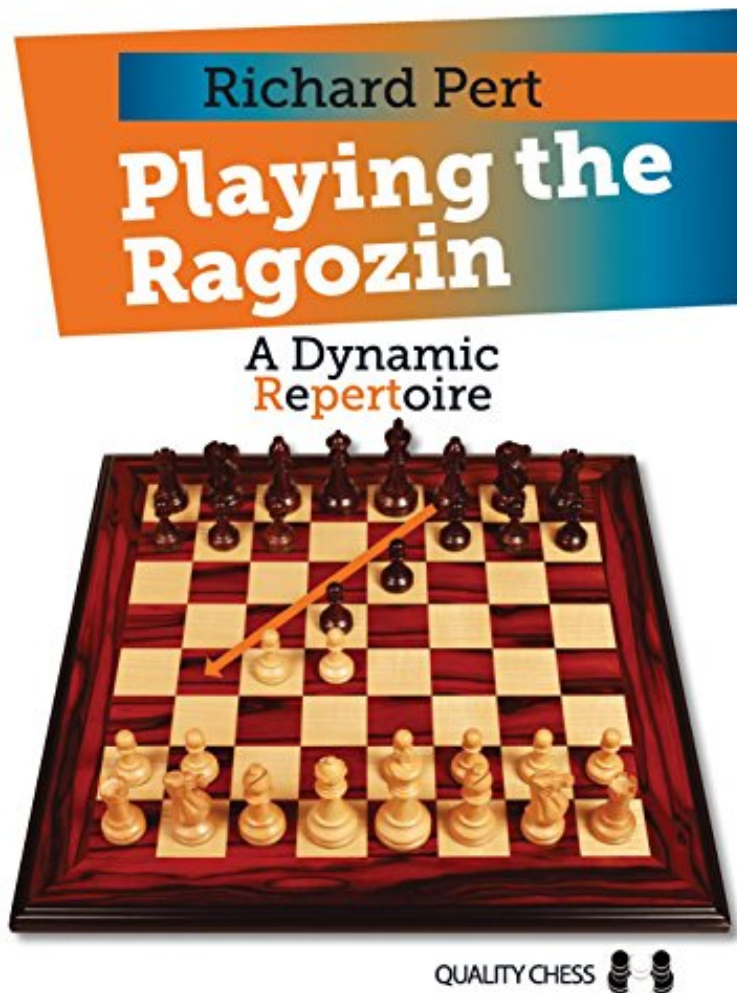


(Free and download) Playing the Ragozin

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Richard Pert

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#154969 in Books US Chess Federation 2017-03-07Original language:English 9.49 x .70 x 6.64l, #File Name: 1784830305440 pagesAuthor: Richard PertPages: 440 PagesPublication Year: 2017 | File size: 78.Mb

Richard Pert : Playing the Ragozin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Playing the Ragozin:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An adventurous complement to the Nimzo-Indian for BlackBy Derek GrimmellThe natural contrast to this Quality Chess work is New In Chess's "The Ragozin Complex," by Vladimir Barsky. Although there are, naturally, many differences, for your purposes the differences are easy to sum up: 1) Barsky uses a key-games format, while Richard Pert has created a "tree of variations" work. 2) Barsky studiously avoids the Vienna Variation, while Pert plunges in, smiling ear to ear, and with quite a few ideas to

share. The down side of the key-games format is that this can make it difficult to find a particular variation. The down side of the tree of variations is that the student may drown in detail. OK. You have that. There is something to be said for learning an opening through complete games. For this, you may want Barsky's book. But Barsky tosses off the Vienna Variation by simply saying that it goes beyond his book. It runs 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bb4 5. Bg5 and now ...dxc4, practically inviting 6. e4 and tactical lines that resemble the Botvinnik variation of the Semi-Slav. Except of course that Black has not played ...c6, which allows the light-squared Bishop to take the long diagonal in one move. Someone playing this line off their knowledge of the Botvinnik will get lost very quickly. By contrast, Barsky spends a lot of time on 5. ...h6, the solid main line, and does a good job covering it too. Pert points out, however, that this line gives Black real problems playing for a win in many lines. Pert is having none of that. He ever offers his own idea, with some analysis that I found interesting at least: After 5. ...dxc4 6. e4, he offers a short 16-page chapter on 6. ...b5. Whose similarity to the Botvinnik is obvious, but the parallelism fails quickly in all lines. So, if you are an international player, you should not be reading my review at all. You know more than me. But now I guess you know this is a useful and fairly detailed examination of the complex Vienna variation. If you are rated below about 1600, don't buy this book, go work on your tactics. If you are in between, this book will suit you best if a) you already play, or want to play, the Nimzo-Indian, b) you have struggled to acquire the complex and tricky Queen's Indian, c) are interested in fighting for the initiative as Black, while taking your share of the chances of defeat. If your goal is to play solidly with Black and win with White, you will be better served by Barsky, because Pert devotes almost no attention to 5. ...h6. If you need a complementary Nimzo book, I'd recommend The Nimzo-Indian Defence (Grandmaster Repertoire), which covers the main lines in the same "tree of variations" format. Barsky's book is The Ragozin Complex. If you are game for a video, Jacob Aagaard's ChessBase FritzTrainer on the Nimzo-Indian gives you more than enough to get you started playing the Nimzo, with more explanation and fewer details. Unless you are a titled player, this will be enough. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Few Comments on an Earlier Review By Geometric Analyst I agree with most of what was written previously in Mr. Grimmell's review. Pert's book is very well-written and features a sound and dynamic repertoire. I want to point out a few things, though. While Vladimir Barsky's book does have the advantage (or disadvantage) of using complete games, it is somewhat outdated for such a fashionable opening. The Complete Ragozin by Cornette is brand new and provides a very good alternative to Barsky. Cornette presents the latest theory in the ...h6 Ragozin main lines. Cornette uses the tree format. Finally, I want to clarify that Pert's repertoire does not actually feature the Vienna, although some lines, and even main lines, of the Vienna do occur by transposition. In general, Pert advocates playing the Ragozin in the style of the Vienna by playing an early ...dxc4 when possible. As he explains, using the Ragozin move order creates subtle but important differences in comparison to the pure Vienna.

The Ragozin is an ideal system against 1.d4: Black establishes a foothold in the centre and quickly develops his pieces on active squares, with good chances for dynamic counterplay or a kingside attack. Black's opening has proven its worth at the highest level, yet the underlying ideas are simple enough to be learned without excessive memorization of variations. In this book, IM Richard Pert shares his own complete repertoire for Black after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6. The main subject is the Ragozin, which occurs after 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bb4, but the author also provides thoughtful recommendations in the related 3.Nc3 Bb4 variation, as well as against the Catalan (3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3) and all other popular White options. Throughout the book, Pert not only checks for theoretical soundness, but also goes out of his way to avoid forced draws and other dead-equal positions, making this repertoire especially suitable for practical players who want to play for a win with Black.

About the Author