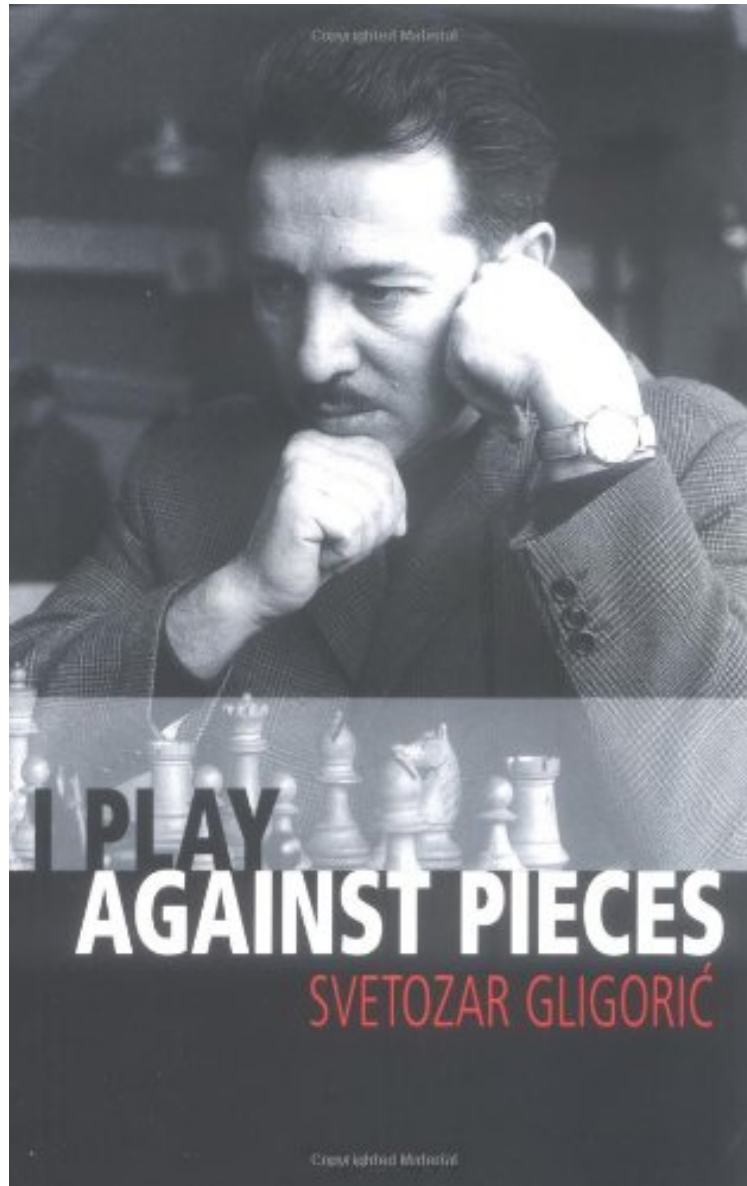


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I Play Against Pieces (Batsford Chess Book)

Svetozar Gligori

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Svetozar Gligori : I Play Against Pieces (Batsford Chess Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Play Against Pieces (Batsford Chess Book):

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Thomas ChromczakExcellent37 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Stuning collection workBy I. KnezovicSvetozar Gligoric`s name is rarely heard among new kids in chess circles nowadays, and this moderate man was never braging character. But Svetozar Gligoric is a chess

giant. Lived and played in era of absolute soviet domination, he managed to stay on absolute top in fifties and sixties. I live in Croatia (which was part of Yugoslavia), and this great serbian GM influenced all of us by his calm and clear works, in which this book goes in pedestal of biography chess collection books there are. To the sheer quality of this book I can only compare the book "Life and games of Mikhail Tal", also written by author himself. Gligoric is not starting his annotations at move 25. No, they begin when he predicts player will lose the thread of logic of it, and that usually means somewhere around move 5. Sometimes even at move 1, not to explain the move by itself, but to give a broader picture of game. Also, games are organized by openings, which greatly helps to follow author's mind paths in differing from game to game. Author used to play more d4-s as white (70% vs 30% e4), and against d4 played KID, Nimzo, QGD, and vs e4 played mostly e5, and few c5. He showed his 130 wins, almost every one was against the world top. For example, there are 4 wins vs Fischer(!) amongst lot of wins against Smislov, Botvinnik, Larsen, Tal and frankly everybody from top. Atomic bomb of positional chess. Absolutely recommended. 22 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Fond memories ... of a great player and writer. By A.J. Goldsby I Gligoric was/is one of the greatest chess players of the twentieth century ... at one time, (mid-to-late 1950's - through the very early 70's); there was a very small group of players that the (Soviet) Russians really feared. They were Bobby Fischer, (of course!); Miguel Najdorf, Samuel Reshevsky, Bent Larsen, and this player. (GM Svetozar Gligoric) Gligoric, (11 times Yugoslav Champ.); won many international tournaments and was an extremely feared competitor ... his first major success (a surprise) was Warsaw, 1947; ahead of such players like Boleslavsky, L. Pachman, and V. Smyslov. His string of victories at major international tournaments is almost too long to cover, a few highlights are, first at: Hastings, 1960/61; Reykjavik, 1964; The Hague (zonal), 1966; Tel Aviv (Israel); 1966; Varna, 1971; Los Angeles, 1974; and Montilla, 1977. He also had wins in about a dozen major key matches. (These are only clear firsts, his 'top five' list of tournament finishes would be too long to try and name here!) He is obviously a little older now, and past his {best} playing days. Gligoric is also one of the most respected teachers and authors who ever lived, at least outside of Russia. He wrote mostly for newspapers and magazines, his few books (today) are considered collectors' items. Anyone who 'grew up' or played chess in the 1970's will fondly remember his "Chess Life Review" articles. (I had a very small library of books as a teen-ager, but I carefully saved and indexed all of my magazines, Gligoric's "Game of The Month" was easily the most important theoretical articles that I had access to during that period.) I respect and revere this player too much to go looking for mistakes with the help of the latest computer programs. (I found no serious mistakes in my rather casual review of about two dozen games.) My favorite game would be his win from the Black side of the Vienna Opening ... against another of my chess heroes, GM Bent Larsen. (Game # 3, beginning on page 20.) Virtually every opening is represented, but in some instances, we see a rather limited perspective. (For example: Gligoric only plays the Black side of the King's Gambit. He also plays mostly the White side of certain openings like the Gruenfeld.) His list of victims reads like a "Who's Who" of chess from the late 1940's until the early 1980's. Some games are lightly annotated, some are very deeply annotated in the style that players that were familiar with his column in CLR - would remember fondly. A few of my {former} Internet students also purchased this book. Some of the positive things were that it was helpful to have the key points annotated, and the fact that the book is grouped by openings. The drawbacks were that some games had too many notes, and they found the complex things were explained, but simple maneuvers were not. (This means the best class of player that should buy this book should be 1600 or better.) Some of the lines are a little dated as well. (You could use "Nunn's Chess Openings" to cross-reference these lines.) I guess I would also have to add that I could NOT recommend this book to a beginner, or someone who has not been playing chess for very long. In closing, I greatly enjoyed this book by Gligoric, the author has a deep love of chess and a level of understanding that few have ever attained. The only qualifier is that it may not be for everyone!

For the first time in English, more than 100 of the best games of Yugoslav grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, once rated the strongest European chess player outside Russia. Gligoric's thoroughly objective approach to chess, always characterized by great clarity and logic, is unmistakable in this acclaimed volume, filled with instructive tactics and strategies. It's a wealth of model games--including classic wins against world champions and other top players. Beginner

About the Author Svetozar Gligoric, an acclaimed journalist and grandmaster, is the author of over 20 books on chess - including a best seller on the 1972 Fischer v Spassky which sold over 400,000 copies