



Sveshnikov vs the Anti-Sicilians: A Repertoire for Black

By Evgeny Sveshnikov

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The Sicilian Defence is Black's most popular reply to 1.e4. Most black players hope to get an Open Sicilian because of its unbalanced play and interesting opportunities to play for a win.

But what if White avoids the Open Sicilian and does not play 2.Nf3? This happens more often than you would think, as in roughly one third of the cases White players opt for one of the numerous 'Anti-Sicilian' lines at their disposal. These Anti-Sicilians vary from primitive and obscure to wild and aggressive to respected but tedious. But they have one thing in common: they are all dragging Black into territory where he doesn't want to be, and where it is easy to get ambushed.

Evgeny Sveshnikov offers help. The Russian grandmaster, who is one of the most respected chess opening experts in the world, presents practical and effective recipes against a broad range of annoying variations: 2.a3?, 2.Na3?!, 2.b4?!, 2.b3, 2.Nc3, 2.d3 and many others. Black players will learn how to fight back and throw a spanner in the works when White tries to spoil their game.

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Editorial Review

Review

Sicilian players looking for a one volume work dedicated to combating anti-Sicilian variations will find 'Sveshnikov vs.the Anti-Sicilians: A Complete Repertoire' just the thing they need. (John Donaldson, International master, International Master)

Unlike some opening books, the author has shied away from the extensive (excessive?) use of game segments. He has preferred a balance between the latest ideas, classic themes and practical middlegame play. Naturally the key theoretical aspects are highlighted, but he also looks at important moments whenever they occur. There are encounters from just a few months ago, but Sveshnikov often resorts to the use of classic games to illustrate themes. (Grandmaster Glenn Flear, author of *Starting Out: Open Games*)

I do certainly consider it to be all you need against the rarer lines (i.e. 2.Na3; 2.b4; 2.f4; 2.b3 etc.) and enough to get you started on the frequently played (Alapin and Grand Prix)lines. I am pleased with this book and consider it to be an important part of my preparation as I do employ the Sicilian as my main weapon against 1.e4. (Chris Wainscott)

Sveshnikov is a pugnacious and self-assured writer, not in the least afraid of courting controversy. An interesting (if idiosyncratic) set of responses to some key Anti-Sicilian lines. (John Hartmann)

An eye-catching, highly readable, club level repertoire book on the Anti-Sicilians. It does not matter what White plays after the move 1.c5, the master of attack comes with an excellent answer (*Elburg Chess Reviews*)

I would recommend this book to any player who wishes to update their opening repertoire. (Gary Lane, International Master *CHESS Magazine*)

About the Author

GrandmasterEvgeny Sveshnikov, a former trainer of world champion Anatoly Karpov, is one of the most respected opening experts in the world. He recently published the bestselling opening monograph *The Complete c3 Sicilian*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Erich Arnold:

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