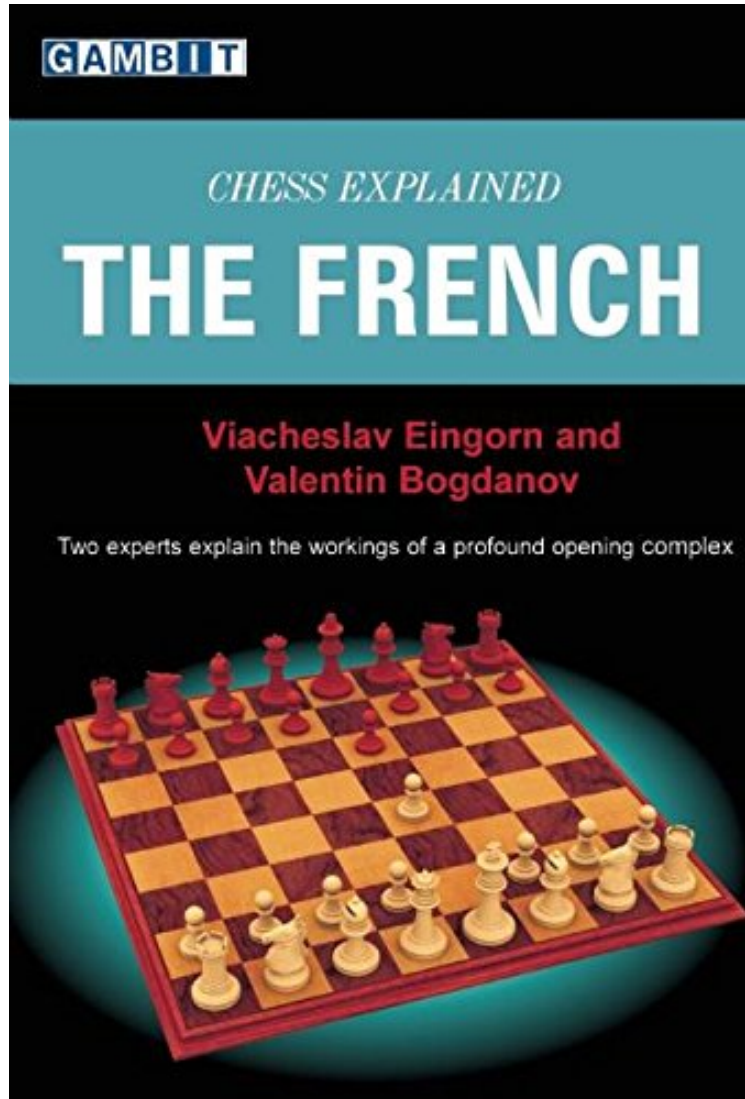


(Download) Chess Explained: The French

## Chess Explained: The French

*Viacheslav Eingorn, Valentin Bogdanov*  
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**Viacheslav Eingorn, Valentin Bogdanov : Chess Explained: The French** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chess Explained: The French:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. High Quality Opening Survey By R. Tobias This is a fine overview of the French Defense. It is NOT an opening repertoire, but rather a games collection that spans the major variations of the French. It is an attempt to give a general overview of the most important, fundamental theory. It is probably best used by developing players, who are looking to expand their general knowledge as they learn the opening. So if you have your mind made up on which variations of the French that you are planning to play, there is probably not much

here for you. If you desire to gain a wide understanding of the French so that you can make a more informed decision on which variations suit you, this book may be the best book on the market for you. And since it is a general theoretical book and not a Black repertoire book, players of 1.e4 will find a great deal of value here as well. (Numerous draws and White wins are among the 25 games covered.) The authors are a Ukrainian GM and IM, both very experienced players with training experience. The annotations are copious, concisely and clearly explaining the games, which are mostly from 2003-7, and well chosen. This is a high quality book, general and basic, but quite serious in purpose, with very objective assessments of the resulting positions. More opening books like this should be written!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book  
By Customer  
Good book  
10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Great for French beginners and experts alike  
By Andrew  
Written by GM Viacheslav Eingorn IM Valentin Bogdanov, translated by Steve Giddens, edited by FM Graham Burgess and typeset by GM John Nunn. This book is a must have for French Defence beginners or experts whether you play the French yourself or face it as White. With these five great names contributing to this book you can't go wrong, They have all made ground breaking contributions to opening theory. Especially Burgess' 1992 and Bogdanov's 2010 contributions to the Alekhine literature which I rate very highly and are considered by most to be the best Alekhine resources around. This book contains 25 illustrative games with comprehensive analysis and coverage of different lines. There is one chapter on the Advance Variation 1.e5 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5; two chapters on the Tarrasch Variation 1.e5 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 and 3...c5; one chapter on the Burn and Rubenstein Variations where Black plays dxe4; one chapter on the Classical Variation 1.e5 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc6 Nf3 and three chapters on various Winawer Variations 1.e5 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc6 Bb4 with various continuations; 4.e4 c5 with various continuations and the Main Line 5.a3 Bxc3 6. bxc3 Ne7 7. Qg4. Each chapter has a brief introduction on the themes behind the variations. The introduction points out that "the relatively modest size of this book means that we shall only cover the most fundamental theoretical lines, and discuss in general terms the methods by which the struggle is conducted in various important French structures". Despite this disclaimer I would have liked to have seen more on the Classical Variation since I play that often when transposing from the Alekhine Defence 2. Nc3 Variation. This also sees me facing the Steinitz variation to which this book only devotes one game. As a matter of interest, while older books cannot really be compared, Psakhis' 2004 French Defence: Steinitz, Classical, and other Systems does not cover the Winawer Variation but has three chapters on the Steinitz variation, two on the Rubenstein Variation, three on the Burn Variation and two on the Classical Variation. Psakhis' 1992 The Complete French has one chapter on the Exchange Variation, one chapter on the Advance Variation, one chapter on the Rubenstein and Burn Variations, one chapter on the MacCutcheon Variation, four chapters on the Tarrasch Variation, one on the Steinitz Variation, one on the Classical Variation and five on the Winawer Variation. Despite only covering the most well-trodden lines, I consider Chess Explained: the French of great value to those who are already expert on French theory as it provides the most up to date analysis. Once you familiarise yourself with the "fundamental theoretical lines" in this book, I recommend that you compliment it with John Watson's 2007 Dangerous Weapons: the French - Dazzle Your Opponents. Watson provides attacking novelties not considered in other literature, covering traps that White and Black can set. I recommend Watson to anyone who is already well up to date on French Defence theory and is looking for some new ideas to out theory their opponent. I also recommend it to White players who do not play the French Defence themselves; using Watson's novel attacking ideas will take Black French Defence experts out of their familiar lines.

Chess Explained books provide an understanding of an opening and the middlegames to which it leads, enabling you to find the right moves and plans in your own games. It is as if you were sitting at the board with a chess coach answering your questions about the plans for both sides, the ideas behind particular moves, and what specific knowledge you need to have. The French Defence is one of the most important chess openings. Its qualities are such that it appeals to a wide range of chess temperaments: it is solid yet uncompromising, and with a variety of chaotic variations to appeal to the most bloodthirsty of players, but also offering more tranquil lines to those seeking a quieter existence. While it is hard for White to avoid at least some imbalance in the position, he also has a wide choice. In some of the most critical lines, he accepts major structural weaknesses in return for piece-play and dynamic chances, while he can also seek to establish a modest space advantage without such heavy positional commitments.

About the Author Viacheslav Eingorn is an extremely experienced grandmaster from Ukraine. He played regularly and successfully in the Top League of the USSR Championship in the 1980s. International Master Valentin Bogdanov has over thirty years' experience as a chess trainer, and is also from Ukraine. His pupils include Moskalenko, Savchenko and Drozdovsky, and he has acted as a second for Eingorn since the late 1970s.