

PREFACE

Every grandmaster who intends to begin defending the black side of the open games must first find the right answer to the question - which line to choose against the Ruy Lopez? I was no exception to this rule. I was taking a walk once with my friends Alexander Riazantsev and Igor Kurnosov and they came up with a wonderful idea: "You've always been an excellent endgame player; study the Berlin Wall!" I liked that advice very much and it gave me a clear direction for studying a new repertoire.

I worked hard at mastering 1...e7-e5 for Black and the results were very fruitful in the 2011 World Cup, where I had no problems at all after 1.e2-e4. I was especially happy with the outcome of the opening battle against the outstanding theoretician M. Kobalia. In fact, in one of the main tabias of the anti-Berlin system I found an order of moves which I believe to be among my best analytical achievements.

In this book Roman Ovetchkin and I have decided to illustrate the theoretical section with model games and thorough analysis of these will undoubtedly help the reader to gain a better grasp of the finer points of this system and orientate himself among the enormous amount of information available.

My co-author and I very much appreciate the help, in the creation of this book, of our friends, GMs I.Kurnosov, P.Ponkratov and A. Riazantsev, and my life-long coach N.Ogloblin. We should also like to thank its editor, Sergey Soloviov, without whose invaluable advice this book would probably not have come to fruition.

Igor Lysyj
Ekaterinburg, February 2012

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