



Chess Explained: the Meran Semi-Slav

Reinaldo Vera

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- Extensive verbal explanations of plans and maneuvers

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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.

Belying its solid classical appearance, the Semi-Slav is one of Black's most aggressive responses when White opens with the queen's pawn. The Meran is its traditional main line, and often leads to chaotic positions of immense strategic and tactical richness. This is territory where the player who is better prepared and has a superior 'feel' for the nuances will typically emerge victorious, even against a stronger opponent. Vera draws upon decades of personal experience to explain the underlying logic of the Meran and related lines, and to pick out the key features of positions that to the untrained eye might appear random and unfathomable. In addition to discussing all major lines after 5 e3, Vera also covers many subtle issues of move-order, which are of great importance when trying to steer the game into the desired channels.

Comparative Titles:

Chess Explained: the c3 Sicilian (Collins) ISBN 978-1-904600-71-8

Chess Explained: the English Opening (Franco) ISBN 978-1-904600-59-6

About the Author:

Reinaldo Vera comes from Cuba and has been a grandmaster since 1988. He has won the Cuban Championship on two occasions and was a member of the Cuban national team for more than two decades. Vera graduated from Havana University, and has written for many chess magazines, including *New in Chess*, *Jaque* and *Peon de Rey*. He is also a FIDE Senior Trainer, and the coach of the Cuban team.

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