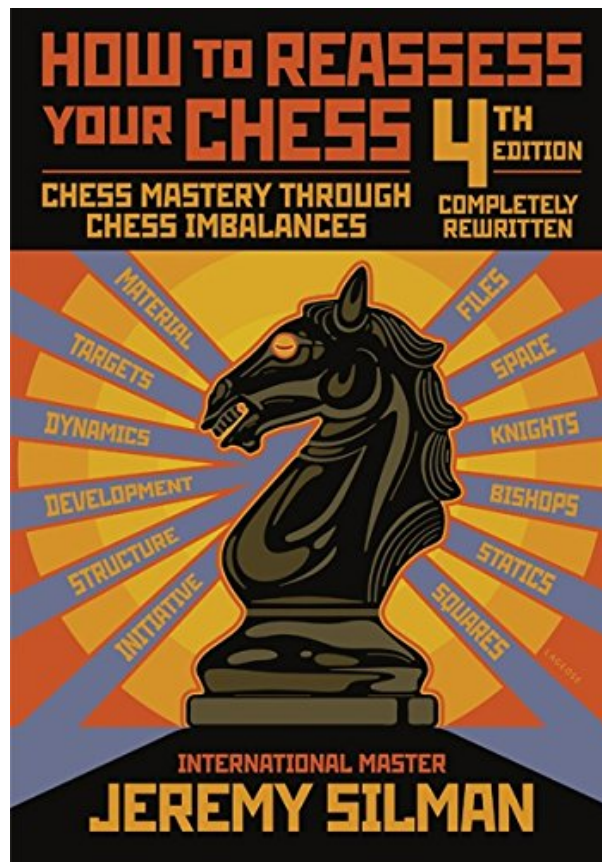


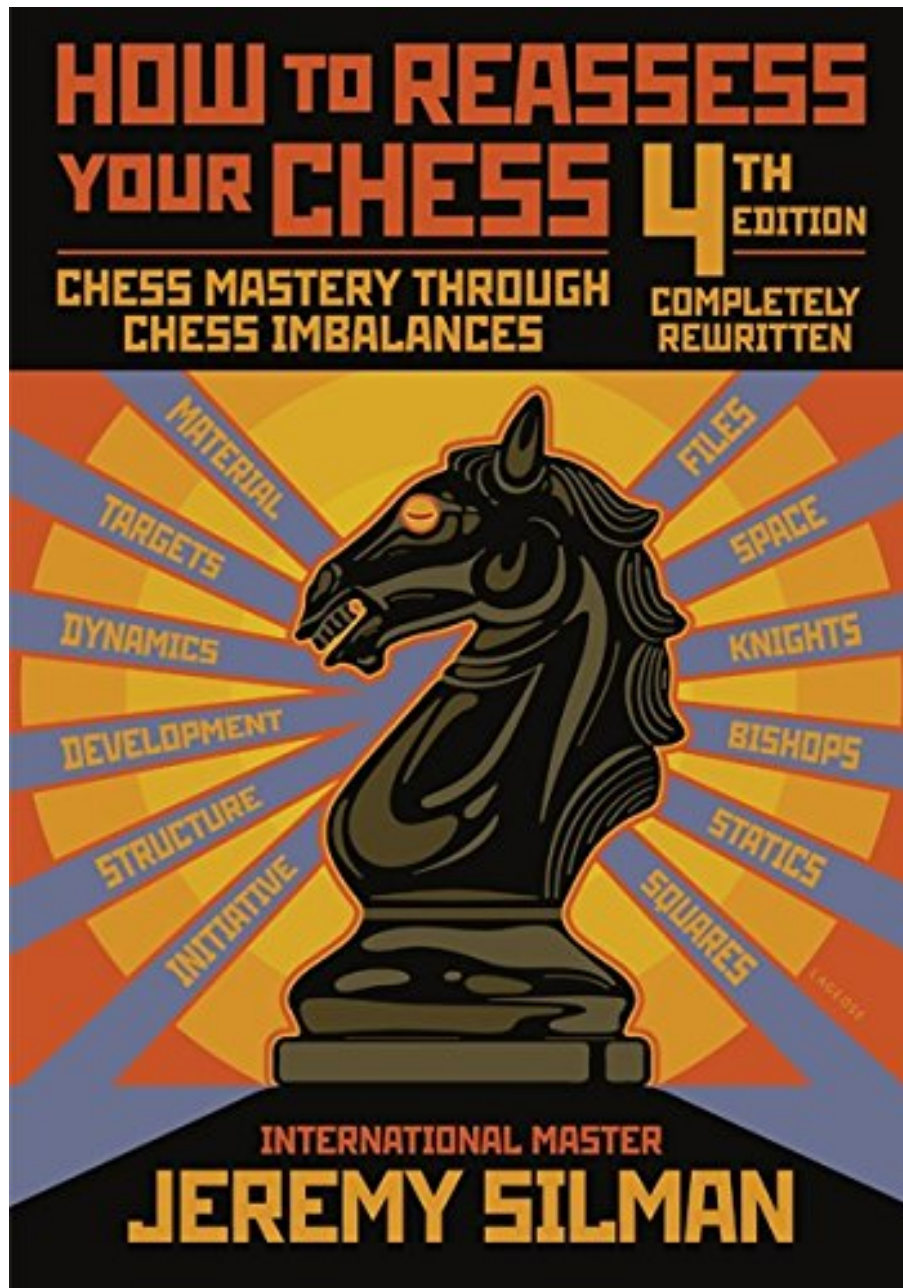
# HOW TO REASSESS YOUR CHESS: CHESS MASTERY THROUGH CHESS IMBALANCES

BY JEREMY SILMAN



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From the Inside Flap

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How to Reassess Your Chess is the popular step-by-step course that will create a marked improvement in anyone's game. In clear, direct language, Silman shows how to dissect a position, recognize its individual parts and ultimately find the move that conforms to the needs of that particular situation. By explaining the thought processes that go into a master's choice of move, the author presents a system of thought that makes advanced strategies seem clear, logical and at times even obvious. How the Reassess Your Chess offers invaluable knowledge and insight that cannot be found in any other book.

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## Features

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- Pages: 658 Pages
- Publication Years: 2010

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Most helpful customer reviews

223 of 231 people found the following review helpful.

The real deal difference between editions

By Donald Carrelli

This review is for the FOURTH AND FINAL EDITION of this book. I do have an older third edition as well, and I will compare the two. There are plenty of reviews written about the quality of this book (older editions included), and I rate the book 5 stars for its content. However, I am not here to go into detail about that, but rather focus on the differences between editions.

The book contents are made up of the following parts: The Concept of Imbalances. Minor Pieces, Rooks, Psychological Meanderings, Target Consciousness, Statics vs. Dynamics, Space, Passed Pawns, and Other Imbalances. Each part is further broken down into specifics and is concluded with a summary and test questions.

The big differences between editions...This is an oversized book, much larger and 250 pages longer than the 3rd edition. The layout and size is just like Silman's Complete Endgame Course: From Beginner To Master. Larger print and more white space - I find this makes it much easier to read. The graphic designer should be commended. The 4th edition goes much more in depth (!! ) about the concept of imbalances and guiding you to the correct plan. The main theme is the same as the older editions, but Silman gives it a new feel with updated ideas and ALL NEW examples. Silman writes it himself, he "literally wrote this fourth edition from scratch". Another huge change is the addition of Chess Psychology, 90 pages long! Silman claims many of these ideas have never been seen in any chess book before. The 4th edition does not include a Basic Endgames section like his 3rd edition. I believe it has no place in this book anyway and is covered in more detail in the previously mentioned work! He chopped this section and other parts that "distracted from the book's main purpose: mastering the imbalances". The 4th edition is more humorous! From drunken knights to passed bananas, he will keep you interested with some laughs along the way. Again, similar to his endgame course!

In the rear....

Silman added 33 pages of instructive articles where he takes some important pieces of writing from his Q&A column on chess.com. Some articles are Creating a Study Program, Proper Tournament Diet, Offering a Draw, and Is Chess a Gentleman's Game? This is a little bit odd considering he wanted to cut out any distractions. Unnecessary, but interesting nevertheless. Perhaps Silman wanted to give his column a shout out. On the other hand, the Index of Concepts is a great addition. If one of your games has a Rook for Minor Piece or Isolated Pawn, you can look up this concept in the index and find the listed pages to learn more about it. Bibliography and Index of Players/Games are included as well.

Silman recommends this book for USCF rated 1400-2100. And I agree! Being about 1900 USCF rated, I am reviewing and learning plenty.

I listened to IM John Watson's interview with IM Jeremy Silman on the Internet Chess Club. Great interview! I won't take away too much from it but I will add that Silman says, "If I am going to be known for

one book, I wanted something I was really pleased with, and I am pleased with this." I am too! If you don't have a copy of Reassess Your Chess, then this is a great buy. If you have an older edition, there is enough new material and ideas with fresh examples to reassess all over again.

---- I think it would be great if amazon let you read the introduction online. Silman sums up the differences there as well.

58 of 62 people found the following review helpful.

The Positional Chess Bible

By Sabrewolfy

First a little about me:

I'm in the 1400 to 1600 range. I haven't read the original HTRYC, so I can't make any comparisons. I've spent over 100 hours going over this book from cover to cover.

Second a little about the book:

The book is on positional chess (aka the middle game). It's not about tactics or checkmates. It's about how to recognize key differences in your position versus your opponent's position and how to develop a strategy to make your position dominate your opponents. The book is divided into sections of positional principles (example: recognizing targets and fixing them as permanent a weakness). For each principle, several games are given as an example that highlights the particular topic. Silman's commentary is excellent. Often he analyzes a position by talking only about ideas without even mentioning particular moves. This was the most helpful part of the book for me. He also gives a lot of variations many of which I quickly glossed over. As a reader, you will have to study the book based on your level. At my level, the ideas are the most important, and I shouldn't get sidetracked with variations. At the end of each chapter/positional idea, there are test questions. At first, I thought the problems were really hard, and I couldn't solve many of them. But going over the answers which are explained very well both with ideas and variations was really helpful. Towards the end of the book, I was able to at least partially solve almost every problem even the ones that were rated 2000+. I didn't always find the correct moves, or the correct move orders, but I was able to evaluate the position and understand the ideas behind the position (what should be white's strategy and what should be black's strategy and what moves make sense for both sides). Sometimes I picked the 2nd best move, etc but I was still picking good moves that addressed the positional battle!

Style:

The writing and style are excellent. Silman uses conversational English and a coaching tone that is pleasant. It's obvious that he's passionate about positional chess and really enjoys teaching it. The book is fun to read. The book itself is large with a nice amount of white space that makes it easy to study.

Is it for you? Silman recommends this book for 1400 to 2100 range. I can't speak for the upper range, but the book was definitely challenging and beneficial for me. I'm going to completely re-read it in about six months and go over each lesson much more slowly and carefully (100hrs is sprinting through this book).

If aren't already very comfortable with the basics, tactics, and checkmate patterns, pick up a few books on tactics and solve 1000 tactical problems first and then get this book. Like me, you won't get everything the first time through, but you will learn to properly think about chess and develop a strategy.

Could it be better?

I would have benefited from more analysis in English (instead of an explanation in algebraic notation) and discussion of ideas, and fewer variations, but realize this is coming from my level. Higher level readers will

need the variations. Ideas must be tactically sound and if you are analyzing master games, you must demonstrate that the idea is tactically sound. As it stands, this book is a masterpiece which I will re-read many times.

100 of 113 people found the following review helpful.

Best book for the 1400 to 2000 rated player

By John Adamo

Jeremy Silman is simply the best chess instructional writer I've ever read, and I've read about 70 chess books. Nimzovich's "My System" is the only other book in a class with this one, and this one is better (though it covers different material. Both are great.)

The problem with most chess instruction is that the writer has not taught many students, and so they tend to make statements that seem obvious to them, but are way over our heads. Silman has taught many private students, and he therefore understands what it is we are not "getting." There are several concepts he explains that I've heard before, but never understood until reading him.

Silman's concepts about imbalances in a position are absolute epiphanies to us poor patzers who have been playing chess for years, but never really understood how to analyze a position except to say, "If I go here, and he goes there ..." Silman shows that analysis of specific variations should be the last thing one does, and shows - step by step - the proper way to analyze. His chapters on attaining a superior minor piece are in themselves worth the price of the book.

If you're looking for one book to vastly improve your understanding of chess, I highly recommend this as the first, second and third choice. If this recommendation seems almost too glowing, I assure you, I have no relationship with Silman. I am a writer, who loves chess as a pastime, and have had some of my work published in chess life. I seldom get to play in tournaments, but I recently played a USCF Life Master (rated 2200) for the first time, and I drew with Black. I attribute much of my improved understanding of the game to Silman, and the rest to Nimzovich.

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