

Chess: A Highly Beneficial Game

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Chess is a very important game. Separating from a list of games, chess penetrates deeply into human life throughout ages and continents. The very survival of chess is proof of its importance. Society, in its development drops everything of secondary significance, leaving for future generations only what is the most important. It has been preserving chess for many centuries, realizing the infinite intellectual, aesthetic and moral value of the game. Chess is the only game that is a sport, a science and a kind of art at the same time. “Anyone who says that chess is not a physical game ignores the subtle yet powerful connection between mind and body.” [Horn, 81] “I think chess playing, in principle is similar to practicing scientific method of general semantics.” [Sawin, 106] “An argument is presented to classify chess as one of the ... arts, and evaluating chess games from an aesthetic point of view is discussed.” [Humble, 65] This wonderful game is the mirror of real life and a model for practical creativity.

Every step in our lives compels us to make decisions, to be resolute, cautious, to imagine, and to stop fantasy. Chess trains us to use these very useful qualities. Chess trains the personality of an individual, teaches him/her self-criticism and objectivity, concentration and discipline thinking. “By learning the methods of chess, one can become acquainted with the concepts of probability, alternative courses of action, cause and effect, and the links between clear thinking, effective behavior and good results.” [Sawin, 107] The logic of chess can improve thinking skills. “We can not be sure about a human’s mental abilities and his memory of full value without chess training.” [Suhomlinsky, 20]

Psychologists affirmed in their studies that the indicators of mental development are much higher for children who study chess. “Thirty-three tournament-level young Belgian chess players aged 8 – 13 were tested with the French Wechsler Intelligence Scale for children. The results suggest that a high level of general intelligence and of spatial ability are necessary to achieve a high standard of play in chess.” [Frydman, 234] At the same time chess helps to reach a higher level of intelligence. “It is particularly valuable for young children to play {chess} as it enables them to solve problems and receive instant feedback on what they have decided – they either win or

lose the game. It also appears to improve their concentration and logical thinking.” [Seymour, 26] “By learning chess ... students genuinely can develop ‘higher order thinking skills’ that can improve their academic performance and even change their lives.” [West, 12] Focusing only on the methods of the game, it is obvious that it resembles everyday life. “Cognitive scientists are divided over whether the skills learned in chess actually translate into improved academic performance.” [West, 12] Focusing only on the methods of the game, it is obvious that it resembles everyday life. “Cognitive scientists are divided over whether the skills learned in chess actually translate into improved academic performance.” [West, 12] To understand the methods of chess, we must first understand a more simple example - the methods of football. The movement of football players obey someone else' s will. Someone is a coach. A football coach, just like a chess player, has to do a lot of creative thinking before a game starts. He determines the strategy and tactics of the game. He looks through many video-tapes of games of the adversary' s team in advance. Learning the strong and weak points of the opponent is his main objective. When the game begins, the football field resembles a chessboard. The football players put a coach' s idea into practice just like a chess master manipulates chess pieces according to his plan. Thus a football game is a struggle between opposing coaches and their ideas. A more complicated model for practical creativity is a military operation. Just like a football coach or a chess player, an army commander studies an enemy' s strong and weak points in advance. The commander determines the strategy and tactics of the soldiers who obey his orders. High skilled leadership has more effects on the outcome than predominance in strength or numbers. Much like an army commander, or a football coach, a chess player has to encounter similar tasks. First of all, he must appraise the strong and weak points of his adversary. He should watch and study a lot of games of his future opponent. Then there is a choice of strategy. A player needs to foresee the movement of the next game. And finally, tactics: preparation by methods which will let the player use the weak points of his opponent. The result will very much depend on the choice of strategy and tactics. To sum up, the result of any resistance depends on the leader and his/her opportunity to evaluate the situation and choose the right strategy and tactics. “... using the methods of chess ... can cultivate rational thinking for the

sake of gaining reliable knowledge. Such methods can serve as tools for building more successful careers – in games or in life.” [Sawin, 107] Therefore, chess is an excellent model for developing the above listed qualities and so is necessary in everyday life.

Works cited

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