

Contents

Preface 8

Part 1. Anti-Berlin **1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♗f6**

1 Rarely-Played Moves; 4.♙xc6; 4.♚e2; 4.d4
Quick Repertoire 12
Step by Step 14
Complete games 34

2 4.♗c3
Quick Repertoire 39
Step by Step 42
Complete games 58

3 4.d3 ♙c5. Rarely-Played Moves; 5.♗c3
Quick Repertoire 60
Step by Step 62
Complete games 69

4 4.d3 ♙c5 5.♙xc6
Quick Repertoire 73
Step by Step 75
Complete games 83

5 4.d3 ♙c5 5.0–0; 5.c3 0–0. Rarely-Played Moves; 6.♚e2; 6.♙xc6
Quick Repertoire 88
Step by Step 90
Complete games 105

6 4.d3 ♙c5 5.c3 0–0 6.0–0 d6. Rarely-Played Moves; 7.♙g5
Quick Repertoire 108
Step by Step 110
Complete games 121

7	4.d3 ♙c5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.♗bd2	
	Quick Repertoire	124
	Step by Step	126
	Complete games	140
8	4.0-0 ♗xe4. Rarely-Played Moves; 5.♞e2; 5.♞e1	
	Quick Repertoire	145
	Step by Step	146
	Complete games	158
9	4.0-0 ♗xe4 5.d4 ♗d6. Rarely-Played Moves; 6.♙g5; 6.dxe5	
	Quick Repertoire	161
	Step by Step	163
	Complete games	173
10	4.0-0 ♗xe4 5.d4 ♗d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♗f5. Rarely-Played Moves; 8.♞e2	
	Quick Repertoire	177
	Step by Step	178
	Complete games	180

Part 2. The Berlin Endgame

**1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♙b5 ♗f6 4.0-0 ♗xe4 5.d4 ♗d6
6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♗f5 8.♞xd8+ ♗xd8**

11	Rarely-Played Moves; 9.♙g5; 9.h3; 9.♞d1; 9.♗bd2	
	Quick Repertoire	184
	Step by Step	186
	Complete games	196
12	9.♗c3 ♗e8 w/o 10.♞d1 and 10.h3	
	Quick Repertoire	199
	Step by Step	201
	Complete games	210
13	9.♗c3 ♗e8 10.♞d1	
	Quick Repertoire	213
	Step by Step	215
	Complete games	221

14	9.♟c3 ♘e8 10.h3 h5. Rarely-Played Moves; 11.b3; 11.♞e2	
	Quick Repertoire	225
	Step by Step	227
	Complete games	235
15	9.♟c3 ♘e8 10.h3 h5 11.♞d1 ♙e7 12.g3; 12.♞e4; 12.♞e2	
	Quick Repertoire	239
	Step by Step	241
	Complete games	246
16	9.♟c3 ♘e8 10.h3 h5 11.♙g5	
	Quick Repertoire	249
	Step by Step	251
	Complete games	261
17	9.♟c3 ♘e8 10.h3 h5 11.♙f4	
	Quick Repertoire	263
	Step by Step	265
	Complete games	272

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