

UNORTHODOX
CHESS
OPENINGS

Eric Schiller

CARDOZA PUBLISHING

*To the participants in the Internet newsgroup rec.games.chess.analysis,
who have provided me with many interesting ideas and useful feedback
in the preparation of this book.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

This encyclopedic guide to all the significant unorthodox opening used by chess players, contains more than 1,000 weird, contentious, controversial, unconventional, arrogant, and outright strange opening strategies. There are loads of surprises, and hundreds and hundreds of named openings and variations.

From their tricky tactical surprises to their bizarre names, these openings fly in the face of tradition. They are a sexy and exotic way to spice up a game, as well as a great tactical weapon to spring on unsuspecting and often unprepared opponents.

You'll not only meet such unusually-named openings as the Orangutang, Raptor Variation, Halloween Gambit, Double Duck, Frankenstein-Dracula Variation and Drunken King! but unorthodox variations off mainstream lines such as the Spanish Game (Ruy Lopez), French Defense, and Sicilian Defense.

We'll also visit with exciting and unusual gambits such as the Ulysses Gambit, Lisitsin Gambit, and Double-Muzio Gambit, and of course, take a stroll into my pet unorthodox opening, the Schiller Defense.

We'll discuss the pros and cons of each unorthodox strategy, present the basic moves along with a representative diagram, and go over the thinking behind the moves and the direction the opening is heading, so that you can fully understand and take advantage of the situation as it develops on the board.

Where appropriate, I've included illustrative and famous games that have occurred in tournament play so that you can see how weaknesses in the openings were exploited in actual games, or where a surprise unorthodox opening took an opponent off guard, and was carried to victory. Indeed, while many of these sample games were played at the amateur level, a surprising number we've included appeared at top levels and included grandmasters and World Champions!

There's lots here to explore, so let's get on with the fun!