

Complex Middlegames 5-8

The 4 classes outlined below are part of the online program *Endgame Studies*. Sign up for only \$75 for 8 hours of chess training!

Format: In all endgame classes, there will be 1 hour of presentation (with questions), then ½ hour with puzzles, followed by the last ½ hour with feedback on the puzzles.

The puzzles for this class, together with the *Zoom Meeting* link, will be emailed out to the participants shortly before the class. Afterwards, I will follow up by sending out a raw database of the material used in the class.

Monday, May 25 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 1: *Nimzowitsch treatment of the Nimzo-Indian in "My System"*.

The basic idea of the Nimzo-Indian as presented by the inventor himself, was to cripple White with a doubled c-pawn and then capitalize on this structural advantage later. Typically, Nimzowitsch would place the pawns on dark squares in the center. We will cover the pros and cons of this plan, and also take a look at some of Nimzowitsch's great achievements with this concept.

Monday, June 1 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 2: *Ragozin middlegames – compensation for the dark-squared bishop*.

In many ways, the Ragozin highlights the ideas of the modern treatment of the Nimzo-Indian where Black is ready to part with the dark-squared bishop and also allow White to undouble his c-pawns after d7-d5 has been played. But the strategies go further than that, advances have been made deep into the middlegame. In this class, I will give a complete overview.

Monday, June 8 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 3: *Queen sacrifices for long-term compensation*.

Queen sacrifices are among the most complex there are in chess. Naturally, as the high value of the queen (approx. 9 pawns) gives rise to many different types of sacrifices: for 2 rooks, rook + minor piece, 3 minor pieces, and in some cases – even 2 minor pieces or less. The ultimate sacrifice is also interesting as the player will now have to coordinate more pieces, but of lesser value, against the mighty queen. There is real insight and learning potential in such positions that can be very hard to evaluate for the players involved. We will look at a broad variety of examples in this class.

Monday, June 15 at 7-9pm (ET).

Class 4: *AlphaZero's superior strategies vs. Stockfish 8.*

In 2018, *AlphaZero* stunned the chess world by beating *Stockfish* with only a few hours of training where the AI engine had learned chess by playing against itself. Compared to traditional chess engines such as *Stockfish*, *AlphaZero* does not evaluate the position in terms of numbers where pros and cons are added up and subtracted, so no one really knew what to expect from its play. The style turned out to be more romantic than materialistic to the surprise of many, where *AlphaZero* was happy to sacrifice material for the initiative. GM Matthew Sadler outlines the strategies in *Game Changer*, and in this class, I will refer to this work and add insights on my own to the fascinating games of *AlphaZero*.

General Information

Dates: Mondays on May 25 and June 1-8-15, 2020.

Time: Afternoons at 2-4pm (Eastern Time).

Rating level: Approximately 1600-2200. Ambitious players or players on their way up might want to join.

Pricing: \$75 for one program consisting of 4 classes.

Discount: If you are signed up for multiple of my online programs *at the same time*, I offer a discount of -\$10 so that the price for the 2nd program is \$65, the price for the 3rd program is only \$55. Currently, I have 3 online programs. The lowest possible price for a program is \$55.

Payment: via PayPal or Venmo using the email: mulu0328@gmail.com

The presentation tool *Zoom* is used for all online classes.

Signup & questions: send an email to silas.lund@gmail.com

About me

An International Master and 7-time chess author, I settled in New York in 2017 and currently work full time with chess as a trainer, writer and blogger on silasesbenlund.com. My 4 books for Quality Chess include *Opening Simulator: King's Indian Defence* (2019, co-written with IM Andreas Hagen), *Sharp Endgames* (2017), *The Secret Life of Bad Bishops* (2014) and *Rook versus Two Minor Pieces* (2005). I use ideas from my books in the online classes, but always with new material. It is my trademark style to always have handouts for the students during class. In 2018, my wife Lu and I launched SILU Game Products LLC with a variety of products, most notably our math game *Equation Gamble* and the *2020 Chess Calendar*. Our products can be found on our Amazon Store. The chess calendar has 366 positions, one for each day of the year, with solutions the next day. A Chess Calendar for 2021 is in the making.

Check out the other 2 online programs *Interesting Endgames* and *Endgame Studies*:
<https://silasesbenlund.com/online-chess-classes>