Bernard Cafferty, Mark Taimanov:
The Soviet Championships

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Publisher Comments:

Starting in 1920 and running through to the early 1990s, when the political break-up of the USSR meant the end of the competition, the prestigious Soviet Championships were truly representative events with all of the top Soviet players participating. Because of the enormous State support for the game in the old USSR, these Championships were usually gladiatorial, all-play-all contests lasting weeks, and the Grandmasters represented the elite of World Chess. Alekhine, Botvinnik, Keres, Bronstein, Tal, Petrosian, Korchnoi, Geller, Stein, Spassky, Karpov, and Kasparov were all winners at least once, and the tournaments have gone down in legend for the quality and creative inspiration of the games. This book is a permanent record of those extraordinary times. it encompasses every single Championship, giving a report and the full crosstable of results, as well as a carefully chosen selection of the finest and most memorable games. The annotations bring these extraordinary and instructive struggles to life; many important chess ideas and concepts were first discovered in these games. The introductions to each Championship are equally fascinating, as the majority of these tournaments were played against the oppressive political backdrop of communism. Revered chess masters could get away with more than most, but veiled threats by the authorities were always there for those who might consider stepping out of line.

Synopsis:

The famous Soviet Championships, run annually from 1920 to 1991, were truly extraordinary events. Every top Soviet Grandmaster, including Botvinnik, Tal, Kasparov, Spassky, Petrosian, and Karpov, participated regularly, and the best games have gone down in history. This fine book gives a complete record of the results of the Championships (by Bernard Cafferty), while the superb selection of annotated games has been specially provided by the famous Russian Grandmaster Mark Taimanov.