

2023-05-16

Juan Morgado and his opus magnum

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez en la década infame 1933 - 1934 - frontcover

by Bob van de Velde

For chess historians, bibliographers or collectors – in short for most members of our membership – Argentina is from their point of view a far away country that doesn't show many unsuspected or exciting activities on their field of interest. That's to say, at first Eurocentric sight this can seem so. However, here too, as is so often is the case, a first sight leads to a wrong view. Of course, we all know that the two events that probably had the most far-reaching consequences in the modern chess history, took place on Argentinian soil in the second quarter of the 20th century: the world championship match between Capablanca and Alekhine in 1927, and the 8th Chess Olympiad in 1939. The first event had a major impact on the participation in the top tournaments in the '30's as Alekhine didn't want to play his rival in a tournament; because of the outbreak of the 2nd World War during the tournament, the second event had an enormous effect on the organised chess world in almost every aspect.

Both events however have in common that the reporting mostly came from European hands – participants, administrators, journalists, eyewitnesses –, anyway, rarely observations and reflections were heard from Argentinian side, neither can we say that abundantly South-American sources were cited. But this situation drastically has changed since in 2012 our member Juan Sebastián Morgado has begun to publish his Complete history of Argentine chess.

Morgado, based in Buenos Aires, is one of the very few members of our Association in South America, but is compensating this deplored matter of fact by his being always very helpful when asked for information, giving support in searching editions, etc., and now since 2021 no less by an impressive production of chess historical publications, anyway since 2012. His Complete history is now nearing completion. The latest list of published volumes contains 19 (!) titles. They are as hard cover, paperback or ebook available through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca), contain 500+ (!) pages each (format 21x28x3cm), with many illustrations, games and diagrams. Buyers of paperback or hardcover books can request to receive excerpts in PDF format to morgadojuansebastian@gmail.com

The list of published volumes looks like this:

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Los centenarios del ajedrez argentino 1905 - 1921

Lasker, Capablanca, Kostic y el Gran Torneo Nacional

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Los centenarios del ajedrez argentino 1905-1921 - frontcover

- PublisherIndependently published, 2022
- ISBN978-9874743701
- Languagesspanish
- Pages536
- Formatshardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Los centenarios del ajedrez argentino 1921 - 1924

Reca - Villegas, visita de Reti y fundación de la FADA

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Los centenarios del ajedrez argentino 1921-1924 - frontcover

- PublisherIndependently published, 2022
- ISBN979-8804855285
- Languagesspanish
- Pages526
- Formatshardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

El encuentro por el título mundial Capablanca vs Alekhine 1927

Argentina hacia las ligas mayores 1925 – 1927 Tomo 1

Juan Sebastián Morgado - El encuentro por el título mundial Capablanca vs Alekhine 1927 Tomo 1 - frontcover

- PublisherAjedrez de Estilo, 2020
- ISBN978-9874743756

- Languagespanish
- Pages580
- Formatpaperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

El encuentro por el título mundial Capablanca vs Alekhine 1927

Argentina hacia las ligas mayores 1927 – 1929 Tomo 2

Juan Sebastián Morgado - El encuentro por el título mundial Capablanca vs Alekhine 1927 Tomo 2 - frontcover

- PublisherAjedrez de Estilo, 2020
- ISBN978-9874743763
- Languagespanish
- Pages584
- Formatpaperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

El impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939 Tomo 1

El Politeama y los prolegómenos

Juan Sebastián Morgado - El Impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939 tomo 1 - frontcover

- Publisher Independently published, 2021
- ISBN979-8752466380
- Languagespanish
- Pages534
- Formathardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

El impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939 Tomo 2

Desarrollo, euforia y drama final

Juan Sebastián Morgado - El Impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939 tomo 1 - frontcover

- Publisher Independently published, 2022
- ISBN979-8759154259
- Language spanish
- Pages 546
- Format hardback, paperback, ebook
- Link [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

El impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939 Tomo 3

Los inmigrantes enriquecen al ajedrez argentino

Juan Sebastián Morgado - El Impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939 tomo 1 - frontcover

- Publisher Independently published, 2022
- ISBN979-8430421502
- Language spanish
- Pages 530
- Format hardback, paperback, ebook
- Link [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez y peronismo 1944/1945

Ajedrez durante el primer peronismo

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez y peronismo 1944-1945 - frontcover

- Publisher Independently published, 2021
- ISBN979-8521826964
- Language spanish
- Pages 510
- Format hardback, paperback, ebook
- Link [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez y peronismo 1946

El ajedrez en la llamada “Nueva Argentina” peronista

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez y Peronismo 1946 - frontcover

- PublisherIndependently published, 2021
- ISBN979-8424294808
- Languagesspanish
- Pages518
- Formatshardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez y Peronismo 1947

El ajedrez en la llamada “Nueva Argentina” peronista

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez y Peronismo 1947 - frontcover

- PublisherIndependently published, 2022
- ISBN979-8424294808
- Languagesspanish
- Pages518
- Formatshardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez y peronismo 1948 – 1949

Che Guevara, Najdorf, subsidios e irrupción del peronismo en la FADA

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez y peronismo 1948–1949 - frontcover

- PublisherIndependently published, 2022
- ISBN979-8841397113
- Languagesspanish
- Pages544

- PublisherAjedrez de Estilo, 2022
- ISBN978-9874850461
- Languagesspanish
- Pages484
- Formatshardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez y peronismo 1954

De la cumbre al abismo sin escalas: el ajedrez en problemas

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez y Peronismo 1954 - frontcover

- PublisherAjedrez de Estilo, 2022
- ISBN978-9874850478
- Languagesspanish
- Pages522
- Formatshardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez y peronismo 1955

Desastre argentino

Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez y peronismo 1955 - frontcover

- PublisherAjedrez de Estilo, 2023
- ISBN978-9874850485
- Languagesspanish
- Pages550
- Formatshardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez en la década infame 1930 – 1932

Tartakower en Argentina, Grau en San Remo y Maderna en el Geniol

_ Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez en la década infame 1930–1932 - frontcover

- PublisherAjedrez de Estilo, 2023
- ISBN978-9874850492
- Languagespanish
- Pages550
- Formathardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez en la década infame 1933 - 1934

Nazismo, ascenso de Piazzini y V Campeonato Sudamericano

_ Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez en la década infame 1933 - 1934 - frontcover

- PublisherAjedrez de Estilo, 2023
- ISBN978-9878291307
- Languagespanish
- Pages550
- Formathardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Juan Sebastián Morgado

Ajedrez en la década infame 1935 - 1937

Nazismo, Grau, Olimpiadas de Varsovia 1935 y Estocolmo 1937

_ Juan Sebastián Morgado - Ajedrez en la década infame 1935–1937 - frontcover

- PublisherIndependently published, 2023
- ISBN979-8392659678
- Languagespanish
- Pages550
- Formathardback, paperback, ebook
- Link[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

For 2024 he has promised the concluding volumes. These focus on the period 1800-1904 (one volume) and the years 1956-1960 (three volumes). This effort will bring the number of volumes of his *opus magnum* on 23.

The original idea of this collection came from Prof. Zoilo R. Caputto (1923-2021), author of an enormous work on Artistic Chess. Already the titles of the volumes make it clear that Juan Morgado considers the Argentinian chess history as part of the socio-political history of Argentina, which is based of the Argentine thinker Ezequiel Martínez Estrada (1895-1964) and his idea of historical and social invariants.

Therefore he is looking at both famous international milestone events in 1927 and 1939 also with Argentinian eyes and is using a lot of contemporary Argentinian sources that are mostly unknown to European chess historians. Among other things this leads to a different view on the controversial election of Augusto De Muro as FIDE-president instead of the reelection of the Dutch president Alexander Rueb, founder of the FIDE, during the Olympiad in 1939. Anyway, the 3 volumes on that tournament will be a most welcome addition to Justin Corfield's Pawns in a greater game; The Buenos Aires Chess Olympiad, August - September 1939 (Lara, Victoria, Australia 2015).

Chess historians who doesn't have enough reading knowledge of the Spanish language will deplore that the Complete history of Argentine chess has not been written in English. As it seems highly improbable that ever a complete translation will be published, there is nothing left to them than to brush up their Spanish (I myself need a very stiff brush ...). However, it must be possible to produce an extended English summary of volumes dedicated to the events in 1927 and 1939. Perhaps it can be a task for our Association to stimulate such a translated summary. A prototype of such a summary I published on our website on 2020-02-16 ([Juan Sebastián Morgado: El impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939](#)) as result of the publication of the 3 volumes of El impresionante Torneo de Ajedrez de las Naciones 1939.

In The Netherlands the national Mind Sports Collection Centre of the library Tresoar (Leeuwarden, capital of the province Frisia) has ordered for the complete set of volumes; most of them can already be found in its catalogue.

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