

Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov
Part II: 1985-1993

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Foreword

The second volume of the autobiographical trilogy *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov* contains one hundred of the most memorable games and endings played during the eight years when I was FIDE champion (1985-1993). This period was the peak of my playing career, as is confirmed by both the competitive results, and the quality of the games.

The stage described was an extremely tense and most unusual one for me. In the first four years, from the moment when I won the title of world champion (November 1985) until the conquering of the 2805 rating, a cosmic figure for those times (November 1989), I consolidated my domination in the world chess arena: I twice defended my champion's title in dramatic matches with Anatoly Karpov (1986 and 1987), took or at least shared first place in all the tournaments in which I participated, and convincingly won the tournament championship of the planet – the World Cup (1988-1989).

But the year 1990 began with tragic, extraordinary events. Returning to Baku after lengthy wanderings abroad, I found myself in the very thick of an ethnic conflict – the Armenian pogroms. My mother and I and our relatives had to take flight. Thus in the year of the next match for the world championship I was suddenly deprived of both my native home, and my long-standing training base in Zugulba. This was a severe psychological blow, the collapse of my entire customary way of life.

Not surprisingly, at precisely that time my battle with FIDE for the rights of chess players and with the USSR State Sports Committee for professional sport grew into a battle for changes in the country. After settling in Moscow I became an active political figure, inspired by the ideas of Andrey Dmitrievich Sakharov (our acquaintance, unfortunately, was very short-lived).

There were also substantial changes to the composition of my training team, with which I prepared for my fifth match with Karpov. Nikitin departed and, with the exception of Shakarov, no one remained from those who were with me on my way to the chess crown. In this sense too, the 1990 match also became an historic landmark. Despite all the upheavals, I managed to win it, but the history of the legendary team of the 1980s had come to an end: from then on completely new people appeared in it.

From the early 1990s talented young players began assuming the leading roles in chess (Anand, Ivanchuk, Gelfand, Short, Kamsky, Shirov, Topalov...), and Karpov and I were no longer able to dominate as we had done before. Paradoxically, in 1991 in none of the super-tournaments in Linares, Amsterdam and Reggio Emilia did either of us take first place! But by effort of will I was able to break the negative trend, with the help of Sergey Makarychev I renovated my opening repertoire – and I won not only Tilburg 1991, but also Linares two years in succession (1992 and 1993).

On this occasion my domination in the chess arena lasted less than two years, but on the other hand this time was perhaps the most fruitful in the creative respect. In clashes with young, inventive and tenacious opponents, some brilliant and unforgettable games were created.

In February 1993 Nigel Short, the winner of the next qualifying cycle, unexpectedly suggested to me that we should play our match for the world championship outside of the FIDE framework. Thinking that this would be a convenient opportunity to at last put chess on a professional basis, I agreed. Because of the rapid rehabilitation after the crisis of 1991, my sense of danger had evidently been dulled. The moment chosen for the declaration of war on FIDE was unfortunate, and the decision taken proved to be a mistake with far-reaching consequences.

In reply the FIDE President Campomanes took an unprecedented step: stripping me and Short of our rights of champion and challenger, he arranged a match 'for the world championship' between the two reserve candidates who had lost to Short in the qualifying cycle – Timman and Karpov. A new spiral in chess history began...

I should like to express my gratitude to my former trainers Alexander Nikitin and Alexander Shkarov, and also the chess compilers Vladislav Novikov and Yakov Zusmanovich, for their help in preparing the manuscript for publication.

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