Moves in Mind: The Psychology of Board Games

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There are numerous strengths to this book. First of all, the authors know what they are discussing. Fernand Gobet is an excellent chess player and a premier scholar of chess cognition. Alex de Voogt is an experienced psychologist and a scholar of the African game of bao. Bao is a mancala game played with seed-like pieces placed in holes in a game board and is popular in locations such as Zanzibar. The third author, Jean Retschitzki, is a veteran psychologist and a researcher of awele, another African board game. Awele is also a mancala game in which a player tries to obtain the pieces of the opponent according to a set of prescribed game rules. The three authors know the terrain of board games well.

In addition to the competency and expertise of the authors, MIM has an excellent design and a comprehensive scope. The chapters deal with many of the topics that would be of concern to scholars of games. Chapter 1 provides a justification of the study of board games in the scientific discipline of psychology. For example, chess allows for the study of a wide array of...
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