

# Journal 3-JIN Xinyi

*by Xinyi Jin*

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### **Journal 3(*Chess*)**

*Chess* is filled with many memorable features, an intense storyline, and each of the geniuses and paranoids to the point of being a little crazy character, but these were not what caught my attention. What struck me the most, and was most poignant, was the inner struggles and pulls of the characters in the novel, and in the characters, I could see Zweig's melancholic and anguished heart.

The novel was written shortly before Zweig's suicide and restores in fictional literature the last moments of Zweig's life, the inner struggle and struggle that could not be stopped and the struggle between Dr B. and Czentovic. When the Nazis came to power, Zweig realised that Hitler was, in a sense, "great" brutally and insanely, yet he wanted to escape, to leave the unbearable behind, and the passion he wrote about was not the same as the one readers understood. He has always been a humanitarian and a staunch anti-war activist. However, people eagerly expect him to take up the banner of anti-fascism and to burn everyone's passion and fighting spirit. However, his protagonists, manipulated by their subconscious passions, end up dead or mad. In *Chess*, Dr B. is a reflection of himself, an authentic spectator, an outsider who can see the moves of Czentovic, the symbol of Hitler, from outside the game and can warn amateur chess players. In reality, he saw Hitler's ambitions early on, yet instead of his vision being recognised by his compatriots, his move to leave Vienna early on was considered

petty. In the story, he sets up the opposite of reality, in which the amateur chess players desperately follow Dr B.'s advice. However, despite this, Dr B. does not win big, saying: "Then it has passed pawn against passed pawn, and if you defend properly, you can draw with him. You cannot get anything better." Corresponding to reality, the best outcome would have been that more people would have been spared from Nazi persecution. However, for Zweig, he had no other higher aspirations.

In the story, Dr B., after a series of tortures, plays chess with himself to the point of insanity so that, despite his extraordinary chess skills, he is unable to play against Czentovic, who soon realises Dr B.'s weakness and deliberately delays the move, slowly waiting for Dr B., who is calculating the moves, to descend into self-imposed insanity. The same is true of the real Hitler, who may not have been the most intellectually brilliant but who was adept at using a variety of fraudulent means to achieve his ends. Moreover, the writer, in his step by step under pressure, physical and mental collapse, the novel of Dr B. was kind of "I" wake up to restore normal, give up this game of chess off the boat home, which is also Zweig's innermost secret hope, he hoped that he and the Nazi game of hard work to end as soon as possible, and everything back to peace and normalcy. However, the reality of the game is more cruel. In 1942, the news of the fall of Singapore became the last straw; Zweig was the most decisive way to end the game, with the life of the interpretation of the "Chess" in the other possible.