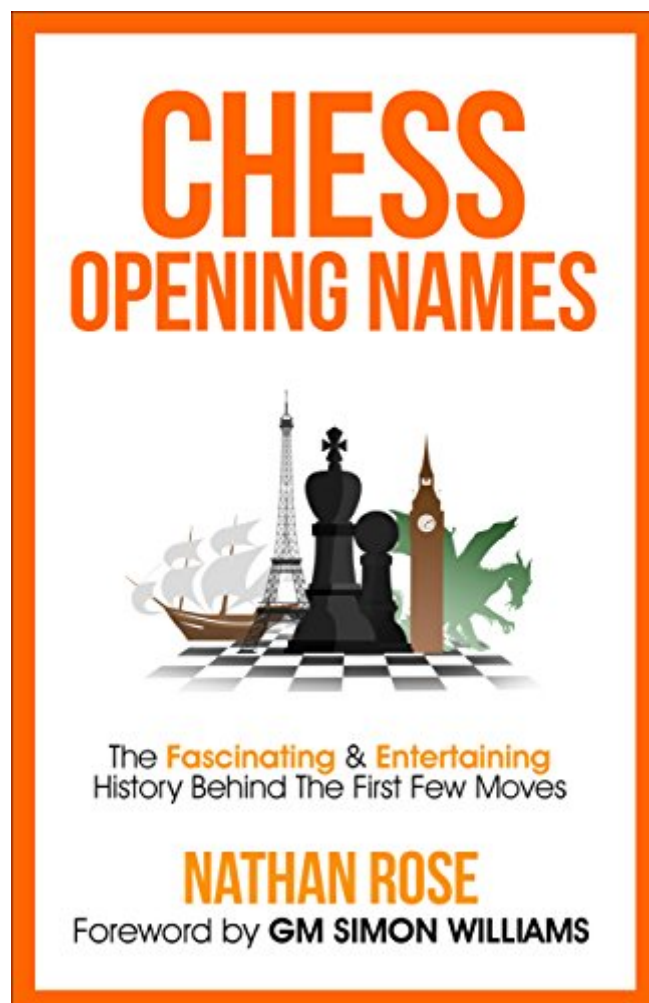




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Chess Opening Names: The Fascinating & Entertaining History Behind The First Few Moves



Synopsis

The people, places and stories behind the chess openings and their names When we play chess, the first few moves define the game . You probably know the names already: the Sicilian Defense, the Ruy Lopez, the French Defense, the Caro-Kann, the Benoni, the London System, the Scandinavian Defense and so on. But most chess players don't know WHY the openings are called what they are. In this entertaining book, bestselling author Nathan Rose lays out the origins of over 50 standard chess openings and their names. The tales are often deeply connected to the lives of the leading chess grandmasters, the historical events taking place at the time, and the critical chess world championship contests. All these stories are collected together in this, the first book dedicated to uncovering them. The names of the chess openings tell the history of chess. You will meet larger than life characters such as Bobby Fischer, Aron Nimzowitsch, Alexander Alekhine, Frank Marshall, Siegbert Tarrasch, Wilhelm Steinitz, and Paul Morphy. Some of these men won their fame in the chess world championship, while some gained wider renown for reasons other than their ability to play chess. You will be agog at Paul Morphy's stunning conquest of Europe and subsequent disappearance, the outrageous antics of Aron Nimzowitsch upon losing a game, and the eccentric names Alexander Alekhine gave his cats. You will also travel through the places and events that defined chess in the early years. As David Shenk showed in "The Immortal Game", the history of chess has often mirrored the history of society. There's the 1972 world chess championship that pitted the Soviet Union's Boris Spassky against America's irascible Bobby Fischer in the "Match of the Century". The 1939 chess olympiad in Argentina which coincided with the outbreak of World War II. The unveiling of the "Mechanical Turk" chess-playing contraption in 18th-century Vienna. And let's not forget the triumph of Deep Blue over Garry Kasparov. Over 50 standard chess openings and variations.

The People: Ruy Lopez Philidor Defense Evans Gambit Petrov's Defense Schliemann-Jaenisch Gambit Falkbeer Countergambit Staunton Gambit Anderssen's Opening Morphy's Defense Caro-Kann Defense Bird's Opening Winawer Variation Albin Countergambit Steinitz Variation Chigorin Defense Alapin's Opening Maroczy Bind Tarrasch Defense Marshall Defense Rubinstein Variation Alekhine's Defense Grunfeld Defense Reti Opening Nimzowitsch Defense Najdorf Variation Pirc Defense Torre Attack Grob's Attack Larsen's Opening Benko Gambit Fischer Defense

The Places: English Opening Scotch Opening French Defense Dutch Defense Danish Gambit Indian Defense Scandinavian Defense Sicilian Defense Catalan Opening Baltic Opening Slav Defense London System Paris Opening Berlin Defense Vienna Game Budapest Gambit Leningrad Variation Scheveningen Variation

The Stories: Dragon Variation Giuoco Piano Benoni Defense Grand Prix Attack Orangutan Opening Fried

Liver Attack Impress your friends with superior opening knowledge - without the tedious study! Knowing the history of chess will prove your cleverness even more effectively than winning over the board. Once you have read this book, you can speak of your temptation to play the Sicilian Defense, but instead play Alekhine's Defense. Then, you can explain the origins of the names to your opponent. Even if you lose the game, your opponent will still be impressed! Enjoy this captivating romp through the names of the first few moves. This book is brisk, enjoyable addition to any chess player's library. Prepare to be surprised, amazed, amused and informed.

Book Information

File Size: 3704 KB

Print Length: 231 pages

Publisher: Stonepine Publishing (July 15, 2017)

Publication Date: July 15, 2017

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B073Z1FDV6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #33,419 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Catalogs & Directories > Directories #4 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Humor & Entertainment > Activities, Puzzles & Games > Board Games > Chess #10 inÂ Books > Reference > Catalogs & Directories

Customer Reviews

Take your love of chess to another level and learn the stories and histories behind the opening names. I hadn't realized there were real historical connections to world events! The author makes what could be a dry subject really easy to read and entertaining. Would make a great gift for a chess lover!

Not like your usual chess book. Nice light reading into how the opening names came to be. I particularly enjoyed some brief history about the places in which some openings were named after.

This book is a great compilation of chess openings with many interesting anecdotes that make you understand better the game. I find it fascinating. Highly recommended!!!

It delivers on its promise. A solid, well written book with a great foreword from GM Simon Williams.

Awesome book, facinating and I learnt a tonne!

Not another book on how to play chess openings - this book is different. It goes into the history of some of the unusual names used for famous chess openings and the people and places behind them. Fascinating for all levels of chess player. Includes diagrams of each opening plus photos of the grandmasters who they are named after. Plus why the opening was important and the effects it had on the game in the time it was introduced. Clearly, Nathan has a great love of the game and its history. I received a pre-release copy of this book for review purposes and bought it on Kindle when it came out because it is so good.

I love this book. It is a cornucopia of fascinating chess history and trivia. I learned who is the real father of the "Hypermodern" idea of controlling the center with the pieces rather than the pawns. It's not Nimzowitsch. It's not Reti. Exactly why are the Indian Defenses called Indian? What's so French about the French Defense? Just who was Captain Evans? These questions -- and scads more! -- are answered in a sometimes gut-busting and always an engaging style. Highly recommended to all chess lovers.

Chess is as much a model of mental architecture as it is a record of human historical development. Chess Opening Names provides a fascinating backwards look into the many cultural influences that have come to shape the game, keeping track of where and how it has been played in bygone eras. A great read for the chess enthusiast.

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