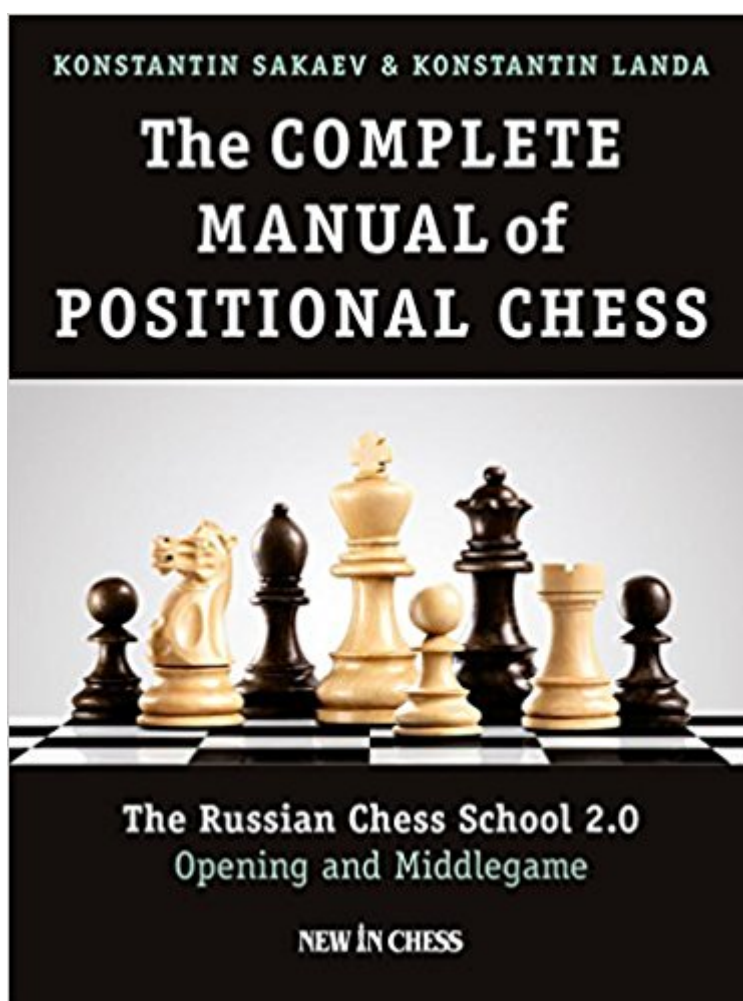


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The Complete Manual Of Positional Chess: The Russian Chess School 2.0 - Opening And Middlegame



Synopsis

Russia boasts a long and rich tradition in chess education. The government recognizes the importance of chess and the existing programmes are constantly refined and updated. Russian chess teachers and trainers are simply the best in the world. The Complete Manual of Positional Chess is the latest and most comprehensive product of this Russia striving for perfection. This handbook, probably the most thorough grounding in the history of teaching chess, was recently created for chess teachers at the DYSS, the special sports school for young talents in Russia. Konstantin Sakaev and Konstantin Landa present a complete set of instructions and tips for trainers and self-improvers. It teaches you not only how to enhance your fundamental knowledge and technical skills, but also how to work on your physical and psychological conditioning. You are handed basic and advanced tools to improve in a wide array of areas: quick development and fighting for the centre in the opening, calculating cleanly and taking decisions in the middlegame, tackling your fear of disturbing the material balance, and how to restrict the role the chess computer plays in your life. If you complete Sakaev and Landa's course you will be able to assess virtually any position you are confronted with. With its all-encompassing approach this ground-breaking book allows everyone to reap the fruits of the long tradition of instructive excellence in Russia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The authors treat you seriously. I really enjoyed going through the book, it has a lot of examples that I didn't know (...). An excellent book, you can't get better than the Russian school of chess." (Daniel King, Grand Master, creator of the Power Play DVD Series)"A complete course for both the chess trainer and the keen pupil." (CHESS Magazine)

Konstantin Sakaev is a Grandmaster and a former Russian Champion. He won Olympiad gold in 1998 and 2000 with the Russian team and he has assisted World Champion Vladimir Kramnik as his second. Konstantin Landa is a Russian Grandmaster and a FIDE Senior Trainer.

As the title suggests, I'm writing this review in direct response to the earlier review by "nimzo-karpov." While it's true that all of the concepts covered in this book are covered elsewhere, I don't know of any other book that covers them all in one place. The books by Grooten and Hellsten certainly do not cover all of the topics covered in this book. In fact, this book's preface states that it was originally aimed mainly at Russian 1st Category players (approximately 2000-2200). Such players would obviously have studied the middlegame already. This wide-ranging book by Sakaev & Landa, mainly Sakaev, also has pedagogical features that will appeal to many readers. The general style is typically Russian, meaning that large topics (e.g. prophylaxis) are divided into smaller ones treated in separate chapters (e.g. prophylactically strengthening one's own position, limiting the opponent's counterplay, etc.). It also means that there are plenty of examples, each having as much explanation & concrete analysis as necessary to convey the point of the example but not much more. The amount of annotation for each example in this seems nearly ideal to me. Whether one prefers the concise, example-oriented Russian style of chess instruction or the more verbose, discussion-rich Western style is a matter of taste. A unique feature of this book is that recurring strategic themes, such as the advance of a rook's pawn, are often highlighted with boxed "notes" or "tags" wherever they occur. This draws the reader's attention to important themes that don't necessarily get their own chapter or occur outside of their assigned chapter. It reminds me of the notes a student might scribble in margins, except that it has already been done. This is admittedly a small detail, but I find it very helpful. I don't know if the earlier reviewer somehow expected Sakaev to reinvent the middlegame. He obviously hasn't done that, but has put a lot of effort into producing a well-written & well-designed textbook. This is intended to be the first of two volumes, with Volume 2 covering more material about pawns and dynamics in the middlegame.

The course seems very enlightening and well worth the money if you work through the problems and try to understand what the authors are saying. I will warn the buyer that the book contains very complex and often times hard to follow diagrams and cramped annotation. In other words, the authors already presume the reader is equipped with beginner knowledge and has already breached intermediate status. I would not recommend this book if you plan on reading something

light or easily understandable, unless you are used to studying heavy duty chess books for master level. But in summary I think it is a good book when you think you can understand it and are willing to work hard for your knowledge. It contains many useful concepts that are ideal for mastering Openings and especially the Middle-game.

A tedious read, but there are many gems of chess wisdom in this book. Play through the games with your chess set, and you'll discover why the Russians have dominated chess for so long.

Great to have this book I went through each and every game from this book, all the games which was selected by the author is amazing. I recommend this book for any who have rating more than 1600+ and he/she have to go through all the games with the board.

While this book touts the "Russian System", there isn't much new here you won't find in most middlegame books. If you already have a couple of good middlegame books (Grooten, Hellsten, etc). I'd skip it.

good books for 1600+ player

Excellent.

Great book to understand the strategy around chess positions

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