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Petroff: An Expert Repertoire for Black

Konstantin Sakaev

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#2023634 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2011-09-29 8.46 x .59 x 5.711, #File Name: 9548782847292 pagesAuthor: Konstantin SakaevPages: 292 PagesPublication Years: 2011 | File size: 32.Mb

Konstantin Sakaev : Petroff: An Expert Repertoire for Black before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Petroff: An Expert Repertoire for Black:

32 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Repertoire BookBy Los Angeles MasterThe Petroff Defense is not popular among amateur players and has the reputation of being a drawing defense. In the Preface of his new repertoire book on the Petroff, Sakaev concedes this point by noting that: "If White is an experienced player with a good grasp of theory, and he is in the mood to draw, then he should be able to share the point without too much problem." However, this "problem" should not be overstated, particularly for amateur players, who often lack the technique to make a draw in positions in which strong Grandmasters might agree to share the point. Moreover, there are plenty of possibilities for Black to complicate the position when playing against weaker players, although this sometimes may mean accepting a slight theoretical disadvantage.This book presents Black with a complete repertoire after 1.e4. The first 65 pages or so are devoted to positions where White avoids the Petroff, either by not playing 2.Nf3, or by playing 3.Nc3 after 1.e5 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6. The remainder of the analysis is devoted to the Petroff itself, although Sakaev only covers the variations he have chosen for his repertoire. In selecting his repertoire, Sakaev has chosen those variations he believes to be objectively best for Black. Almost without exception, the recommended lines are the main lines played by such outstanding Petroff practitioners as Kramnik and Gelfand.Sakaev is a strong Grandmaster and a well-respected theoretician, and it is in the presentation of theory that this book truly shines. The

theory is up-to-date and includes a number of references to games played in 2011. There is a considerable emphasis on important theoretical games played in the last 5 years. One of the key features of this book is Sakaev's willingness to go beyond merely summarizing existing theory, and to suggest dozens - if not hundreds - of improvements. Sakaev's explanations of positional and tactical themes are excellent, and should be accessible to anyone with an ELO of 2000 or so. Lower-rated players who are willing to work hard could also learn a lot from this book, and not just about opening theory. Given the importance of positional themes in many variations of the Petroff, this book could also be used as an advanced primer on positional chess. Make no mistake, there is a lot of in-depth theory presented in this book. Sakaev often takes his analysis deep into the middlegame, and it is not unusual for him to end his analysis of a variation on move 20 (or even move 30 or more) in some of the more critical lines. For that reason, this book will chiefly appeal to players who are very serious about their opening preparation. This book is well-organized and the two-column page format is reasonably attractive and easy on the eyes. Although it lacks an index of variations, the Table of Contents is sufficiently detailed to allow you to quickly find the variation you are looking for. For those familiar with recent repertoire books from Chess Stars, this book departs a little from the usual Chess Stars chapter format of first summarizing the mainlines of the repertoire, then going into more detail in a "Step by Step" section, and then presenting some illustrative games. Instead, Sakaev's book has some introductory comments and a conclusion in each chapter, but the first 240 pages of the book consist almost entirely of serious analysis. The last 45 pages of the book contains 21 complete games which were apparently selected for the instructive value. Most of the complete games are outstanding fights between top players in which Black lands his share of the blows. Chess Stars, like Quality Chess, seems to be able to publish one outstanding opening book after another. I have a number of Chess Stars books and, in my opinion, this is one of their very best. I can hardly imagine a better book for a positional player looking for a solid repertoire against 1.e4. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Repertoire by and Outstanding GM By Mike This book is truly special. A world class GM analyzes the very best lines from an objective point of view. Often, Sakaev gives more than one solution to various white tries. Sakaev convincingly neutralizes the Nimzovich variation (5.Nc3), 3.d4, and 3.Ne5. His conclusion that black is absolutely OK in all variations is well supported by his investigation. As someone who has personally studied the Petroff for black by deeply examining hundreds of GM games, current theory, and with engines, I say with confidence that Sakaev's recommendations are rock solid. When reading through the book, I was surprised to see that I have already adopted most of his recommended lines via self-study. Thankfully, this book has been created for those without the time or inclination to delve into the Petroff Labyrinth. He even covers the King's Gambit, the Bishop's Opening, Vienna Game. Again GM Sakaev recommends the best answers to these weak attempts by white and makes no compromises. Buy this book and never lose to 1.e4 again.

In this book the reader will find an opening repertoire for Black against 1. e4, based on the Petroff Defence and designed to be used up to the highest level. For many years this opening has served as the main black weapon for chess giants as Vladimir Kramnik and Boris Gelfand.