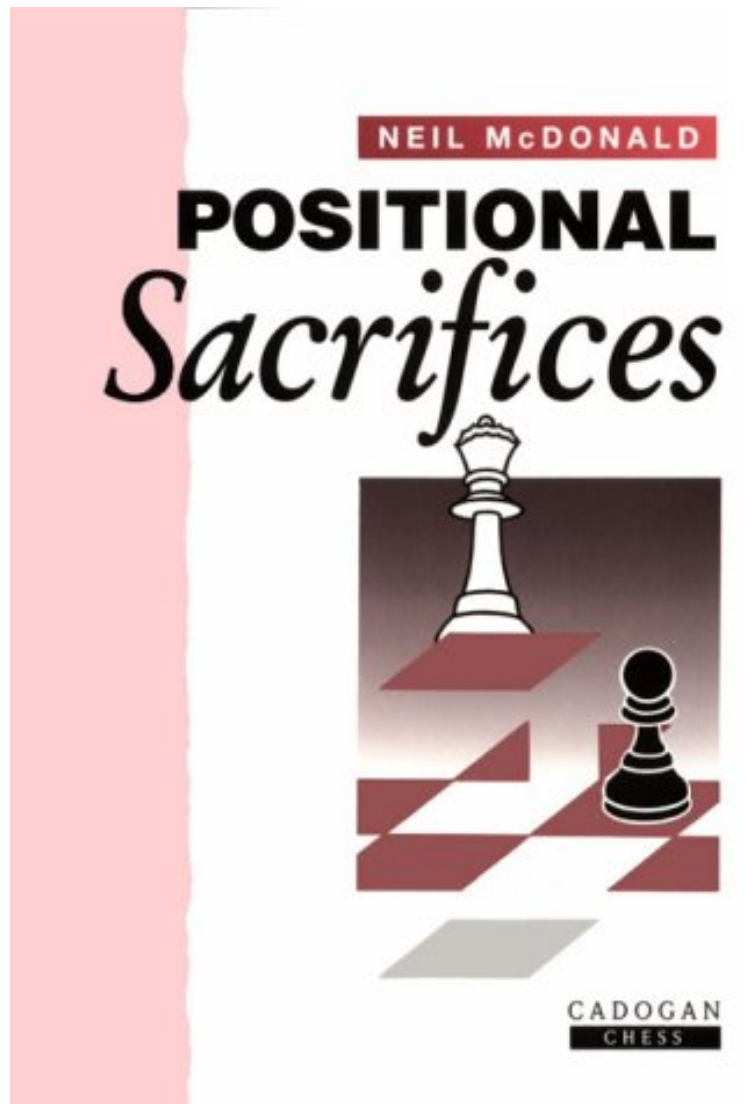


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## Positional Sacrifices

*Neil McDonald*

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**Neil McDonald : Positional Sacrifices** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Positional Sacrifices:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. OVERALL, VERY INSTRUCTIVE By SilverMalthusian I bought this book because I have a fascination with material imbalances in chess games I have an obsession with niche chess books because I find that I learn so much from them. I will split this review in 3 sections, the bad, the good the neutral. Bad points: There are numerous errors in the transcriptions of the games: 1. Page 35, Yusupov vs Christiansen, Las Palmas, 1993; moves 44 were missing, I worked out that Black's 44th move was Ra8. 2. Page 56, Pigusov vs

Akopian, Novosibirsk, 1993; move 38 for White should read Nxc2 not Nxc3.3. Page 80, Kamsky vs Yusupov, Linares, 1993; move 76 for White should read Rc7+ not Ra7+ move 80 for Black should read Kxe7 not Ke7.4. Page 110, Lautier vs M. Gurevich, Munich, 1993; move 46 for White should read Qd1 not Qd2.5. Page 116, Genov vs S. Ivanov, Berlin, 1993, move 58 for White should read Qe3+ not Qe3.6. There was another game in which in part of the ending, the King Rook symbols were mixed up, the reader will easily recognise this when they get to that particular game. The last analysed game that was under the chapter headed "Queen for Rook Bishop Sacrifices" was actually a Queen for Rook Knight sacrifice. It would have enhanced the book if there was in fact a "Queen for Rook Knight Sacrifices" chapter. Good Points: This book was very insightful in learning about some common niche themes in positional sacrifices. I had not come across the blockading technique in the endgame which involves two pawns on the same rank with a file in between them a rook. Extremely useful if you find yourself in an endgame where your opponent's only piece left is a Queen your only piece left is a Rook because you can draw this position. The Defensive ideas outlined in the chapter "The Psychology of Sacrifices" was a real mind opener. I also experienced many light bulb moments in regards to planning in chess, truly invaluable! The Author either skipped or just transcribed the vast majority of openings, only annotating analysing the relevant parts of the game in regards to the positional sacrifice it's aftermath. Neutral Points: The vast majority of games were from 1993, this may have limited the Author's choice of games he selected from, however, he was probably trying to be as actual as he could be at the time of writing this book. The book was rather short with 112 pages of actual instruction in eight themed chapters with a "It's Your Turn" 9th chapter, however I found that this was probably long enough. I highly recommend this book to all amateur chess players who have not extensively already learnt about positional sacrifices. I am sure that this will enhance my game play by widening my horizons by looking out for certain characteristics in particular types of positions that I may have overlooked in the past. Thank you Mr Neil McDonald for your contribution in this field! 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Superb By Chess reader This is another of McDonald's wonderful books. He is an extremely talented author, who rivals Seirawan and Silman at explaining positional concepts. This book, Positional Sacrifices, is interesting and original. Not many authors have examined the subject of sacrifices for purely positional gain. Positional Sacrifices also includes some exciting games that are not widely known, where other books would give over analysed games such as Lautier-Shirov or focus on stereotypical sacrifices such as Rxc3 in the sicilian. Previous reviewers have made the comment that McDonald should not have given the full games, but it aids my understanding of the sacrifice, as well as allowing the reader to immerse themselves in fascinating yet obscure games, by talented players such as Raeky and Konstantinopoly. In each section, the reader is given the things that must be present for a successful sacrifice, such as lack of a plan in exchange sacrifices and a safe king in a Q for R+B sacrifice. This makes it easy to apply to a real game. As with all the other reviewers, my only complaint is that this book is too short. It is small and thin and McDonald's excellent writing makes me call out for more, more, more. Perhaps McDonald should write a sequel to this book. I know I'd buy it. 12 of 18 people found the following review helpful. great idea, but slightly mis-focused presentation By Michael Ryan The author's key point is that positional sacrifices differ from combinations by the degree of uncertainty inherent in them. Including chapter 1, The Psychology of Sacrifices; chapter 2, Theoretical and Standard Sacrifices; and the final 20 element quiz, this book has all of nine chapters. The middle 6 chapters make up the meat of the book and include chapter 3, Sacrifices to create a passed pawn chapter 4, Sacrifices to destroy the opponent's center chapter 5, Sacrifices to open lines chapter 6, The Indian bishop chapter 7, The "Karpovian" exchange sacrifice chapter 8, Queen for Rook and Bishop sacrifices This book covers pawn, exchange, piece, even queen sacrifices in different circumstances and to different ends. Some of the examples are truly amazing, well beyond anything that I could ever conceive. A good grasp of positional considerations is needed to appreciate some of these, even though the positional elements and why they are important are generally very well explained. Any tactical variations are given at length, and this definitely helps the reader come to terms with the examples. Where I think the author misfires, is in pursuing each example game to the very end. This leads to some very complicated alternatives being explored, many of them well past the point of the sacrifice. If you need closure on whether or not the sacrifice proved successful, this may be good. But it limits the number of examples given. I think the content of this book could help most players below expert rating appreciate some ideas for the first time. Seeing a winning passed pawn motif conjured out a position that contained not even a wisp of such a possibility is truly enlightening. Also includes fine examples (and explanation!) of the compensation arising from certain pawn and piece sacrifices. Of course, you can always ignore the in-depth variations until you are in the mood and simply read the text and get a lot out of this book. Handy size, well-written, few if any typos. Three and a half stars, rounded down to three.

Most competitive players are very familiar with the idea of a sacrificial checkmating attack, but the positional sacrifice has been strangely neglected. By means of a subtle positional sacrifice, a player can sometimes fundamentally alter the course of a game in his or her favor. In this instructive and entertaining book International Master Neil McDonald demonstrates just how effective well-executed positional sacrifices are. Topics covered include sacrifices to open lines for the pieces, sacrifices as a defensive weapon, the exchange sacrifice, the psychology of sacrifice and much more.

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