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Aron Nimzowitsch

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Chess Classics

Aron Nimzowitsch
CHESS PRAXIS
NEW TRANSLATION



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Aron Nimzowitsch : Chess Praxis (Chess Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chess Praxis (Chess Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The quickest route to improving your chess game is to take the longer journey! By Mr. Get Real This review is for the Chess Classics edition of "Chess Praxis". This is a new modern translation - something we should have gotten a long time ago! This new edition provides additional diagrams that are also larger and easier to see. The layout is a practical and preferred two column format. My paperback has high quality binding and heavy weight paper - looks like it will last forever. "Praxis" is basically a collection of Nimzowitsch's games specifically chosen to illustrate the lessons from My "System". Therefore it makes a lot of sense to read and

understand the lessons in "My System" before you tackle "Praxis" Some ill informed critics like to pigeonhole Nimzowitsch as a dogmatic dinosaur (John Watson in particular comes to mind), but that is naïve and betrays a complete misunderstanding of what Nimzowitsch's "system" was all about! I find it interesting to note that if Nimzowitsch was truly outlining a rigid rulebook for chess in "My System" then he clearly breaks his own "rules" in "Praxis"! He moves a pawn twice in one opening (game 3) and moves his knight to the rim in another (game 4)! He violates his own admonition to his opponent not to attack a pawn at the head of the chain in the opening (game 8)... and then he does the same thing himself later in the very same game! No, Nimzowitch is not a rigid rule maker! Above all he was pragmatic, meaning flexible according to the context of the position at hand. He was primarily concerned about concepts, but concepts creatively applied. You have to know when the rules apply and when they don't! This is the essence of chess. Some players equipped with strong computer engines will likely try to second guess Nimzowitsch's 1930s repertoire and analyses and then criticize the book solely on that basis. But, this would be extremely shortsighted! Yes, of course, there are instances in this book where the original analyses, unaided by a strong computer, will have missed some interesting lines - but, so what? In the back of this edition the editors actually devote an extended chapter to modern engine based reevaluations of many of the games - so look there for more guidance. But, that is all beside the point - "Praxis" is about concepts, not repertoire! The purpose of this book is merely to illustrate those "concepts". It is the ideas behind the thought processes that are of value here. Nonetheless, and perhaps surprisingly to some, Nimzowitsch's analyses still stand up very well to modern chess engines... The man was a genius. The ideas that Nimzowitsch presents in "Praxis" are advanced and will challenge even strong players. However, I feel that none of the concepts are beyond the scope of any player providing they are willing to spend the time required to absorb it. It is probably a good idea to run the games through a chess engine in conjunction with reading the book. This will help you with the many "what if" scenarios you might encounter. If I don't understand why the book recommends a certain move then I use the chess engine to see what happens if I do something different - ah, now I see it - the Bishop moves to pin the Queen against the King! There is nothing in this book that you cannot unravel if you simply spend the time and actually STUDY the games. Obviously this entails a huge investment of time on your part as there are more than one hundred games to go through! If you spend just an hour on each game then do the math and realize how much effort you need to expend here! I suspect few players actually finish this book simply because they grossly underestimate the time and energy required to actually get something out of this book. Even so, there are really no shortcuts.... sorry! The quicker a player accepts this reality the better. However, if your goal is to just go through the motions in order to feel good about your game, but without ever really making significant progress then you might want to consider Jeremy Silman's lame books - and I don't mean as an initial stepping stone to Nimzowitsch!!! Not at all! Often what initially seems very appealing in terms of an easier and shorter alternate route simply turns out to be just an unproductive detour that ultimately wastes your time. Silman's books are terrible, yet entertaining in a juvenile sort of way... and this can be very appealing to all the ne'er do wells out there seeking to avoid anything remotely resembling hard work - ignorance is bliss! Good luck with that! For truly serious players - and you know who you are - Nimzowitsch will clearly be the best long-term investment of your time and effort. Your choice.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Gotta love your Nimzo
By Keith Halonen
As usual, book arrived sooner than its original ETA. This is a true classic, a paramount addition to any chess shelf. There have been other "21st Century" re-editions of this ultra popular masterwork, but this particular effort seems to retain the characteristic edginess of the original author's biting analytical prose. Nimzowitsch was in constant combat with his opponents, his critics, and his own personal demons. For a fellow who was probably his own worst enemy, Nimzo's books constitute several of the priceless gems in the crown jewels of chess literature. A must for the modern chess shelf. Kudos to Quality Chess UK Limited.

8 of 18 people found the following review helpful. with "My System"
By Mr.TheCypriot
this book with "My System" is the best if you want to go deeper with your understanding of the greatest game of all times!!