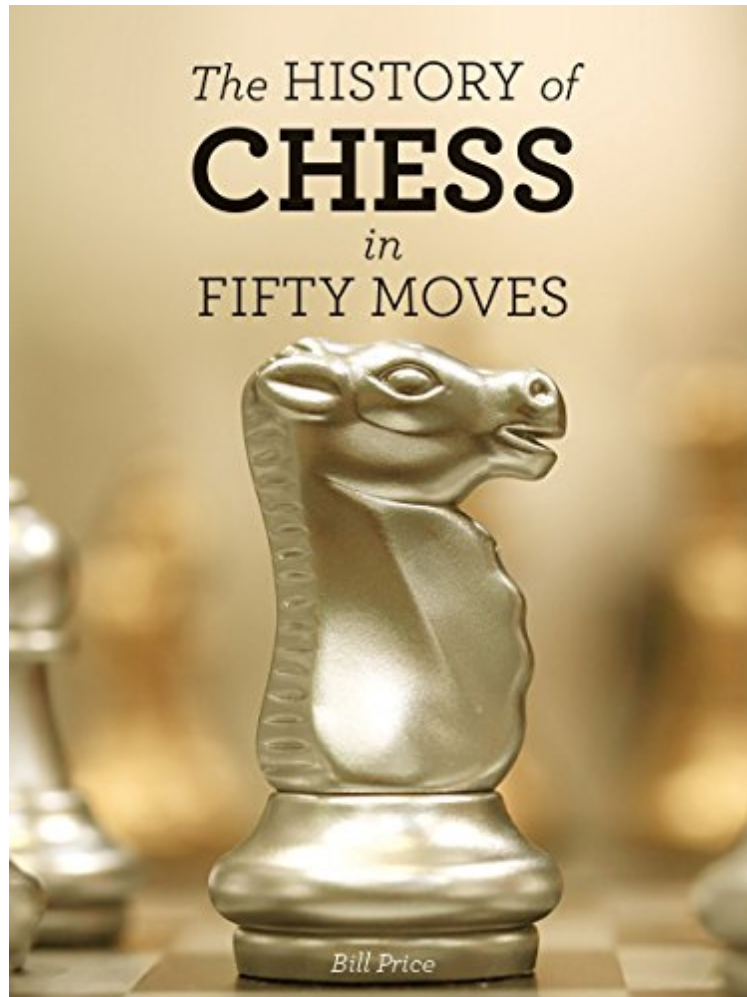


[Mobile book] The History of Chess in Fifty Moves (Fifty Things That Changed the Course of History)

## The History of Chess in Fifty Moves (Fifty Things That Changed the Course of History)

*Bill Price*

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**Bill Price : The History of Chess in Fifty Moves (Fifty Things That Changed the Course of History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of Chess in Fifty Moves (Fifty Things That Changed the Course of History):

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Bad MovesBy B. W. ThewI'm unsure what qualifications Bill Price has to write about chess, but they have let him down with this book. The book is littered with mistakes, did Fischer really play 1.c3 in three games v Spassky in 1972? No he didn't, yet it states this on page 107 and even names game six as one of them. The index mentions a Jan Timmins as being mentioned on page 100, not a thing there. If you search you find Mr Timmins on page 200 where he apparently played a Candidates Final against Nigel Short. I'd always though that was Jan Timman. There is also a reference to a Harold Staunton on page 147 despite discussing

Howard Staunton earlier on. The printing and layout of the book are excellent, but the diagrams are a shambles with Kings, Queens, Bishops and Pawns being far too hard to differentiate between. There are other mistakes and I wasn't really looking for them they just pop up. As well as this, there isn't a game to be played through anywhere in the book, so if an anecdote takes your fancy, you need another book as well. There are a number of fairly good books on chess history, get one of them. For Mr Price's sake I hope Edward Winter doesn't get hold of it, he'd shred it.

The History of Chess in Fifty Moves recounts the 1,500-year history of the game of royals, from its ancient beginnings to Deep Blue, Kasparov and internet chess. As stand-alone stories or in sequence, the 50 chapters explain how chess has changed, adapted, and thrived through the centuries. It reveals the sublime players, the controversies, the great tournaments and upsets, the victories... nothing is overlooked. Entertaining and faithful text descriptions, artwork reproductions, archival photographs, callout boxes, quotations of interest, and chessboard diagrams bring chess's colorful history to life. The stories cover the globe's chessboards and the game's generations of players, including: The Turk, the automaton hoax that fooled royalty Theories on the origin of chess The longest match The Polgar sisters The decline of Boris Spassky The Bobby Fischer phenomenon The Soviet invasion Chess, codebreaking and Bletchley Park The female Soviet, Vera Menchik The first official chess Olympiad Phillip Stamma notates chess The Da Vinci connection Capablanca versus Alekhine The Internet changes everything. For chess players at all levels, The History of Chess in Fifty Moves is an exciting treat they will return to again and again.

In 50 concise chapters, Price colorfully traces the journey of chess from India (where it began as the game chaturanga) to Persia, its dissemination through the West and ultimately the world, and its latest transformation into a digital game played over the Internet. Price convincingly explores the early history of chess and the social contexts that have supported it to the present: royal courts, coffee houses, parks, and Soviet schools, to name a few. Price invites readers into the game and introduces them to the varied strategies of modern masters, including Andr Danican Philidor and the utilization of the pawn, the aggression of the Romantics, the use of positional play by Howard Staunton, and the tactical considerations of Hypermoderns. This is not an overly technical book, and famous moves such as the Sicilian Defense and Nimzo-Indian Defense are only really mentioned in passing. However, with the focus on the characters who loomed large and the environments that they helped shape, this is a great book to orient casual readers and direct them to other sources according to their interest. It is attractively designed with plenty of photos and illustrations.

(Publisher's Weekly 2015-09-01)About the Author Bill Price is a regular contributor to many international publications and popular reference books. His published works include Tutankhamun: Egypt's Most Famous Pharaoh, History's Greatest Decisions and Fifty Foods That Changed the Course of History. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.**INTRODUCTION** Anybody who does not play chess must wonder what all the fuss is about. On the surface, it is a simple game, played with 32 pieces on a board of 64 squares and with rules that children can master in a matter of minutes. But hidden beneath this facade of simplicity is a game of bewildering complexity. This is no doubt the reason why so many people find the game so fascinating and why, for some, that fascination can become an obsession. It may be easy to learn the moves and the object of the game may be clear enough -- to win by checkmating the opponent's king -- but chess also has an extraordinary capacity for variation that could not possibly be unraveled in a lifetime of study. Over the course of the following 50 chapters, we take a trip through the history of chess to shed some light on this remarkable game, on how it arose, evolved, and arrived at where it is today. In doing so, we may not get to understand how to play the game any better, but at least we might get some idea of how it got to be the way it is.**THE KNIGHT'S TOUR** The book is arranged as a series of moves, taking us on a tour through the history of the game in a roughly chronological order, though chess history has progressed more in the way that a knight moves than a pawn -- backward and sideways as well as forward and with forks and jumps rather than in a straight line. So, be prepared to take the odd backward step in order to take the next few forward as we begin our tour with the origins of chess, or what it is possible to say about its origins, given that they are not known with any great certainty. What we can say with a little more confidence is that the game we play today evolved out of the ancient Indian game of chaturanga, played with counselors and elephants rather than queens and bishops, but nevertheless a clear forerunner of modern chess. From there we follow the game as it moves westward on the tides of history and first arrives in Europe with Islamic invaders. Once chess had crossed the religious divide between Muslims and Christians, it would become a fashionable pastime in the royal palaces of Medieval Europe, evolving into the game as it is played today and gradually emerging into wider society. From there, we look at how chess was transformed from a casual pastime into an international sport and examine the lives and careers of the greatest players of the 19th and 20th centuries: of Paul Morphy, Wilhelm Steinitz, and Emanuel Lasker, and of the incomparable Cuban genius Jos Ral Capablanca and Alexander Alekhine. We look at the reasons behind the Soviet Union's dominance of chess after the Second World War, which would continue for some years after it collapsed and was only interrupted briefly by the brilliance of Bobby Fischer, who, along with Boris Spassky, was responsible for the one moment when chess burst onto the world stage to grab everybody's attention. To bring our tour of chess history up to date, we look at the rivalry between Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov, Kasparov's duel with the supercomputer Deep Blue, and, in recent years, how

chess has expanded into other parts of the world, in India and China, before finishing in Norway with Magnus Carlsen. Chess is, of course, not all about its most famous players, so along the way we take a few detours to look at, for instance, the Lewis Chessmen and to stop off in New York's Washington Square Park. We take in Thomas Middleton's play *A Game at Chess* at the Globe Theater in London and have a coffee with the chess players at the Caf de la Rgence in Paris, before looking at how Alan Turing managed to play computer chess at a time before a computer had been built that was fast enough to run the program he had written. To round it all off, we take a mini tour of chess on the Internet and a brief glance at where chess might be going in the future.