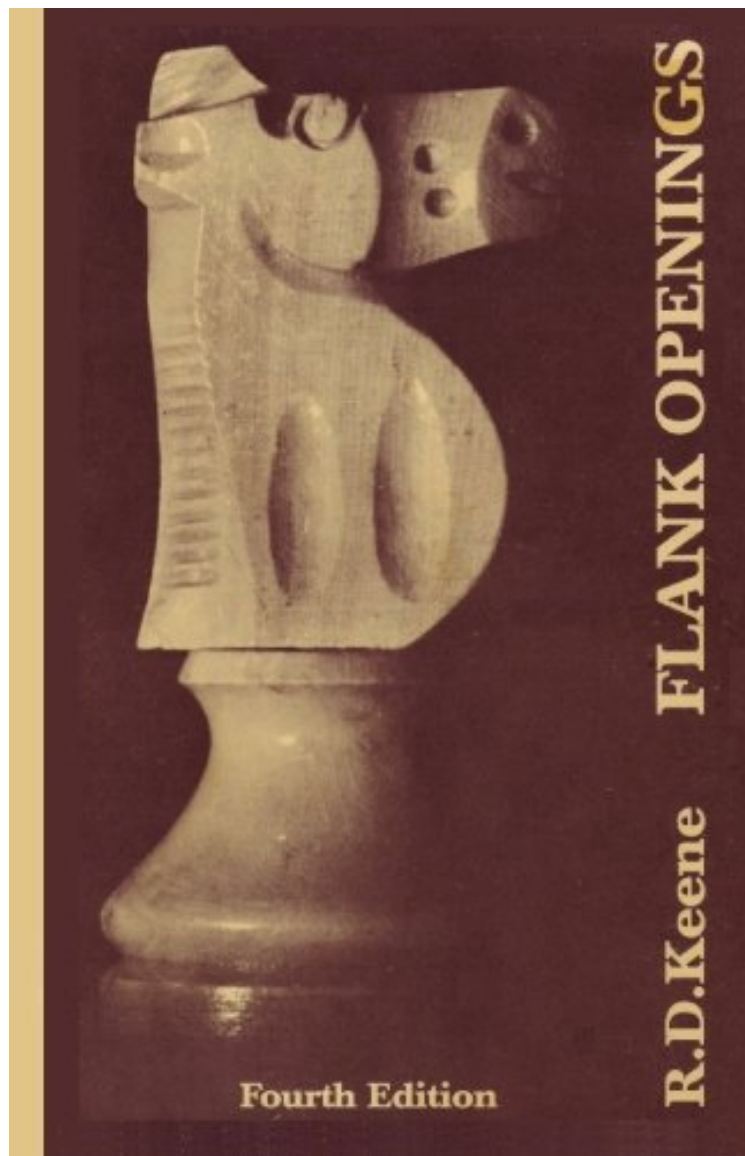


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Flank Openings: A Study of Reti's Opening, the Catalan, English and King's Indian Attack Complex: Fourth Edition

Raymond Keene

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Raymond Keene : Flank Openings: A Study of Reti's Opening, the Catalan, English and King's Indian Attack Complex: Fourth Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flank Openings: A Study of Reti's Opening, the Catalan, English and King's Indian Attack Complex: Fourth Edition:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Classic Opening Work.By R. TobiasThis is a real classic. Keene is an English GM, known for putting out some pretty hastily thrown together chess books, but on a handful of occasions, he has put out some real gems, and this is one of his best. This is considered to be a classic of chess opening literature, and is well worth your consideration. Keene looks at Reti's Opening, the Catalan and neo-Catalan, the English, the Benko (1.g3) and the Larsen (1.b3). The players' index is a roll call of immortals, including Reti, Capablanca, Smyslov, Benko, Larsen, Petrosian and Korchnoi. But this is not just a 'data dump' of great games, as it is Keene's insightful annotations that set this book apart from lesser efforts. Keene focuses on plans, concepts, ideas. Think of this as 'Ideas Behind the Flank Openings', similar to Fine's famous work, but in FAR more detail on the openings chosen. Here is an example of Keene's work, taken from Smyslov-Doda, Capablanca Memorial 1965: "Black has played planlessly against White's Catalan set-up, and the features of the position are: 1-White has a large spatial advantage- Black's bishops have little scope and his knights are exposed to pawn advances in the center. 2-White has an iron grip on the Q-side- advanced pawns and the Catalan B bearing down on b7. The winning process is instructive and elegant. White first pins down his opp. in the centre and then, by means of well timed exchanges, closes in on Black's paralyzed Q's wing." There are countless dozens of such notes throughout the text, along with hundreds of more briefly annotated key games. The book is well organized by opening and variation. About the only real drawback is that this volume is only updated through 1988, but the principles and plans are timeless, and absorbing this fine material can only enhance your positional understanding and your results. Highly recommended for any serious player at strong club player and above.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. NostalgiaBy Michel BehnaRevised edition is ok Keep in mind that this book has not been kept to date (we are talking last century). I like the format and coverage... convenient,4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. which was much better. But we are never told why B is ...By FarleyThe title is misleading. This is not a STUDY of flank openings. It's just a collection of games featuring the flank openings with very very scant explanations. "Oh, here he played A but he should have played B, which was much better. But we are never told why B is better. This tells us that the book is for people at least 2500. The bulk of the book is just snippets from games and these have no explanations at all. You can get get these for free on the Net and in full. This is too bad because Keene is usually a good annotator. His book Petrosian vs the Elite is very good.

Traditional chess openings emphasize control of the center. Flank Openings are opening systems first developed by such players as Reti and Nimzowitsch in which the player of the white pieces concedes control of the center to Black, but then seeks to undermine the center and cause it to collapse with attacks from the sides. Grandmaster Raymond Keene explains the concepts and ideas behind these chess opening systems.