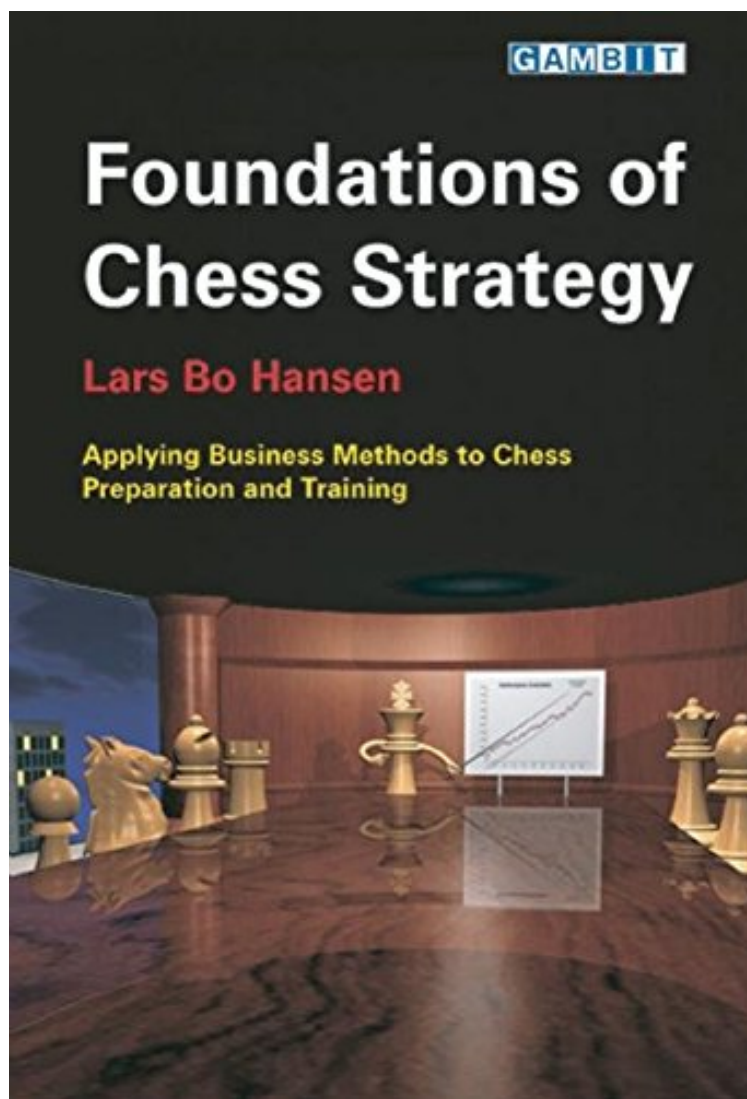


(Free read ebook) Foundations of Chess Strategy

Foundations of Chess Strategy

Lars Bo Hansen

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Lars Bo Hansen : Foundations of Chess Strategy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foundations of Chess Strategy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Robert D.Good training resource.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Great book On Chess Styles and PsychologyBy Eugene F. ManlapaoQuite simply for me, this is the quintessential chess book.This book delves on the human aspects of chess, and on playing styles in particular. It is not a playing manual, it does not contain the latest opening trends, and it will not raise your game the instant you are through with it, as we expect most chess books to do. However, it will help you dramatically if, as the author suggest, you study the styles thoroughly and identify and train yourself according to your style. The

meat of the book are games illustrating the styles of chess greats past and present, and coaching once you have associated yourself with any of the styles. The games are heavy with verbal annotations, as they should be when styles are dissected and explained. Hansen gives four playing styles. He categorizes combinative players like Alekhine, Fischer and Kasparov as the Pragmatists, intuitive players like Capablanca, Rubinstein, Karpov and Petrosian as the Reflectors, conceptual and methodical players like Steinitz, Tarrasch, Nimzovitsch and Botvinnik as the Theorists, and active players like Tal, Shirov, Morozevich and Anand as the Activists. He then gives the practical lessons. Each category is coached how to choose and study the openings, advised to play the middlegame according to their temperament, and to develop strengths outside their "core competencies" so that they could be the antithesis to any playing style. How to play in a way that you become that antithesis is one of the valuable lessons of the book. This book helped me realize that I resemble the Theorists. As a Theorist who plays by logic and general concepts, I followed Hansen's advice to study openings not by memorizing them, but by finding their logical thread, and by playing the middlegame not by calculating, but by applying general concepts. I am now earning the points a tad faster than before, on the tournament table or in the net. I did not expect that I could improve my game much faster by studying the old master Theorists like Steinitz, Nimzovitsch, Tarrasch, and Botvinnik, when supercomputers are churning the latest opening lines. This book taught me the importance of understanding to chess improvement, and set me on the process of self-discovery. Even if you don't believe that styles and the classification of chess players are an exact science, the book's sense of history alone, and the beautiful games exemplifying the styles will be worth your time. If there are many ways of killing a cat, this book will show you that there are a hundred and one fantastic ways of playing chess (and killing an opponent, too, in the chess sense). As for its production values, the book is sturdy and printed on thick paper. Margins are reasonable, and variations are clearly distinguishable from the text. Obviously, Gambit not only cares that their books could be studied comfortably, but that they could last and could be referred to time and again if ever the lessons need rehashing. I haven't found a book on chess styles and psychology that combines instructional and entertainment value as outstandingly as Lars Bo Hansen's book has, and I heartily recommend this to everyone.

33 of 40 people found the following review helpful. An excellent book

By Jonathan S

First off, before I begin my review, I would like to say that I am not just some idiot who is reviewing a book just to give the book a good rating for a GM. I am about 1850 USCF, and 2000 strength. I have analyzed many fantastic positions with many NMs, SMs, FMs, and quite a few IMs (notably IMs Bercys and Pruess). I came across this book by chance, I was looking for a strategy book, and I have always liked Gambit Publishers. Therefore, I decided that this book might be an excellent book to buy. Little did I know, I was hitting the jackpot! When I got this book, I started reading it, and thought so highly of it that I read it again. This book is written by multi Dutch Champ, Lars Bo Hansen. Here is my review and thoughts about the book. ... Lars Bo Hansen (author of Foundations of Chess Strategy, and Endgame Strategy) does a great job with this book. Bo Hansen, who is a GM, describes the "old fogies" or people as far back as Steinitz over their strategy, he describes the way they play. Lars Bo Hansen breaks it up into Logical attackers (pragmatics), Intuitive attackers (Activists) and Positional into Reflectors and theorists. ... Reflectors are people who are good at preventing active play and Lars Bo Hansen describes players like Capablanca, Petrosian, Karpov ect. as "reflectors". He deeply annotates their games and shows their strong and weak points.... Theorists are described as people like Botvinnik, Steinitz ect. and he states their games deeply annotated and points out a weakness in all theorists that you should be able to capitalize on during a game.... Also for attackers he describes activists as Anand, Shirov, Tal ect. and he does a fine job annotating some of their games including quotes from their own books! He analyzes their games and gives an overall summary of weaknesses as in all of the other chapters. ... Bo Hansen describes "pragmatics" as people like Alekhine, Kasparov, Fischer ect. He analyzes some of their games and how they build up attacks. He says their weaknesses of the game and gives an overall summary of their play.... Lars Bo Hansen writes about human factors about a tournament, and why in the 1985 battle of the Ks match, why Karpov won the first match +5 vs. Kasparov's 0 wins. He explains how Karpov who was more experienced than GK played the game on his terms. Which means he played the positions that he was good in and focused on Kasparov's weaknesses. He shined the light on many ideas on how some of the top players prepared for their matches against each other (Capablanca v. Alekhine). A great book!!!! ... Overall, an excellent book I would give it 4.5-4.75 stars! Unfortunately I can't give it that so I give it 5! An excellent book overall HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! I can't wait until Lars Bo Hansen's next book (foundations of the endgame) comes out!

Chess is a game where profound strategic thinking must be allied with clever short-term tactics. Most previous works on strategy focus on specific aspects of chess strategy, but Lars Bo Hansen's aims here are different. He creates a framework in which the various elements can be systematically included and organized - a framework that will help chess-players to think about chess strategy during practical play. The theory of business strategy is extensively developed, and Hansen adopts the novel approach of investigating whether any of the vast amounts of research and modelling done for business purposes can be applied in chess. He finds that there are indeed many useful parallels, and focuses on how these ideas can be used to good effect by chess-players both in their preparation and when making over-the-board decisions.

About the Author Lars Bo Hansen is a well-known grandmaster from Denmark. He has won the Danish Championship on two occasions, and represented his country in four Olympiads, winning a bronze medal for his individual performance in 1990. His many tournament victories include first prize in the strong Copenhagen Open in both 1997 and 2000. Away from the board, he teaches and lectures on business studies, with a particular focus on marketing, organization and strategy.