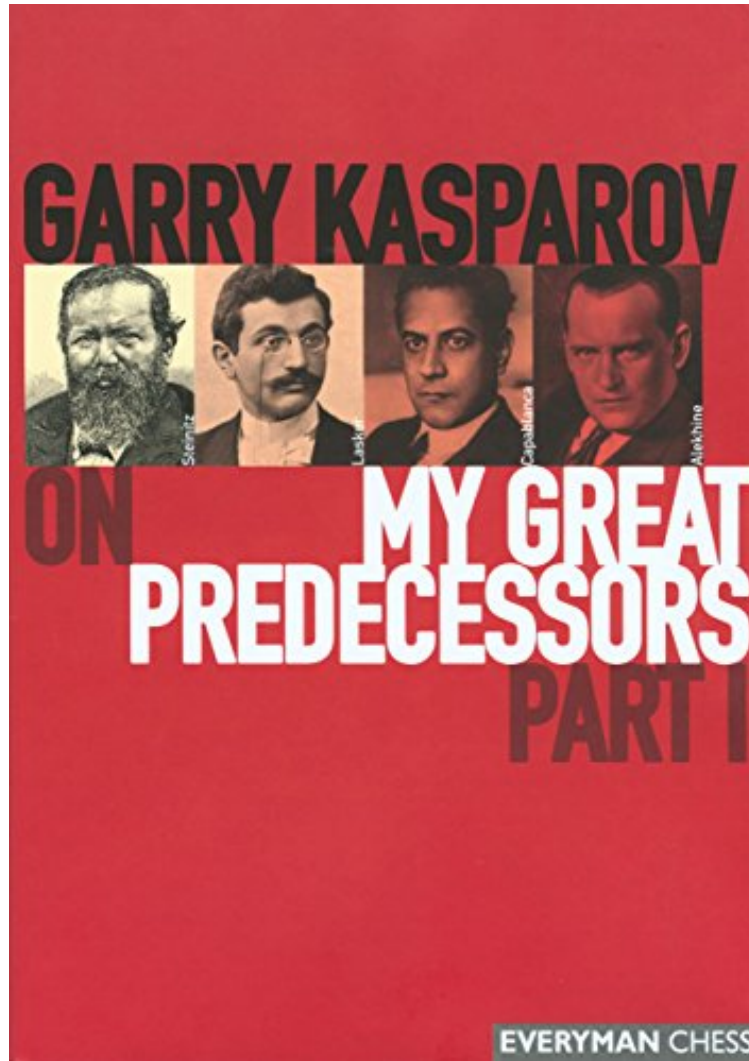


Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors, Part 1

Garry Kasparov

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Garry Kasparov : Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors, Part 1 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors, Part 1:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It is great reading. By Murray Eiland After reading this book it is impossible to see the game of chess the same way. The characters of early players are compared and contrasted with their game. It is great reading. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. 5-volume set is Excellent By J. Howard This is Volume One of the five-volume set of My Great Predecessors. I had to do a lot of shopping around to find each volume at a price I could afford, but if you are serious about developing an understanding of chess strategy, this set is an excellent resource. The books cover the history of great chessmasters, detailing many of their games. I don't start at page one and read through them sequentially; rather, I look up a particular strategy and lay out the game

on my chessboard to move through it. One game usually leads to another, and I can spend hours going through the volumes this way. [NOTE that this review is authored by my 19-year-old son.] 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Book befitting a champ By Gunnar Isaacson This is 5-star on two accounts. First, there is some nice history here, creating thumbnail narratives on all the World Champions plus a few on interesting people (Morphy, Pillsbury) who were not. There is an especially large section on Tarrasch. They don't just cover the highlights, but they delve into details I had not been aware of, such as Alekhine's troubles with the Bolsheviks prior to his emigration from Russia. The book can be read as a history of chess with a lot to be learned for all but the most knowledgeable chess history buffs. Second, the games are deeply annotated, the vast majority are complete games. Starting from the early moves, Kasparov gives alternative lines and the 'history' of when and why certain moves are not played any more. Very interesting and valuable. The analysis is deep, without being ponderous. For a 1700-rated player like myself I would say it's not 'over my head,' but it would take me years to slowly play through all the games and really understand the analysis. This depth means that this book is a chess course in itself, as all the very best chess books are. One novelty; Kasparov begins by describing how each Champion represents his time and the world he lived in. In this short introduction, he quickly covers each World Champion from Steinitz to the present, and the connections drawn are a bold, maybe a bit overdone, but very thought-provoking. There is a 'soul of a poet' to much of Kasparov's writing, and what shines through is a deep love and respect for chess.

The battle for the World Chess Championship has witnessed numerous titanic struggles which have engaged the interest not only of chess enthusiasts but also of the public at large. The chessboard is the ultimate mental battleground and the world champions themselves are supreme intellectual gladiators. These magnificent compilations of chess form the basis of the first two parts of Garry Kasparov's definitive history of the World Chess Championship. Garry Kasparov, who is universally acclaimed as the greatest chessplayer ever, subjects the play of his predecessors to a rigorous analysis. Part one features the play of champions Wilhelm Steinitz (1886-1894), Emanuel Lasker (1894-1921), Jose Capablanca (1921-1927) and Alexander Alekhine (1927-1935 and 1937-1946). Part two features the play of champions Max Euwe (1935-1937) Mikhail Botvinnik (1946-1957, 1958-1961 and 1961-1963), Vassily Smyslov (1957-1958) and Mikhail Tal (1960-1961). These books are more than just a compilation of the games of these champions. Kasparov's biographies place them in a fascinating historical, political and cultural context. Kasparov explains how each champion brought his own distinctive style to the chessboard and enriched the theory of the game with new ideas. All these games have been thoroughly reassessed with the aid of modern software technology and the new light this sheds on these classic masterpieces is fascinating.

From the Back Cover The battle for the World Chess Championship has witnessed numerous titanic struggles which have engaged the interest not only of chess enthusiasts but of the public at large. The chessboard is the ultimate mental battleground and the world champions themselves are supreme intellectual gladiators. This magnificent compilation of play from the early days of chess forms the basis of the first part of Garry Kasparov's definitive history of the World Chess Championship. Garry Kasparov, who is universally acclaimed as the greatest chessplayer ever, subjects the play of his early predecessors to a rigorous analysis. This volume features the play of champions Wilhelm Steintz (1886-1894), Emanuel Lasker (1894-1921), Jose Capablanca (1921-1927) and Alexander Alekhine (1927-1935 and 1937-1946). However, this book more than just a compilation of play of the early greats of chess. Kasparov's biographies of the early champions places them in a fascinating historical, political and cultural context. Kasparov explains how each champion brought his own distinctive style to the chessboard and enriched the theory of the game with new ideas.