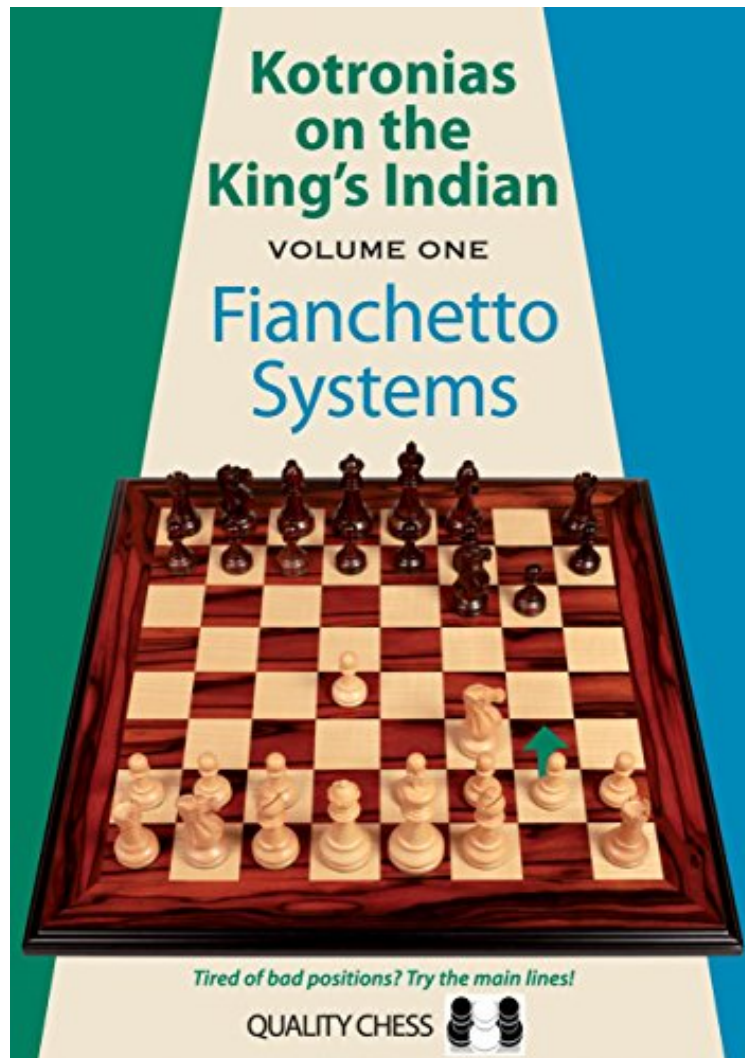


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Kotronias on the King's Indian: Fianchetto Systems (Volume 1)

Vassilios Kotronias

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Vassilios Kotronias : Kotronias on the King's Indian: Fianchetto Systems (Volume 1) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kotronias on the King's Indian: Fianchetto Systems (Volume 1):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is perhaps the best opening book I have read By Feedback This is a truly remarkable book. It is perhaps the best opening book I have read. It is best described by the first lines of the Preface: "What you are holding in your hands is the first volume of an ambitious and elaborate work on the King's Indian. It is ambitious because it aims at nothing less than exposing myths and truths about this popular opening, while offering a sound black repertoire based on dynamic and imaginative play. It had to be elaborate, because our times

demand accuracy and concrete analysis rather than abstract ideas. The only miracle I know is hard work; the doubting Thomas I know is the one who has not witnessed it." Kotronias has somehow found a way to present us with another miracle in this book: beauty. He makes the King's Indian beautiful. His book is a work of art. I am ordering the second and third volumes as soon as I finish with this review. Everyone who plays the King's Indian on a regular basis should own a copy. 20 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Probably the 2nd best contemporary opening book I've read, certainly by a long shot on the KID. By Daniel Lowinger. This is probably the 2nd best contemporary opening book I've read (I don't compare contemporary opening books with those from the icons of the past - needless to say, it was an entirely different time and chess culture then). It is certainly the only book I've been inspired by enough to review. What are we looking for from an opening book in today's day and age of 3000+ rated engine analysis at our fingertips? Well, one thing we're NOT looking for is simple regurgitation of what either our engines or our databases can provide to us at the click of a mouse. We're looking for human guidelines in these openings, concepts to latch onto, the correct approach (attitude, viewpoint, philosophy), how to employ our style in the position, handle a mess in a manner that doesn't require tightrope walking that only a computer could do - things like that. In short, we're looking to gain the kind of understanding that still separates us from players better than us; those things that keep the chess hierarchy in place in spite of the much heralded technological democratization of our improvement tools. We're looking for someone not to stop their instruction at a label like "unclear" or "with advantage"; we're looking for wisdom about how to proceed in such situations. And these are precisely the things that Kotronias has so generously shared with his readers in this book. As a KID player, I know those painful defeats where it feels like I didn't do anything wrong but my opponent effortlessly puts the game in the bag, and I've searched high and low for comfort from the literature - I've read or skimmed probably every KID book there is, from the pioneer Efim Geller's series to the recent stuff - and nowhere did I find what I was looking for until now. Thank you Vassilios for not only giving me what I was searching for in the KID, but for reaffirming once again my love for chess itself. Now, in case this review left anyone wondering which opening book could possibly top Kotronias' for me, well, I'm happy to lift the suspense: that would be my #1 favorite opening book of all time, a timeless masterpiece whose place atop my rankings perch will never be shaken, The 3...Qd8 Scandinavian: Simple and Strong, by yours truly, also available on . Kidding aside, in writing my book I think I was guided by a similar philosophy to Kotronias'. I hope readers will think so too!

About the Author