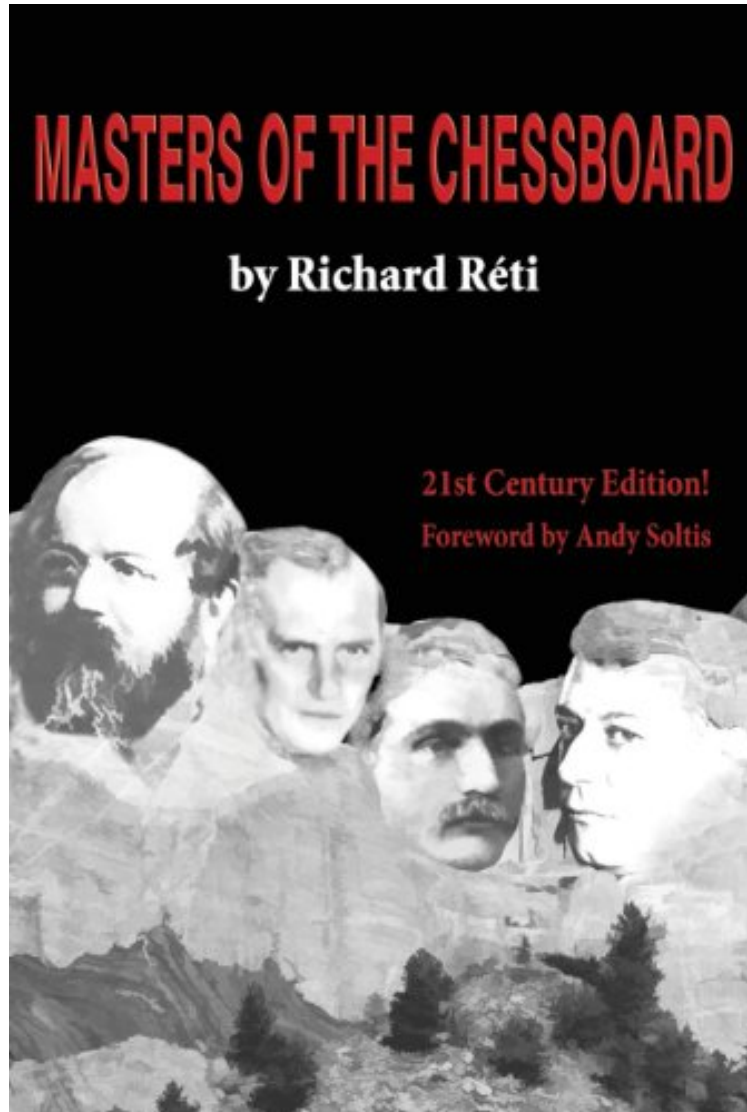


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Masters of the Chessboard, 21st Century Edition

Richard Rti

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Richard Rti : Masters of the Chessboard, 21st Century Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Masters of the Chessboard, 21st Century Edition:

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Erik C. Knudsen Fantastic chess book. As others have mentioned, the instructive prose is just amazing. A lot of good chess instructors (and players) will tell you to first review the games of the Old Masters (Steinitz, Capablanca, Rubinstein, Lasker, Morphy, etc). It's very interesting to see how the game has evolved over the years. The book consists of essentially two parts: the "old" masters and the masters of "today" (today meaning when Reti wrote the book). The author starts off with a brief biographical sketch (and there are some photos of these great players) that goes over where they born, their professions outside of chess, and the important tournament results. There are roughly 70 annotated games. These games are not necessarily organized via a particular theme. I think Reti wanted some representative games of the players in question. If you like lots of games featuring attacking chess (open games), this book is for you. Especially for the first part of the book where Open games were very popular. Considerable detail is given on the various openings such as the Queen's Gambit Declined (Cambridge Springs and Westphalia variations), the Reti Opening, Alekhine's Defense, King's Gambit, Vienna Game, and some variations of the Ruy Lopez. Reti likes to emphasize the important plans and ideas of the openings, not long-winded variations. He believes the ideas will always stand the test of time. The book is a terrific purchase!

Rti's Other Classic Ask most chess players about the works by Richard Rti, and most will quickly reply Modern Ideas in Chess. His Masters of the Chessboard will be a distant second and that is unfortunate, because in many ways Masters is more comprehensive and instructive than its better-known predecessor. He packs it with advice, even for beginners. Opening theory is a priority. Rti tells the student to understand the basic idea of each opening, and goes into considerable detail as he explains each of the popular lines of the day, including, of course, his own Rti Opening. Some of the finest parts of the book are the mini-essays, most of them on openings, but also on rook endgames. It's remarkable that Rti manages to do this without going into long variations. This practical approach is also evident when he deals with positional themes. For example, Masters can be appreciated as almost a primer on the subject of how to turn the two bishops into a significant advantage. As noted by American grandmaster Andy Soltis in his Foreword, this entire book is wonderfully instructive. And now it is available in a 21st-century edition, with figurine algebraic notation, with many diagrams and photos added.

About the Author Richard Rti was one of the premier grandmasters in the first part of the 20th century. His revolutionary ideas and original approach to the game help lay the foundation for what was to become known as "Hypermodern" Chess. His two works, Modern Ideas in Chess and Masters of the Chessboard are both considered classics. He died in 1929 at the age of 40.