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Play
The Queen's Indian Defence

Chess Stars

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THE MAIN ROAD

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PREFACE

Back in time, when I was a child, I saw a film in which there was a scene with playing chess. After several initial moves, a mature lady, who was hardly a good player, told her much younger adversary: “I will play the Caro-Kann Defence, but please be so kind as not to prevent it, please!”.

I remembered often that scene from the film in my childhood. I had the feeling that I needed to enlarge my opening repertoire with Black in response to 1.d4, so I studied the theory of the Nimzo-Indian Defence and the Queen’s Indian Defence and began to play 1...♘f6 2.c4 e6. I was studying the QID following the magnificent book of grandmaster Efim Geller, which had been published in the Soviet Union in the year 1981. Having begun playing it, it happened that many of my opponents started the game with the moves 1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3, creating the positional threat e2-e4, or with the move-order 1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6, without playing c2-c4, either for a while, or not at all. During all these moments I was almost about to repeat the words of that lady from the film: “What are you doing? You are not allowing me to play the QID. This order of moves has not been analysed in our book!”.

At the beginning of the game, the transfer to positions from another opening happens quite often in the contemporary theory. The Rubinstein-Zukertort system, the London system, the English Opening, the Nimzo-Indian Defence – these are the openings in which the placement of the pawns and the pieces (naturally the plans as well...!) require an approach from the player to be well prepared against any move-order from the opponent. In that case, no one can “prevent” you from playing the QID...

It seems that neither author has tried before to accomplish that task and in the theoretical books there have been analysed only positions after the moves 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6. This particular book is an attempt to analyse the modern theory after all move-orders.

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