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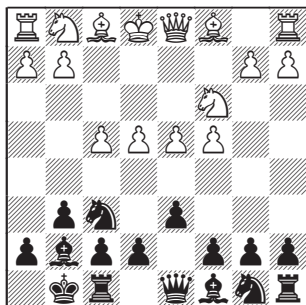
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*This book is dedicated to a remarkable man, my “life-long” coach Zigurds Lanka, who uncovered for me the mysteries of the King’s Indian Defence!*

## PREFACE

### The King’s Indian Household

The King’s Indian Defence is probably the most romantic response to 1.d4. It has survived the test of time and has been played at the highest level even to the present day.. Black gives his opponent complete freedom of choice in how to control the center and just develops quietly within his King’s Indian household, relying on his powerful fianchettoed bishop.



This position arose in the first recorded game (in the latest computer database) with the King’s Indian Defence. It took place in Leipzig back in the year 1879 and one of the most eminent theoreticians of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Louis Paulsen, was playing with Black. The Hungarian Adolf Schwarz was White and he was probably quite amazed why his opponent, despite all of the principles of playing in the opening at that time, did not fight for the center at all. He was so happy that he pushed forward all his four central pawns outright! His impressive pawn-chain was soon attacked from both sides of the board, however, and Black seized the initiative. Ironically, the outcome of the game was decided by a black passed pawn right along the central d-file.

This was all just a whim of destiny, since neither Paulsen, nor Schwarz knew then that they had been playing the Four Pawns Attack. It is still fashionable today. The name of the variation appeared about forty years later thanks to the famous GM, Savielly Tartakower – mostly due to his witty vocabulary. Right then, during the 1920s, the King’s Indian Defence became a part of the opening repertoire of the future world-champion Max Euwe. The challenger for the world crown, Efim Bogoljubow, often played it too. Later, Muguel Najdorf, Andre Lilienthal and another future world-champion Vassily Smyslov all became King’s Indian exponents.

The present burst of popularity is due to the period of the 40`s and 50`s of the past century, when it was thoroughly analyzed by some outstanding theoreticians and powerful practical players such as Isaak Boleslavsky, David Bronstein and Efim Geller. They had to face some magnificent opposition from the White side and it would be enough to mention here two world-champions – Mikhail Botvinnik and Tigran Petrosian. (The latter once remarked , in the ironical style so typical for him, that he had fed his family thanks to the King’s Indian Defence for many, many years...!). The theory of this already very popular opening began to develop like an avalanche. It was almost refuted at times, described as “an incorrect opening” by many, but then it would resurrect itself like Phoenix from the ashes. The poet and chess-player Evgenij Iljin even wrote a poem about it:

So many efforts and notes  
Were devoted to it  
It was buried so many times  
“For ever disputed...!”  
Was this witchcraft  
Or dark-squared magic...?

Well, you need to be a romantic deep in your soul and something of a poet in order to play the King’s Indian Defence well!. You have to believe in the power of your bishop on g7 and in your kingside attack to enable the triumph of spirit over matter!

We will have to interrupt this short historical and lyrical escapade; otherwise, we may not even come to the essence. The book, which you are holding in your hands, is a personal endeavour. This is not just a monograph about a popular opening; it can be called “The King’s In-

dian Defence According to Bologan” as I am trying to explain to you how I understand and how I play this opening.

My relationship with the Kings Indian began when I was just a child, during the 1970`s. My first coach, Ivan Jakovlevich Solonar, made a very reasonable decision that he should build up the opening repertoire of his pupils according to Fischer! The King’s Indian Defence was an integral part of the armoury of the eleventh World Champion since more than 10% of his games started with it. The statistical result, as could be expected from Bobby Fischer, was absolutely terrific for him: 66 – 40 in his favour. Meanwhile, the result of another super-champion and devoted King’s Indian player Garry Kasparov is also superb: 91 – 53 in his favour, with the inclusion of some rapid chess games.

Frankly speaking, I did not remember so well those first lessons, because at that time the opening was not the main focus of my attention. I simply wanted to learn to play chess well. Still, the foundations remained and later on the process was running smoothly. The Moldavian players were very fond of The King’s Indian Defence. I was coached only for a month by IM Nikolay Popov (presently a famous sports commentator), but I remembered well how to play against the Fianchetto system.

My understanding of the King’s Indian Defence was enriched immensely by the concepts of the outstanding Moldavian coach Vjacheslav Andreevich Chebanenko. His ideas were entirely different from the contemporary classical axioms and he used to respect the past when, at the dawn of the appearance of the opening, players had preferred to develop the knight to the d7-square. His recommended schemes were a bit passive, perhaps, but they brought us excellent practical results. Some of them, for example 7...♖bd7 in response to the Gligoric system, are modern even today.

Still, at present, I play the King’s Indian Defence according to the Latvian GM and theoretician Zigurds Lanka. I have tried to recollect everything which he showed me at the beginning of the 90`s and after seeing the notes in the old notebooks and after having compared his variations with what I play now, I see no difference whatsoever. The main lines are all the same. Lanka’s schemes proved to withstand the test of time in an amazing fashion!

We have already come to the subject of the concept of the book. It is understandable that one book cannot include everything which has been introduced and analyzed by numerous generations of players for a period of more than 100 years. I therefore have suggested a repertoire for Black only. I wished to follow Lanka's example and have tried to reveal to you the true spirit of the King's Indian Defence – to uncover for you its secrets and to show you its typical resources. The Yugoslavian "Chess Encyclopedia" devotes almost a half of Volume 5 to the K.I.D., with indexes from E60 up to E99. However, I did not feel bound by these frames, despite their size, and I have tried to explain to you when Black should direct the fight in the spirit of the Benko Gambit or the Modern Benoni. In the final part of the book, I have mentioned how to furnish your "King's Indian Household" in case White acts in the spirit of the King's Indian English, the King's Fianchetto without c2-c4 and ♖c3, or the Double Fianchetto. I realized that one could never conquer infinity; nevertheless in the process of my work on the book, I wished I did just that!

The King's Indian Defence is a living entity and is in a state of constant development. The evaluations of its various lines change constantly and sometimes quite dramatically at that. I feel I should warn my readers that the book does not contain all the answers to every question. You can go, however, with this book under your arm to your next tournament with confidence. (This is, of course, an abstract assessment, since if you do accept this advice literally; there might be unwanted consequences...).

The book is written for chess players of all levels, since the principles of the King's Indian Defence are equally applicable to the amateurs as well as to the super-grandmasters.

*Victor Bologan  
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