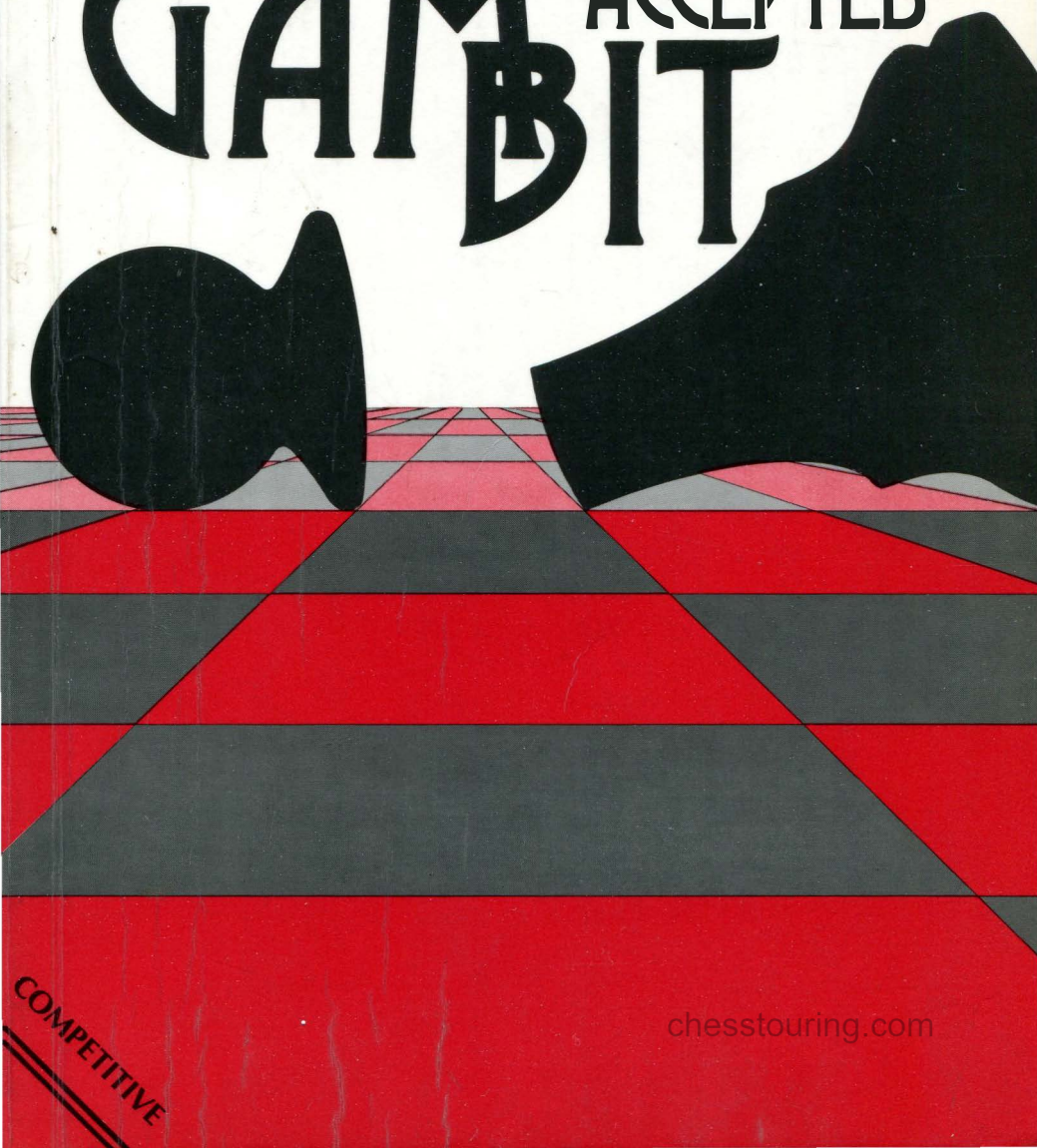


Eduard Gufeld



QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED BIT



COMPETITIVE

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Although the Queen's Gambit was first mentioned by Polerio at the end of the sixteenth century, the accepted form of the gambit is essentially a twentieth century concept.

Black surrenders the centre in order to develop his pieces quickly and aims to strike back with the freeing moves . . . c5 or . . . e5 at a later stage. Such great players as Smyslov, Bronstein and Flohr have been regular exponents of this defence and it has a justly reliable reputation.

With the great volume of theory in the main lines of the Queen's Gambit, this work provides an early alternative for Black which does not require reams of analysis. The system can be understood quickly and will prove a sound and reliable weapon for the club and tournament player.

Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld is a noted theoretician who is trainer for the Soviet Women's Olympiad team. He is author of *The Sicilian Defence* and *Exploiting Small Advantages*.

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ISBN 0 7134 5342 7



Queen's Gambit Accepted

EDUARD GUFELD

Translated by Eric Schiller

B.T.Batsford Ltd, *London*

First published 1986
© Eduard Gufeld 1986

ISBN 0 7134 5342 7(limp)

Photoset by Andek Printing, London
and printed in Great Britain by
Billing & Son Ltd,
London and Worcester,
for the publishers
B.T.Batsford Ltd, 4 Fitzhardinge Street,
London W1H 0AH

A BATSFORD CHESS BOOK

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Translator's Preface

Once again I have the privilege of rendering into English the work of Soviet Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld. The process of bringing a manuscript from the Soviet Union to England and having it translated is often a lengthy one and I have, as usual, taken the liberty of including some recent material which was unavailable to Grandmaster Gufeld at the time of writing the book. All such material is clearly indicated; any flaws the reader encounters there are my own and no blame should be laid to the author.

I would like to thank Billy Colias for his careful reading of the manuscript which has, I hope, brought greater accuracy to the production of this book.

Eric Schiller
September 1985

Introduction

The Queen's Gambit is one of the most thoroughly studied openings. Theoretical investigations have been supported by rich and varied practical experience in contemporary chess. Its character is precise and strict, its strategic foundations solid. Its positional essence derives from classical views as applied by masters of the earlier orthodoxies.

At first glance the Queen's Gambit seems a dry opening, devoid of chess romanticism with its combinational flashes and tactical storms, open lines and rapid attacks, and effective – if not always correct – mating finishes. Even the name “gambit” seems somehow inappropriate, since Black rarely makes any effort to hold on to the pawn, and the play revolves around control of the centre, a fight for individual squares, and other factors which are generally considered to be of a positional rather than a tactical nature. Perhaps this reputation is due to the coolness towards the opening which prevailed in the middle of the nineteenth century. Scientifically calculating and emotionally reserved, it was foreign to the celebration of life, where the King's Gambit and Evans Gambit ruled and the players sought complications from the very start of the game.

A key turning point in the fate of the Queen's Gambit, as indeed with the other closed games, came at the end of the last century with the rise of the positional school.

A prominent role was played by the matches Steinitz-Zukertort, 1886, and Lasker-Steinitz, 1894. The spirit of the new chess ideology carried the Queen's Gambit to its zenith, and until the 1920s it was the height of fashion. Then a crisis arose in the Orthodox Defence, where the many exchanges, often leading to drawn endings, forced it to take a step backwards.

“The ghost of the drawing death” hung over the closed games. Moreover, the Queen's Gambit came to be considered an opening which had been played out, with all lines analysed to their logical conclusions, which required not fresh ideas, but rather silent relegation to history, an opening which had become obsolete due to the new chess “technology”. So it was hardly surprising that in the early 30s the Queen's Gambit gave

way to the Indian Defences. But soon it became clear that the old weapons merited more than a place in a museum. The Botvinnik System, the Slav Gambit, the Tolush-Geller System, Hungarian Variation, Ragozin Defence, Bondarevsky-Makagonov System, and the resurrected Tarrasch Defence all demonstrated that the root still lived, and that a tree might still grow in the closed games. Again the Queen's Gambit occupied a significant number of pages in the opening manuals.

The accepted form of the Queen's Gambit dates back quite a long way, having received its first mention in 1512, in Damiano's manuscript. Then it appeared in tracts by Ruy Lopez (1561), Salvio (1604) and Stamma (1745).

At first Black tried to hold his extra pawn and suffered great positional damage in the miserly name of materialism. But it soon became clear that Black should concentrate on the development of his pieces and their co-ordination. This re-evaluation was based on such factors as control of the centre and spatial advantage. It became obvious that Black's discomfort was caused not by bad individual moves but by his very strategy. The loss of time which White must suffer could be exploited for the mobilisation of Black's forces.

The Queen's Gambit Accepted involves one of the best known and at the same time most discussed problems in chess – the problem of the isolated pawn. What is stronger – attack or blockade? What is more important – active pieces in the middlegame or the prospects of an extra pawn in the endgame? These questions which hover in the air around the “isolani” can never be considered in isolation. Even in a specific class of positions, in each concrete circumstance the evaluation of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the isolated pawns will vary. And here one must never forget that chess, besides being a science and a sport, is also a creative endeavour, and that this factor will take a part in the overall scheme of things. A feeling for the dynamics of the position will depend sometimes on very subtle points of intuition, taste and technique more than on dogma, dry statistics and an uncritical following of fashion. To be able to understand the nuances of isolated pawn positions, one must undertake detailed study and gain practical experience of the Queen's Gambit Accepted. It is with great pleasure that the author introduces you to this possibility.

Let us briefly examine some of the key ideas of the various lines of the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

The Classical System 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e3 e6 4 xc4 c5 leads after 6 0-0 to the main line of the opening. In these variations White tries to exploit his advantage in the centre, prepare e4 and bring the bishop

on c1 into the game. Black for his part works on the problem of the development of the bishop on c8. Usually he tries ... a6, ... b5 and then ... ♖b7. If White does not want to allow ... b5 he plays a4, but in this case he weakens the b4 square.

2) The Steinitz Variation 3 ♖f3 ♗f6 4 e3 c5 5 ♗xc4 e6 6 0-0 cd7ed is interesting. In the 1930s Botvinnik demonstrated a cunning plan to exploit the open e-file and the outpost at e5. As a result many positions with an isolated central pawn were judged to be in White's favour.

3) Furman's line 3 ♖f3 ♗f6 4 e3 e6 5 ♗xc4 c5 6 ♔e2 also leads to an interesting struggle. Here White takes his queen off the d-file so that he can play dc and e4. Black tries to complete his development with ... b5 and ... ♖b7, and then contest White's central strategy. *Alekhine*

4) In deviating from the Classical System by 3 ♖f3 ♗f6 4 e3 ♗g4 Black resolves one of the major problems of the Queen's Gambit – the development of his light-squared bishop. But after this development the queenside finds itself with insufficient defence. White can bring his queen to an active post at b3, forcing his opponent to lose time defending the b7 pawn, which if advanced will create further weaknesses. But all the same Black has in his arsenal an active defensive resource – he can choose not to worry about the pawn and sacrifice it instead, winning several important tempi in the process.

5) In the Smyslov Variation 3 ♖f3 ♗f6 4 e3 g6 Black allows White to construct a big pawn centre but places strong pressure on it, developing his bishop at g4. Black achieves a position reminiscent of the Grünfeld Defence. He often tries to undermine the centre with ... c5.

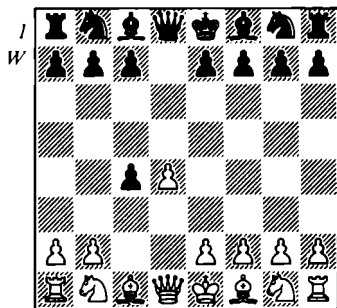
The system 3 ♖f3 a6 4 e3 ♗g4 was first used by Alekhine in the third game of his 1934 match with Bogoljubow, and it now bears his name. After the bishop goes to g4 the queenside is weakened, as we have already noted above. By playing ♔b3 White forces the advance ... b5, but praxis has shown that Black's position can be defended. Another point of this approach is the avoidance of 3 ... ♗f6 4 ♔a4+.

For a long time it was considered that the immediate occupation of the centre by White with 3 e4 held no danger for Black, who had two reliable equalising methods at hand: 3 ... e5 and 3 ... c5. Currently, however, the move 3 e4 is being played with greater success, and in order to avoid falling into a bad position Black will have to play very carefully.

The Queen's Gambit Accepted has not been removed from the arena of contemporary chess battles. It is a frequent guest at tournaments and matches at the highest level of chess. Recent developments have shown that the old opening is experiencing a renaissance, and that its best days lie ahead.

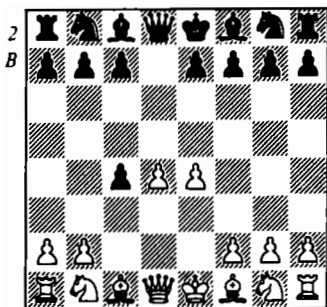
PART ONE

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc



1 3 e4 e5

- 1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 e4 (2)



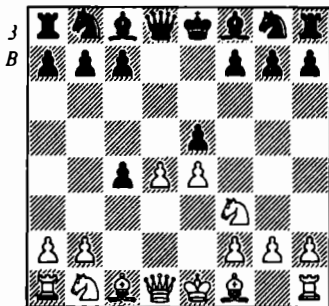
This is the most principled continuation. White occupies the centre immediately and intends xc4. But the pawns in the middle of the board lack support and this allows Black to carry out any of a number of plans involving counter-attacks at d4 or e4. We examine four such plans:

- 3 ... e5
① d3 (3) c4 Bb4

Other continuations:

- a) 4 de ♖xd1+ ⑤ ♜xd1 ♕e6 =.
b) 4 d5 f5! ⑥ dxc3 d6 ⑦ dxc4 ♕c5 =.
c) 4 ♕xc4 ♖xd4 ⑤ ♖b3 is a little investigated but sharp variation.

After 5 ... ♖xe4+ 6 ♕e3 ♖g6 7 d3 d7 8 dxc3 c6 9 0-0-0 Kuzminikh holds that White has compensation for the sacrificed material.



A 4 ... ed

B 4 ... ♕b4+ ♖c4 ♕

[4 ... d6 is occasionally seen, but White can secure an advantage with either 5 ♕xc4 or the more recent 5 dxe5, which was seen in Portisch-Nikolić, Amsterdam 1984. After 5 ... dxe4 6 ♕xc4 Black could have limited the damage with 6 ... d6±, but chose instead 6 ... ♕b4+, after which White developed a very strong game: 7 dxc3! 0-0 8 0-0 d6 9 ♕b3 dxc6 10 d5! ♕a5 11 ♖h5! g6 12 ♖g5! - tr.]

A

④ ... ed

This is the usual continuation.

⑤ ♖xc4

5 ♜xd4 leads to an even game after 5 ... ♜xd4 6 ♜xc4 ♜c5 7 ♜b5 ♜a6 8 ♜xc4 ♜f6 9 f3 ♜e6, Kudishevich-Chudinovsky, USSR 1982.

⑤ ... ♜b4+

On 5 ... ♜c6 6 0-0 brings about a difficult position for Black because he has not yet developed his kingside pieces:

a) 6 ... ♜g4 7 ♜b3 ♜d7 8 ♜xf7+! ♜xf7 9 ♜xb7 ± Pytel-Kostro, Poland 1977.

b) 6 ... ♜e6 7 ♜xe6 ♜e8 ♜b3 ♜d7 9 ♜xb7 ♜b8 10 ♜a6 ±.

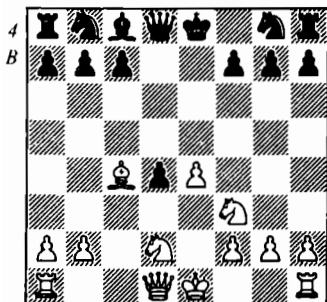
At this juncture White must choose:

A1 6 ♜d2

A2 6 ♜bd2

A1

⑥ ♜d2 ♜xd2+
⑦ ♜bxd2 (4)



Black must decide to which side of the board he should turn his attention:

A11 7 ... ♜c6

A12 7 ... ♜h6

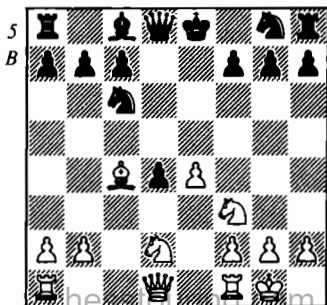
There are a number of alternatives here:

a) Black can try to hold his central pawn with 7 ... c5, but this entails considerable risk because of 8 ♜e5!? ♜h6 9 ♜h5 0-0 10 h3 ♜e7 11 g4 ♜d7 12 ♜d3 ♜h8 13 f4, Forintos-Radulov, Oberwart 1981, or 8 ♜a4+ ♜d7 9 b4 ♜e7 10 bc0-0 11 ♜b3, Inkirov-Radulov, Bulgaria 1977. In each case White has a dangerous initiative.

b) 7 ... ♜f6 is a mistake because of 8 e5 ♜d5 9 ♜b3 c6 10 ♜xd5! cd 11 ♜xd4 0-0 12 0-0 with a clear advantage to White, Bagirov-Radulov, Vrnjacka Banja 1974.

A11

⑦ ... ♜c6
⑧ 0-0 (5)



Already Black is experiencing some difficulty with regard to his

kingside development. For example, on 8 ... ♖f6 there follows 9 e5 ♘g4 (9 ... ♘d5 10 ♖b3 ♘ce7 11 ♘xd4 0-0 12 ♖ad1 ± Bagirov-Petrushin, USSR 1977) 10 h3 ♘h6 11 ♘b3 and White wins back his pawn with a much better position.

A111 8 ... ♘ge7

A112 8 ... ♖f6

A111

⑧ ... ♘ge7

⑨ ♘g5 ♘e5

9 ... 0-0? 10 ♖h5 ±.

10 ♘b3

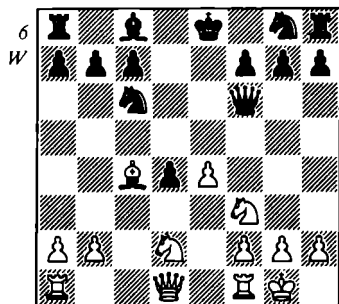
White is developing a dangerous attack, for example:

a) 10 ... h6 11 f4!, or

b) 10 ... ♘g4 11 ♘xf7+!

A112

8 ... ♖f6 (6)



Black not only defends the pawn on d4, but also prepares ... ♘e7.

9 e5 ♖g6

10 ♖b3 ♘ge7

11 ♖fe1

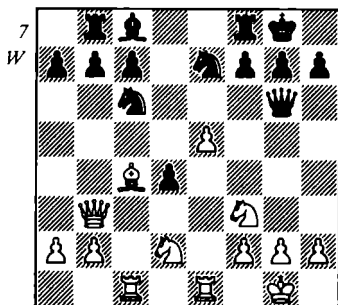
This variation, which is considered obligatory for White, gives him an initiative in return for the pawn.

11 ... 0-0

12 ♖ac1

The game Azmaiparashvili-Kaidanov, Vilnius Young Masters, 1984, deserves study. After 12 ♘d3 ♖h5 ⑬ ♖ac1 ♖b8?! ⑭ ♖a3! ♘f5 ⑮ ♘e4 ♖h6 ⑯ ♘c5 saw White develop a dangerous initiative. Instead of 13 ... ♖b8, 13 ... ♘g6 is more accurate, leading to sharp play.

12 ... ♖b8 (7)

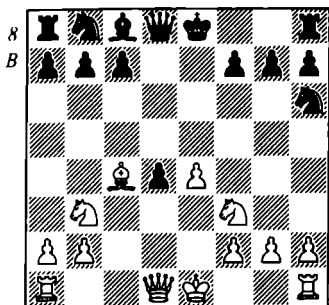


It is difficult to evaluate this position. White certainly has compensation for his pawn in the form of an initiative, but Black has a solid game, as became apparent quickly in Bagirov-Romanishin, USSR Ch 1978: 13 ♘d3?! ♖h6! 14 a3 ♘e6 ±.

A12

7 ... ♘h6

8 ♘b3 (8)



After 8 0-0 c5!? we reach the text by transposition. 8 ... 0-0 is weaker: 9 ♖b3 ♖c6 10 ♙b5! ♗e7 11 ♙xd4 (also possible is 11 ♙c2 followed by ♖bxd4) 11 ... ♙xd4 12 ♗fxd4 b6 (12 ... c6 is more precise) 13 ♖c6 ♗xc6 14 ♙xc6 ♙a6 15 ♗fd1 ± Kozlov-Belokurov, Krasnodar 1978.

⑧ ... ♙e7!?

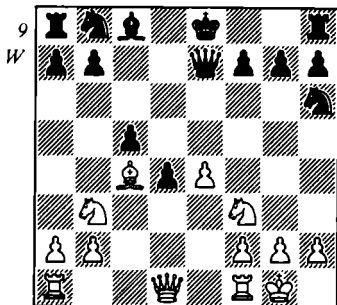
Against 8 ... c5, 9 ♗c1 is a strong reply (but not 9 ♗xc5 because of 9 ... ♙a5+) and now 9 ... ♗d7 10 ♙d5!? ♙e7 11 ♙c2 0-0 12 0-0 with an attack against the pawn on c5.

After 8 ... 0-0 9 0-0 ♙e7 White has the opportunity to play 12 ♙xd4!? ♗c6 11 ♙c5! ♙xc5 12 ♗xc5 ♙a5 13 ♙e2 b6 14 b4 ♗c6 15 ♗d3 with advantage to White in Zilberstein-Bagirov, USSR 1973.

⑨ 0-0

9 ♙xd4 would allow the unpleasant reply 9 ... ♗c6 10 ♙b5 ♗d7.

⑨ ... c5 (9)



This is a problematic position. White is a pawn down but the Black pieces are awkwardly placed and this provides sufficient compensation. Nevertheless, White needs a concrete method of exploiting his initiative, striking at the central pawns and especially at the pawn on c5.

⑩ ♗c1

On 10 ♙d5 there might follow 10 ... ♗d7 11 ♗c1 ♗b8!? and later ... b6, supporting the c5-pawn.

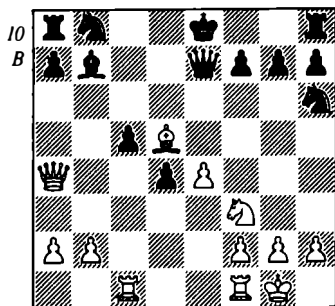
⑩ ... b6

After 10 ... ♗d7 11 e5!? 0-0 12 ♗e1 White has the dangerous threat of 13 e6.

⑪ ♙d5 ♙b7
12 ♗xc5!?

This decision is fully in accordance with the logic of the position. The light square weaknesses and the insecure position of the Black king in the centre gives White sufficient cause to sacrifice a piece.

12 ... bc
13 ♙a4+ (10)



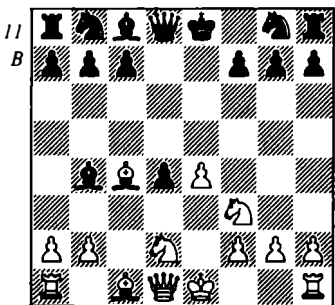
How should Black proceed here?
If 13 ... ♖f8 14 ♜xc5! ♜xc5 15 ♙xb7 with a decisive material advantage. Partos-Miles, Biel 1977, continued 14 ... ♘a6 15 ♜a5 ♘c5!? 16 ♜xc5 ♜xc5 17 ♙xb7 ♜d8 18 ♙d5 ♘f5 19 ♘e5! ♜c7 and now 20 ♘c6! ♜d6 21 ♘d4 ♘d4 22 ♜xd4 gave White two pawns and a superior position for the exchange.

13 ... ♜d7
14 ♜xd7+ ♘xd7
15 ♙xb7

White has recovered his material and retained the better position, Partos-Schmidt, Malta Ol 1980.

A2

6 ♘bd2 (11)

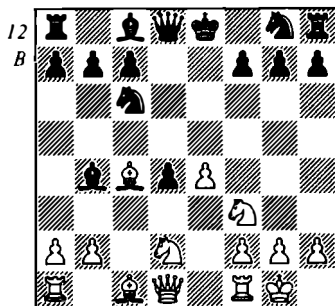


This is a more solid continuation than 6 ♙d2, since Black must do something about the less than ideally placed bishop on b4.

6 ... ♘c6

7 0-0 (12)

7 a3 is less logical. Here Black can play 7 ... ♙xd2+ (on 7 ... ♙e7 White can play 8 b4 ♘f6 9 h3 0-0 10 0-0 with pressure) 8 ♜xd2 ♜f6 9 0-0 ♘ge7 10 b4 (10 ♜f4 ♜xf4 11 ♙xf4 ♙e6 =) 10 ... ♙e6 11 ♙d3 a6 12 ♙b2 0-0 with rough equality in Grigorian-Dorfman, USSR 1975.



Here we examine:

A21 7 ... ♜f6

A22 7 ... ♘f6

a) 7 ... ♙e6 8 ♙xe6 ♜e6 9 ♘b3 ♘f6?! 10 ♘fxd4 ♘xe4 [This variation may be coming back into fashion. 10 ... ♘xd4 was tried in Gurevich-Gurgenidze, Sverdlovsk 1984. After 11 ♘xd4 ♜d7 White played 12 ♘xe6! ♜xe6 13 ♜a4+ ♖f7 14 ♜xb4 ♜xe4 15 ♜b3+!? ♜d5 16 ♜c2, when Black could have equalised with 16 ... c6 17 ♜d1 ♜he8 18 h3 ♜e6, according to Chernin and

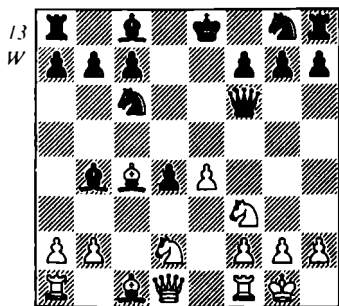
Gurevich. Psakhis-Gurgenidze, same event, was drawn after 15 ♖xe4 ♜xe4 - tr.] 11 ♖h5+ g6 12 ♖g4 ± Miles-Rivas, Montilla 1978.

b) 7 ... ♙xd2 8 ♖xd2 ♜ge7 9 b4 a6 10 ♙b2 ♙e6 11 ♙xe6 fe 12 a4 0-0 13 b5 gave White a lasting initiative in Didishko-Begun, Minsk 1977. At Tilburg 1984 Hübner tried to combine the piece exchange at d2 with the deployment of the bishop at e6: 8 ... ♙e6 9 ♙xe6 fe 10 b4 a6 11 a4 ♜f6 and now Belyavsky went wrong with 12 ♙a3 ♜xe4! 13 ♖d3 ♖d5 14 b5 ab 15 ab ♜d8!. For the rest of the game see page 116.

c) 7 ... ♜h6?! has also been tried but is not good with the bishop still at c1. White obtains an advantage with 8 ♜b3, as was illustrated in Korchnoi-Mestrovic, Sarajevo 1969: 8 ... ♙g4 9 ♙d5! ♜e5 10 ♖xd4 ♜xf3+ 11 gf ♙xf3 12 ♙xh6 ♖d7 13 ♖e5+ 1-0.

A21

7 ... ♖f6 (13)



The idea behind this move is to encourage White to play 8 e5, after which 8 ... ♖g6 leads to complicated play with quite a bit of counterplay for Black, for example 9 ♜h4 ♖g4 10 ♜df3 ♙e6 11 ♙xe6 fe 12 ♖b3 ♜ge7 13 h3 ♖e4 14 ♖xe6 h6!, Yusupov-Mikhalchishin, USSR Ch 1981. However, a recent improvement is 11 h3 ♖e4 12 ♙d3 ♖d5 13 ♜g5 ♙e7 14 ♙e4 ♖d7 15 ♜xe6 ♖xe6 16 ♙xc6+ bc 17 ♖xd4 ♜d8 18 ♖a4 with a dangerous attack for White, Timman-Tal, Candidates' Play-off 1985.

8 ♜b3

This not only places pressure on the pawn on d4, it also underscores the unfortunate position of the bishop on b4.

8 ... ♙g4

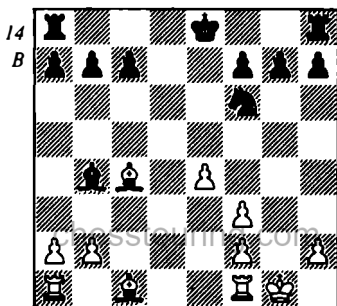
Forcing a series of exchanges.

9 ♜bxd4 ♜xd4

10 ♖xd4 ♙xf3

11 ♖xf6 ♜xf6

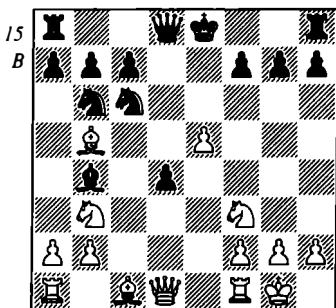
12 gf (14)



The bishop pair in an open position is an advantage. Belyavsky-Chekhov, USSR Ch 1984, went 12 ... ♖d7 13 ♖d1 ♖e5 14 ♙b5+! (eliminating the possibility of a fortress on the dark squares c7, d6, e5, f6) 14 ... c6 15 ♙e2 f6 16 ♙e3 ♗e7 17 f4 ♖g6 18 ♗g2 with advantage to White.

A22

7 ... ♖f6
8 e5 ♖d5
9 ♖b3 ♖b6
10 ♙b5 (15)



The preceding play has been pretty well forced leading up to the diagrammed position, in which it is clear that White has the better chances because of the weakness of the kingside and ineffective placement of the Black pieces on the queenside.

10 ... 0-0

Against the obvious 10 ... ♙d7 White puts Black into a difficult position with 11 ♖bxd4 ♖xd4 12 ♖xd4, since 12 ... ♙xb5 is not on

due to 13 ♖xb5 ♙xd1 14 ♖xd1 and the c7-square is undefended. 12 ... ♙c5 13 e6! ♙xb5 14 ♖xb5 ♙xd1 15 ♖xd1 0-0 16 ♖xc7 ♖ac8 17 ♙f4 ± was seen in Yusupov-Rüfenacht, U-26 Teams Mexico 1980.

[Black has an equalising try in 10 ... ♙d5!, however. After 11 ♖bxd4 ♙d7 12 ♖xc6 he need not concede a slight advantage with 12 ... ♙xc6 13 ♙xd5 ♖xd5 14 ♙xc6+ bc but can choose 12 ... ♙xb5! 13 ♖fd4 ♙c5 14 ♖xb4 ♙xb4 with equality in Nikolić-Matulović, Yugoslavia 1984. It seems that this is the path Black must follow if he wishes to play 7 ... ♖f6, because the text leads to a clear advantage for White - *tr.*]

11 ♙xc6 bc

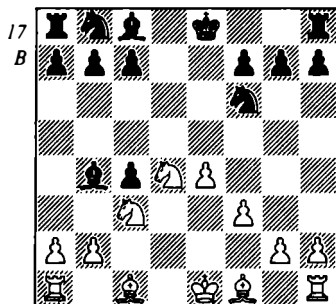
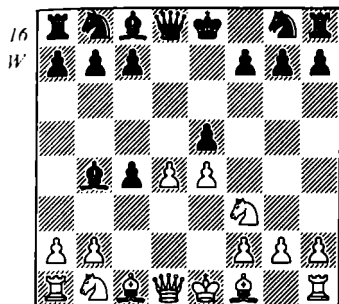
12 ♖bxd4

Black's position is full of holes and this provides White with a clear advantage, e.g. 12 ... ♙d5 13 ♙c2 c5 14 ♖f5 c4 15 ♖e3 ♙d3 16 ♖d1 ♙xc2 17 ♖xc2 (Szabo-Navarovszky, Hungary 1980, or 12 ... c5 13 ♖c6 ♙d7 14 ♖xb4 cb 15 ♙c2 h6 16 ♖d1, Bagirov-Lutikov, Moscow 1979.

B

4 ... ♙b4+ (16)

With this move order White has another option besides interpolations at d2, which generally transpose to the material considered above after Black captures at d4.



But before we consider the interesting move 5 ♖c3, let us look at a few lines with independent significance.

5 ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 6 ♜xd2! (6 ♜bxd2 ed ♙xc4 transposes above) 6 ... ed 7 ♜xd4 ♜xd4 8 ♜xd4 ♙d7 9 ♙xc4 ♜c6 10 ♜xc6 ♙xc6 11 ♜c3 where White's game is slightly freer, Bagirov-Matulović, Titovo Ulice 1978. On 8 ... ♙e6 Kuzminikh's recommendation 9 a3 followed by 0-0-0 deserves consideration, as White's game seems better. 7 ... ♜f6 allows White to obtain the advantage with 8 ♙xc4 ♜c6 9 ♜c3 ♙g4 10 ♙b5 ♙d7 11 0-0 0-0-0 12 ♜e3 ♜b8 13 ♜c3, eyeing the manoeuvre ♜d5, Yusupov-Shirazi, Lone Pine 1981.

- 5 ♜c3 ed
6 ♜xd4 ♜xd4
7 ♜xd4 ♜f6
8 f3 (17)

The opening has steered directly into the endgame, bypassing the

middlegame. White has the better chances because his pieces move more freely and harmoniously, entering the game quickly and comfortably.

8 ... a6

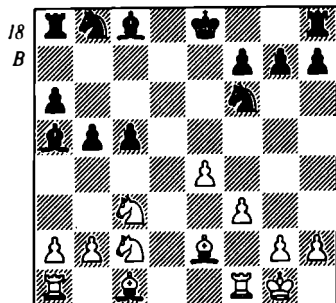
Quiet development with 8 ... ♙d7 9 ♙xc4 ♜c6 10 ♜xc6 ♙xc6 favours White, e.g. 11 ♙f4 ♜d7 12 0-0-0 ♙xc3 13 bc, Karpov-Radulov, Leningrad 1977 or 11 ♙g5 ♜d7 12 0-0-0 f6 13 ♙f4 ♙xc3 14 bc 0-0-0 15 ♜d4, Gulko-Ribli, Nikšić 1978. Again the influence of the bishop pair in the open position is felt.

With the text move Black tries to create counterplay on the queenside.

9 ♙xc4 b5
10 ♙e2

The point of this move is to reserve the c2 square for the knight on d4.

10 ... c5
11 ♜c2 ♙a5
12 0-0 (18)



Other moves have been tried here:

a) 12 ♖d2 ♙e6 13 e5 ♜fd7 14 f4 ♜c6 15 ♙f3 ♞c8 16 ♜e4 ± Rashkovsky-Lerner, Lvov 1981.

b) 12 ♜f2 ♙e6 13 ♙e3 ♜bd7 14

♞hd1 0-0 15 g4 ♞fd8 16 g5 ♜e8 17 ♜d5 ± Azmaiparashvili-Lerner, Beltsi 1981.

In each case White enjoys a significant initiative.

12 ... ♙e6

13 e5 ♙xc3!?

13 ... ♜fd7 is weaker: 14 f4 ♜c6 15 ♙f3 ♞c8 16 ♜e4 0-0 17 ♜d6 gave White a clear advantage in Skembris-Grivas, Greece 1984.

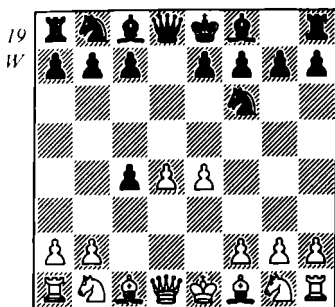
14 bc ♜d5

15 ♙d2

White has the better prospects because he can aim for the advance of his f-pawn. Skembris-Bonsios, Greek Ch 1984.

2 3 e4 ♘f6

- 1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 e4 ♘f6 (19)



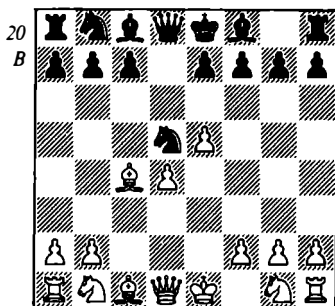
By attacking White's pawn centre Black tries to force the advance of one of the pawns in order to set up a blockade in the centre.

4 e5

The continuation 4 ♘c3 leads, by transposition, to the variation 3 ... e5 4 ♘f3 ♘b4 5 ♘c3, which we have already examined, if the play continues 4 ... e5 5 ♘f3 ed 6 ♗xd4 ♗xd4 7 ♘xd4 ♘b4 8 f3. But Black might consider 7 ... c6, as in Tukmakov-Skembris, Titograd 1982, which saw 8 ♘xc4 ♘b4 9 0-0 (better is 9 f3 preparing to castle

queenside) 9 ... 0-0 10 e5 ♗d8 11 ef ♗xd4 12 ♗e1 ♘d7 13 ♘b3 ♘a6 and the chances were level.

- 4 ... ♘d5
5 ♘xc4 (20)



In this position Black usually moves one of his knights, but 5 ... e6 is also seen from time to time, even though it does limit the scope of the bishop on c8. This defensive approach is usually met by 6 ♘f3 and now:

a) 6 ... c5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 ♘g5 ♘e7 9 ♘xe7 ♗xe7 10 ♘c3 ± Gipslis-Schulte, 1971.

b) 6 ... ♘e7 7 0-0 0-0 8 ♘c3 b6 9 ♗e2 ♘xc3 10 bc ♘b7 ± Kirtsek-Keene, 1978.

In each case White has a lasting initiative.

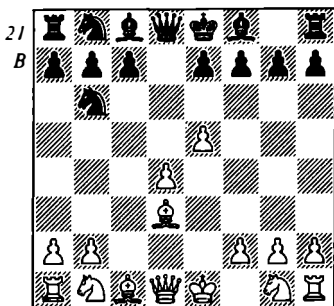
A 5 ... ♖b6

B 5 ... ♖c6

A

5 ... ♖b6

6 ♗d3 (21)



This makes it difficult for Black to develop the bishop on c8. The other continuation, 6 ♗b3, is sharper, but Black has more possibilities: 6 ... ♖c6 and now:

a) 7 ♖e2 ♗f5 8 ♖bc3 e6 9 ♗f4 (9 a3 is more accurate) 9 ... ♖b4! 10 0-0 ♗e7 11 ♗d2 ♖d4 12 ♗e3 0-0 with roughly level chances in Miles-Portisch, Buenos Aires Ol 1978.

b) 7 ♗e3 is an interesting alternative, intending to meet 7 ... ♗f5 with 8 e6!?. Black reacted poorly in Bronstein-Lukin, Yaroslavl Otborochinii 1982: 8 ... ♗xe6 9 ♗xe6 fe 10 ♖c3 ♗d7 11 ♖f3 0-0-0 12 0-0 h6 and now with 13 b4! ♖d5 14 ♖e4 White secured the initiative. The evaluation of White's plan depends on the

continuation 8 ... fe!? after which Black retains excellent chances of a successful defence.

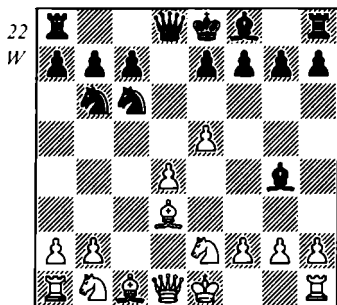
Instead of 6 ... ♖c6, Black can try the immediate 6 ... ♗f5, e.g. 7 ♗f3 e6 8 ♖e2 ♖c6 9 ♗e3 ♖a5 10 ♗d1 ♗d5 with a sufficiently solid position for Black in Fedder-Nikolić, Plovdiv 1983.

6 ... ♖c6

7 ♖e2

White cannot place this knight at f3 because of the pin 7 ... ♗g4.

7 ... ♗g4 (22)



The immediate 7 ... ♗e6 has also been encountered. Korchnoi-Suetin, USSR v Yugoslavia Match Tournament, Budva 1967, continued 8 ♖bc3 ♗d7 9 ♖e4 ♖b4 10 ♗b1 ♗c4 11 ♖c5 and White has dangerous threats. 11 ... ♗xe2 12 ♗xe2 ♗xd4 is not on because of 13 ♗e3 and Black is in deep trouble. In the game White obtained the advantage with 11 ... ♗g4 12 h3 ♗xe2+ 13 ♗xe2 ♗xe2 14 ♗xe2 0-0-0 15 e6.

8 f3 ♖e6

Black cannot play 8 ... ♗h5 because of 9 e6!

9 ♘c3 ♖d7

9 ... ♗d5 is another continuation. After 10 0-0 e6 11 a3 ♖d7 12 b4!? a6 13 ♗e3 ♗e7 14 ♖c2 White retained a significant initiative in Yusupov-Gulko, USSR Ch 1981.

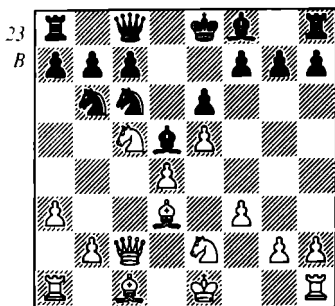
10 ♘e4 ♗d5

11 ♘c5 ♖c8

This is Petrosian's idea. Black cedes c5 to the White knight but gains control of the d5 square.

12 a3 e6

13 ♖c2 (23)



13 b4 would have been premature in view of 13 ... a5!, when 14 b5 is not playable because of 14 ... ♘d4!. Miles-Seirawan, Nikšić 1983, continued 14 ♖b1 ab 15 ab ♗a2! 16 ♖b2 ♗c4 17 0-0 ♗xc5 18 dc ♗xd3 19 ♖xd3 ♘d5 with a better game for Black.

13 ... ♗xc5

14 ♖xc5 ♖d7

15 0-0 ♖e7

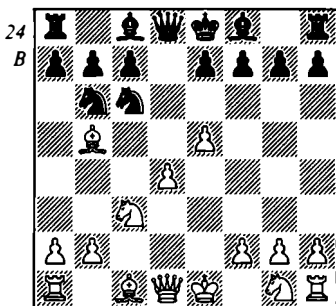
Black has a solid game, Bukić-Petrosian, Banja Luka 1979.
B

5 ... ♘c6

6 ♘c3 ♘b6

6 ... ♗e6 is an alternative here.

7 ♗b5! (24)



After the retreat of the bishop to either d3 or b3 we transpose to material considered above. The text increases his control over the critical central battlefield at e5 and d4.

7 ... ♗d7

8 ♘f3 e6

9 0-0 ♗e7!?

A sharp continuation. Black intends to transfer the knight to f5 where it will attack the d4 square, but this plan leaves him lagging in development.

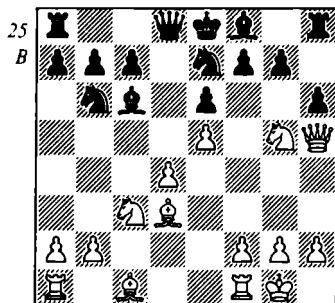
10 ♗d3 ♗c6

11 ♘g5! h6

12 ♖h5 (25)

Belyavsky-Portisch, Thessaloniki

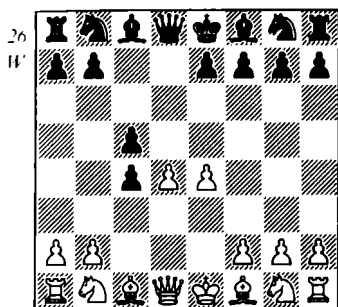
14 3 e4 ♘f6



O1 1984, continued 12 ... g6?! 13 ♘ge4! (threatening 14 ♘f6 mate!) 13 ... ♙g7 14 ♖g4 ♘f5 15 ♙e3 where White, having consolidated his control of d4, could look forward to excellent attacking chances on the kingside. 12 ... hg!? 13 ♖xh8 ♖xd4 would have been more apposite, leading to a position holding chances for both sides.

3 3 e4 c5

- | | | |
|---|----|---------|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 | e4 | c5 (26) |



The attack on the centre by the flank pawn is considered inadequate because of 4 d5 (A), where 4 d3 (B) is less energetic.

- A 4 d5
B 4 d3

A

4 d5

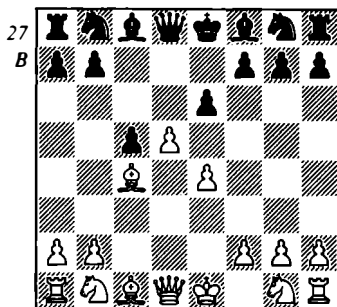
Against this reply Black's natural reaction is to attack the d5 square.

- A1 4 ... e6
A2 4 ... d6

A1

4 ... e6

5 dxc4 (27)



The point of this plan is to recapture at d5 with the bishop. White gets nothing out of 5 d3 ed 6 ed d6 7 dxc4 d6 8 0-0 0-0 = Capablanca-Zubarev, Moscow 1925.

There is, however, an interesting plan for White which was adopted in the game Kuuksmaa-Shranz, corres 1981: 5 d3 ed 6 ed d6 7 dxc4 a6 8 a4 d6?! 9 We2+! We7 (on 9 ... e7 there follows 10 f4! with advantage to White) 10 We7+ xe7 11 g5 f5 12 ge2 bd7 13 g3 g6 14 ge4±. Instead of 8 ... d6 a more solid approach is 8 ... Wc7 and later ... e7 and ... 0-0.

5 ... d6

The position after 5 ... ed 6 $\text{♟}\times\text{d5}$! is clearly better for White thanks to the strong position of the bishop on d5, for example: 6 ... $\text{♞}\text{f6}$? 7 $\text{♟}\times\text{f7}$ +! winning, or 6 ... $\text{♟}\text{d6}$? 7 e5 $\pm$. 6 ... $\text{♞}\text{c7}$ is somewhat better but after 7 $\text{♞}\text{c3}$ $\text{♞}\text{f6}$ 8 $\text{♞}\text{ge2}$ $\text{♟}\text{d6}$ 9 $\text{♟}\text{c4}$! a6 10 f4 b5 11 e5! with a tremendous advantage for White in Rashkovsky-A.Petrosian, USSR 1971.

6 $\text{♞}\text{c3}$ ed
7 $\text{♞}\text{xd5}$ $\text{♞}\text{xd5}$

Obviously not 7 ... $\text{♞}\text{xe4}$ because of 8 $\text{♞}\text{e2}$, winning a piece.

8 $\text{♟}\times\text{d5}$ $\text{♟}\text{e7}$
9 $\text{♞}\text{f3}$ 0-0
10 0-0

White has the more active position and has good prospects in the centre. The weakness of the pawn on c5 also guarantees White an initiative, for example 10 ... $\text{♞}\text{b6}$ 11 $\text{♟}\text{e3}$ $\text{♞}\text{c6}$ 12 $\text{♞}\text{cl}$ $\pm$ Bukić-Kovačević, Tuzla 1981.

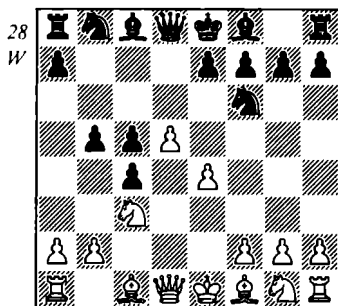
A2

4 ... $\text{♞}\text{f6}$
5 $\text{♞}\text{c3}$

A less logical continuation for White is 5 $\text{♞}\text{a4}$ + $\text{♟}\text{d7}$ 6 $\text{♞}\text{xc4}$ e6! 7 $\text{♞}\text{c3}$ ed 8 ed $\text{♟}\text{d6}$, since the queen stands awkwardly at c4. In the game Vladimirov-Fokin, USSR 1978, Black obtained an advantage after 9 $\text{♟}\text{d3}$?! $\text{♞}\text{e7}$ + 10 $\text{♞}\text{ge2}$ $\text{♞}\text{g4}$! 11 $\text{♟}\text{c2}$ $\text{♞}\text{a6}$ 12 a3 0-0. Better is 9 $\text{♟}\text{e2}$ $\text{♞}\text{a6}$ 10 $\text{♞}\text{f3}$ $\text{♞}\text{c7}$ 11 a4 a6 12 a5 $\text{♟}\text{b5}$ with sufficient counterplay

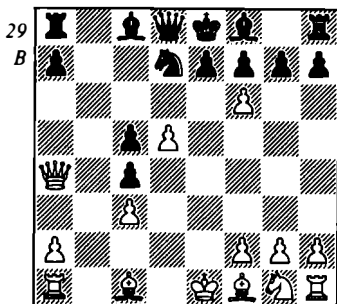
for Black.

5 ... b5 (28)



Here is where Black's counterplay lies in this variation. On 6 $\text{♞}\text{xb5}$ there follows 6 ... $\text{♞}\text{a5}$ + 7 $\text{♞}\text{c3}$ $\text{♞}\text{xe4}$ 8 $\text{♞}\text{f3}$ $\text{♞}\text{d6}$ 9 $\text{♟}\text{f4}$ $\text{♞}\text{d7}$ with a roughly level game in Furman-Birkan, USSR 1967.

6 e5 b4
7 ef bc
8 bc $\text{♞}\text{d7}$?
9 $\text{♞}\text{a4}$ (29)



The captures at e7 and g7 lead to an open position, which favours Black since he is leading in development.

9 ... ef

Another possibility is 9 ... gf 10 ♟f4 ♞b6 11 ♜xc4 ♟g7 12 $\text{♜b5!?$ c5 13 de ♞xe6+ 14 ♜e2 0-0 15 0-0 which leads to a clear edge for White, Zilberstein-Anikayev, USSR 1974.

10 $\text{♟f4!?$

This prevents Black from setting up a blockade of the d-pawn.

10 ... ♞b6 11 ♜xc4 ♟d6 12 ♜e2 0-0

13 -0-0

White has the more comfortable game, Rashkovsky-Grigorian, Moscow 1973.

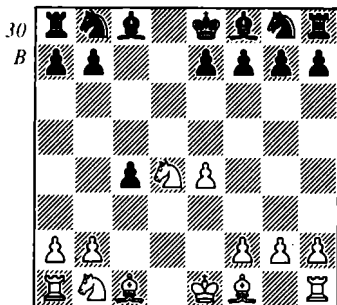
B

4 ♜f3 cd5 ♞xd4

Simplification does not promise White any advantage. In this connection there is a pawn sacrifice which comes into consideration: 5 ♜xc4 ♜c6 6 0-0. After 6 ... e5 7 ♜g5 ♜h6 8 f4 White has a definite initiative for the pawn. In the game Bašagić-Mihalchishin, Yugoslavia 1978, Black continued 6 ... e6 and after 7 ♜bd2 g6?! 8 e5 ♟g7 9 ♞el ♞c7 10 ♜e4 ♜xe5 11 ♟f4 ♜xf3+ 12 ♞xf3 White obtained a dangerous initiative in return for the pawn.

After 6 ... g6 7 e5!? ♟g7 8 ♞el White has active play for the pawn. Haik-Radulov, Smederevska Palanka 1982, continued 8 ... e6 9

♟f4 ♜ge7 10 ♜bd2 0-0 11 ♜e4 ♜h8 12 ♞d2 ♞a5 13 ♞ad1 .

5 ... ♞xd4 6 ♜xd4 (30)

Now Black can choose between:

B1 6 ... ♟d7

B2 6 ... a6

B1

6 ... ♟d7 7 ♜xc4 ♜c6 8 ♜xc6

Another path to equality was explored in Yudovich-Rauzer, USSR Ch 1937: 8 ♟e3 ♜f6 9 f3 e6 10 ♜d2 ♟c5 11 ♜2b3 $\text{♟b6} =$.

8 ... ♜xc6 9 ♜c3 e6

A dubious alternative is 9 ... e5 10 0-0 ♟c5 11 ♜b5 ♟xb5 12 ♟xb5+ ♜e7 with some advantage for White, Szabo-Rukavina, Sochi 1973.

10 ♜b5 ♟b4+
11 ♜e2 ♜e7

The game is level, Ghitescu-Smyslov, Hamburg 1965.

B2

6 ... a6
 7 ♖xc4 e6
 8 ♖e3 ♖c5

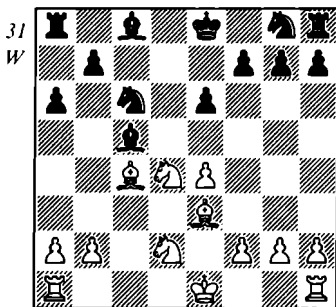
Both sides are experiencing some difficulties with the deployment of their kingside knights, in part because all of the action is on the queenside. So 8 ... ♖f6 turns out to be premature after 9 f3!: 9 ... ♖c5 10 ♖f2 b5 11 ♖e2 ♖b7 12 ♖b3!? (also strong is 12 ♖d2, Partos-Fichtl, Bucharest 1972) 12 ... ♖xe3+ 13 ♖xe3 ♖c6 14 ♖c5 ♖a7 15 ♖c1 ♖a8 16 a4 with a strong initiative for White on the queenside in Browne-Radulov, Indonesia 1982.

9 ♖d2

9 ♖xe6 doesn't work because of 9 ... ♖xe6! 10 ♖xc5 ♖xc4 or 10 ♖xe6 ♖xe3.

A playable alternative is 9 ♖c3 ♖c6 10 ♖d1 ♖xd4 11 ♖xd4 ♖xd4 12 ♖xd4 ♖e7 13 0-0 ♖c6 with a minimal advantage for White, Plachetka-Radulov, Malta OI 1980.

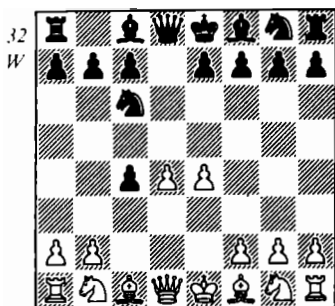
9 ... ♖c6 (31)



White must make a choice between the solid 10 ♖2b3, with a slight advantage, or the sharper 10 ♖xe6!? ♖xe3 (here 10 ... ♖xe6? doesn't work because the bishop on c4 is defended) 11 ♖c7+ ♖d8 12 ♖xa8 ♖a7. Notwithstanding the material advantage, White must play with precision, since the knight on a8 is in a precarious position. But 13 ♖d5! ♖e7 14 ♖xc6 bc 15 ♖c4 resolves all of the problems and guarantees White's advantage – Ornstein-Radulov, Pamporovo 1981.

4 3 e4 ♘c6

- | | | |
|---|----|----------|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 | e4 | ♘c6 (32) |



This is not an adequate continuation for the second player since the plan involving the attack against the d4 square never reaches its goal.

4 ♗f3

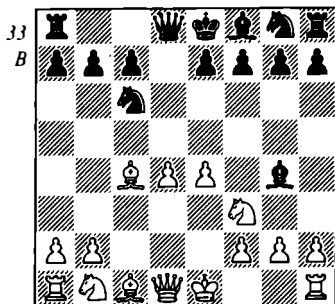
4 d5 ♘e5 5 ♗f4 ♘g6 6 ♗g3!? is fully playable (less energetic is 6 ♗e3, where Black can achieve a solid position with 6 ... ♘f6 7 ♘c3 e6 8 ♗xc4 ed 9 ♗xd5 ♘xd5 10 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 11 ♘xd5 ♗d6 and Black has even chances in the simplified position) 6 ... ♘f6 7

♘c3 e6 8 ♗xc4 ed 9 ed ♗d6 10 ♗b5+!. This is a strong continuation, the point being that on 10 ... ♗d7 there follows 11 ♗xd6 cd 12 ♗e2+ ♗e7 13 0-0-0 with advantage to White. 10 ... ♗f8 11 ♘f3 a6 12 ♗e2 was played in Tukmakov-Kupreichik, USSR 1982, where Black adopted a risky plan of going after the pawn on d4: 12 ... b5 13 ♘d4 b4, but after 14 ♘c6 ♗d7 15 ♘a4 White had a clear advantage.

4 ♗e3 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘g4 6 ♗xc4 ♘xe3 7 fe is also seen. After 7 ... e6 8 ♘f3 ♗e7 9 0-0 0-0 10 e5! a6 11 ♗c1 ♗d7 12 ♗d3 White stands better because of his strong pawn centre, Bagirov-Dobrovolsky, Stary Smokovec 1981. Much stronger is 7 ... e5! D.Gurevich-Kovačević, Hastings 1982-3, saw 8 ♗h5 g6 9 ♗f3 f6 10 ♘ge2 ♘a5 11 ♗b5+ c6 12 de fe 13 0-0 ♗e6 14 ♗ad1 ♗g5 15 ♗d5!? ♗h6!? with a very complicated position.

4 ... ♗g4

5 ♗xc4 (33)



This seems to be the most active move, but there are other playable continuations:

a) 5 ♖e3 ♘f6 (a more appropriate plan is 5 ... ♖xf3 6 gf e5!? 7 d5 ♘ce7 8 ♖xc4 a6 and then 9 ... ♘g6 and 10 ... ♖d6 with a solid position) 6 ♘c3 e5 (after 6 ... e6 7 ♖xc4 ♖b4 8 ♖c2 0-0 9 ♖d1 White has much the freer game) 7 d5 ♖xf3 8 gf ♘e7 9 ♖xc4 a6 10 a4, Cebalo-Marjanović, Yugoslav Ch 1984, and now 10 ... ♘c8 would have been correct, keeping in mind the transfer of the knight to d6, after which Black can count on achieving an equal game.

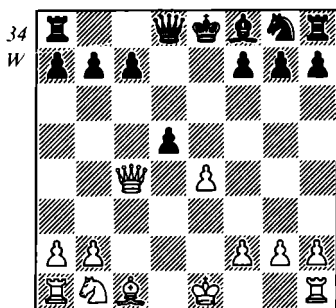
b) 5 d5 ♘e5 6 ♖f4 ♘g6 7 ♖e3 (or 7 ♖g3 e5! 8 ♖xc4 ♖d6 9 ♖b3 ♘f6 10 ♖b5+ ♘f8 11 ♘fd2 ♘h5 12 ♘c3 ♘hf4 with a complicated game in Mikhalchishin-Vorotnikov, USSR 1981) 7 ... e5 8 ♖xc4 ♘h4 9 0-0 ♘xf3+ 10 gf ♖d7 11 f4 ♖f6 12 ♖h5 ef 13 e5 ♖g6+ with a sharp game in Epishin-Karasev, Leningrad

1984.

5 ... ♖xf3
6 ♖xf3 e6
7 d5

The pawn sacrifice 7 ♖b5 ♖xd4 8 0-0 turns out to be unjustified after 8 ... ♖d6 9 ♘c3 ♘e7 10 ♖e3 ♖e5 with an extra pawn and a solid position for Black in Peshina-Vorotnikov, Moscow 1979.

7 ... ♘e5
8 ♖e2 ♘xc4
9 ♖xc4 ed (34)



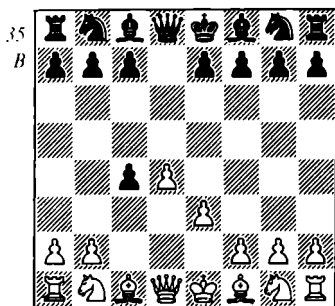
This is the critical position for the variation. In Inkirov-Kupreichik, Minsk 1982, White achieved only a symbolic advantage after 10 ♖b5+ c6 11 ♖xb7 ♖c8 12 ♖xc8 ♖xc8 13 ed ♖b4+ 14 ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 15 ♘xd2 cd.

10 ed ♖d6
11 0-0

White has the freer position and after ♘c3 and ♖f4 he can place his rooks in the centre and develop a significant initiative.

5 3 e3

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 e3 (35)



This is a rather unambitious continuation, but one which can still deliver an advantage to White. White intends to win back his pawn but he doesn't wish to allow the pin of a knight at f3 by ... ♗g4. The drawback is that Black can carry out ... e5 quickly.

3 ... e5

This is the most principled continuation. 3 ... ♗f6 4 ♗xc4 g6 allows White to develop under favourable circumstances with 5

♖b3! e6 6 ♗c3, where the weakness of the dark squares in the opposing camp allows White to set up an attack on the kingside, for example 6 ... ♗g7 7 ♖a3 ♗f8 8 ♖a4+ c6 9 ♖c2 ♗g7 10 ♗f3 ♗d5 11 h4 h6 12 e4 ♗xc3 13 bcc5 14 0-0 with an initiative for White, Sveshnikov-Dorfman, USSR Ch 1981. 4 ... e6 5 ♗f3 would lead to the continuations discussed under 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 e3 e6.

4 ♗xc4

4 de ♖xd1+ 5 ♗xd1 allows Black to choose between the solid 5 ... ♗e6 and the sharper 5 ... ♗c6 6 f4 f6!.

4 ... ed

5 ed

The *zwischenzug* 5 ♖b3 is parried by 5 ... ♖e7 with the threat of 6 ... ♖b4+. After 6 a3 ♗d7 7 ♗f3 ♗b6 8 ♗xd4 ♗xc4 9 ♖xc4 ♖c5 Black has equalised.

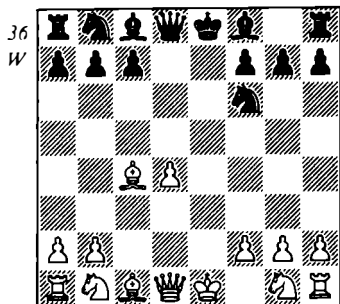
Here Black must make a choice between:

A 5 ... ♗f6

B 5 ... ♗b4+

A

5 ... ♖f6 (36)



Here White can adopt the ordinary move or play something a bit more in keeping with the spirit of the position.

A1 6 ♖f3

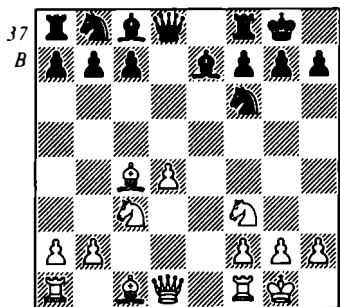
A2 6 ♗b3!?

A1

6 ♖f3 ♔e7

7 0-0 0-0

8 ♖c3!? (37)



At one time 8 h3 was considered obligatory in order to forestall 8 ... ♔g4. But the loss of time in the opening is not an aid toward

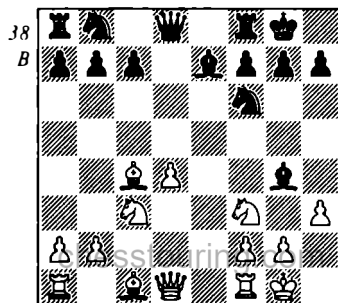
the achievement of favourable results. Black experiences no difficulties after 8 ... ♖bd7 9 ♖c3 ♖b6 10 ♔b3, e.g. 10 ... ♖bd5 11 ♗e1 c6 12 ♔g5 ♔e6 13 ♖e5 ♖c7 14 ♔c2 ♗e8, Razuvayev-Bagirov, Yaroslavl Otborochinii 1982, or 10 ... c6 11 ♗e1 ♖fd5 12 ♖e4 ♗e8 13 ♔d2 ♔f5 14 ♖g3 ♔e6, Timman-Panno, Mar del Plata 1982.

8 ... ♔g4

Black can try the same approach with 8 ... ♖bd7 9 ♔b3 ♖b6 10 ♗e1 c6, but then White, having avoided the waste of time on his eighth turn, can continue, for example, with 11 ♔g5 ♖bd5 12 ♖xd5 cd 13 ♖e5 ♔e6 14 ♖d3 with a better game, Browne-Petrosian, Las Palmas IZ 1982.

8 ... ♖c6 is an interesting alternative, keeping open the possibility of ... ♔g4. White should play 9 h3!, interfering with Black's co-ordination.

9 h3 (38)



9 ... ♔h5

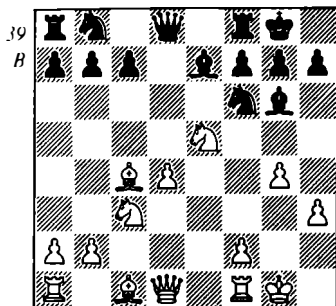
9 ... ♖xf3 10 ♜xf3 ♜c6 11 ♖e3
 ♜xd4 12 ♜xb7 c5 is inadequate
 for Black because of 13 ♖xd4! cd
 14 ♖ad1, as in Zaichik-Karpeshov,
 Volgodonsk 1983, where White
 got an initiative after 14 ... ♖c8
 15 ♖b3 ♖c7 16 ♜f3 ♖d7 17 ♜e2.
 The pawn on d4 is under fire.

10 g4

Forced – Black threatened 10 ...
10 ... ♖c6 seizing the initiative.

10 ... Ag6

11 **♖e5 (39)**



A principled decision, directed against ... ♖c6. After 11 ♖e1 ♖c6 12 ♙g5, 12 ... ♜d5!? comes into consideration. Black will receive sufficient compensation, in the form of an initiative, after 13 ♜xd5 ♙xg5 14 ♜xc7 ♜xc7 15 ♜xg5 ♞ad8! or 14 ♜xg5 ♜xg5 15 ♜xc7 ♞ad8! On 13 ♙xe7 ♜cxe7 14 ♜e5 we reach a position from the game Hübner-P.Nikolić, Wijk aan Zee 1984, where after 14 ... c6 15 ♜f3 ♜h8 16 h4 f6 17 ♜xg6+ ♜xg6 Black had sufficient counter-play thanks to the weakness of the

dark squares in the opposing camp.

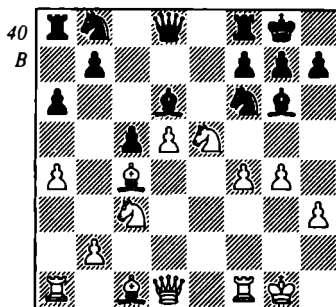
11 ... c5

11 ... c6 is too passive: 12 f4
b5 13 ♖b3 a5 14 f5! with significant
threats in Henley-Dlugy, USA
1983.

12 d5 ♖d6

13 f4 a6

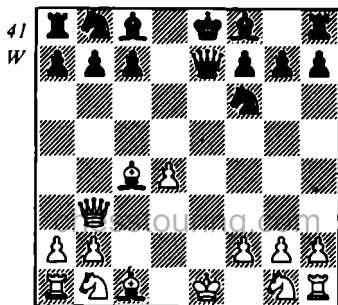
14 a4 (40)



White's position is more active.
After the inaccurate 14 ... ♖fd7
White obtained a big advantage
with 15 ♖xg6 hg 16 ♖e4. 14 ...
♞e8 is more solid and leads to
complicated play.

A2

6 ♠b3 ♠e7+ (41)



This is the only defence. Black has in mind the manoeuvre ... ♖b4+ with the exchange of queens.

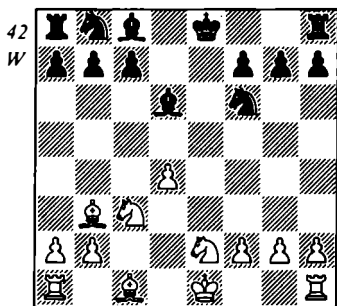
7 ♖e2

There are alternatives here:

a) 7 ♖e3 has commanded attention as a result of 7 ... ♖b4+ 8 ♖c3 ♖xb3 9 ♖xb3, intending to continue with ♖f3, 0-0-0 and later ♖he1 with pressure in the centre. In Plaskett-Lukin, Plovdiv 1984, Black decided not to exchange queens and continued 7 ... g6 8 ♖f3 ♖g7 9 0-0 0-0 which brought a significant advantage to White after 10 ♖e1 ♖c6 11 ♖d2 ♖d8 12 d5! ♖e7 13 ♖b4 ♖fxd5 14 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 15 ♖xf8 ♖xf8 16 ♖c3.

b) We must take note of an attempt by White to avoid the exchange of queens by playing 7 ♖f1 g6 8 ♖c3 ♖g7 9 ♖g5 0-0 10 ♖d5 ♖d8 11 ♖e1 ♖c6 12 ♖f3 ♖e6 with a fully playable game, Vaganian-Klovan, USSR Ch 1968.

7 ... ♖b4+
8 ♖c3 ♖xb3
9 ♖xb3 ♖d6 (42)



9 ... ♖e6 is dubious because of 10 d5! (the most logical reaction) 10 ... ♖d7 11 ♖g5 ♖e7 12 0-0-0 ♖a6 13 ♖he1 0-0-0 14 ♖g3 ♖he8 15 ♖h5 with an initiative for White in Gorelov-Lukin, Telavi 1982.

10 0-0

10 ♖b5 ♖e6 11 ♖f4 ♖xf4 12 ♖xe6 achieves nothing against 12 ... a6! with complications which turned out favourably for Black in Janošević-Matulović, Birmingham 1975.

10 ... a6
11 ♖g3 ♖c6!?
12 ♖e1 ♖f8

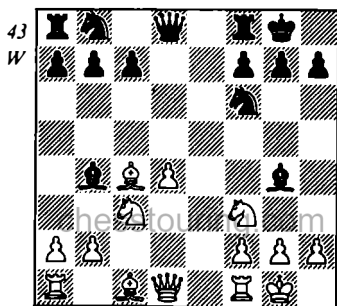
Black has sufficient counterplay. Play might continue 13 ♖ge4 ♖xe4 14 ♖xe4 ♖b4 = Wirthensohn-Miles, Biel 1977.

B

5 ... ♖b4+

This is a relatively uninvestigated continuation.

6 ♖c3 ♖f6
7 ♖f3 0-0
8 0-0 ♖g4 (43)



This position differs from the analogous 5 ... ♖f6 6 ♖f3 ♙e7 in terms of the placement of the dark-squared bishop.

9 a3

The alternatives do not succeed in bringing an advantage to White:

a) 9 ♙g5 ♜c6! 10 ♜d5 ♙e7 11 ♜xe7+ ♜xe7 12 ♙d5!? h6 13 ♙h4 ♜d6! 14 ♙xc6 ♜xc6 15 ♜e5 ♙xd1 16 ♜xc6 bc 17 ♙xf6 ♙e2 and the bishops of opposite colour point to the drawing nature of the forced variation, Rajković-Matulović, Yugoslavia 1983.

b) 9 ♜b3 ♙xf3 10 ♜xb4 ♜c6! 11 ♜a4 ♙d5 12 ♙e2 ♜d6 with an even game (½-½ Spassov-Matulović, Vrnjacka Banja 1984).

The text is the move which makes life less pleasant for Black. The withdrawal of the bishop to e7 would lead to the positions of the variation 5 ... ♖f6 6 ♖f3 ♙e7 with an extra tempo for White, invested in the move a3.

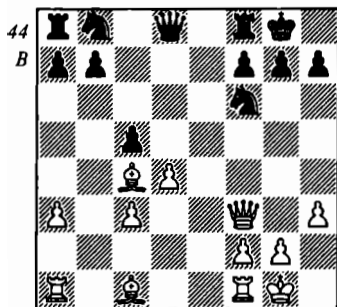
9 ... ♙xc3

On 9 ... ♙d6 White can play 10 h3 ♙h5 11 g4 ♙g6 12 ♜e5 and if 12 ... c5, then 13 ♜b5 ♜c6 14 ♙f4 with a sharp initiative.

10 bc c5
11 h3!

This forces Black to make up his mind concerning the fate of the bishop on g4. If it travels back along the h3-c8 diagonal then White will play 12 ♜e5, while if 11 ... ♙h5 then 12 g4 ♙g6 13 ♜e5 ♜bd7 14 ♜xg6 hg 15 ♜d3 proves unpleasant because of pressure along the light squares.

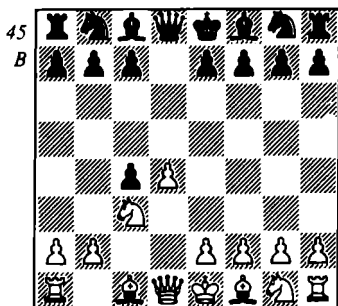
11 ... ♙xf3
12 ♜xf3 (44)



This is the critical position of the variation. Once again White has achieved the bishop pair in the open position which must surely favour his chances. Play might continue 12 ... cd 13 ♜xb7 ♜bd7 14 cd ♜b6 15 ♙a2 ♜xd4 16 ♙e3 ± Korchnoi-Matulović, Volmac v Partizan, 1984.

6 3 ♘c3

- 1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♘c3 (45)



As a rule this continuation transposes after 3 ... e5 4 e3 ed 5 ed ♘f6 to the variation 3 e3. Instead 4 d5 gave Black a good game after 4 ... f5 5 e4 ♘f6 6 ♙xc4 ♙d6 7 ♙g5 h6 8 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 9 ♘ge2 f4! in the game Sabedinsky-Bagirov, Wrocław 1975.

- 3 ... a6!?

A new and promising continuation. For 3 ... e5 see Vaganian-Hübner, page 115.

- 4 e3

After 4 ♘f3 b5!? 5 a4 b4 6 ♘e4 ♘d7 7 ♘ed2 c3 8 bc bc 9 ♘e4 ♘gf6 10 ♘xc3 e6 11 e3 Black could play ... c5! with good chances for

equality (see Karpov-Portisch, Tilburg 1983, page 119).

- 4 ... ♘f6

Or 4 ... b5 5 a4 b4 6 ♘a2 winning back the pawn with advantage.

- 5 ♙xc4 b5
6 ♙d3 ♙b7
7 ♘f3

7 f3 is doubtful and after 7 ... e6 8 ♘ge2 c5! 9 0-0 ♘bd7 10 a4 c4 11 ♙c2 b4 12 ♘e4 a5 13 ♘f4 ♙b6 Black had some initiative, Josteinsson-Briem, Reykjavik 1982.

- 7 ... e6
8 ♙c2!?

This move is intended to prevent 8 ... e5 and prepare e4.

- 8 ... ♘bd7
9 a4

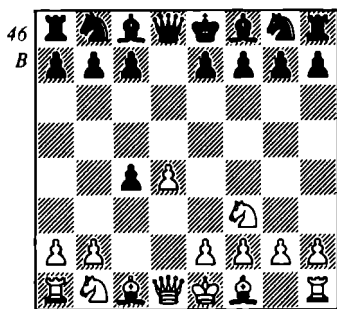
Otherwise after 9 ... c5 Black has sufficient counterplay.

- 9 ... b4
10 ♘e4 c5!?

This move equalises. A possible continuation is 11 ♘xf6+ ♘xf6 12 dc (the main line) 12 ... ♙c7 13 e4 ♙xc5 14 0-0 b3 0-0 16 ♙b2 ♙d6 and Black had a safe position in Timman-Nikolić, Wijk aan Zee 1982.

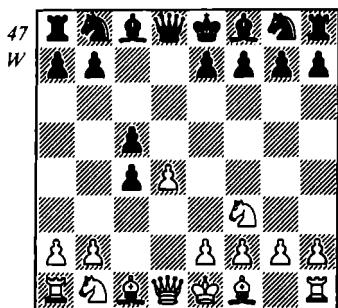
PART TWO

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♞f3



7 3 ... c5

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 f3 c5 (47)



This plan involves an active struggle against the white pawn centre. This counterattack has not been sufficiently prepared, however, as Black has not yet attended to his development. There are three replies for White:

A 4 d5

B 4 e3

4 e4 transposes into variation B of Chapter 3.

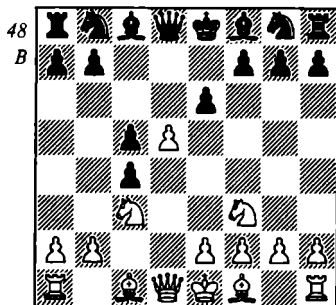
A

4 d5 e6

This move can also be played after 4 ... f6 5 c3 f5,

preventing White from playing e4, e.g. 6 e3 e6 7 xc4 ed 8 xd5 d6 9 xf6+ xf6 with a comfortable game for Black in Loginov-Lukin, Yaroslavl Otborochinii 1982. But White can play 6 b3!? cb 7 xb3 with 8 e4 to follow, with a strong initiative.

5 c3 (48)



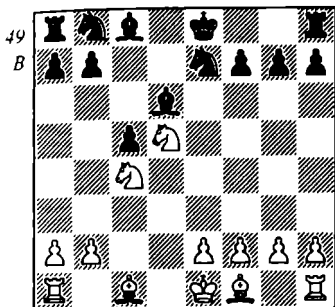
Alternatively, White can play 5 e4, yielding a good game after 5 ... ed 6 ed d6 7 xc4 de7 8 0-0 0-0 9 c3 g4 when he has an advantage in the centre.

5 ... ed

6 xd5!?

An important decision which forces an endgame with better chances for White.

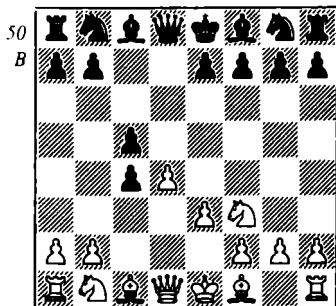
- 6 ... ♖xd5
 7 ♜xd5 ♙d6
 8 ♜d2 ♜e7
 9 ♜xc4 (49)



After the forced exchanges 9 ... ♜xd5 10 ♜xd6+ ♜e7 11 ♜xc8+ ♜xc8 12 ♙g5+ we once again have a position where White owns the bishop pair in an open position, but here there is the added bonus of the weak pawn at c5. A recent example is 12 ... f6 13 0-0-0 ♜d8 14 e4 fg 15 ed ♜d7 16 h4 g4 17 ♙d3 ♜f6 ♝ Ribli-Seirawan, Montpellier 1985.

B

4 e3 (50)



This is a quiet variation. White does not try to refute 3 ... c5, and does not try to avoid transposition into the main lines which arise after 3 ... ♜f6 4 e3 e6.

4 ... cd

After 4 ... e6 5 ♙xc4 Black can return to the main lines with 5 ... ♜f6, but 5 ... a6 also comes into consideration, for example 6 dc ♖xd1+ 7 ♜xd1 ♙xc5 8 a3 b5 9 ♙d3 ♙b7 10 b4 ♙e7 11 ♙b2 ♙f6 12 ♙xf6 ♜xf6 13 ♜e2 ♜e7 14 ♜cl ½-½ O.Rodriguez-Radulov, Indonesia 1982.

5 ♙xc4!?

This is the continuation which brings independent significance to 4 e3. 5 ed would return to main lines with a favourable position for White.

5 ... ♖c7

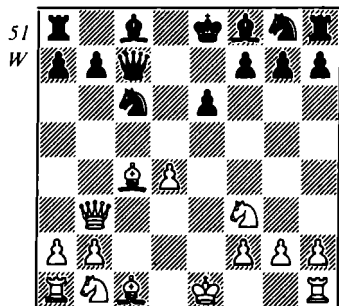
Not 5 ... de?? 6 ♙xf7+, but a playable alternative is 5 ... e6 to which White may react with 6 ♜xd4 or 6 ed.

6 ♖b3 e6

7 ed

7 ♜xd4 a6 8 ♜c3 deserves attention, seeking to create pressure along the c- and d-files. But Black has adequate means at his disposal to achieve equality, for example 8 ... ♜f6 9 ♙d2 ♙d7 10 ♜cl ♜c6 11 ♙e2 ♜xd4 12 ed ♙c6 = Gaprindashvili-Levitina, match 1983.

7 ... ♜c6 (51)



An obvious move, threatening 8 ... ♖a5. Weaker is 7 ... ♜f6 8 ♜c3 a6 9 0-0 ♜c6. Now White can play 10 ♙d3 ♙e7 11 ♙e3, since 11 ... ♜b4 allows White to win material: 12 ♜ac1 ♜d6 13 ♙b5+! ab 14 ♜xb5 ♜d8 15 ♜c7+, Lputian-Lukin, Telavi 1982.

8 ♜d1

White cannot play 8 ♙d3 because the bishop on c1 is undefended. 8 ♜c3 looks natural, intending 8 ... ♜a5 9 ♙b5+ ♙d7 10 ♙xd7+ ♜xd7 11 ♜d1 ±. But Black can play 8 ... ♙b4 with the idea of capturing at c3, playing ... ♜a5 and then working on the weakness at c4.

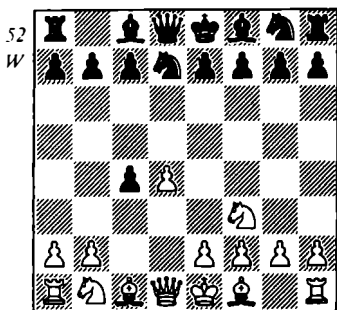
8 ... ♙b4+

9 ♜c3 ♙d7

Here Black manages to carry out his plan: 10 0-0 ♙xc3 11 bc ♜a5 12 ♙d3 ♜f6 and after the exchange of light-squared bishops the knight will be solidly entrenched at c4, Timoschenko-Lputian, Pavlodar 1982.

8 3 ... ♘d7

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♟f3 ♟d7 (52)



This is not a very popular idea. Black intends to try and hold on to his pawn on c4 by playing ... ♟b6. The loss of time involved allows White to build a strong initiative. As in many other systems we have been examining, White can choose to advance his e-pawn one square or two. Other continuations are less frequently encountered:

a) 4 ♖a4 has been tried, by analogy with the variation 3 ♟f3 ♟f6 4 ♖a4+ ♟bd7. Black is best advised to accept the transposition, playing

4 ... ♟f6, since 4 ... a6 5 ♜xc4 b5 6 ♜c6 ♟b8 fails to 7 ♟f4!.

b) 4 ♟bd2 is a passive continuation: 4 ... b5! 5 b3 c3 6 ♟b1 b4 keeps the pawn after 7 a3 c5! 8 dc ♟xc5 9 ♜c2 ♟e6 10 e3 a5 ± Borisenko-Dorfman, Chelyabinsk 1975.

c) 4 ♟c3 ♟b6 5 ♟e5 g6 6 ♟xc4 ♟g7 7 ♟xb6 ab 8 ♟f4 c6 9 e3 ♟f6 10 ♟e5 0-0 11 ♟e2 b5 12 a4 with some advantage for White, Mishkov-Godes, USSR 1982.

A 4 e3

B 4 e4

A

4 e3 ♟b6

4 ... b5 is a mistake: 5 a4 c6 6 ab cb 7 b3 ♟b6 8 ♟a3! and the queenside pawns are indefensible, Lubienski-Zpekak, Czechoslovakia 1976.

5 ♟bd2

The variation 5 ♟xc4 ♟xc4 6 ♜a4+ regains the pawn but at the cost of the bishop pair. Nevertheless it is fully playable for White, since Black will experience difficulty in

completing his development because of the looming threat of ♖e5, e.g. 6 ... ♖d7 7 ♖xc4 f6 8 ♖c3 e6 9 e4 a6 10 ♖f4 c6 11 0-0-0 with a freer game for White in Gaprindashvili-Lemachko, Jajce 1982.

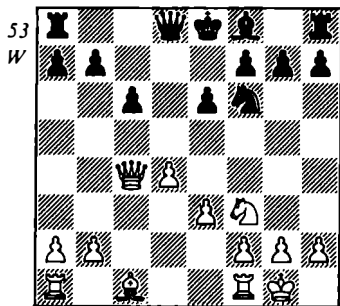
5 ... ♖e6

In this move lies the point of Black's defensive strategy. It is not easy to win back the pawn on c4, for example 6 ♖g5 ♖d5 7 e4 e6! 8 ed ♖xg5 9 de 0-0-0 10 ef ♖h6 11 ♖f3 ♖g6 and after the material has been regained Black obtains an excellent game, Nikolac-Kovačević, Yugoslavia 1976.

6 ♖c2

Not 6 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 7 ♖a4+ ♖d7 and White loses a piece.

6 ... ♖f6
7 ♖xc4 ♖xc4
8 ♖xc4 ♖xc4
9 ♖xc4 c6
10 0-0 e6 (53)

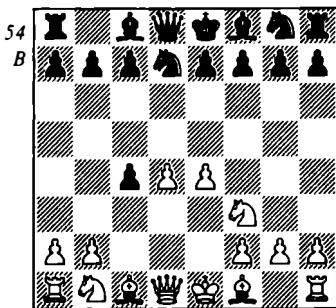


White has achieved material equilibrium and has the freer game. Still, there are no weaknesses in

Black's position and White will not find it easy to convert his slight advantage into something more significant. White managed to establish a small initiative in Lukacs-Kovačević, Tuzla 1981, after 11 ♖d2 ♖d5 12 ♖fcl ♖e4 13 ♖el ♖d6 14 b4 0-0.

B

4 e4 (54)



White tries to establish his position in the centre and only then to regain his pawn.

4 ... ♖b6

5 ♖e5

a) 5 a4 a5 has been interpolated. After 6 ♖e5 ♖f6 7 ♖c3 Gavrikov-Gulko, USSR Ch 1981, saw Black adopt a promising plan of defence: 7 ... ♖f6d7 8 ♖xc4 g6 9 ♖e3 c6 10 ♖d2 ♖g7 11 ♖h6 0-0 12 ♖d1 ♖xc4 13 ♖xc4, where now he could have played 13 ... ♖xh6 14 ♖xh6 ♖b6 with sufficient chances.
b) Black achieves a comfortable game after 5 ♖c3 ♖g4 6 ♖e2 e6 7 0-0 ♖f6, e.g. 8 ♖e3 ♖b4 9 ♖c2

♙xc3 10 bc h6 11 ♙cl 0-0 12
 ♙a3 ♖e8 13 ♜e5 ♙xe2 14 ♖xe2
 ♜fd7 with equality in Grigorian-
 Skvortsov, Moscow 1981.

c) 5 h3 is inadequate. It prevents ...
 ♙g4, but costs too much time: 5 ...
 ♜f6 6 ♜c3 e6 7 ♙xc4?! ♜xc4 8
 ♖a4+ c6 9 ♖xc4 b5! 10 ♖xc6+
 ♙d7 11 ♖a6 b4 12 ♜b5 ♖b8 and
 White found himself in a difficult
 position because of his wayward
 queen in Zilberman-Bodes, Chel-

yabinsk 1975.

5 ... ♜f6

6 ♜c3 e6

6 ... ♜fd7 also comes into con-
 sideration by analogy with the
 game Gavrikov-Gulko, examined
 above.

7 ♜xc4 ♙b4

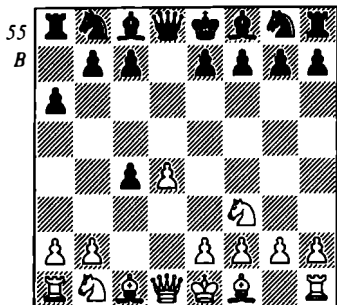
8 f3 0-0

9 ♙e3

White has the better chances
 due to his strong pawn centre.

9 3 ... a6

- 1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♖f3 a6 (55)



This is an idea which is used in many variations of the Queen's Gambit Accepted. By playing it at his third turn Black hopes to force White to disclose his plans early in the game, so that he can organize his defences properly. At the same time Black "threatens" to play ... b5, defending the pawn on c4.

White has two major plans at his disposal, the first directed towards preventing ... b5, the latter involving the immediate occupation of the centre.

A 4 a4

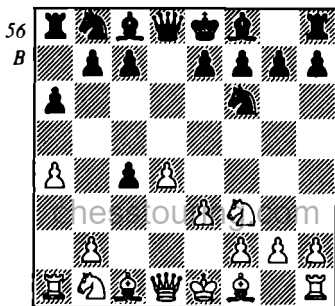
B 4 e4

[4 e3 is also seen. Naturally,

play can transpose to variations considered elsewhere but there were interesting developments in Speelman-Vorotnikov, Leningrad 1984: 4 ... ♗g4 5 ♗xc4 e6 6 ♗e2!? ♖f6 7 0-0 c5 8 b3 ♖c6 9 ♗b2 ♞c8 10 ♖bd2 ♗e7 11 dc ♗xc5 12 ♞cl ♗e7! 13 ♖c4 0-0 with roughly level chances. Speelman-Timman, London 1984, saw instead 9 ... ♗e7?! 10 ♖bd2 0-0 11 ♞cl with a slight edge for White. According to Speelman, Black might try to strike at the centre with 6 ... c5, delaying the development of the knight on g8 – *tr.*]

A

- 4 a4 ♖f6
5 e3 (56)



5 ♖c3 is also playable, leading to positions discussed below after 5 ... ♗f5 6 e3 etc. A sharper alternative is 5 ... ♜c6 6 e4 ♗g4, attacking the dark squares in the centre, e.g. 7 d5 ♜e5 8 ♗f4 ♜fd7 9 ♗e2 ♗xf3 10 gf (not 10 ♗xf3? ♜d3+!) 10 ... e6 11 de fe 12 ♗g3 ♗b4 13 f4 ♜c6 14 ♗xc4 and the activity of the light-squared bishop guarantees White a definite advantage, Karpeshov-Meister, Chirchik 1984.

5 ... ♗f5

The continuation 5 ... ♗g4 6 h3 ♗h5 7 ♗xc4 takes the play into the lines of the variation 3 ... ♜f6 4 e3 ♗g4.

6 ♗xc4 e6

7 ♜c3 ♜c6

White's plan is to advance e4, while Black is aiming to play ... e5.

8 0-0

8 ♜e2 is playable, for example 8 ... ♗b4 9 0-0 ♜e7 10 ♜d1 ♜d8 11 h3 ♜e4 12 ♜a2 ♗d6 13 ♗d3 ♗g6 14 ♜c2 where White maintains a strategic initiative by threatening the advance of his pawns in the centre, G.Agzamov-Kuzmin, Erevan Z 1982.

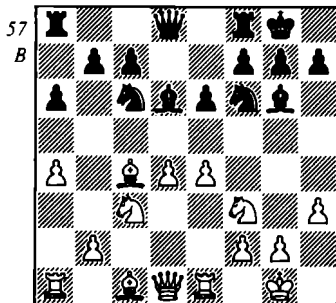
8 ... ♗g6

Prophylaxis against the threat of 9 h3 and 10 ♜h4.

9 h3 ♗d6

10 ♜e1 0-0

11 e4 (57)



White follows his programme, advancing his central pawn and solidly maintaining his initiative. He already threatens to advance to e5. In the game Tukmakov-Kuzmin, Erevan Z 1982, White secured a clear advantage after 11 ... ♗e7?! 12 ♗f4 ♜c8 13 ♜c1 ♗b4 14 ♗g5.

11 ... e5

12 d5

Black has no good retreat for the knight on c6, for example 12 ... ♜e7 13 ♗g5 or 12 ... ♜a5 13 ♗a2 and later 14 ♗g5.

12 ... ♜b8

13 ♗g5 ♜bd7

14 ♜d2

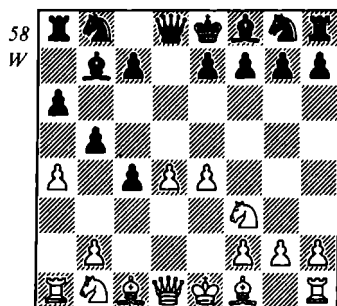
White has a substantial advantage in the centre.

B

4 e4 b5

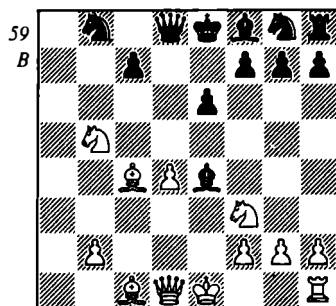
5 a4 ♗b7 (58)

Herein lies the heart of Black's plan. If the moves ♜c3 and ... ♜f6 had been included, White would have developed his initiative by



Otherwise 9 ... b4 gives Black counterplay.

9 ... ♖xe4
10 ♖xc4 (59)



advancing e5, but in the present position such a possibility does not exist. At the same time, Black is already pressuring the pawn on e4.

6 ab

6 b3 is a poor alternative: 6 ... ♖xe4 7 ♘c3 ♖b7 8 ab ab 9 ♖xa8 ♖xa8 10 bc e6! 11 ♘xb5 (11 cb ♖b4 12 ♖b3±, but 11 ... ♖xf3! 12 gf ♖b4 favours Black) 11 ... ♖xf3 (11 ... ♖b4+ 12 ♖d2) 12 gf ♖b4+ 13 ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 14 ♖xd2 ♘e7 ± Vaiser-Chekhov, Irkutsk 1983.

6 ... ab

7 ♖xa8 ♖xa8

8 ♘c3 e6

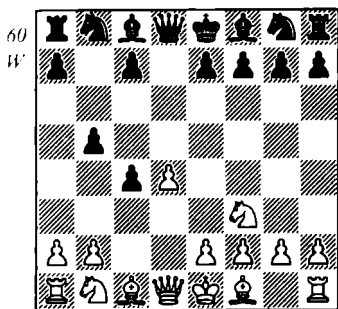
8 ... b4 is not on because of 9 ♖a4+ and the pawn falls.

9 ♘xb5

The critical position. White has the more active pieces and a lead in development, but there is the balancing factor of the shattered pawn structure. Still, it seems that White has the better chances, for example 10 ... c6 11 ♘e5! cb 12 ♖xb5+ ♘e7 13 ♖a4 with a dangerous attack, or 10 ... ♖xf3? 11 ♖xf3 c6 12 0-0! ♖b6 (12 ... cb 13 ♖xb5+ ♘d7 14 ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 15 ♖g5! with strong threats of bringing queen or rook to a8 creating a vicious attack) 13 ♘c3 ♖xd4 14 ♖g3! ± Lputian-Kaidanov, Irkutsk 1983.

10 3 ... b5

- 1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♖f3 b5 (60)



This continuation is infrequently encountered, since Black isn't going to succeed in defending the pawn on c4 anyway. So he just winds up trailing in development.

- 4 a4 c6
5 e3

A quiet continuation, but White threatens to make the game more interesting with ♘e5 and ♙f3.

- 5 ... e6
6 ab

6 b3 would be imprecise because of 6 ... a5! 7 bc b4! and Black has

real counterchances due to his well protected advanced pawn on the queenside. Play might continue 8 ♙d3 ♘d7 9 ♙b2 ♘gf6 10 0-0 c5 11 ♘bd2 ♙b7 12 ♙e2 ♙c7 with a fully playable game for Black in Rokhlin-Ericson, World Corres Ch 1965-8.

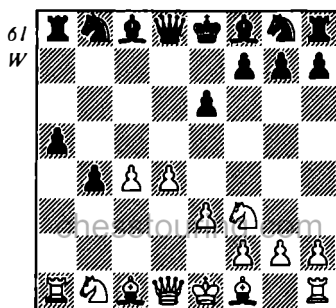
- 6 ... cb
7 b3

Based on the point that 7 ... cb is not on because of 8 ♙xb5+ picking up a pawn.

- 7 ... a5!?

An interesting attempt to create some counterplay.

- 8 bc b4 (61)



White has a definite advantage in the centre, while Black enjoys two connected passed pawns on the queenside. White's advantages are the more important.

9 ♖e5!

Now it is difficult for Black to organise his queenside development.

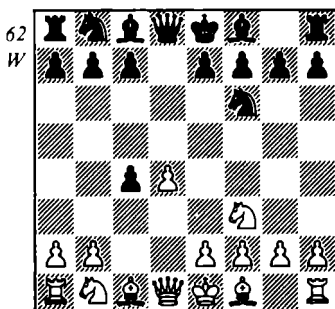
A playable alternative is 9 ♖bd2 ♖f6 10 c5 ♖c7 11 ♖b5+ ♖fd7 12 ♖c4 ♖e7 13 ♖b6 with an initiative for White in Borisenko-Ericson, World Corres Ch 1965-8.

9	...	♖f6
10	♖d3	♖e7
11	0-0	0-0
12	♖bd2	♖b7
13	f4!?	

Having secured his dominating position in the centre of the board White initiates an attack on the kingside. His chances are clearly preferable. Hybl-Ericson, World Corres Ch 1965-8, continued 13 ... ♖bd7 14 ♖c2 ♖b6 15 c5 ♖bd5 16 ♖dc4 ±.

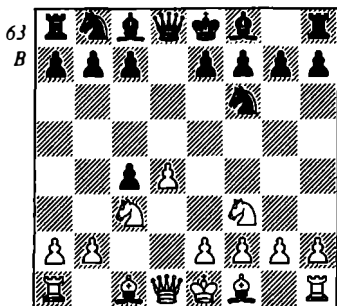
PART THREE

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♘f3 ♘f6



11 4 ♖c3 a6 5 e4 b5 6 e5 ♘d5 7 a4

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♘f3 ♘f6
4 ♘c3 (63)



This is a logical continuation in which White does not hurry to regain his pawn, but first tries to erect a strong pawn centre.

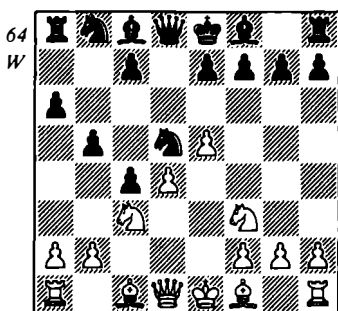
4 ... a6

This is the main line. We discuss 4 ... c5 in the next chapter.

5 e4 b5

6 e5 ♘d5 (64)

White's advantage in the centre and his lead in development are offset by Black's triangle on the squares a6, b5, c4, d5, e6 and f7.



White must use his initiative to pound at the weaknesses in this triangle. To this end he usually chooses 7 a4, the subject of this chapter, while 7 ♘g5 is also seen, and is discussed in Chapter 11.

7 a4!?

If White wishes to develop the cl-bishop at f4, then he must induce some weakening of the c4 square. Black, in turn, will try to secure his queenside light squares. There are four methods which are commonly seen:

A 7 ... ♗b7

B 7 ... ♘b4!?

C 7 ... c6

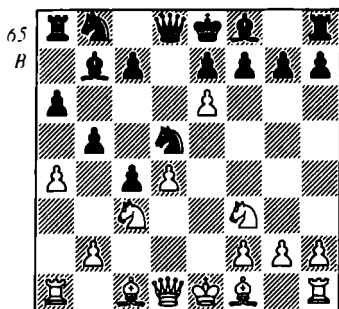
D 7 ... ♘xc3

A

7 ... ♖b7

The problem with this move is that it weakens e6.

8 e6!? (65)



The standard reaction – White sacrifices a pawn, keeping the enemy light-squared bishop out of the game and opening up the e5 square for his knight, while weakening the squares e6 and f7.

8 ... ♔f6

After 8 ... ♔f6 9 d4! ♖b4 (the only move, since ♖c5 is threatened) 10 d5 ♗d7 11 ♕d2 ♖8c6 12 ab ab 13 ♖xa8+ ♕xa8 14 b3 ♖d3+ 15 ♕xd3 cd 16 0-0 and White had the advantage in Cooper-Findlay, British Ch 1978.

The text move concedes the light-square weaknesses in Black's forecourt, and strives to capture the invading pawn with a piece, if possible.

9 d4

Intending 10 ♖c5. If Black tries to prevent this with 9 ... ♖e3 10

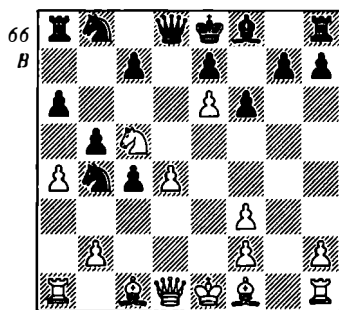
♕xe3 ♕xe4 then 11 ♖d2 ♕d5 12 ab and now Black cannot play 12 ... ab because of 13 ♖xa8 ♕xa8 14 ♗h5+ g6 15 ♗xb5+ ±.

9 ... ♖b4

10 ♖c5 ♕xf3

The point of Black's play is that 10 ♗xf3 ♗xd4 gives him sufficient counterplay.

11 gf (66)



The serious weakening of the light squares in the Black camp gives White clearly better chances. Black cannot create sufficient counterplay: 11 ... ♖8c6 12 ♕e3 ♖xd4 13 ♕xd4 ♗xd4 14 ♗xd4 ♖c2+ 15 ♖d2 ♖xd4 16 ♖c3 ♖d8 (Chiburdanidze-Sturua, Odessa 1982) and now by playing 17 ♖xa6 ♖xe6 18 ab White obtained a clear advantage.

B

7 ... ♖b4

This is a very recent approach. The material which follows was compiled by the translator.

8 ab

This move was introduced in the game Kouatly-Radulov, France v Bulgaria 1984. We follow that game with notes after Kouatly in *Informator* 38. First, however, it should be noted that simple development is not necessarily sufficient.

Sosonko-P.Nikolić, Thessaloniki Ol 1984, saw 8 ♙e2 ♙f5 9 0-0 ♜c2, and White continued 10 ♖a2! (better than 10 ♖b1) 10... ♜b4 11 ♖a3 ♜c2 12 ♜h4 (White can continue to shuttle his rook up and down the a-file until Black agrees to a draw, but this is hardly a recommendation for 8 ♙e2!) 12... ♙d3 (forced, according to Nikolić) 13 ♙xd3 cd 14 e6 fe (14... ♜xa3 is dubious: 15 ♙f3 fe 16 ♙xa8 ♜c4 17 ab ab 18 ♜f3! ±) 15 ♙h5+. All this had been seen before, with 15... ♜d7 played in Kotronias-Votruba, Athens Open 1984, when White might have tried 16 ♖b3. Nikolić now introduced 15... g6!, inviting 16 ♜xg6 hg 17 ♙xh8, but now Black can strike back with 17... b4! 18 ♙h6 ♜d7! 19 ♖b3! bc. In this position Nikolić points out that 20 ♙xf8 leads to a small advantage for White after 20... ♜c6 21 d5! ed 22 ♙h3+ e6 23 ♙g7 ♜2d4 24 ♖xc3 ♜e2+ 25 ♜h1 ♜xc3 26 ♙xc3. Black has an extra pawn but it is unlikely that he will be able to keep it. Black may be able to

consolidate with 26... ♙g5 27 ♙xd3 ♙f5.

8 ... ♙f5

Black pursues his plan of playing on the weak light squares in the White camp.

9 ♙xc4

The sacrifice of the inactive rook on a1 is justified in terms of time and development of the White forces.

9 ... ♜xc2+

10 ♜f1 ♜xa1

11 g4 ♙c2

This robs the knight on a1 of its natural flight square at c2, but creates another exit at b3. 11... ♙g6 would allow 12 e6! fe 13 ♜e5!, but Padevsky gives the following interesting alternative: 11... ab!? 12 ♙xf7+ ♜xf7 13 ♜g5+ ♜g8 14 gf ♜c6! 15 ♜e6 ♙d7 16 ♙h6! ♜xe5! (obviously not 16... gh 17 ♖g1+ ♜f7 18 ♙h5 mate) 17 ♖g1 ♜g6 18 d5 and now he gives the enigmatic assessment of 'unclear'. White is down a whole rook, but the knight on a1 is locked out of play and it will be quite some time before the bishop on f8 and and rook on h8 enter the battle. The critical reply would seem to be 18... b4, which allows Black to think about getting the queens off the board via ... ♙a4.

12 ♙xf7+ ♜xf7

13 ♜g5+ ♜e8

Black cannot retreat to g8 because of 14 ♖f3, threatening the rook at a8 while threatening mate at f7.

14 ♖f3 ♖xd4

Padevsky suggests that Black can equalise with 14 ... ♖a7!.

15 ♜g2!

White cannot take the rook because of 15 ... ♔d3+ 16 ♜e1 ♘c2+ 17 ♜d2 ♔e4.

15 ... ab

16 ♔e3! ♖c4

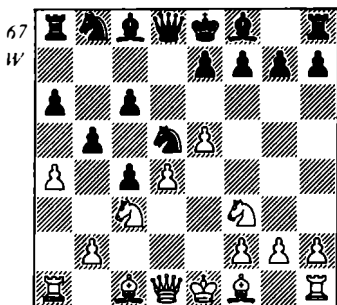
17 ♖xa8 ♖c6+

18 ♖xc6+ ♘xc6

Here White should have played 19 ♖xa1 ♘xe5 20 ♘xb5 ♘g4 21 ♘xc7+ ♜d7 22 ♘ce6 with a capture at f8 to follow.

C

7 ... c6 (67)



Black strengthens his grip on b5 without giving up control of c6. But the weaknesses at f7 and d5 allow White to develop a strong initiative.

8 ab

♘xc3

Forced because if 8 ... cb, 9 ♘g5 is dangerous, threatening 10 ♖f3.

9 bc cb

10 ♘g5!?

A sharp way of maintaining the initiative. After 10 g3 e6 11 ♔g2 ♔b7 Black can consolidate his game, for example 12 0-0 ♔e7 13 ♘e1 ♘g2 14 ♘g2 ♘d7 with a solid position for Black in Damjanović-Rivas, Groningen 1980.

10 ... f6

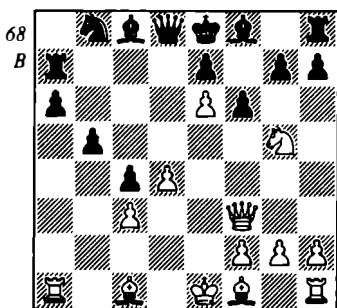
This is the only defence to 11 ♖f3.

11 ♖f3

[A recent try is 11 e6 ♖d5 12 ♔e2 fg 13 ♔h5+ ♜d8 14 0-0 ♖xe6 15 ♖e1 ♖f6 16 d5 with an unclear position in Pähz-Bernard, Rostock 1984 - *tr.*]

11 ... ♖a7

12 e6 (68)



This is a sharp and complicated position. If White supports the e6 square, then Black will experience great difficulties.

12 ...

♔b7

This is directed at d5, which will create a vice-like grip at e6. The alternative is 12 ... ♖b6 13 d5 fg 14 ♙e3! (after 14 ♗f7+ ♘d8 15 ♙xg5 ♗d7!! 16 ed ♘xd7 17 ♙e2 h6 Black has the advantage, Sosonko-Rivas, 1978) 14 ... ♗c7 15 ♙e2 and despite the extra piece Black has a difficult game, for example 15 ... ♗b7 16 g3! ♗b6 17 h4! g4 18 ♗f7+ ♘d8 19 h5 h6 20 0-0 ♙b7 21 ♙xb6, Langeweg-Witt, Dutch Ch 1982, or 15 ... ♘d7 16 ♗f7+ ♘d8 17 ed ♙xd7 18 0-0 ♗a8 19 ♙f3, Knaak-Thorman, East Germany 1980, with advantage to White in both games.

13 ♗f4 ♗c8
14 d5!

This leads to wide-open play. After 14 ♙e3?! ♙d5! 15 ♗f5 ♗c6! followed by ... ♘d8 Black stabilises the position and achieves a solid game.

14 ... ♙xd5
15 ♙e3

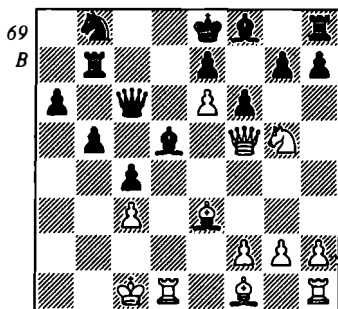
Another possibility is 15 ♗d4 ♗b7 16 ♙e3, hoping for 16 ... ♗a8 17 0-0-0! fg 18 ♗xd5 with an initiative in the centre. But things do not turn out quite so well after 16 ... fg! 17 ♗xa7 ♗xa7 18 ♙xa7 ♘c6 19 ♗xa6 g6 20 ♙e2 ♙g7 and the Black queenside pawns give him sufficient counterchances, Farago-Marjanović, Tuzla 1981.

15 ... ♗b7

Or 15 ... ♗a8 16 ♗f5 ♗c6

17 0-0-0 with active play for White, Webb-R. Bernard, Poland 1978.

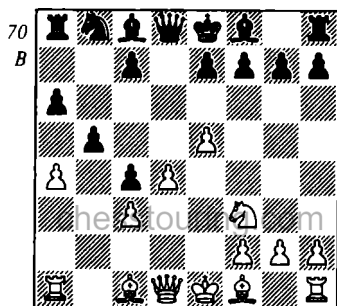
16 ♗f5 ♗c6
17 0-0-0 (69)



White is two pawns down, but he has an advantage in development, his pieces are actively placed, and this adds up to sufficient compensation. Play might continue 17 ... g6 18 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 19 ♗xd5 fg 20 ♙d4 ♗g8 21 ♙e2 with an initiative for White in Timoshenko-Haritonov, Irkutsk 1983.

D

7 ... ♘xc3
8 bc (70)



In addition to the immediate threat of 9 ab White threatens to advance his d-pawn to d5, and this forces Black to choose from a limited menu.

D1 8 ... ♙b7

D2 8 ... ♜d5

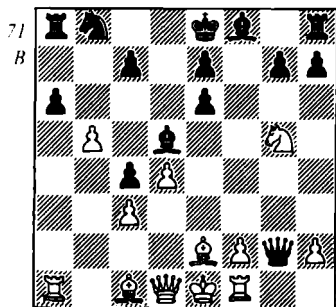
D1

8 ... ♙b7

Here, as in the previous chapter, this move leads to the weakening of the e6 square.

9 e6! f6

After 9 ... fe 10 ♜g5 ♜d5 11 ♙e2! ♜xg2 12 ♜f1 ♙d5 13 ab (71) Black has a difficult position:



a) 13 ... ab 14 ♜xa8 ♙xa8 15 ♙g4 (playable alternatives include 15 ♙f4 and 15 ♜xe6) 15 ... e5 16 ♙e6! ±.

b) 13 ... ♜xh2 14 ♙g4 h5 15 ♙xe6 ♙xe6 16 ♜f3! ±.

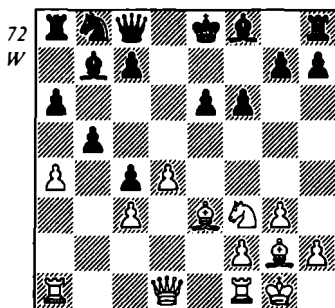
c) 13 ... g6 14 ♙g4! (14 ba ♙h6!) 14 ... ♙h6 15 ♙h3 ♜xh2 16 ♙xe6 ♙xe6 17 ♜f3! ±.

10 g3 ♜d5

11 ♙g2 ♜xe6+

12 ♙e3 ♜c8

13 0-0 e6 (72)



Black has captured the pawn on e6 but he is lagging well behind in development. In order to convert his lead in time into a win White must first of all eliminate the bishop on b7, which is holding together the Black position.

14 ♜h4! ♙xg2

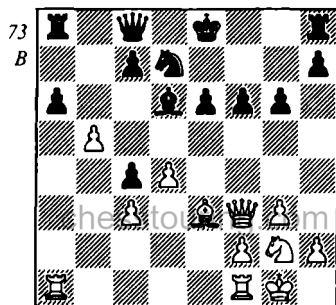
15 ♜xg2 ♙d6

Inferior is 15 ... g6 16 ♜f3 ♜d7 17 ab with advantage to White.

16 ♜h5+ g6

17 ♜f3 ♜d7

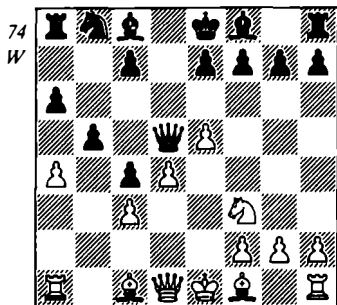
18 ab (73)



White has overrun the b5 square and Black faces a difficult defensive task, for example 18 ... ♜f7 19 ♖c6 ♜b6 20 ♙f4 ♖d7! (20 ... ♜d8? 21 ba ±) 21 ♖xd7+ ♜xd7 22 ♜xa6 ♜xa6 23 ba ♜a8 24 ♜a1 with a better endgame for White in Vaiser-Korsunsky, USSR 1978.

D2

8 ... ♖d5 (74)



Black attempts to regroup with ... ♙e6, ... ♖b7 and ... ♙d5, followed by ... e6 with a solid position. White can put paid to Black's plans, however.

9 g3

Black must now decide where to put his bishop.

D21 9 ... ♙e6

D22 9 ... ♙b7

D21

9 ... ♙e6

10 ♙g2 ♖b7

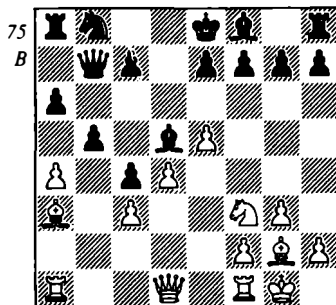
11 0-0

Also possible is 11 ♜h4 ♙d5 12

♙xd5 ♖xd5 13 0-0 e6 14 ♜g2 ♖b7 15 d5! with an initiative for White, e.g. 15 ... ♖xd5 16 ♖xd5 ed 17 ab ♜d7 18 ♙e3 ± Chekhova-Mulenko, Sochi 1981.

11 ... ♙d5

12 ♙a3!? (75)



This highlights some of the inadequacies of Black's position, and in particular the dark-square weaknesses. White could have launched an immediate attack on the e6-square instead: 12 e6!? ♙xe6 13 ♜g5 ♙d5 14 ♙xd5 ♖xd5 15 ab, so that after 15 ... ♖xb5 16 ♖f3 or 15 ... ab 16 ♜xa8 ♖xa8 17 ♖g4 ♜c6 18 ♖f3 (Balashov-Miles, Bugojno 1978) he can build a winning attack, but after 15 ... h6! 16 ♜h3 e6 17 ♜f4 ♖xb5 it is not clear how White can improve his position.

12 ... e6

There is no alternative.

13 ♙xf8 ♙xf8

14 ♜h4! ♙xg2

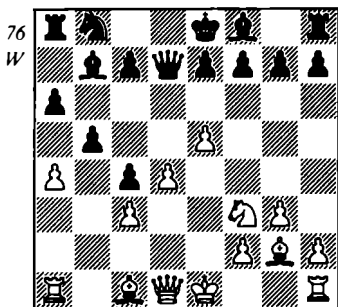
15 ♜xg2

The unfortunate position of the Black king allows White to begin a direct attack, for example 15 ... g6 16 f4 ♜d7 17 f5! etc, with clearly better chances for White, Varazdy-Navarovszky, Hungary 1982.

[15 ... ♜d7 was seen in the recent game Chekhov-R.Bernard, Rostock 1984, where White introduced 16 ... f5? 17 ef g6 18 ♖g4 ♜f7 19 f5! ef 20 ♜xf5 ±, but Black could have tried 16 ... g6! 17 g4 f5 with an unclear position, so White should stick to 16 ♜e3, although Black does not experience serious difficulties – tr.]

D22

9 ... ♜b7
10 ♜g2 ♜d7 (76)



This is another way to try to erect a defence in the centre.

11 ♜a3

11 ♜h4 looks logical, as in the game Kavalek-Miles, Wijk aan Zee 1978, where White built up a

dangerous attack after 11 ... c6?! 12 f4 e6 13 f5! ef 14 0-0 g6 15 ♜g5. The correct manner of defence was demonstrated by Black in the game Nemet-Hort, Lugano 1983: 11 0-0 e6 12 ♜h4 ♜xg2! 13 ♜xg2 b4! 14 ♜f4 ♜c6 15 ♖e2 bc 16 d5 ed 17 e6 fe 18 ♜xe6 ♜f7! with a solid game.

11 ... ♜d5

After 11 ... e6 12 ♜xf8 Black gives up his castling privilege, so White can organise an attack with f4-f5 etc.

12 0-0 ♜c6 13 ♜e1 g6

It is dangerous to delay the development of the kingside: 13 ... ♜b8 14 ab ab 15 ♖e2!, and already 15 ... g6 fails to 16 e6! fe 17 ♜e5 ♜xe5 18 ♖xe5 ♜g8 19 ♜xd5 ed 20 ♜c5 with strong pressure for White. [White can also try 14 e6!?, e.g. 14 ... fe 15 ♜g5 ♜xg2 16 ♜xg2 ♖d5+ 17 ♖f3 b4 18 ♜xb4! with a strong attack on 18 ... ♜xb4 19 cb ♖xg5 20 ♖c6+!, according to Helgi Olafsson, who suggests that Black investigate 13 ... h6, intending ... g5 and ... ♜g7 – tr.]

14 ♜c5

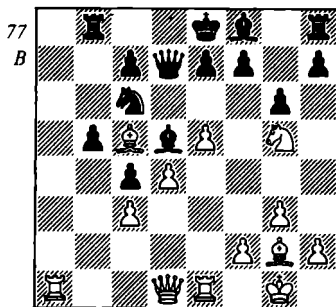
Creating a strong threat of 15 ab. A sharper alternative is 14 e6! fe 15 ♜g5 (15 ♜e5 ♜xe5 16 ♜xd5 ed 17 ♜xe5 failing to achieve the desired result after 17 ... e6!, stabilising the position and retaining the material advantage). Loginov-

Nadrikhnov, USSR 1983, saw 15 ... ♙xg2 16 ♜xg2 ♚d5+ 17 ♚f3 ♚xf3+ 18 ♜xf3 ♜d8 19 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 20 ♚e6 ♜d7 21 d5, and White, keeping control of e6 and d5, has the brighter prospects. For the evaluation of 14 e6 it is important to find a good reply to 15 ... ♜d8!? rather than 15 ... ♙xg2.

14 ... ♚b8

14 ... ♚d8 was recently introduced in an attempt to strengthen Black's defence: 15 ab ab 16 ♜g5 ♙xg2 17 e6! fe 18 ♜xg2 ♚d5+ 19 ♚f3 ♚xf3+ 20 ♜xf3 ♚d5 21 ♜xe6 ♜d7 with a complicated position holding chances for both sides, H.Olafsson-Hort, Thessaloniki OI 1984 – see page 117.

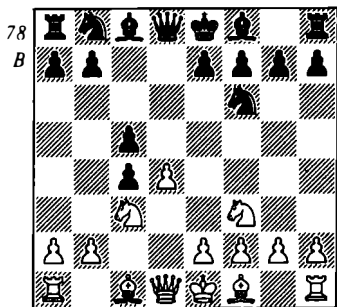
15 ab ab
16 ♜g5!? (77)



By threatening 17 e6!, breaking down Black's defences, White maintains the initiative, for example 16 ... ♙xg2 17 ♜xg2 ♙h6 18 e6! ♚d5+ 19 ♚f3 ♚xf3+ 20 ♜xf3 f6 21 d5 with advantage to White, Ehlvest-Chekhov, USSR Ch 1984.

12 4 ♘c3 a6 5 e4 b5 6 e5 ♘d5 7 ♘g5

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
2	♘f3	♘f6
4	♘c3	a6
5	e4	b5
6	e5	♘d5
7	♘g5	(78)



White immediately initiates an attack against the weak squares f7 and d5. The threat is 8 ♗f3, for example 7 ... ♘c6 8 ♗f3 ♙e6 9 ♘xe6 fe 10 ♙e3 ♘cb4 11 ♖cl with advantage to White, Malich-Thorman, East Germany 1977.

7 ... e6

On 7 ... ♙f5 White has good

prospects after 8 ♘xd5 ♗xd5 9 ♙e2 with the threat of 10 ♙f3, as in the game Heuer-Ekvtimishvili, Kishniev 1976, where White obtained the advantage after 9 ... ♘c6 10 ♙f3 ♗d7 11 0-0 ♖d8 12 ♙e3 e6 13 a4 h6 14 ab ab 15 ♘e4.

7 ... f6 also seems inadequate after 8 ♘xd5 ♗xd5 (8 ... fg 9 ♘c3 ♘c6 10 ♙e3 ±) 9 ♙e2 c6 10 ♙f3 ♗d8 11 ♘e4. In the game Hausner-Kallai, Hungary 1980, White came out of the opening with a significant edge after 11 ... ♙e6? 12 0-0 ♘d7 13 ♖el, but Black could have chosen the much sharper 11 ... fe 12 0-0 ed (12 ... ♗xd4? 13 ♗e2 ±) and White must prove that his lead in development and the other positional factors justify the investment of three pawns.

8 ♗h5 ♗d7

Less clear is 8 ... g6 9 ♗f3 f5 10 ef ♗xf6 because of 11 ♘xd5, for example 11 ... ♗xf3 12 ♘xc7+ ♘d7 13 gf ♙b4+ 14 ♘e2 ♘xc7 15 ♙f4+ ♘b6 16 ♙h3 with an

initiative for White, Petursson-Sigurjonsson, Reykjavik 1982.

9 ♙e2

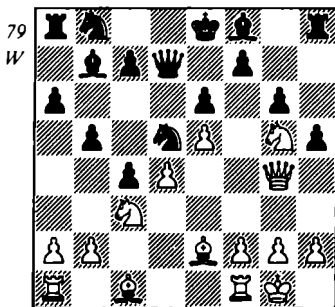
9 ♘xd5 ed 10 a3 ♘c6 11 ♙e3 ♘d8 12 ♙e2 ♜f5 gives nothing to White, as Black has sufficient counterplay, Bogoljubow-Alekhine, match 1934.

9 ... ♙b7

10 0-0 g6

11 ♜g4 h5! (79)

Against 11 ... ♘c6 White can play 12 ♘xd5 ♜xd5 (12 ... ed 13 ♜xd7+ ♘xd7 14 ♘xf7 ♜g8 15 ♚d1 ±) 13 ♜f4! ±.

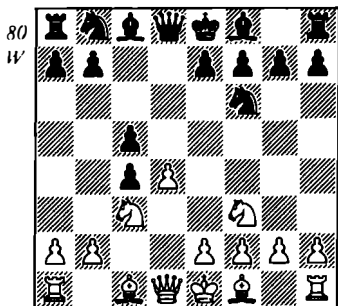


12 ♜h3 ♘c6

After 13 ♚d1 ♘cb4 14 ♘ce4 0-0-0 15 a4 White has a definite initiative in return for the pawn, Grigorian-Mariasin, Beltsi 1979.

13 4 ♘c3 c5

- | | | |
|---|-----|---------|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 | ♟f3 | ♟f6 |
| 4 | ♟c3 | c5 (80) |



Black immediately takes action against the pawn on d4, trying to achieve balance in the centre. White's superior development, however, allows him to retain his central advantage.

5 d5

[An alternative plan for White is 5 e4 e6 6 ♟xc4. After 6 ... cd White can play 7 ♟xd4 or try the new 7 ♟xd4, introduced in Rogers-Kallai, Kraljevo 1984, which continued 7 ... ♟xd4 8 ♟xd4 a6 9

e5!? ♟fd7 10 f4 b5 11 ♟xe6! (11 ♟d3 leads to a sterile equality) 11 ... fe 12 ♟xe6 with compensation for the material. – *tr.*]

5 ... e6

Against 5 ... ♟f5, intended to forestall e4, White plays 6 ♟g5! ♟e4 7 ♟a4+ ♟d7 8 ♟xe4 ♟xe4 9 ♟xc4 ♟g6 10 e4 with an advantage for White, Kluger-Hennings, East Germany 1976.

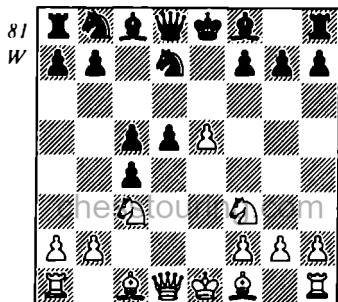
6 e4 ed

Forced, because of the threat of ♟g5.

7 e5!

Only thus can White consolidate his position in the centre.

7 ... ♟fd7 (81)



After 7 ... d e4 8 ♖ x d5 Black is experiencing difficulties, for example 8 ... d x c3 9 ♖ x d8+ ♜ x d8 10 b c ♙ e6 11 d g5 d d7 12 d x e6+ f e 13 f4! d b6 14 a4. In Gligorić-Nikolić, Nikšić 1983, White got a definite advantage after 14 ... g5?! 15 a5 d d5 16 f5!. More precise is 14 ... a5 15 ♙ e2 and later 0-0, ♙ d2 and ♜ f b1 with pressure on the queenside.

8 ♙ g5!

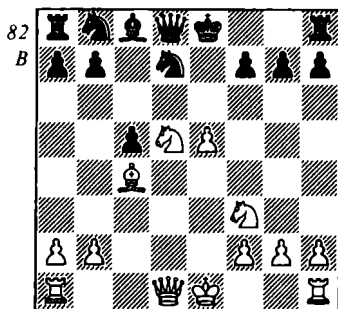
An accurate move, the point of which is to win several tempi for further development. On 8 ♖ x d5 there follows 8 ... d b6 with simplification which favours Black, Torre-Seirawan, London 1984.

8 ... ♙ e7

9 ♙ x e7 ♖ x e7

10 d x d5 ♖ d8

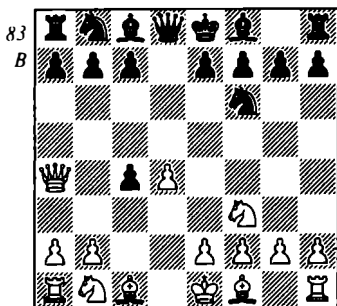
11 ♙ x c4 (82)



As a result of the forcing variation White has obtained a significant lead in development. But Black has no weaknesses in the position and if he can exchange pieces comfortably White will not be able to demonstrate any real advantage.

14 4 ♔a4+

- 1 d4 d5
- 2 c4 dc
- 3 ♘f3 ♘f6
- 4 ♔a4+ (83)



This continuation is justified by the immediate recapture of the pawn combined with a kingside fianchetto, after which the game will take on the character of the Catalan Opening. There are a number of alternatives for Black:

- A 4 ... c6
B 4 ... ♘c6
C 4 ... ♘bd7

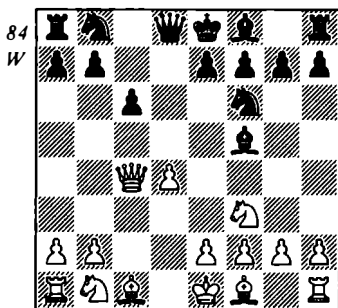
4 ... ♗d7 is infrequently encountered. After 5 ♔xc4 ♗c6 6 ♘c3 ♘bd7 7 ♗g5 e6 8 e4! White has a strong position in the centre.

A

- 4 ... c6

This is the most solid continuation. Black erects a barrier against the possibility of a kingside fianchetto by White, and prepares a blockade on the d5 and e6 squares.

- 5 ♔xc4 ♗f5 (84)



The most relevant continuation. 5 ... ♗g4 is sharper, with the goal of putting pressure on the d4 square. In this case Black allows e4, but he can undermine White's pawn centre, for example 6 ♘c3 ♘bd7 7 e4 ♗xf3 8 g4 e5 9 ♗e3 ed 10 ♗xd4 ♗d6 11 0-0-0 ♔c7 with a complicated game, in which White's

chances are slightly better, particularly in the centre, Andersson-Christiansen, London 1982.

Against 5 ... g6 6 ♖bd2 is considered to be the best reply, followed up by ♗b2. White obtained a lasting initiative in Gheorghiu-Bastian, Baden Baden 1981, after 6 ... ♗d5 7 e3! ♗g7 8 b3 0-0 9 ♗b2 ♗f5 10 ♖c1 ♖bd7 11 b4!.

6 g3

This is the standard plan.

6 e3 e6 7 ♗d3!? comes into consideration, with the idea of exchanging light-squared bishops and then advancing the central pawns as in Andersson-Garcia Palermo, Mar del Plata 1982, where White had the more comfortable game after 7 ... ♗xd3 8 ♗xd3 ♖bd7 9 0-0 ♗e7 10 ♖c3 0-0 11 e4 ♗c7 12 ♗g5 ♖ae8 13 ♖ac1 h6 14 ♗e3.

6 ♖c3 has also been tried. After 6 ... e6 7 ♗b3 Black can play 7 ... ♗b6 8 ♗xb6 ab 9 ♖h4 b5 10 ♖xf5 ef 11 e3 ♖bd7 12 ♗d3 g6 13 0-0 ♖b6 with control of d5 and e4. This logical plan was played in Smyslov-Hübner, Velden 1983.

6 ... ♖bd7

7 ♗g2 e6

8 ♖c3

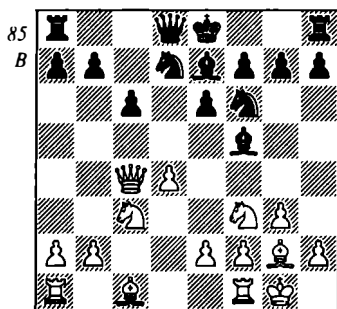
The knight at c3 not only controls the centre but also limits Black's queenside play. So after 8 0-0 ♗e7 9 ♖e1 0-0 10 ♗b3 ♗b6

11 ♖bd2, 11 ... ♗xb3 12 ♖xb3 a5! 13 ♗d2 a4 14 ♖a5 ♖e4! with an initiative for Black in Grosch-Nutu, Budapest 1982.

8 ... ♗e7

8 ... ♖e4 9 0-0 ♖b6?! 10 ♗b3 ♗e7 is premature: 11 a4! gives White an initiative on the queenside.

9 0-0 (85)



This is the problematic position of the variation. White has completed his development and is ready to strive for the initiative in the centre and on the queenside with ♗g5. The problem-like move 9 ... ♗c2, with the threat of trapping the queen with 10 ... ♖b6, fails to 10 e3 0-0 11 a3 and further 11 ... a5 12 ♗e2 ♗g6 13 e4 ♗b6 14 h3 ♗a6 15 ♗e3 with advantage to White in Bogoljubow-Alekhine, match 1934.

9 ... ♖e4 is considered the most solid, as in Andrianov-Suetin, Moscow 1982, which concluded in

a draw after 10 ♖d1 0-0 11 ♙f4 ♜xc3 12 ♚xc3 ♙e4 13 ♚e3 ♜f6 14 ♙g5. White can fight for the advantage with 10 ♚b3, and if 10 ... ♜b6, then 11 a4 with a slight initiative.

9 ... h6

Black might have adopted this plan on the 8th move as well, in order to keep the bishop from g5, and create a retreat square for the light-squared bishop which can go from f5 to h7.

10 e3!?

White plays along the lines of the Bogoljubow-Alekhine game.

An alternative is 10 ♚b3 ♚b6 11 ♚d1 0-0 12 ♙e1 ♙fd8 13 e4 ♙h7 14 a3 with a more comfortable game for White, Kūdishchevich-Ivanov, Rostov-on-Don 1981.

10 ♖d1?? is a blunder because of 10 ... ♙c2 with the threat of 11 ... ♜b6, and White must part with the exchange.

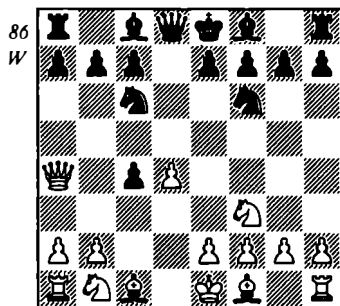
10 ... 0-0

11 ♚e2

White regroups his forces, intending to advance his e-pawn with an initiative in the centre. Fedorowicz-Williams, New York 1982, continued 11 ... ♜e4 12 ♜d2 ♜xd2 13 ♙xd2 ♜f6 14 e4 ♙g6 15 ♙e3 ♚a5 16 a3 with advantage to White, although Black's position is very solid.

B

4 ... ♜c6 (86)



This is an active continuation. Black attempts to play against the pawn on d4.

5 ♜c3

The most active reply. White places the e4 and d5 squares under his control, intending e4. Other continuations have been tried:

a) 5 g3 ♙e6 6 ♙g2 ♚d7 7 ♜c3 ♜d5 (7 ... ♙d5 is dubious because of 8 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 9 ♚xc4, for example 9 ... ♜b6 10 ♚b3 ♚d5 11 ♚d3 e6 12 0-0 with lasting pressure on the long diagonal and c-file, Tukmakov-Kozlov, USSR 1984) 8 ♚xc4 (8 ♙g5 is less clear after 8 ... ♜b6) 8 ... ♜xc3 9 ♚xc3 ♙d5 with a comfortable game for Black.

b) 5 e3 ♜d7! (this forces White to capture at c4 with the queen) 6 ♚xc4 e5! (against 6 ... g6?! White can play 7 ♚c2 ♙g7 8 ♙b5! ♜cb8 9 0-0 0-0 10 ♖d1 with the more active game, Knežević-Banas, Stary Smokovec 1974) 7 de (not 7 d5

♟b6 and the pawn on d5 falls) 7 ... ♞dxe5 8 ♞xe5 ♞xe5 9 ♖b5+ ♞d7 10 ♙e2 c6 11 ♖c4 ♙d6 12 ♖e4+ ♙e7 13 0-0 ♞f6 14 ♖c2 0-0 with a fully satisfactory game for Black, Andersson-Timman, Tilburg 1982.

5 ... ♞d5

6 ♖xc4

The sharp 6 e4!? ♟b6 7 ♖d1 ♙g4 8 d5 ♞e5 9 ♙f4 ♞g6 has not been sufficiently investigated. Botvinnik-Petrosian, match 1963, was agreed drawn after 10 ♙e3?! e6, but 10 ♙g3!? is stronger, after which play might continue 10 ... e5 11 de ♙xe6 12 ♖xd8+ ♞xd8 (12 ... ♞xd8!? 13 0-0-0+ ♞c8 14 ♟b5! ±) 13 ♙xc7 ♞d7 14 ♙xb6 ab and the weakness of the pawn structure on Black's queenside guarantees an advantage for White, Rajković-Barle, Yugoslavian Ch 1983. [This line was also seen in Alburtt-Dlugy, USA Ch 1984, which saw the introduction of 13 ... ♞c8!, although after 14 ♙g3 a6 15 ♞d4 ♙c5 16 0-0-0 0-0 17 ♙e2 ♙d7 18 ♞f5! White could still lay claim to a large advantage. Alburtt suggests 14 ... ♙c5!? which awaits practical tests – *tr.*]

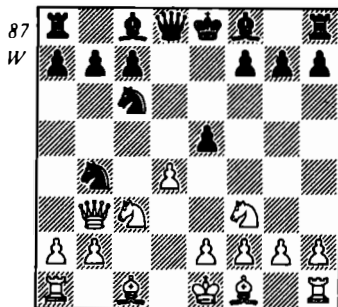
6 ... ♞db4

On 6 ... ♙e6 7 e4! is a strong response, for example 7 ... ♞db4 8 d5! ♞c2+ 9 ♞d1 ♞xa1 10 ♙d2 with advantage for White, Hort-Rivas, Montilla 1978. More precise is 7 ... ♟b6 8 ♖c5 ♙d7 with better

chances for White.

7 ♖b3

e5!? (87)



The variation 7 ... ♞xd4 8 ♞xd4 ♖xd4 9 ♙e3 ♙e6 10 ♖a4+ ♙d7 11 ♖b3 ♙e6 leads to a draw, Andersson-Korchnoi, Johannesburg 1981.

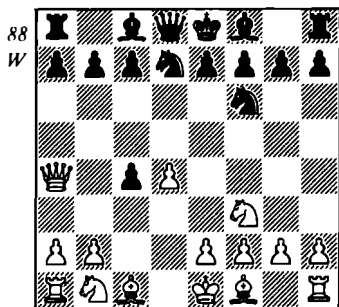
The text move hides a subtle trick: 8 a3 ♙e6 9 ♖d1 ed 10 ♟b5 a6 11 ♟bxd4 ♞xd4 12 ♞xd4 ♖xd4! with advantage to Black, Botterill-Miles, England 1979. On 8 d5 play might continue 8 ... ♞d4! with advantage to Black, and on 8 de either 8 ... ♙e6 or 8 ... ♙g4 can be tried, with sharp and unclear play.

C

4 ... ♞bd7 (88)

This is the Catalanish continuation. White can, if he wishes, play 5 g3 e6 6 ♙g2 or 5 ♖xc4 e6 6 g3, transposing to that opening.

There is only one variation with independent significance.



5 ♘c3 e6

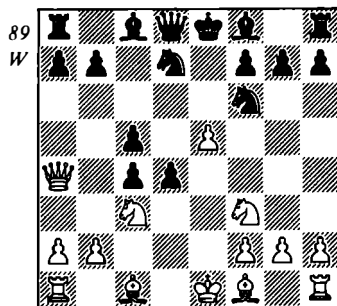
6 e4 c5

6 ... a6 is also seen and leads to a complex game after 7 ♖xc4 c6 8 ♗c2 c5!? 9 dc ♖xc5 10 0-0 ♗c7 11 ♗e2 ♘g4 12 b3 h5 13 ♖d2 ♘de5, Knežević-Romanishin, Kiev 1978.

7 d5 ed

8 e5 d4 (89)

This is the critical position, in which White's superior development plays a more significant role than Black's material advantage.



9 ♖xc4 dc

10 ef gf

On 10 ... ♗xf6 White plays 11 ♖g5 ♗c6 12 ♗xc6 bc 13 0-0-0 and despite having two extra pawns, Black has great difficulties with his king which is stranded in the centre, Taimanov-Polugayevsky, Leningrad 1960.

11 0-0 cb

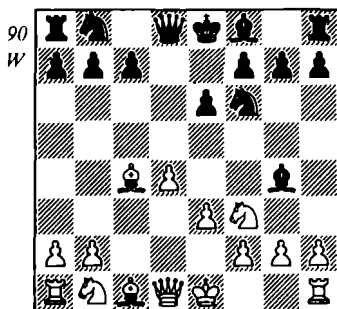
12 ♖xb2 ♖e7

13 ♖ad1

White has a significant advantage, Knežević-Mecking, Yugoslavia 1976.

PART FOUR

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 |  f3 |  f6 |
| 4 | e3 |  g4 |
| 5 |  xc4 | e6 |



15 6 h3 ♖h5 7 ♘c3

Here we begin our investigation of one of the most popular systems of the Queens Gambit Accepted, which is reached after the moves:

- | | | |
|---|------|-----|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 | ♟f3 | ♟f6 |
| 4 | e3 | ♙g4 |
| 5 | ♙xc4 | e6 |

The variations arising from this position are today among the most widely played lines in the QGA. Black prepares to attack the d-pawn by advancing his c- or e-pawn. The weakness of the light squares on the Black queenside will not be easily exploited by his opponent.

Thus the immediate 6 ♗b3 cedes the initiative after 6 ... ♙xf3 7 g♟ ♟bd7 8 ♗xb7 c5!, for example 9 dc ♙xc5 10 f4 ♟b8 11 ♗g2 (or 11 ♗f3 ♙b4+ 12 ♟f1 0-0 13 ♙g2 ♗c7 14 ♙e2 e5! 15 a3 ♙d6 with sharp play) 11 ... ♙b4+ 12 ♟e2 0-0 13 b3 ♟b6 14 ♙d3 ♟bd5 with sufficient counterplay for Black. Also possible is 10 ♟c3 0-0 11 f4 ♟b6 12

♙e2 ♟fd5 13 0-0 ♗h4 14 ♙f3 ♟ab8 15 ♗a6 ♟xc3 16 bc f5 when Black has good attacking chances, Quinteros-Miles, Amsterdam 1977. Should White choose (wisely) to decline the pawn sacrifice with 8 ♟c3 ♟b6 9 ♙e2 ♙e7 10 ♙d2 0-0 11 ♟d1, then Black can achieve equality after 11 ... c5 12 dc ♙xc5 13 0-0 ♟c8, Gligorić-Smyslov, Hastings 1962-63.

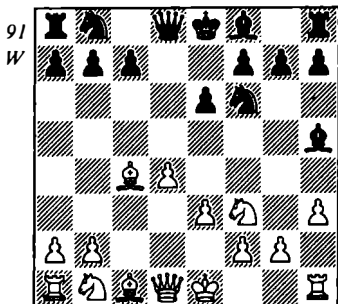
6 h3

It is important to force Black to disclose his plans for the bishop on g4. By playing h3 immediately White creates the possibility, in the event of ... ♙h5, of playing g4 if it should become necessary.

Another continuation is 6 ♟bd2 ♟bd7 7 ♗b3 ♟b6 (7 ... ♗b8? 8 e4 c6 9 h3 ♙h5 10 ♟e5! ±) 8 ♟e5 ♙h5 9 0-0 ♙d6 10 a4 0-0, Ivanov-Lerner, USSR 1979. Or 6 a3 a6 7 b4 ♙d6 8 ♙b2 ♟c6 9 ♟bd2 0-0 10 ♗c2 ♗e7, Belyavsky-A. Petrosian, USSR 1979. In neither case can White look forward to any advantage from the opening.

6 ... ♖h5 (91)

6 ... ♖xf3 is premature, since Black has not yet been able to organize any pressure against d4, and will not be able to do so before White has a chance to use his bishop pair to good advantage. For example: 7 ♖xf3 ♜c6 8 ♜c3 a6 9 0-0 ♗d6 10 ♜d1 0-0 11 ♖b3 ♖e7 12 ♖a4 ♖a5 13 e4 e5 14 ♗g5 with an initiative for White in Szilagyi-Hillyard, European Club Cup 1981.



Here White can choose between 7 ♜c3, the subject of the present chapter, and 7 0-0, which will be dealt with in the following chapters.

7 ♖b3 ♖xf3 8 g4 is no more effective than at move 6.

7 ♜c3

This is the most active continuation. White intends to play an immediate e4. Black in turn adopts countermeasures, preparing piece play and choosing first whether or not to allow the pin of the knight on c6 by ♖b5.

A1 7 ... a6

A2 7 ... ♜c6

A1

7 ... a6

8 g4

This is the direct method of eliminating the threat of ... ♖xf3. It gives White the opportunity to implement his central strategy of e4 right away. The less direct 8 0-0 is dealt with under the move order 7 0-0.

8 ... ♗g6

9 ♜e5

Sometimes 9 ♜h4 is played, but this just leads to a transposition of moves.

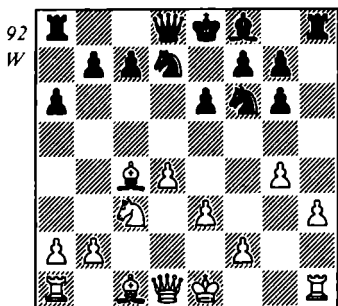
9 h4 achieves nothing because of 9 ... ♖b4 10 h5 ♗e4 11 g5 ♜d5 12 ♗d2 ♖xc3! 13 bc b5 with a full blockade of the white pawns in the centre.

9 ... ♜bd7

Sometimes 9 ... ♗d6 is played, for example 10 ♖f3 ♖xe5 11 de ♜fd7 12 ♖xb7 ♜xe5 13 ♖xa8 ♜xc4 14 0-0-0 15 ♖g2! f5! with a sharp game in which Black has quite reasonable chances because of the suspect position of the white king.

More solid is 10 ♜xg6 hg 11 ♖f1! and in comparison with the text variation the position of the bishop at d6 is not helpful to Black.

10 ♜xg6 hg (92)



This is the key position of 8 g4. White has the bishop pair and a slight spatial advantage, but Black has a solid position and a number of possibilities for counterplay, the chief one motivated by the insecure position of the white king. Here two moves have been tried:

A11 11 g5

A12 12 ♖f1!?

A11

11 g5

The point of this move is to drive the knight from the centre. In the event of 11 ... ♜g8 White manages to achieve domination of the centre with 12 ♟f3 ♜b8 13 h4, for example 13 ... c5 14 ♖b3 b5 15 ♖d2 ♜e7 16 d5! c4 (16 ... e5 17 d6! ±) 17 de fe 18 ♖c2 with a notable advantage for White, Mochalov-Vorotnikov, USSR 1981.

11 ... ♜d5

This allows Black to comfortably simplify the position.

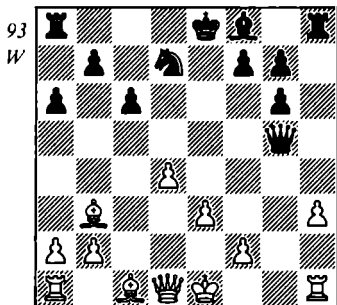
12 ♜xd5

12 e4 ♜5b6 13 ♖b3 does not achieve the desired result after 13 ... ♖e7!, with the threat of 14 ... ♖xg5. After 14 f4 (forced) Black can play 14 ... c5 15 d5 ed 16 ♖xd5 ♜xd5 17 ♟xd5 ♟c7 18 ♖e3 ♜b6 19 ♟b3 ♜d8, as in Diesen-Hort, London 1982, when Black had plenty of counterplay in the centre.

12 ... ed

13 ♖xd5 c6

14 ♖b3 ♟xg5 (93)



The liquidation of pieces has highlighted the weakness of the white king and the holes in his pawn structure, while Black still has a solid position.

15 ♟f3 ♟f5

Black can exchange dark-squared bishops but this proves inadequate after 15 ... ♖b4+ 16 ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 17 ♜xd2 ♟f5 18 ♟xf5 gf, since White will be able to exploit the weak dark squares in the black camp. For example, 19 ♜e2 ♜f6 20 ♜ac1 ♜d8 21 ♜c5 g6 22 ♜f3 with an endgame initiative for White

– Petrosian-Dzhindzhishvili, Buenos Aires Ol 1978.

Another flawed attempt is 15 ... ♜f6 16 ♖d2!, when 16 ... ♜f5 runs into 17 ♜g2!.

16 ♜xf5

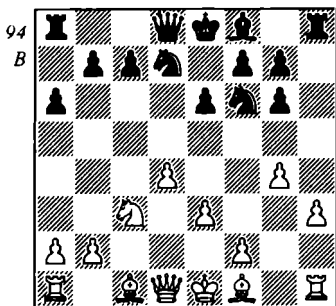
This time White cannot avoid the exchange of queens with 16 ♜g2 because of 16 ... ♖b4+.

16 ... gf

White has only a symbolic advantage, since Black's position is very solid. For example, 17 ♖d2 g6 18 0-0-0 ♜h4 19 f3 ♖d6 20 ♜b1 ♜f8 21 e4 ♜e8 with a roughly level game, Tal-Romanishin, USSR Ch 1978.

A12

11 ♖f1!? (94)



The transfer of the bishop to g2 is intended to accomplish the following goals: the fortification of the kingside, the possibility of kingside castling, and pressure on the long diagonal. It is important to note the fact that defending the rook on h1 with the bishop allows

White to deploy his queen in a position of great scope. The flip side of the coin is that the time involved in these manoeuvres gives Black the chance to take action in the centre of the board with either 11 ... c5 or 11 ... e5.

11 ... c5!?

The exchange of a flank pawn for a central pawn is a tempting prospect.

A playable alternative is 11 ... e5 12 ♖g2 ed 13 ed ♜b8 14 ♖f4 (or 14 ♜e2+ ♖e7 15 g5 ♜h5 16 ♜d5 ♜b6! 17 ♜xb6 cb 18 0-0 0-0 19 ♜g4 ♖d6 ½-½ Vladimirov-Bagirov, Erevan Z 1982) 14 ... ♖d6 15 ♖xd6 cd 16 0-0 0-0 17 ♜el b5 with counterplay for Black in Ribli-Timman, Las Palmas IZ 1982. 14 0-0 comes into consideration, giving White a slight advantage.

More passive is 11 ... c6 12 ♖g2 and White gradually strengthens his position while Black cannot find an active plan. For example, 12 ... ♜c7 13 0-0 ♖e7 14 f4 ♜b6 15 g5 ♜fd7 16 ♜g4 0-0-0 17 ♜b1 ♜b8 18 b4 ♜d5 19 ♜a4 f5 20 ♜g3 with a clear positional advantage for White in Kasparov-Petrosian, Tilburg 1981. Or 12 ... ♖d6 13 e4 e5 14 ♖e3 ed 15 ♖xd4 ♜c7 16 ♜c2 ♜d8 17 0-0-0 0-0 18 ♜b1 ♜fe8 19 ♜e2 with a freer game for White, Petkevich-Maryasin, Moscow 1981.

12 ♖g2

12 d5 is premature because of

12 ... ed 13 ♜xd5 ♜e5! 14 ♖g2 ♖d6 and the dark squares on the periphery of the white position are weak, providing Black with serious counterchances.

12 ... ♖c7

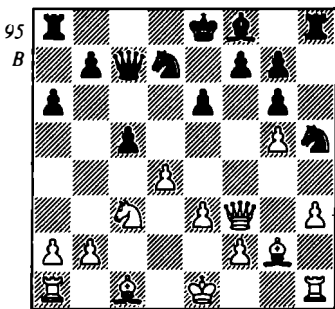
12 ... cd 13 ed ♖b6 14 0-0 ♖d6 is more active, but 15 d5! proves unpleasant for Black, as in Pinter-Forintos, Hungarian Ch 1981: 15 ... e5 16 g5! ♜h5 17 ♜e4, with a clear advantage to White.

13 g5!?

Another idea here is to exploit the position of the queen on the c-file. Andersson-Timman, Bugojno 1984, saw instead 13 ♖d2 cd 14 ed ♖d6 15 ♜c1 ♖b6 16 d5, but Black managed to achieve approximate equality after 16 ... ♜xd5 17 ♜xd5 ed 18 0-0-0 19 ♖e3 ♖b5 20 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 21 ♖xd5 ♜ab8.

13 ... ♜h5

14 ♖f3 (95)

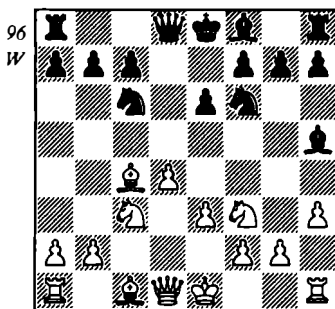


White controls the initiative thanks to his pressure on the light squares. Play might continue 14 ... cd 15 ed ♖b6 16 0-0 ♖d6 17 d5!

0-0 18 de fe 19 ♖e4 with advantage to White, Timman-Ardiansyah, Indonesia 1984.

B

7 ... ♜c6!? (96)



Black tries to put pressure on d4 via ... ♖d6, without wasting time on a prophylactic ... a6. White can exploit the opportunity to pin the black knight.

8 ♖b5 ♖d6

9 e4

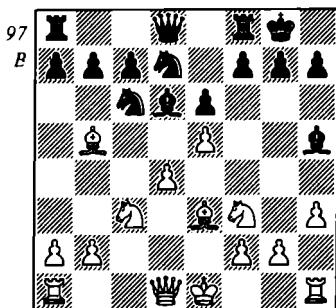
White can accept the proffered pawn with 9 ♖a4 ♖xf3 10 gf 0-0!? 11 ♖xc6 bc 12 ♖xc6, but after 12 ... ♖b8 13 b3 ♖b6 14 ♖c4 ♖a8 15 ♖e2 the exposed position of the white king in the centre of the board is definite compensation for the pawn, even though it must be said that it will not be easy to exploit. The direct continuation 15 ... e5?! was tried in Villela-Lebrede, Havana 1982, but after 16 d5! ♜c8 17 ♖a4! White began a decisive queenside attack. A more solid approach, 10 ... ♖d7, is possible.

If White exchanges on c6, the damage inflicted on the black pawn structure will be offset by the weakening of the light squares.

9 ... ♞d7

10 ♙e3 0-0

11 e5!? (97)



A tempting continuation. After 11 0-0 Black can equalize with 11 ... e5!? 12 de ♞dx5 13 ♙e2 ♙xf3 14 ♙xf3 ♞xf3+ 15 ♚xf3, as in Semaniuk-Korolyev, corres 1978-81.

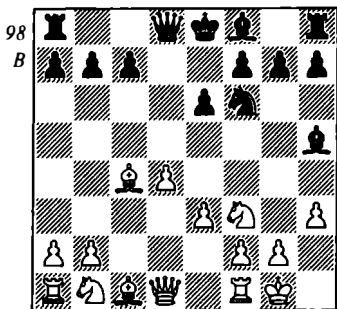
11 ... ♙e7

12 ♙e2

Having forestalled the advance ... e5 by Black, White has underscored the drawback of the placement of the black knight at c6. White stands better, for example 12 ... ♞b6 13 g4 ♙g6 14 h4 ♞d5 15 h5 ♞xc3 16 bc ♙e4 17 ♚gl with the initiative – Garcia-Lebrede, Havana 1982.

16 6 h3 ♖h5 7 0-0 ♘bd7

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♘f3 ♘f6
4 e3 ♗g4
5 ♗xc4 e6
6 h3 ♗h5
7 0-0 (98)



This continuation allows Black to strive for the central break ... e5. This requires a bit of preparation, and there are two approaches to be adopted, depending on where Black wishes to develop his knight. It can go to d7 straightaway, or to c6 after ... a6 is played to prevent any annoying pins. In either case the king's bishop will be developed

at d6.

7 ... ♘bd7

7 ... a6 will be covered in Chapter 17.

8 ♘c3

Now Black usually follows the plan outlined above, but he can also deploy the bishop at e7.

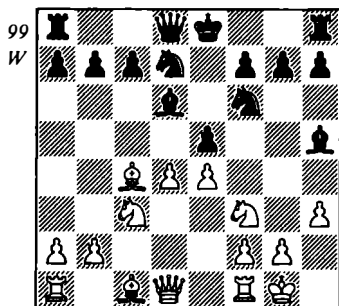
A 8 ... ♗d6

B 8 ... ♗e7

A

8 ... ♗d6

9 e4 e5 (99)



Both Black and White have carried out their central strategies involving the advance of their e-

pawns. The game is complicated with chances for both sides. White can choose between action on the flank or trying to provoke a crisis in the centre.

A1 10 g4

A2 10 ♖e2

A1

10 g4

[This move and the subsequent forcing play were suggested by Hillyard in 1979 and introduced into tournament play by Littlewood at the British Championship that year. If the suggested improvement at move 19 is correct, this line still represents a major threat to the ... ♖g4 system – *ed.*]

10 ... ♖g6

The variation 10 ... ed 11 ♜xd4 ♜xg4?!, hoping for 12 hg? ♖h4!, proves unsuccessful because of 12 ♜f5! ♜e3 13 fe! ♖h2+ (13 ... ♖xd1? 14 ♜xg7+ ♜f8 15 ♜e6+ ±± or 14 ... ♜e7 15 ♜xf7 mate!) 14 ♜xh2 ♖xd1 15 ♜xg7+ ±. No better is 12 ... ♖h2+ 13 ♜h1 ♜xf2+ 14 ♜xf2 ♖xd1 15 ♜xg7+ ♜e7 16 ♖e3, which led to a win for White in Skembris-Stamatopoulos, Thessaloniki 1981.

11 de ♜xe5

12 ♜xe5 ♖xe5

13 f4

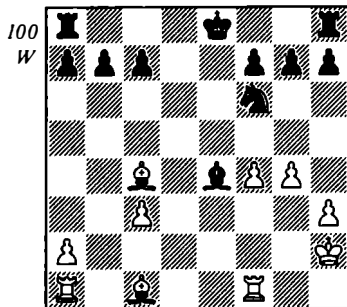
This is the point of White's play. He threatens f5, trapping the bishop on g6. This forces Black's reply.

13 ... ♖d4+

14 ♖xd4 ♖xd4+

15 ♜h2 ♖xc3

16 bc ♖xe4 (100)



White has lost a pawn, but after the text Black is faced with the loss of a piece unless he plays very carefully.

17 g5! ♖d5!

The only move which allows Black to fight for equality.

After 17 ... ♜d7 18 ♖e1 f5 19 gf ♜xf6 20 ♖d3 Black is in deep trouble:

a) 20 ... 0-0-0 21 ♖xe4 ♖he8 22 ♖f5+.

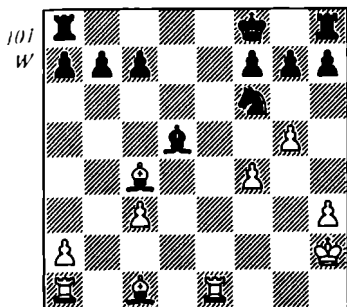
b) 20 ... 0-0 21 ♖xe4 ♖ae8 (21 ... ♖fe8 22 ♖xb7 ±) 22 ♖a3 was Littlewood-Muir, British Ch 1979.

18 ♖e1+ ♜f8! (101)

After 18 ... ♜d7 there are two ways for White to develop his initiative:

a) 19 ♖d1 ♜c6 20 ♖d4 b5!? 21 ♖xb5+ ♜xb5 22 gf ♜c6 23 c4, Hulak-Matulović, Yugoslavia 1981.

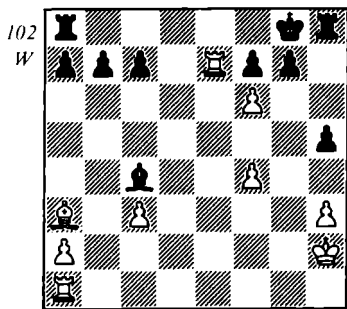
b) 19 ♖d3!? ♜e8 20 c4!?



19 ♖a3+

[19 gf ♖xc4 20 f5 looks stronger, when the threat of 21 ♖g1 leaves Black's position critical – ed.]

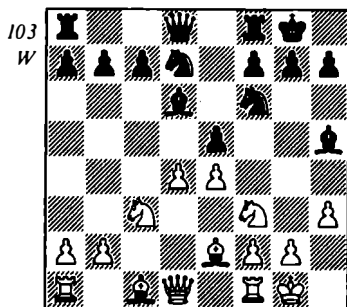
19 ... ♜g8
20 gf ♖xc4
21 ♖e7 h5! (102)



This is the manoeuvre which brings equality. After 22 ♖xc7 b5 23 ♖g1 ♖h6! Black has excellent drawing chances thanks to the bishops of opposite colour, Ftacnik-Matulović, Vršac 1981.

A2

10 ♖e2 0-0 (103)



11 de

White can also try to support the centre with 11 ♖e3, when Black has a number of possibilities. For example:

a) 11 ... ed 12 ♜xd4 ♖xe2 13 ♜xe2 and White has a good game because of the weakness of the light squares in the black camp, e.g. 13 ... ♖e8 14 ♜f5! ♖e5 15 ♖g5 c6 16 ♜f3, Gligorić-Rukavina, Leningrad IZ 1973.

b) 11 ... ♖e8 12 d5!? ♖g6 13 ♜d2, and if 13 ... ♖c5 then 14 ♖xc5 ♜xc5 15 ♖b5! with the better game for White.

c) Black's best chance is 11 ... ♖xf3 12 ♖xf3 ed 13 ♖xd4 ♜e5, supporting his position in the centre.

An analogous defence works best against 11 ♖g5: 11 ... ♖xf3 12 ♖xf3 ed 13 ♜xd4 h6 (or 13 ... ♜e5 14 ♖h5 h6 15 ♖e3 ♜e7 16 ♖e2 ♖fe8 17 ♜d5 ± Mikhalchishin-Henley, Mexico 1980) 14 ♖h4 ♜e5 15 ♖ad1 with White applying

some pressure, Didishko-Maryasin, Minsk 1980.

On 11 d5, 11 ... ♖g6 is a good reply.

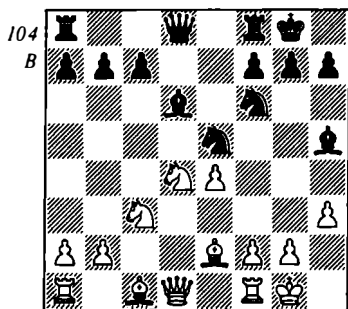
11 ... ♜xe5

12 ♜d4 (104)

Other moves are weaker:

a) 12 ♜xe5 ♖xe2 13 ♜xe2 ♖xe5 14 ♖g5 ♜e8! 15 ♜fe1 ♖xc3! 16 bc ♜e5 17 ♜e3 ♜fe8 = Balashov-Miles Tilburg 1977.

b) 12 ♖g5 ♖xf3 13 ♖xf3 h6 14 ♖f4 (14 ♖h4 ♜g6 ♞) 14 ... c6 15 ♜h1 ♜e7 16 ♖e2 ½-½ Browne-Rodriguez, Lanzarote 1977.



In this position Black has tried three plans:

A21 12 ... ♖xe2

A22 12 ... ♖g6

A23 12 ... ♖c5

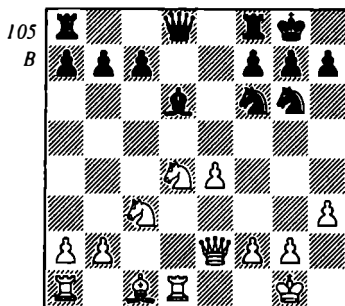
A21

12 ... ♖xe2

13 ♜xe2 ♜g6

14 ♜d1!? (105)

White must force the black queen to commit herself.



Other continuations have been tried:

a) 14 ♜f5 ♖e5 15 ♖g5!? (15 f4?! ♖xc3 16 bc ♜e8 17 e5 ♜d5 with counterplay for Black, for example 18 c4 ♜de7 19 ♜g3 ♜c6 20 ♖b2 ♜e7 21 ♜h2 ♜ad8 with a quite playable game for Black, Quinteros-Ghitecu, Polanica Zdroj 1977) 15 ... ♜e8! 16 ♖xf6 (16 ♜ael ♜e6 17 f4 ♖xc3 18 bc ♜ae8 19 ♜g3 ♜c6 ♞ Gligorić-Miles, Montilla 1978) 16 ... ♖xf6 17 ♜d5 ♜d8 18 ♜g4 ± Tarnan-Cordez, corres 1979.

b) 14 ♜db5 ♖c5 15 ♜a4 ♖e7 (15 ... ♜e7 16 ♜xc5 ♜xc5 17 ♜c3 ♜fe8 18 ♖e3 ♜a5 19 f3 ± Kuligowski-Ghitecu, Warsaw 1979) 16 ♜d1 ♜c8 17 ♜c2! ♜e8!? 18 ♖e3 c5! and here 19 ♜bc3 secured a small advantage for White, Ivkov-Miles, Buenos Aires 1979.

14 ... ♜c8

On 14 ... ♜e8, 15 ♜db5 ♖e5 16 ♖g5 proves unpleasant.

15 ♖g5 ♖e5

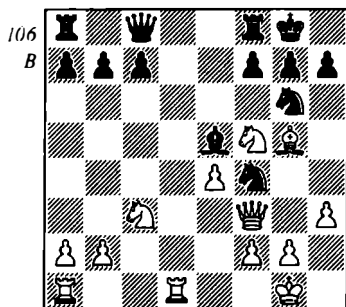
16 ♖e3 ♜h5

Forced because of the threat of 17 f4.

17 ♖f3 ♜h4

On 17 ... ♜f6 there follows 18 ♜f5 ♖e6 19 h4! h6 20 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 21 ♜d5! with a dangerous initiative for White, Browne-Miles, Reykjavik 1980.

18 ♜f5 (106)

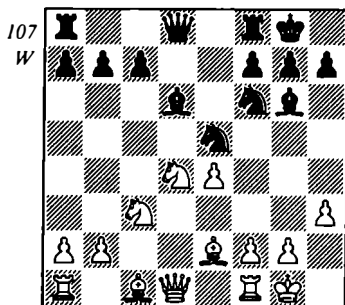


Black's pieces are blocking the centre, but their position is insecure. White has excellent chances to kick the bishop off e5 and then develop an initiative. For example, 18 ... ♖e8 19 h4 h6 20 ♖xf4 ♜xf4 21 ♖d2 ♖e6 22 ♖ad1 ± Portisch-Miles, Tilburg 1979, or 18 ... ♖e6 19 h4 h6 20 ♖xf4 ♜xf4 21 ♖d2 ♖ad8 22 ♖ad1 ± Ivkov-Miles, Bled/Portorož 1979.

A22

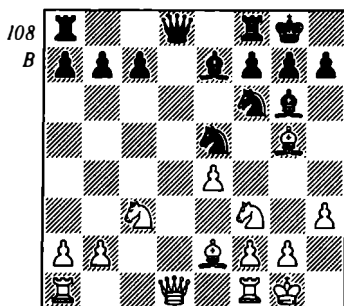
12 ... ♖g6 (107)

Black not only attacks e4, but also defends f5 against an incursion by the knight.



13 ♖g5 ♖e7

14 ♜f3!? (108)



This is the most active move. By eliminating the blockader at e5, White is on the verge of advancing his e-pawn, which will prove very dangerous for Black. Other plans: a) 14 ♜f5?! ♖xf5 15 ef c6 16 ♖c2 (16 ♖xd8 ♖fxd8 17 ♖ad1 with equality, Smyslov-Matulović, Palma de Mallorca IZ 1970) 16 ... h6 17 ♖ad1 ♜ed7 18 ♖h4 ♖e8 19 ♖c4 ± Lukacs-Mikhalchishin, USSR 1978.

b) 14 ♜f3 ♖c5 15 ♖e3 ♜c6 16 ♜c2 ♖e7 17 ♖c1 ♖fd8 18 ♖xc5 ♖xc5+ 19 ♖e3 ♖xe3+ 20 ♜xe3 ♖d2 (20 ... ♜d4?! 21 ♖c4! ± - Diesen-

Matulović, Bajmok 1978) 21 ♜c4 ♜d7 22 ♜fd1 ♜ad8 23 ♜e3 ♜d4 24 ♖c4 with a very slight advantage to White, Tatai-Matulović, Stip 1979.

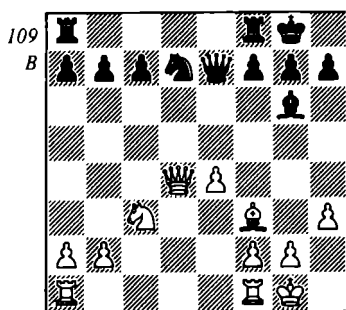
14 ... ♜xf3+

15 ♖xf3 ♜d7

Forced, as 16 e5 was threatened.

16 ♖xe7 ♜xe7

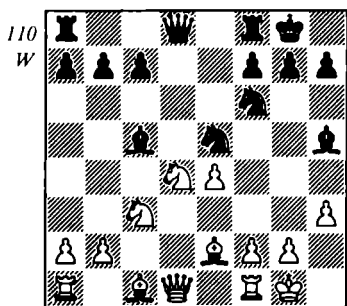
17 ♜d4 (109)



White's strong central position guarantees him a lasting initiative in the centre once the rooks come off, e.g. 17 ... c6 18 ♜ad1 ♜fd8 19 ♜e3 ± Ljubojević-Andersson, Turin 1982.

A23

12 ... ♖c5! (110)



This is the most promising continuation, leading to exchanges favourable for Black.

13 ♜b3

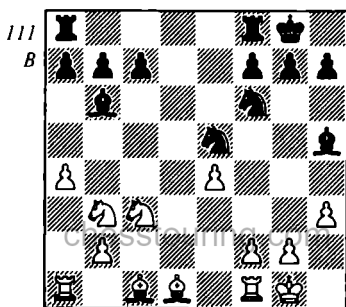
Black's plan succeeds on 13 ♖e3 ♖xe2! 14 ♜dx2 ♜xd1 15 ♜axd1 ♜ad8 =, or 13 ♖xh5 ♖xd4 14 ♜d5 (after 14 ♖g5? the knights outwit the bishops: 14 ... ♖xc3 15 bc ♜xd1 16 ♖xd1 ♜xe4 17 ♖f4 ♜d3 18 ♖xc7 ♜d2 19 ♖c2 ♜xf1 20 ♖xd3 ♜d2 21 ♜d1 ♜fc8 0-1 Law-Hillyard, London 1979) 14 ... c5! 15 ♖g5 ♜ed7 16 ♜e1 h6 17 ♖h4 ♜e8 18 ♖f3 ♜b8 19 ♜h1 ♜xd5 20 ed ♜d6 with a solid position for Black, Hübner-Miles, Wijk aan Zee 1979.

13 ... ♜xd1

14 ♖xd1 ♖b6!

14 ... ♖xd1 is an error: 15 ♜xc5 ♖c2 16 ♖g5!, after which play might continue 16 ... b6 17 ♖xf6 gf 18 ♜fc1 ♖d3 19 ♜xd3 ♜xd3 20 ♜c2 ± Farago-Nogueiras, Kecskemet 1979.

15 a4 (111)



The goal of this move is to exploit the weakness of Black's queenside. Other continuations:

a) 15 ♖xh5 ♜xh5 16 ♜d5 ♜d3 17 ♜xb6 ab 18 a3 ♜fe8 19 ♜d1 ♜ad8 = Eretova-Kash, Bydgoszcz 1980.

b) 15 g4 ♖g6 16 ♖c2 ♜fe8 17 ♜g2 ♜c4 18 ♜e1 ♜d7 19 a4 a5 20 ♜d5 f6 = Lputian-Ubilava, Moscow 1979.

15 ... ♖xd1

15 ... a6? 16 ♖g5 ♖g6 17 ♖xf6 gf 18 ♜d5 ± Browne-Whitehead, USA 1979.

16 ♜xd1 a5

16 ... c6 is an error because of 17 a5 ♖c7 18 f4 ♜g6 19 e5 ± Portisch-Miles, Lone Pine 1978.

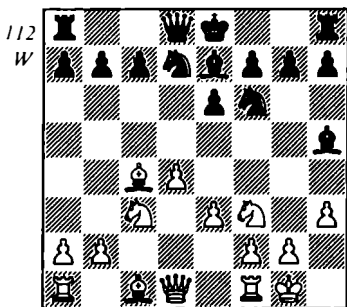
17 ♖g5 c6

18 ♜f1 ♜fd8

The chances are roughly level, for example 19 ♜e2 ♜c4 20 ♜xd8 ♜xd8 21 ♜d1 ♜e8 22 f3 ♜h5!?, Andersson-Miles, Wijk aan Zee 1979.

B

8 ... ♖e7 (112)



This is a passive position which does not allow Black to create any serious opposition to White's activities in the centre, and leaves Black facing a long and hard defence.

9 ♖e2

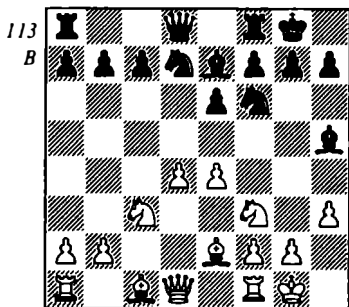
This ensures that Black will not be able to obtain any counterplay with ... ♜b6 and at the same time prepares the advance e4.

A playable alternative is 9 e4 ♜b6 10 ♖e2 0-0 which leads to the text by transposition.

9 ... 0-0

Against 9 ... ♖g6, aimed at preventing e4, a good plan is 10 ♜h4!? 0-0 11 ♜xg6 hg 12 e4 c6 13 ♖e3 with advantage for White in the centre.

10 e4 (113)



10 ♜b3!? is interesting, although in the game Najdorf-Andersson, Bugojno 1982, Black managed to find a successful counterplan in 10 ... ♜b8!? 11 ♖d2 ♜d8 12 ♜fd1 c5! 13 ♜acl cd 14 ed ♜b6 15 ♖g5

♜fd5 with equality.

10 ... ♜b6

10 ... c6 is passive, allowing 11 ♖e3. For example, 11 ... ♖b4 12 e5 ♜d5 13 ♜xd5 cd 14 ♜g5! ♖xe2 15 ♖c2! g6 16 ♖xe2 ± Krogius-Damjanović, Sochi 1964.

10 ... c5 11 ♖e3 ♖g6 is an interesting alternative, attacking White's central pawns. So in the game Rajković-Matulović, Smederevska Palanka 1982, Black obtained an excellent position after 12 e5 ♜e4 13 d5 ♜xc3 14 bc ed 15 ♖xd5 ♖c7 16 a4 ♜fd8.

11 ♖e3 ♖b4

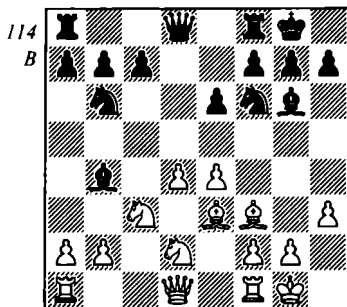
An alternative is 11 ... ♖g6 12 ♖d3 ♜c8, preparing ... c5. But after 13 ♖e2 c5 14 ♜fd1! cd 15 ♖xd4 ♜fd7 16 ♖b5 with an advantage to White because the position of the black queen in the centre of the board is not good.

On 11 ... ♜c8 the game might continue 12 ♜e5 ♖xe2 13 ♖xe2 c5 14 ♜fd1 with a considerable advantage for White.

12 ♜d2 ♖g6

This is better than 12 ... ♖xe2 13 ♖xe2 ♖e7 14 a3 ♖xc3 15 bc ♜fd7 16 ♜fb1! with a decisive advantage for White, Cuartas-Mestrovic, Rio de Janeiro 1979.

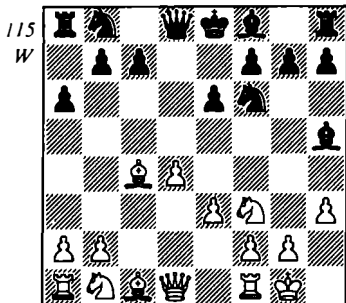
13 ♖f3 (114)



White's position is freer and more active. The pawn structure in the centre guarantees White a lasting spatial advantage. Play can continue 13 ... ♖e7 14 a3 ♖xc3 15 bc e5 16 d5! ♜fd7 17 ♖b3 with a tremendous advantage for White in Razuvayev-Mestrovic, Keszthely 1981.

17 6 h3 ♖h5 7 0-0 a6

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
3	♟f3	♟f6
4	e3	♙g4
5	♙xc4	e6
6	h3	♙h5
7	0-0	a6 (115)



This is a relatively new continuation, the goal of which is to develop the knight at c6 without having to face ♙b5.

8 ♟c6

Here there are two continuations:

A 8 ... ♟c6

B 8 ... c5, leading to an exchange of queens

A

8 ... ♟c6

By this move Black not only prepares to break in the centre with ... e5 (after a preparatory ... ♙d6, ... 0-0 and ... ♖e7), but also prevents the activation of White's pawn centre with e4.

9 ♙e2

9 ♖e2 prepares 10 ♙d1, 11 g4 and 12 e4, but Black can play 9 ... ♟a5! 10 ♙d3 c5! 11 ♙d1 ♖c7, tying down the white forces to the defence of d4.

9 ♙e1 ♙d6 10 e4? fails to 10 ... ♙xf3 11 gf e5! and now 12 f4 ef 13 e5 doesn't reach the goal because of 13 ... 0-0! with a dangerous counterattack for Black.

9 ... ♙d6

10 b3

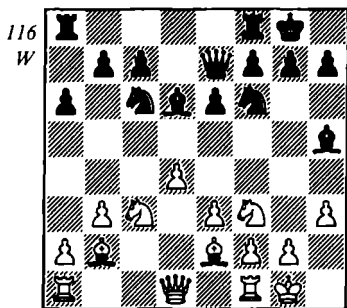
10 e4 is not on because of 10 ... ♙xf3 11 ♙xf3 ♟xd4!, while on 10 ♙h1 0-0 11 e4 ♙xf3 12 ♙xf3 e5! 13 de ♙xe5! Black has an excellent game. For example, 14 g3 ♙e8 15 ♟d5 ♟xd5 16 ed ♟d4 17 ♙g2 ♖f6 18 f4 ♙d6 ♢ Borik-Hort, Baden-

Baden 1981.

10 ... 0-0

10 ... ♖g6 11 ♖b2 ♘d5 is an interesting option, heading for simplification. After 12 ♖c1 ♘xc3 13 ♖xc3 0-0 14 ♖d3 ♖a3!? 15 ♖b1 a5 16 ♖xg6 hg 17 ♖e2 ♖e7 18 ♖a1 ♖d6 Black has achieved a comfortable game, Keene-Kavalek, Bochum 1981. But 12 ♘a4!? highlights the drawbacks of 11... ♘d5.

11 ♖b2 ♖e7 (116)



This is the crucial position of the variation.

12 ♖c1

The alternatives are less effective. a) 12 e4 ♖xf3 13 ♖xf3 ♖fd8 threatens the d4 pawn. After the best reply 14 ♘e2, hoping for 14 ... ♖c5 15 e5! ±, the game can take the following course: 14 ... e5!? 15 d5 ♘a7 16 ♘c3 ♘b5 with a roughly level game, Suarez-Lebrede, Cienfuegos 1981.

b) 12 ♘d2 ♖g6 13 ♘c4 has also been tried. Tukmakov-Lebrede, Vilnius 1978, continued 13 ... ♖fd8?! 14 ♖f3 e5! 15 ♖xc6 bc 16 de ♖xe5

17 ♖f3 with a clear advantage for White. 13 ... e5!? is more accurate, leaving Black with chances for equality.

12 ... ♖fd8

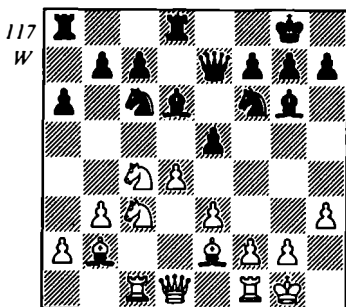
Creating threats against the d4 pawn is Black's principle idea, so 12 ... ♖fe8 is less logical. White could then reply 13 ♘d2, or even 13 ♘e5!?, and if 13 ... ♖xe2, then 14 ♘xc6 ♖xd1 15 ♘xe7+ ♖xe7 16 ♖fxd1 ♖d7 17 ♖f1 ♖ad8 18 ♖e2 h6 19 ♘a4! with pressure for White on the queenside, Kalinsky-Mukhin, Leningrad 1975.

13 ♘d2

This is a standard manoeuvre in such positions, since the exchange of bishops (13 ... ♖xe2 14 ♖xe2) leads to a clear advantage for White, who can continue ♖fd1, ♘c4 and finally e4.

13 ... ♖g6

14 ♘c4 e5!? (117)

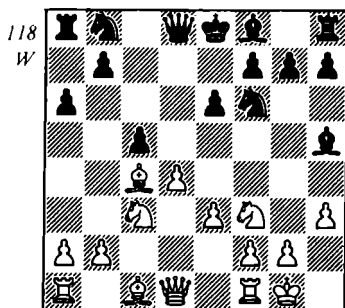


We have reached another critical position. Black's last move has deprived White of the dangerous moves 15 ♖f3 and 15 f4. The ideas

underlying his choice are illustrated in the following variation: 15 ♖xd6 ed! (15 ... cd?! 16 d5 ±) 16 ♖xb7 dc 17 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 18 ♖xc3 ♖xd1 19 ♖fxd1 h6 20 ♖xa6 ♖e4 with a fully playable game for Black, Yusupov-Timman, Bosna 1984.

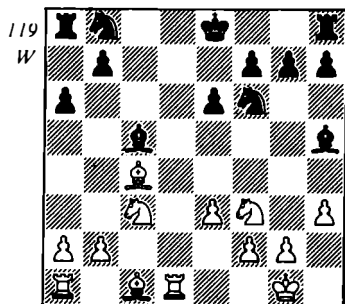
B

8 ... c5 (118)



Black attacks the d4 square. He threatens 9 ... cd and 10 ... ♖c6, assaulting the centre. But this plan is not without dangers for Black, who has opened up the position before completing his development.

9 dc ♖xd1
10 ♖xd1 ♖xc5 (119)



The exchange at f3 (10 ... ♖xf3

11 gf) leads to a weakening of White's kingside pawn structure but concedes the bishop pair, and this weighs heavily in White's favour. For example, 11 ... ♖xc5 12 a3 (or 12 b3 ♖bd7 13 f4 ♖e7 14 ♖f1 ♖ac8 15 ♖g2 ±, Belyavsky-Romanishin, USSR Ch 1976) 12 ... ♖e7 13 b4 ♖d6 14 ♖e2 ♖bd7 15 f4 ♖ac8 16 ♖b2 ± Szilagyi-Sinkowicz, Budapest 1980.

11 g4 ♖g6

12 ♖e5

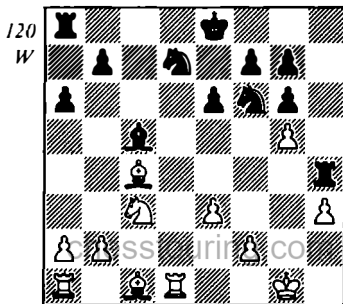
In this way White forces the exchange of Black's dark-squared bishop, in order to obtain the advantage of the bishop pair in the endgame.

12 ... ♖bd7

12 ... ♖fd7 is a less logical choice. After 13 ♖xg6 hg 14 ♖g2 ♖c6 White can obtain a superior position with 15 ♖e4 ♖e7 16 b3 ♖b6 17 ♖e2, Gavrikov-T.Petrosian, Vilnius 1978.

13 ♖xg6 hg

14 g5 ♖h4 (120)



A necessary defensive resource

76 6 h3 ♖h5 7 0-0 a6

for Black, taking control of e4.

15 ♖d3

This prevents ... ♗e4. On 15 gf Black could play 15 ... ♜xc4 16 fg ♗e7 17 e4 f6 18 ♗g2 ♜g8 19 ♖h6 ♗e5 with excellent chances for Black in A. Petrosian-Bronstein,

Rostov-on-Don 1980.

15 ...

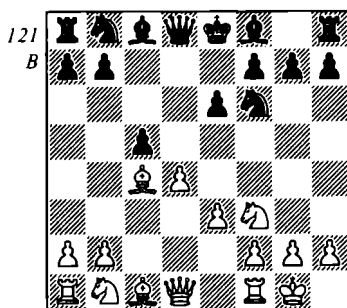
♗g8

16 ♖f1

White has the advantage, for example 16 ... ♜c8 17 ♖g2 ♜c7 18 ♗e4, Magerramov-Vorotnikov, Beltsi 1979.

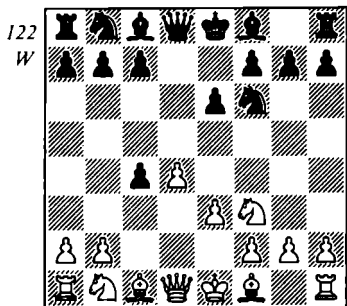
PART FIVE

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♙xc4	c5
6	0-0	



18 4 e3 e6: Introduction

- | | | |
|---|-----|----------|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 | ♘f3 | ♘f6 |
| 4 | e3 | e6 (122) |



This is the classical scheme of development in the QGA. Black quickly attends to his kingside development and strives to create counterplay in the centre against the d4 pawn with the advance ...

c5.

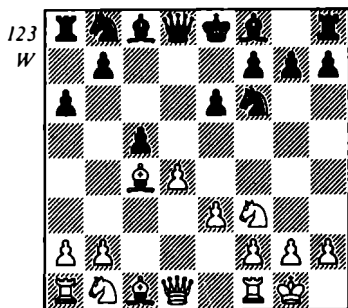
The game almost always continues 5 ♗xc4 c5 6 0-0, which is the subject of the following chapters. 6 ♖e2 is occasionally seen, but will normally transpose into the 6 0-0 lines. Of independent significance is 6 ... a6 7 dc ♗xc5 8 0-0 ♘c6 9 e4 ♗c7 10 e5 ♘g4 11 ♗f4 f6 12 ♘bd2 ♘gxe5 with equality, Nogueiras-Seirawan, Montpellier C 1985.

The material is laid out as follows:

6 ... a6 is the subject of Chapters 19-24, with other moves treated in Chapter 25. The standard replies 7 a4 (Chapters 19-21) and 7 ♖e2 (Chapters 22-23) are dealt with in detail, while other moves are considered in Chapter 24.

19 6 ... a6: Introduction

- | | | |
|---|------|----------|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 | ♘f3 | ♘f6 |
| 4 | e3 | e6 |
| 5 | ♙xc4 | c5 |
| 6 | 0-0 | a6 (123) |



This is the most popular continuation. Black intends to play actively with 7 ... b5 and then fianchetto the c8 bishop. White can prevent this plan by advancing his a-pawn, or continue with his development.

7 a4

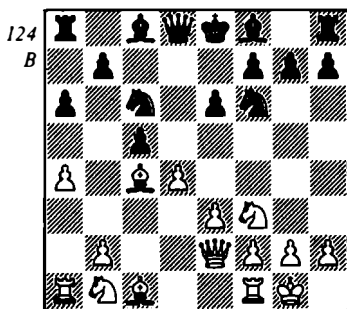
7 ♖c2 is treated in Chapters 22-23.

7 ... ♘c6

This move has gained in strength because of the weakness at b4 created by White's last move.

8 ♗e2 (124)

For 8 ♘c3 see Chapter 21.



White threatens to play ♖d1 and then either exchange at c5 or advance in the centre with d5. Therefore Black must either exchange on d4, the subject of this chapter, or play 8 ... ♗c7, increasing the pressure on d4, which is covered in the following chapter.

8 ... cd

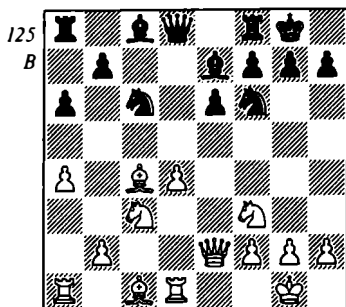
9 ♖d1 ♗e7

9 ... d3 is weaker, since after 10 ♙xd3 ♗c7 11 ♘c3 ♙e7 12 b3 0-0 13 ♙b2 ♖d8 14 ♖a1 White has a

more active position without any weaknesses to speak of, Rivas-Smyslov, Hastings 1981-82.

10 ed 0-0

11 ♖c3 (125)



The struggle for the d5 square has reached a critical phase. White threatens 12 d5, so Black must blockade that square, either immediately with the knight on f6 or with the c6 knight, via b4.

A 11 ... ♖d5

B 11 ... ♖b4

A

11 ... ♖d5

This keeps the bishop at c1 but weakens the kingside. White has a number of replies:

A1 12 ♖e4

A2 12 ♖d3

A3 12 ♖e4

There are two further attempts, each of which is sufficiently solid:

a) 12 ♖d2 ♖cb4 13 ♖e5.

b) 12 ♖e5 ♖cb4 13 ♖d3 ♖f6 14 ♖xb4 ♖xb4 15 ♖f4 with a slight edge for White, Schweber-Hase,

Buenos Aires 1983.

[c) 12 ♖e3 was recently introduced in the game Ftacnik-Nikolić, Novi Sad 1984, which continued 12 ... ♖cb4 13 ♖e5 ♖d7 14 ♖b3 ♖c6, and now, according to Nikolić, White should not have played 15 ♖xc6?! but rather 15 ♖a1 ♖xe3 16 fe ♖d5 17 ♖c4 – tr.]

A1

12 ♖e4

This opens the third rank for the transfer of the queen's rook to the kingside.

12 ... ♖cb4

13 ♖e5 b6

[Against 13 ... ♖a7, 14 ♖g4! appears quite strong, for example 14 ... ♖h8 15 ♖h3 b6 16 ♖e4 ♖e8 17 ♖e2!, and now Vegh-Kallai, Hungary 1984, was brought to a rapid conclusion after 17 ... ♖g8? 18 ♖a3! – tr.]

14 ♖a3 f5

15 ♖h3!? fe

16 ♖xe4 h5!?

This is stronger than 16 ... ♖f5 17 g4 ♖xe5 18 ♖xh7+ ♖f7 19 de, Dzyuban-Karpeshov, Evpatoria 1982, with advantage to White.

The text, played in Browne-Christiansen, USA 1977, leads to an unclear position.

A2

12 ♖d3!? ♖cb4

13 ♖b1

13 ♖e4 comes into consideration,

as played in Karpov-Hübner, Oslo 1984. The game continued 13 ... f6 14 f4 b5 15 xd5 ed 16 d3 g4 17 dcl e8 18 c7 d7 19 e3 where the threat of 20 e5 gave White a solid advantage.

The text move is based on the creation of threats along the b1-h7 diagonal.

13 ... **b6**

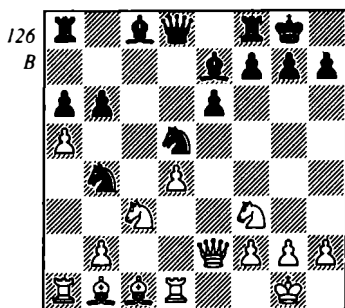
Here Black tries to create counterplay along the a8-h1 diagonal.

The transfer of the c8 bishop to c6 seems artificial, and practice has shown that it leads to difficulties for Black, for example:

a) 13 ... f6 14 e5 d7 15 e4 c6 16 xf6+ xf6 17 $\text{a3!?$ g6 18 h6 e8 19 g3 d5 20 wh5 with a dangerous initiative for White, Spassky-Pachman, Manila 1976.

b) 13 ... d7 14 e5 c6 15 a3 f6 16 g5 g6 17 a5! and now 17 ... bd5 is bad because of 18 xc6 bc 19 a4! , Gligorić-Ivkov, Novi Sad 1976.

14 **a5!?** (126)



In this way White secures control over the c5 square.

14 e4 has also been tried:

a) The move is sound after 14 ... g6? 15 h6! e8 16 e5 f8 17 xf8 xf8 18 xd5! ed (not 18 ... xd5 because of 19 e1 with the threats of xb4 and e4) 19 f4 and White was able to whip up an unstoppable attack on the kingside with a3-h3 and h4-h5 , Lerner-Lehmann, Kiev 1978.

b) But after 14 ... f5! 15 e2 d7 16 e5 c8 Black creates sufficient counterplay.

Another option is 14 e5 b7 15 a3 c8 but then the position of the rook on a3 is insecure, and on 16 e4 there follows 16 ... f5! and White must sacrifice the knight after 17 h3 fe 18 xe4 f5 with unclear consequences. On 16 a5 , intending to secure c5 for the knight, Black can play 16 ... $\text{b5!?$ 17 e4 f5 18 c5 xc5 19 dc xc5 and it is not clear whether White has sufficient compensation for the sacrificed pawn, Gligorić-Portisch, Pula 1971.

14 ... **ba**

14 ... b5 leads to the weakening of the c5 square without any off-setting benefits.

15 e5

15 e4 is less precise because of 15 ... d7! , for example 16 e5 b5 17 wh5 f5! 18 c3 f6 19 xb5 ab 20 a3 e8! and Black

seized the initiative in Gligorić-Portisch, Bugojno 1978.

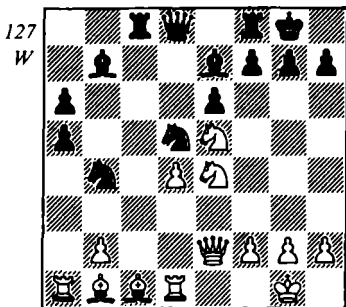
15 ... ♖b7

15 ... ♔d7 would be an error here, since 16 ♖a3 threatens 17 ♔xd5 ♔xd5 18 ♔xh7+!.

16 ♔e4

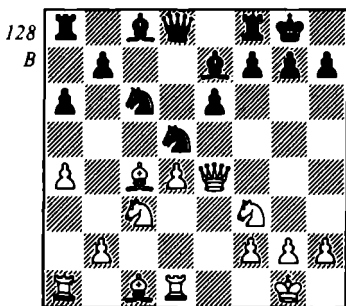
The point of this move is to exploit the weakness at c5.

16 ... ♖c8 (127)



A critical position, since after the forced variation 17 ♖a3 f5 18 ♔c5 ♔xc5 19 d4 ♖xc5 20 ♖g3 ♖c7 White must demonstrate that his initiative is worth the two pawns, Browne-Portisch, Lone Pine 1978. A3

12 ♖e4 (128)



This is an interesting continuation which is justified if Black adopts a standard reaction such as 12 ... ♔cb4: 13 ♔e5 b6 14 ♔c6! leads to an advantage for White, e.g. 14 ... ♔xc6 15 ♔xd5 ♖b7 16 ♔xe7+ ♖xe7 17 d5! ♔a5 18 ♔d3 g6 19 ♔h6 ♖fe8 20 ♖d4, Vukić-Sibarević, Banja Luka 1979.

12 ... ♔f6!

13 ♖h4 ♔d5

14 ♖g4 ♔f6

15 ♖g3 ♔h5

16 ♖h3 ♔f6

17 ♔g5 ♔b4

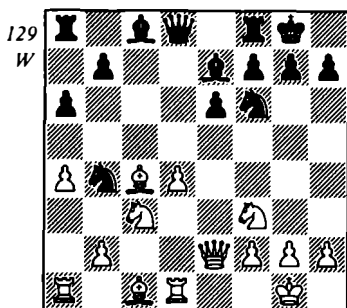
17 ... e5 fails to 18 ♖h4! with advantage to White.

18 ♖g3 ♖e8

Black has a solid game, for example 19 ♔e5 ♔fd5 20 ♔h6 ♔f8, Polugayevsky-Hort, Manila 1976.

B

11 ... ♔b4 (129)



In this way Black prevents the transfer of the bishop on c4 to the b1-h7 diagonal, but at the same time White has the opportunity to

develop the other bishop.

12 ♖g5!

On 12 ♖e5, 12 ... ♖cb4 transposes to the variation with 11 ... ♖d5, but in favourable circumstances for Black.

12 ... ♖d7

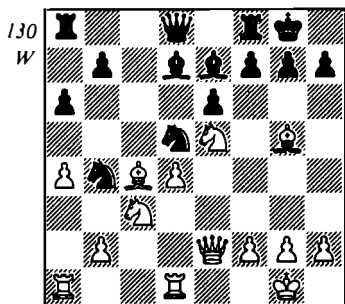
Other continuations are weaker:
a) 12 ... ♖bd5 13 ♖e5 ♖xc3 14 bc ♖d5 15 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 16 ♖d3! ♖d5 17 ♖c2 and then White will play 18 c4 and 19 ♖a3, later swinging the rook over to h3 with a dangerous initiative.

b) 12 ... ♖a5? 13 ♖e5 ♖d8 14 ♖e4 ♖bd5 15 ♖f3! ♖f8 16 ♖d3 with a kingside attack, Donchenko-Pokhla, Vilyandi 1972.

13 ♖e5

White can force a slightly advantageous endgame with 13 d5 ed 14 ♖xd5 ♖bxd5 15 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 16 ♖xd5 ♖xg5 17 ♖xg5 h6 18 ♖d2 hg 19 ♖xd7 ♖f6, which was seen in a Botvinnik-Petrosian match game and repeated in Speelman-Miles, London 1984.

13 ... ♖fd5 (130)



13 ... ♖e8 is passive and can be met by 14 a5!? ♖c8 15 ♖a4 ♖xa4 16 ♖xa4 ♖fd5 17 ♖d2 ♖c6 18 ♖d3 with better chances for White, Tarjan-Cuellar, Ecuador 1976.

14 ♖xd5

After 14 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 Black has a solid position in the centre.

14 ... ♖xd5

15 ♖xd5 ed

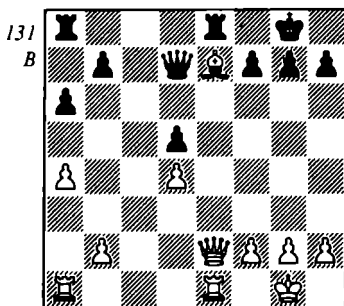
15 ... ♖xg5 is bad because of 16 ♖b6!, when Black loses material.

16 ♖xd7 ♖e8

17 ♖xe7 ♖xd7

After 17 ... ♖xe7 18 ♖e5f6 19 f4 Black is left a pawn down in an inferior position. With the text he counts on regaining a piece.

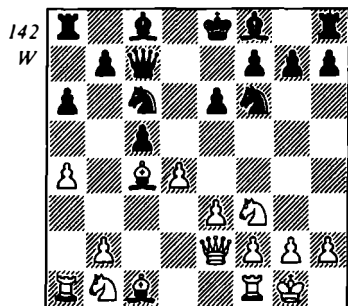
18 ♖e1! (131)



It becomes apparent that it will be very difficult to win back the piece, since Black's pieces are inactive. Thus on 18 ... ♖c8 White plays 19 ♖e3 ♖c7 20 ♖a1 with advantage, Vaganian-Inkiov, Buenos Aires Ol 1978, while 18 ... h6 fails to 19 ♖h5 ♖xe7 20 ♖xe7 ♖xe7 21 ♖xd5 ±.

20 6 ... a6 7 a4 ♖c6 8 ♔e2 ♔c7

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♙xc4	c5
6	0-0	a6
7	a4	♘c6
8	♗e2	♗c7 (142)



9 ♘c3

Here Black must decide how best to develop the kingside.

A 9 ... ♙d6

B 9 ... ♙e7

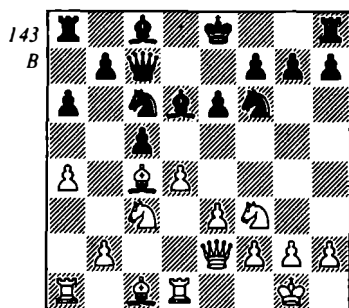
A

9 ... ♙d6

This is the active defence, intro-

duced by Bulgarian grandmaster Radulov. Black aims to play ... e5.

10 ♙d1 (143)



White not only prepares the advance in the centre with d5, but also prepares to open up the centre with dc. Other continuations have been tried:

a) 10 b3 0-0 11 ♙b2 cd! 12 ed e5!? is considered sufficient for equality, for example 13 ♘e4 ♘xe4 14 ♗xe4 ed 15 ♙d1 ♗e7! 16 ♗xe7 ♙xe7 17 ♘xd4 ♙d7 18 ♙d5 ♙ad8 =, Gligorić-Radulov, Ljubljana 1973.

b) 10 h3 0-0 11 d5 ed 12 ♙xd5 h6 13 e4 ♙e8 14 ♙e3 ♘b4 15 ♙ac1

♙e6 = Hulak-Radulov, Indonesia 1982.

c) 10 d4!? ♙xc5 11 e4 (11 b3 0-0 12 ♙b2 b6 13 ♜g5 ♙b7 14 ♜ce4 ♜xe4 15 ♜xe4 ♜e5 16 ♜xc5 ♗xc5 17 ♠ac1 ♜xc4 18 ♠xc4 ♗e7 = Planinc-Radulov, Amsterdam 1973) 11 ... ♜g4!? (intending to blockade the e-pawn at e5) 12 g3 (this is the only move in view of the threat of ... ♜d4) 12 ... ♜ge5 13 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 14 ♙a2 ♙d7 15 ♙f4 ♙e7!? (in Sahović-Donchev, Vrnjačka Banja 1984, Black experienced significant difficulties after 15 ... ♙d4? 16 ♠fd1 ♙xc3 17 ♠ac1!) 16 ♠ac1 ♙c6 and now the threat of 17 ... g5 guarantees Black sufficient counterplay.

10 ... 0-0

11 h3

This prepares 12 d4 ♙xc5 13 e4, which is not playable immediately because of ... ♜g4.

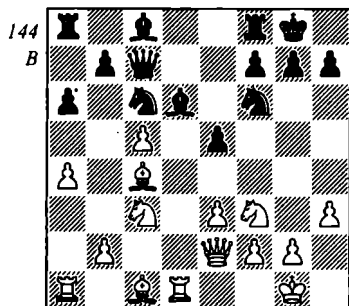
11 ... e5

On 11 ... b6 White can play 12 d5! ed 13 ♙xd5! (13 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 14 ♙xd5 ♙b7 15 e4 ♠ae8 16 ♙e3 ♙c8! = is weaker, Holm-Radulov, Hamburg 1974) 13 ... ♙b7 14 e4 ♠ae8 15 ♙g5 ±. Jacoby-Radulov, Hamburg 1984, continued 15 ... ♜d4 16 ♜xd4 ♜xd5 17 ♜xd5 ♙xd5 18 ♜f5 ♠xe4 19 ♗h5 ♠fe8 20 ♜xg7 ♠h8e5 21 f4 ♠xf4 22 ♜e8 ♗c6 23 ♜xd6, and now Black introduced the new move 23 ... h6!! – see the illustrative game on page

116.

11 ... cd 12 ed ♙f4 is also unfavourable for Black because of 13 d5! ed 14 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 15 ♙xd5 ♙f5 16 ♗c4! ♙xc1 17 ♠axc1 ± Taylor-Formanek, New York 1983.

12 d4 (144)



12 ... ♙xc5

13 b3 ♗e7

The sharp move 13 ... e4 leads to an advantage for White after 14 ♜d4 ♜e5 15 ♜d5!.

14 ♙b2 ♙e6

15 ♜d5!

This underscores the weakness of the light squares in Black's camp.

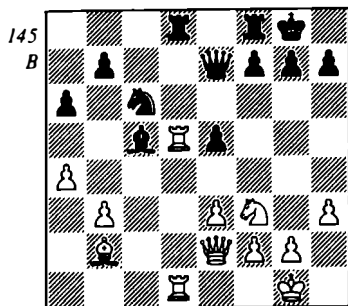
15 ... ♜xd5

16 ♙xd5 ♙xd5

17 ♠xd5 ♠ad8

18 ♠ad1 (145)

Despite the exchange of minor pieces at d5, White's initiative has become more concrete due to the weakness of the light squares. For example:

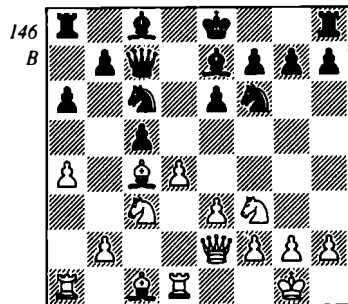


a) 18 ... ♔d6 19 ♔c4 ♔c7 20 e4 h6 21 g3 ± Panczyk-Radulov, Polanica Zdroj 1982.

b) 18 ... e4 19 ♖e5 ♔xd5 20 ♔xd5 ♔d8 21 ♖xc6 bc 22 ♔e5 ± Pinter-Radulov, Herculanu 1982.

B

9 ... ♔e7
10 ♔d1 (146)



10 d5 may be played at once, for example 10 ... ed 11 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 12 ♔xd5 0-0 13 h3 ♔f6?! 14 e4 ♔e8 15 ♔e3 ♖b4 16 ♔ac1 with a better game for White, Browne-Zaltsman, USA 1983.

10 ... 0-0
11 d5

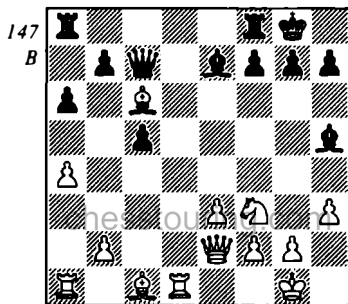
This advance in the centre is one

of Botvinnik's ideas, which he used, albeit after a few intermediate moves, against Euwe at Groningen 1946, which saw 11 b3 ♔d7 12 ♔b2 ♔ac8 13 d5 ed 14 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 15 ♔xd5 ♔g4 and now White could have played 16 h3! ♔h5 17 g4 ♔g6 18 h4 with advantage. Nevertheless, Black can play 12 ... ♔ad8!, having in mind the variation 13 d5 ed 14 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 15 ♔xd5 ♔g4! with sufficient counterplay for Black, e.g. 16 h3 ♔h5 17 ♔c3 ♖d4!, Gligorić-Gheorghiu, Hastings 1966/67, or 16 ♔c4 ♔h5! 17 ♔xc6 ♔xc6 =.

11 ... ed
12 ♖xd5 ♖xd5
13 ♔xd5 ♔g4

This is the best continuation. In Doroshkevich-Rashkovsky, Tbilisi 1974, White found a cunning way to get the advantage if Black does not pin the knight: 13 ... ♔f6?! 14 h3! ♖b4 15 e4! ♖xd5 16 ed ♔f5 17 ♔e3 ♔ac8 18 a5 ♔fe8 19 d6 ±.

14 h3 ♔h5
15 ♔xc6 (147)



6 ... a6 7 a4 ♘c6 8 ♚e2 ♚c7 87

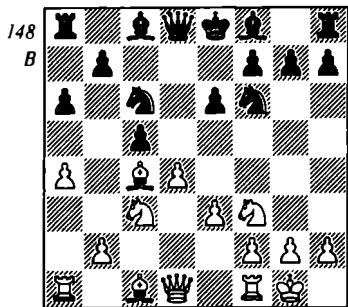
The most effective move. After 15 b3 ♙f6 16 ♙b2 ♙xb2 17 ♚xb2 ♜b4 18 ♙c4 ♜ad8 19 ♙e2 b6 the game is level, and a draw was agreed in Pn-Tal, Erevan 1982.

15 ... ♚xc6
16 e4

The threat of 17 ♜d5 guaranteed a small advantage for White in Zilberman-Chekhov, USSR 1984.

21 6 ... a6 7 a4 ♖c6 8 ♖c3

1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♖f3 ♖f6
4 e3 e6
5 ♗xc4 c5
6 0-0 a6
7 a4 ♖c6
8 ♖c3 (148)



This is the natural continuation, against which there are two replies that are usually adopted:

A 8 ... cd

B 8 ... ♗e7

A

8 ... cd

Preventing the set-up ♗e2 and ♖d1.

9 ed ♗e7

This is the standard position of the Queen's Gambit Accepted, save the inclusion of ... a6 and a4, which work in Black's favour since he has the b4 square available for his operations.

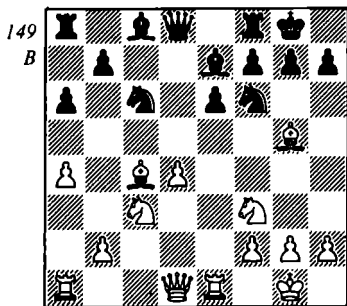
10 ♗g5

There is the possibility of 10 ♗e3 0-0 11 ♗e2, trying to transfer the rook from f1 to d1, as in Anikayev-Brazomaretsky, USSR 1981, where White obtained a promising position after 11 ... ♗a5?! 12 ♖d2! ♗d7 13 ♖b3 ♗c7 14 ♖fd1 ♖b4 15 ♖ac1!?. But there is a more solid alternative in 11 ... ♖d5, for example 12 ♗d3 ♖cb4 13 ♗b1 b6 with a solid position for Black.

10 ... 0-0

11 ♖e1 (149)

White's superior development allows him to control the initiative, especially since he has at his disposal the strategic threat of d5. Black must play very carefully in order not to fall into a difficult position.



11 ... ♖b4

Of the alternatives presented below only the last is playable:

a) 11 ... b6? 12 d5! ♖xd5 13 ♖xd5 ed 14 ♖xd5 ♙xg5 15 ♖xg5 ♙b7 16 ♖ad1 ♖c7 17 ♙d3 ± Tarjan-Buljovčić, Novi Sad 1975.

b) 11 ... ♖a5?! 12 d5! ed 13 ♙xf6! ♙xf6 14 ♖xd5 ♖d8 15 ♖e2 ♙g4 16 ♖ad1 ♙e5 17 h3 ♙xf3 18 ♖xf3 ± Osnos-Anikayev, USSR 1983.

c) 11 ... ♙d7 12 ♖e2 ♖c8 13 ♖ad1 ♖d5!? deserves attention, although in the game Chekhov-Sveshnikov, Lvov 1983, White succeeded in finding a very strong reply to Black's plan: 14 ♙xd5 ♙xg5 15 ♙e4!? ♙f6 16 d5! ed 17 ♖xd5 ♙e6 18 ♖f4 ♖b6 19 ♖xe6 fe 20 ♖d3 ± – see illustrative game on page 118.

d) 11 ... ♖d5 is considered a solid move, for example: 12 ♙xe7 ♖xe7 13 ♖b3 ♖f6 14 ♖ad1 ♖c7 15 ♖e5 ♖d8 16 ♖c2 ♙d7 17 ♖e2 ♖e8 18 b3 with an initiative for White in Timoshchenko-Anikayev, USSR 1981, but it must be said that Black's position is solid.

12 ♖b3 ♖c6

This is Black's idea. He threatens 13 ... ♖a5 and 13 ... ♖xd4, and this forces White to disclose his plans. The disadvantage of Black's play lies in the possibility of a repetition of moves after 13 ♖d1.

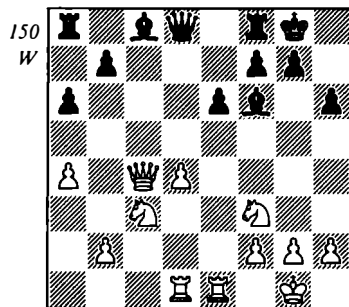
13 ♖ad1 ♖a5

14 ♖a2 ♖xc4

15 ♖xc4 h6

Black must determine the future of the g5 bishop. On 15 ... ♙d7 16 ♖e5 ♖c8 17 ♖b3 White has strong pressure.

16 ♙xf6!? ♙xf6 (150)



Black has simplified the position by exchanging a pair of light pieces, but his lagging development is about to make itself felt.

17 ♖e4

The bishop is driven back. After 17 ♖e5 ♙d7 18 ♖e4 ♖c8 19 ♖b3 ♙xe5! 20 de ♖a5! Black's play is fully justified, Gligorić-Buljovčić, Novi Sad 1976.

17 ... ♙e7

18 ♖e5 ♙d6

Forced, in view of the threat of

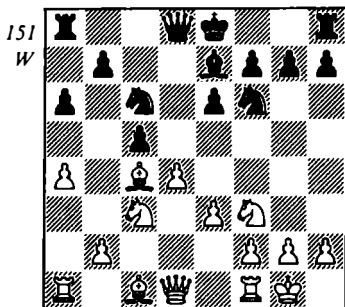
19 d5!.

19 ♖c1

White's position is more active. In the game Antoshin-Mascarinas, Frunze 1979, White kept control of the initiative for a long time after 19 ... ♖b8?! 20 dxd6 ♖xd6 21 ♖c7. 19 ... ♖b8 is more precise, maintaining chances of a successful defence, although the initiative will rest securely in White's hands.

B

8 ... ♖e7 (151)



9 ♖e2

It is difficult for White to strengthen his position. The text continuation intends ♖d1. Other tries: a) 9 dxe5 cd!? (9 ... 0-0 10 dxc6 bc 11 dc ♖xc5 12 b3 ±) 10 dxc6 bc 11 ed 0-0 12 ♖f4 a5! = (12 ... ♖b6? 13 a5! ♖d8 14 ♖e5 dxd5 15 ♖h5 ± Broder-Nünher, East Germany 1979).

b) 9 dc ♖xd1 10 ♖xd1 ♖xc5 11 ♖d2 b6 12 dgg5 dxa5 13 ♖a2 ♖b7 = Smejkal-Hübner, Rio IZ 1979.

9 ... cd
10 ♖d1 e5!?

10 ... 0-0 11 ed – see 8 ♖e2.

11 ed ed
12 dxd4 dxd4
13 ♖e5!

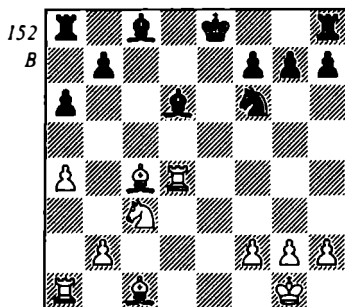
White achieved nothing in the game Seirawan-Gheorghiu, Baden Baden 1981, after 13 ♖e3?! 0-0 14 ♖xd4 ♖c7 15 ♖f4 ♖xf4 16 ♖xf4 ♖c5 and in this equal position the players agreed to a draw.

The text continuation is justified after 13 ... 0-0 by 14 ♖xd4 and Black experiences difficulties on account of the insecure position of his queen in the centre.

13 ... ♖d6

Best.

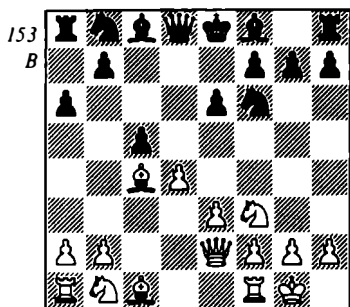
14 ♖xd6 ♖xd6
15 ♖xd4 (152)



The initiative lies with White, but the greatly simplified position allows Black to retain sufficient hopes for full equality; for example, 15 ... ♖e5!? 16 ♖h4 0-0 17 ♖f4 ♖e8 18 ♖e1 ♖xf4 19 ♖xe8+ dxe8 20 ♖xf4 ♖e6 with a solid position for Black, Belyavsky-Mikhailchishin, USSR Ch 1984.

22 6 ... a6 7 ♖e2 b5 8 ♙b3

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♙xc4	c5
6	0-0	a6
7	♖e2 (153)	



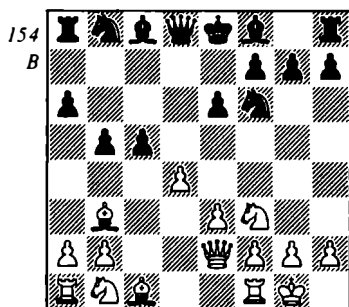
In this variation White intends to transfer his king's rook to d1 without blocking Black's queen-side action with a4. This allows Black to carry out the ... b4 advance immediately. In this chapter and the next we examine this plan, postponing discussion of 7 ... ♘c6 until Chapter 24.

7 ... b5

This is more flexible than the preliminary 7 ... ♘c6, since Black retains the option of developing the knight at d7.

8 ♙b3 (154)

The alternative retreat 8 ♙d3 is considered in the next chapter. The text brings d5 under control and allows White to plan the advance of his d-pawn to that square, and this presents some problems for Black to solve.



8 ... ♙b7

This is the most logical move. 8 ... ♘c6 will be discussed in Chapter 24 under the move order 7 ... ♘c6. Here there are three

plans for White:

A 9 ♘c3

B 9 ♙d1

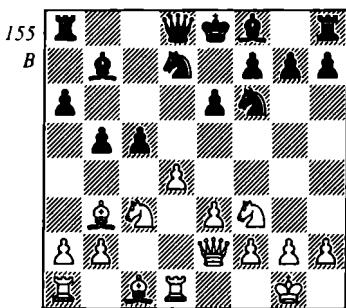
C 9 a4

A

9 ♘c3 ♙bd7

This is considered obligatory because of 10 ♙d1 with the threat of 11 d4. In this regard there is an interesting continuation 9 ... ♙e7 10 ♙d1 0-0, and if 11 d4 then 11 ... ♖c7, for example 12 e4 b4 13 ♘a4 ♙xe4 14 ♙e3 ♘c6! with unclear play in Ree-Littlewood, Hastings 1981-82. 11 e4!? seems to be more accurate, and if 11 ... b4 then 12 d5!? bc 13 de ♖b6 14 e5 ♙e4 15 ef+ ♙h8 16 e6! with complications favourable for White, Georgiev-Dlugy, Belfort 1983.

10 ♙d1 (155)



Here is the point of departure of the variation. The threats along the d-file force Black to take measures involving the regrouping of his forces. To this end he can adopt:

A1 10 ... ♖b8

A2 10 ... ♖c7

A3 10 ... ♙d6

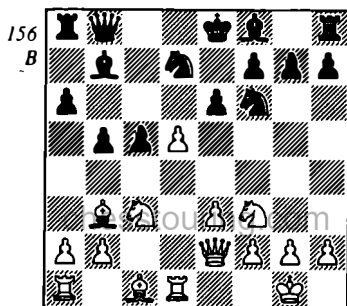
On 10 ... ♙e7 White can choose between 11 e4 b4 12 e5 bc 13 ef with complications which work out in his favour, for example 13 ... ♘xf6 14 ♙a4+ ♙f8 15 dc ±, or 13 ... ♙xf6 14 d5! e5 15 bc ±, and 11 d5 ♘xd5 12 ♘xd5 ♙xd5 13 ♙xd5 ed 14 ♙xd5 0-0 15 e4 ±.

A1

10 ... ♖b8

11 d5 (156)

This is the main continuation. 11 e4 cd 12 ♙xd4 (12 ♘xd4 ♙d6 leaves White in a position where if he wishes to fight for the advantage he must play the unclear sacrifice 13 e5 ♙xe5, but neither 14 ♘xe6 fe 15 f4 0-0 16 fe ♘xe5 nor 14 f4 ♙xd4+ 15 ♙xd4 0-0 promise anything definite) 12 ... ♙c5 13 ♙d3 is also seen, but after 13 ... ♘g4!? 14 ♘d1 ♘df6 15 h3 h5! 16 ♙g5 ♘xe4! Black seizes the initiative, Kaunas-Pokhla, Daugavpils 1979.



11 ... ♜xd5

Sometimes encountered are:

a) 11 ... e4 12 e4!? (on 12 ♜xd5 Black can play 12 ... c4! 13 ♜xf6+ ♜xf6 14 ♙c2 ♙c5 with sufficient counterplay) 12 ... de (12 ... c4 13 e5! gives White a strong attack) 13 ♜g5 c4 14 ♜xe4 ♜xe4 15 ♜xe4 ♖e5 16 ♙c2 ±.

b) 11 ... e5 12 ♜g5 c4 13 ♙c2 ♜c5 14 a4 h6 15 ♜ge4 with an initiative for White, Garcia Palermo-Najdorf, Mar del Plata 1982.

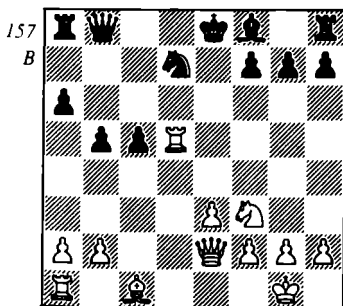
c) 11 ... c4 12 de! fe 13 ♙c2 ♙d6 14 e4 0-0 15 h3 and the threat of ♜g5 guarantees White an advantage.

12 ♜xd5 ♙xd5

12 ... ed?! allows White to sharpen the game with 13 e4!. Now after the natural 13 ... d4 14 e5! the threat of 15 ♙f4 and then 16 e6 is dangerous for Black. The best defence is 14 ... ♙xf3 15 ♖xf3 c4 16 ♙f4 ♖c8. This takes care of the immediate problems, but leaves Black in a precarious position.

13 ♙xd5 ed

14 ♖xd5 (157)



14 e4 d4 15 e5 ♖b6 is obviously unacceptable for White.

This is the key position of the variation. The weakness of the light squares in the Black camp give White an advantage. His initiative will be fortified after the central advance e4 and the development of his queen's bishop, which will be followed by doubling rooks on the d-file.

14 ... ♙e7

14 ... ♜b6 leads to a transposition of moves after 15 ♖h5 ♙e7 16 e4.

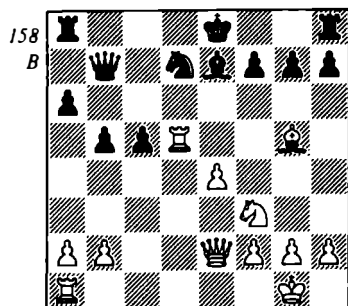
15 e4 ♖b7

15 ... ♖c7 is another possibility. Then 16 b3 0-0 17 ♙b2 ♖fe8 18 ♖c1 ♖ad8 19 ♜d4! and the initiative remains in White's possession, Timman-van der Wiel, Holland 1980.

15 ... ♜b6 16 ♖h5 0-0 is also seen. Now 17 e5! is the strongest move (17 ♙e3 is weaker: 17 ... ♖c8 18 ♖c1 g6 19 ♖h3 ♖g4! gives Black a strong counterattack). 17 ... ♖b7 (17 ... ♖e8 is met by 18 e6! with a very strong attack for White) 18 e6 g6 19 ef+ ♖xf7 20 ♖e5 ♜c4 21 ♖e6 ♙f6 22 ♙h6 ♖e7 23 ♖e1 with advantage to White in the game Andersson-Cifuentes, Thessaloniki Ol 1984.

16 ♙g5 (158)

White is threatening to launch a dangerous kingside attack, based on Black's weaknesses at h7 and f7.



16 ... ♖b6

16 ... f6 leads to a weakening of the light squares after 17 ♙f4: 17 ... 0-0 18 ♖h4! ♖b6 19 ♖dd1 and then ♖f5 and ♗g4 with a big attack.

17 ♖ad1!

This is an important resource for White. Now 17 ... ♖xd5 18 ed f6 19 d6 fg 20 ♖e1! produces a passed pawn on e7 worth a rook.

17 ... f6!?

After 17 ... h6 18 ♙xc7 ♖xd5 19 ♙xc5 ♖e7 20 ♖e5! Black is in deep trouble, with 21 ♖d7 menacing. For example, 20 ... ♖c8 21 ♖d7 ♖c7 22 ♖d8+!! ♙xd8 23 ♖xf7+ ±±.

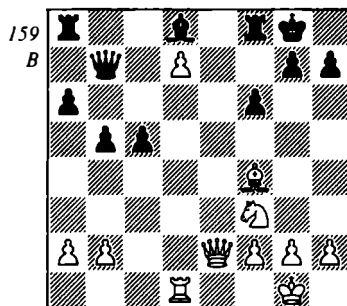
18 ♙f4 ♖xd5

19 ed 0-0

20 d6 ♙d8

21 d7 (159)

White has full compensation for the exchange in the form of the weakness of the light squares and the strong passed pawn at d7. A more precise evaluation of the position awaits practical tests.



A2

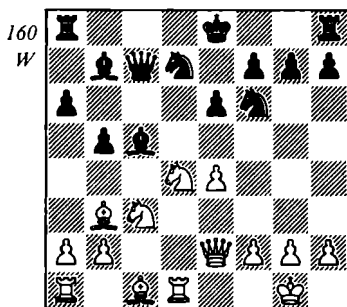
10 ... ♗c7

11 e4

The continuation 11 d5 ♖xd5 12 ♖xd5 ♙xd5 13 ♙xd5 ed 14 ♖xd5 loses its strength, since the knight on d7 is already defended by the queen.

11 ... cd

12 ♖xd4 ♙c5 (160)



This is the most active continuation. Black has in mind the creation of counterplay after castling, ... ♖e5 and ... ♖fg4, with threats against f2 and h2.

Other continuations:

a) 12 ... b4?! 13 ♖a4 e5 (the capture of the e-pawn is extraordinarily risky: 13 ... ♖xe4 14 ♙xe6 fe 15 ♖xe6, or 13 ... ♙xe4 14 ♙g5 with dangerous threats for White) 14 ♖f3 ♙e7 15 ♙g5 followed by ♖ac1 with strong pressure on the c- and d-files.

b) 12 ... ♖c5?! needlessly weakens the e5 square. 13 e5! ♖fd7 14 ♙f4 ♖xb3 15 ab ♙e7 16 ♖ac1 ♖b6 17 ♙e3 ♖a5 18 f4 ± Farago-Dobosz, Lodz 1980.

13 a3

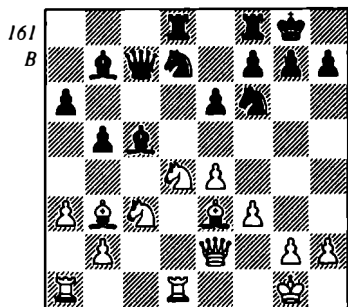
This is to inhibit the potential advance of Black's b-pawn.

13 ... 0-0

14 ♙e3 ♖ad8

14 ... ♖xe4 is a blunder: 15 ♖xe4 ♙xe4 16 ♖xe6! with a big edge for White.

15 f3 (161)

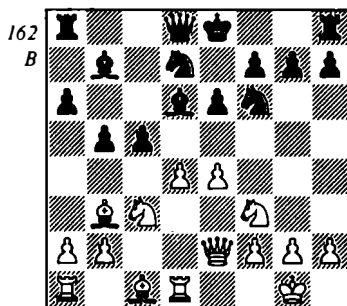


White, with his strong centre and flexible development, has some advantage – Kakageldiev-Suetin, Tallinn 1980.

A3

10 ... ♙d6

11 e4 (162)



This is the continuation which is most dangerous for Black. 11 h3 0-0 12 e4 is insufficient: 12 ... cd 13 ♖xd4 ♙c5 14 ♖d1 b4! 15 e5 ♙xf3 16 gf bc 17 ef ♖c7! and the threat of perpetual check after ... ♖g3 will beat back White's attack, Lechtynsky-Dobrovilsky, Trnava 1982.

11 ... cd

12 ♖xd4

After 12 ♖xd4?! ♖b8! Black obtains a favourable version of the variation with 10 ... ♖b8.

12 ... ♙c5

13 ♖d3 ♙g4!?

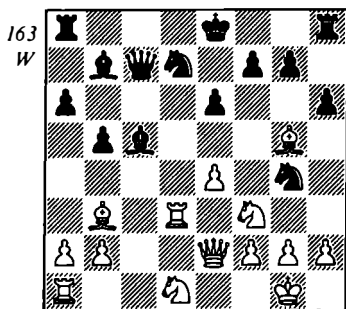
This is an interesting attempt to sharpen the game. After 13 ... ♖c7 Black loses time in comparison with the 10 ... ♖c7 variation. The game might then run 14 ♙g5 0-0 15 ♖ad1 b4 16 ♖a4 ♙e7 17 ♖d2! with strong pressure for White along the d-file, Marcus-Ausmanis, corres 1972.

14 ♖d1 ♖c7

15 ♙g5

Planning to transfer the bishop to g3 and the queen's rook to c1.

15 ... h6! (163)



This chases the bishop off g5, which is important because it is the only defender of the dark squares in the White camp. Now on 16 ♠h4 Black can play 16 ... ♖f4! with threats against the e-pawn, and if 17 ♖c3, then 17 ... ♖xh2! with advantage to Black.

16 ♠d2 ♖df6

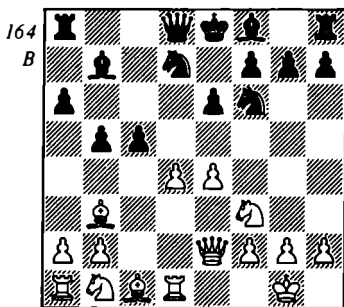
17 h3 ♖e5

Black had sufficient counterplay, Vladimirov-Chekhov, Irkutsk 1983.

B

9 ♠d1 ♖bd7

10 e4!? (164)



This is the point of 9 ♠d1.

10 ... cd

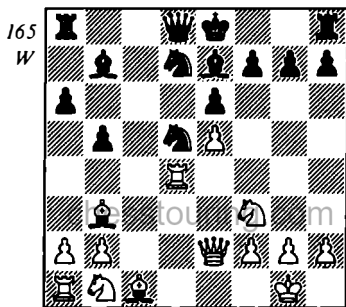
10 ... ♖xe4 is answered by 11 d5! but after 10 ... ♠xe4 11 d5 e5 12 d6 c4 13 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 14 ♖c3 there arises an extraordinarily complex and sharp position. Khasanov-Korsunsky, USSR 1984, continued 14 ... ♠xd6 15 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 16 ♖xe4 0-0 17 ♠c2 g6 18 a4 ♠c8 and White had a definite initiative, but Black has a solid position.

11 e5! ♖d5

This is the most solid continuation. After 11 ... ♠xf3 12 gf! ♖h5 13 f4 g6 14 ♠xd4 White is better because he threatens f5, e.g. 14 ... ♖b6 15 ♠d1 ♠d8 16 ♖c3 ♠e7 17 f5! 0-0 18 ♠e3 ♠c5 19 ♠d6 ± Timman-Seirawan, Indonesia 1983.

11 ... ♖e4 is unsuccessful because of 12 ♠c2 and the knight on e4 has no comfortable retreat, e.g. 12 ... d3 13 ♠xd3 ♖ec5 14 ♠c2 ♖c7 15 ♖c3 b4 16 ♖e4 ♠e7 17 ♖d6+ and White held the advantage in Magerramov-Chekhov, USSR 1982.

12 ♠xd4 ♠e7 (165)



12 ... ♙c5 is dubious in view of 13 ♖g4!?, since on 13 ... g6?! there follows 14 ♙h6! ♙f8 15 ♙xf8 ♜xf8 16 ♜bd2 ♖c7 17 h4! and the weakness of the dark squares in Black's camp give White good chances for an attack on the kingside, Gorelov-Bareyev, USSR 1984.

13 ♜bd2 ♖c7

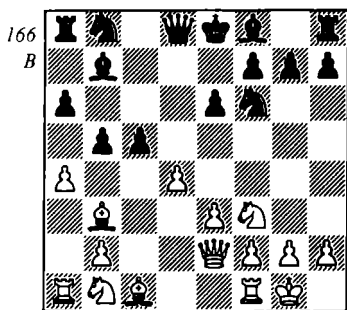
14 ♜f1 0-0

15 ♖g4!

The threat of ♙h6 gives White the initiative on the kingside, and his chances are better, Vaiser-Damjanović, Vrnjačka Banja 1984.

C

9 a4 (166)



Before developing the knight on b1 White defines the queenside pawn structure.

9 ... b4

A forced reaction. After 9 ... ♜bd7 10 ab ab 11 ♖xa8 ♗xa8 12 ♜c3 the weakness of Black's queenside makes itself felt, e.g. 12 ... b4 13 ♜b5 ♖a5 (13 ... ♗b8 14 e4! cd 15 ♜fxd4 ±) 14 e4! (the capture

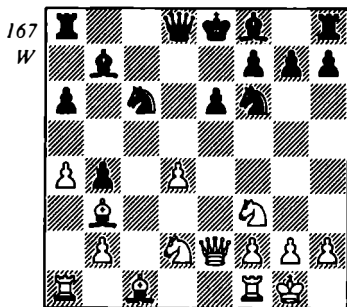
on e4 is not possible because of 15 d5!, while on 14 ... cd White has the strong reply 15 e5 ♙xf3 16 gf! ±) 14 ... ♙e7 15 e5! ♜e4 16 ♜d1 (on 16 ♙c2, 16 ... ♙c6 17 ♙xe4 ♗xb5 is good) 16 ... cd (forced because of the threat of 17 d5) 17 ♜fxd4 with an obvious advantage for White. Black must reckon with the threat of a sacrifice at e6, for example in the event of 17 ... 0-0. At the same time 17 ... ♜ec5, with the idea of supporting e6, runs into a refutation: 18 ♙g5! ♙xg5 19 ♜d6+ ♜f8 20 ♗h5 with a decisive edge for White, Farago-Döry, Hungary 1972.

10 ♜bd2

cd

11 ed

♜c6 (167)



Black has excellent development and plenty of counterplay against the d-pawn. After, say, 12 ♜c4 ♙e7 (12 ... ♜xd4 13 ♜xd4 ♗xd4 14 ♙e3 is dangerous since White has a powerful initiative for the pawn) 13 ♜d1 0-0 the game is complicated and holds chances for both sides.

23 6 ... a6 7 ♔e2: others

- | | | |
|---|------|-----|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | c4 | dc |
| 3 | ♟f3 | ♟f6 |
| 4 | e3 | e6 |
| 5 | ♙xc4 | c5 |
| 6 | 0-0 | a6 |
| 7 | ♔e2 | |

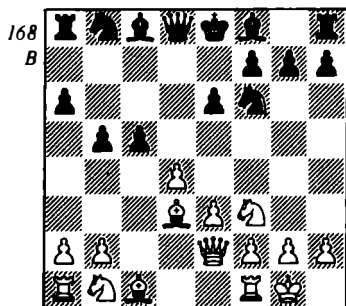
In this chapter we examine the remaining plan for White for 7 ♔e2 b5, and also the reply 7 ... ♟c6.

A 7 ... b5 8 ♙d3

B 7 ... ♟c6

A

- | | | |
|---|-----------|----|
| 7 | ... | b5 |
| 8 | ♙d3 (168) | |



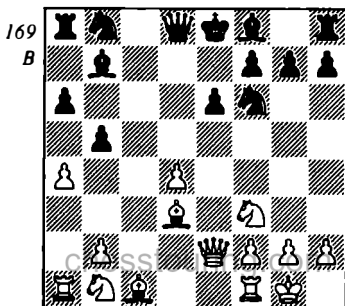
In this way White prepares e4,

but here Black can prevent it, and so the variation is no longer seen in contemporary praxis.

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 8 | ... | cd |
|---|-----|----|

On 8 ... ♙b7 the best line is 9 a4 b4 10 ♟bd2, for example 10 ... ♟bd7 11 a5!? ♔b8 12 ♟c4 ♔a7 13 ♟e1 ♙e7 14 ♙d2 ♟e4 15 ♟ad1 ± Przewoznik-Novak, Hungary 1981, or 10 ... cd 11 ed ♟c6 12 ♟e4! ♙e7 13 ♟d1 0-0, Böhm-Seirawan, Amsterdam 1982, and now 14 ♙e3 maintained a small advantage for White.

- | | | |
|----|----------|-----|
| 9 | ed | ♙b7 |
| 10 | a4 (169) | |



Also possible is 10 ♟c3 ♙e7 11

♙f4 ♘bd7 12 ♜fd1 0-0 13 ♜ac1
 ♜c8 14 ♜e5 ♘b6 with a roughly
 level position in Garcia Padron-
 Terechenko, Malta Ol 1980.

10 ... ba

10 ... b4 leads to an advantage
 for White on the queenside after
 the manoeuvre ♘bd2-c4, blocking
 ... a4.

11 ♜xa4

11 ♘c3 ♙e7 12 ♙g5 0-0 13
 ♘a4 ♘c6 14 ♜fd1 looks natural
 but after 14 ... ♘b4 15 ♙b1 ♘d7
 16 ♙f4 ♘d5 17 ♙g3 g6 Black has a
 solid game, Furman-Keres, USSR
 Ch 1947.

11 ... ♙e7

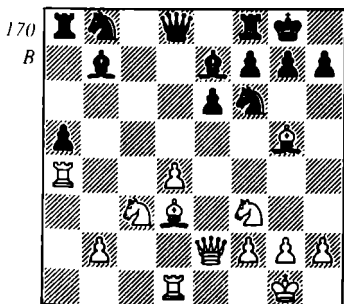
12 ♘c3

12 ♘bd2 tries to exploit the
 weaknesses at c5 and a5. With 12
 ... 0-0 13 ♘b3 ♙c6 14 ♜a1 ♜b6!
 15 ♘a5 ♙b5 16 ♘c4 ♜b7 17 ♘fe5
 ♘c6 18 ♙e3 ♘b4 Black seized the
 initiative in Barcza-Keres, Budapest
 1952.

12 ... 0-0

13 ♙g5 a5

14 ♜d1 (170)



White has the more active posi-
 tion and if Black reacts passively
 he will build up a strong initiative
 in the centre, aiming at d5. For
 example: 14 ... ♘c6 15 ♙xf6!?
 ♙xf6 16 d5! ed 17 ♘xd5 g6(not 17
 ... ♜xd5?? because of 18 ♙xh7+
 winning the black queen) 18 ♜f4
 ♙g7 19 ♙c4 ± Donner-van den
 Berg, Wijk aan Zee 1966.

14 ... ♙c6

The immediate 14 ... ♘bd7 allows
 15 d5!? ed 16 ♜h4 with a double-
 edged game, e.g. 16 ... ♜e8 17 ♘d4
 g6 18 ♙b5 ♘h5 19 ♙xe7 ♜xe7 20
 ♜g4 with an initiative for White,
 Kiellander-Endzelins, corres 1959-
 62.

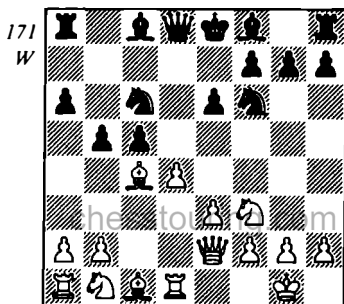
15 ♜a1 ♘bd7

The position holds chances for
 both sides. In Reshevsky-Portisch,
 Santa Monica 1966, the players
 agreed to a draw after 16 ♜e5
 ♘xe5 since a lot of pieces were
 about to come off the board.

B

7 ... ♘c6

8 ♜d1 b5 (171)



Here White has two plans:

B1 9 ♖d3

B2 9 dc

B1

9 ♖d3 c4

9 ♖b3 c4 leads to the same position.

10 ♖c2 ♖b4

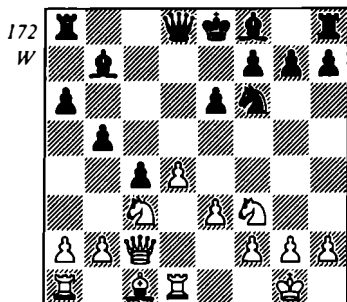
The basic idea behind Black's play is revealed in this manoeuvre. After the exchange of White's light-squared bishop Black will play against e4 and d5.

11 ♖c3

Or 11 a3 ♖xc2 12 ♖xc2 ♖b7 13 ♖c3 ♖d5 14 ♖e2 ♖f6 15 ♖c3 ♖d5 = ½-½ Bogoljubow-Alekhine, match 1934.

11 ... ♖xc2

12 ♖xc2 ♖b7 (172)



This is the critical position for the variation. Black threatens to play 13 ... b4 and then take control of e4 and d5. White must fight for the initiative by advancing one of his central pawns.

13 d5

Praxis has shown that 13 e4 b4 14 e5 bc 15 ef gf gives Black a dangerous kingside attack, with strong pressure along the a8-h1 diagonal and the g-file, for example 16 ♖a4+ ♖d7 17 ♖xc4 ♖c8 ♖ Szabo-Euwe, Groningen 1946.

13 ... ♖c7

After 13 ... ed 14 e4! White opens up the game to his advantage: 14 ... ♖e7 15 e5 ♖d7 16 ♖xd5 0-0 17 ♖f5 ♖c5 18 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 19 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 20 ♖g5 with better chances for White, Euwe-Grünfeld, Zaandvoort 1936.

14 e4 e5!

15 ♖g5 ♖d7

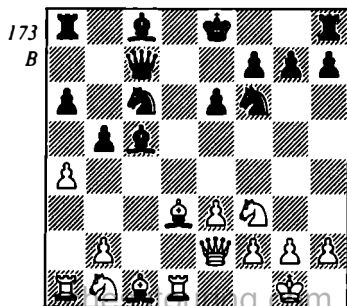
Black has succeeded in stabilising the position and the chances are approximately equal.

B2

9 dc ♖c7

10 ♖d3 ♖xc5

11 a4 (173)



Otherwise after 11 ... 0-0 and 12 ... ♖b7 Black will emerge from the

opening with a good position and plenty of counterplay.

11 ... b4

There is a fully playable alternative in 11 ... ba 12 ♖xa4 ♖b4, as in Kotov-Koblents, USSR Ch 1945, which continued 13 ♖b5+ ♖d7 14 ♖g5 0-0 15 ♖d2 ♖b8 16 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 17 ♖xb4 ♖xb4 18 ♖xb4 ♖xb4 19 ♖d3 and White wins two pieces for a rook, although the great activity of the rook does not allow him to convert his advantage into something tangible.

12 ♖bd2 0-0

13 b3

This intends to develop the c1 bishop along the a1-h8 diagonal. Alekhine, playing against Flohr at Bled 1934, preferred here 13 ♖b3 ♖e7 14 e4 and after the unfortunate 14 ... ♖d7 15 ♖e3 ♖de5 16 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 17 ♖a1 ♖b8 18 ♖c5! Black conceded the initiative. A more accurate defence is 14 ... ♖g4, with the idea of transferring the knight to e5 and simultaneously preventing the bishop from reaching e3.

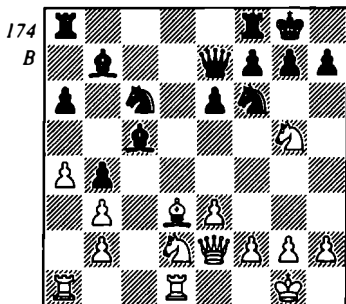
13 ... ♖b7

13 ... ♖e5 achieves nothing after 14 ♖e4, and if 14 ... ♖xe4 15 ♖xe4 and later ♖b2 and ♖a1 promises White a more active game.

On 14 ... ♖xd3? 15 ♖xf6+ gf 16 ♖xd3 White gets a strong attack. Flohr-Horowitz, USSR-USA radio match 1945, continued 16 ... e5 17 ♖b2 ♖e6 18 ♖xe5! fe 19 ♖g5 with a decisive advantage to White.

14 ♖b2 ♖e7

15 ♖g5! (174)



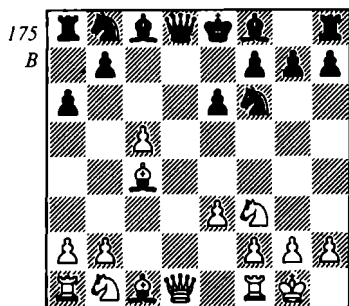
White's threats are very dangerous, e.g. 15 ... e5 16 ♖de4 ♖xe4 17 ♖xe4 ♖a5? 18 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 19 ♖h5 ±± Koblents-Dreiberg, USSR 1941.

24 6 ... a6: 7 others

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♙xc4	c5
6	0-0	a6

In this chapter we examine some interesting sidelines.

7 dc (175)



This continuation is based on the opening up of the game, which allows White to count on being able to exploit his lead in development.

[7 ♙b3 is a recent try. Vaganian-Seirawan, Montpellier C 1985, continued 7 ... ♘c6 8 ♖e2 ♙e7 9

♙d1 cd 10 ed ♘a5 11 ♙c2 b5 12 ♙g5 ♙b7 13 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 14 ♘c3 0-0 15 ♙e4 ♖e7 = - Ed.]

From diagram 175 Black has a choice between:

A 7 ... ♖xd1

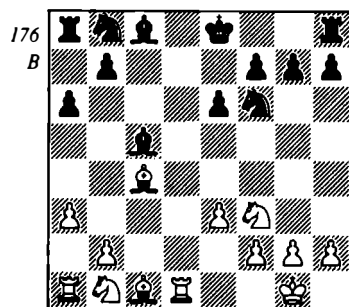
B 7 ... ♙xc5

A

7 ... ♖xd1

8 ♙xd1 ♙xc5

9 a3 (176)



This is the standard continuation for this position. Alternatives:

a) 9 ♘bd2 ♘bd7 10 b3 b6 11 ♙b2 ♙b7 12 ♙ac1 ♙e7 = Smyslov-Petrosian, Biel IZ 1976. Morecom-

plicated play follows 9 ... ♖c6 10 ♗b3 ♕b6 11 ♕d2 ♕d7 12 ♜a1 ♗e7 13 ♗bd4 ♜hd8 14 ♗xc6 ♕xc6 15 ♕b4+ and White has some initiative, Averbakh-Suetin, Moscow 1982.

b) 9 b3 b5 10 ♕e2 ♕b7 11 ♕b2 ♗bd7 12 ♗bd2 0-0 13 a4 ba 14 ♜xa4 ♗b6 15 ♜aa1 a5 16 ♗c4 ♗xc4 17 ♕xc4 ♕xf3 18 gf ♕b4 19 f4 ♜fd8 20 ♗g2 ♗e4 ½-½ Spassky-Portisch, Turin 1982.

9 ... b5

Also possible is 9 ... ♗e7 10 b4 ♕d6, for example 11 ♕b2 b5 12 ♕e2 ♗bd7 13 ♗bd2 ♕b7 14 ♗b3 ♜ac8 15 ♗fd4 ♜c7 and White had only a symbolic advantage in the game Dorfman-Lerner, Lvov 1981.

10	♕e2	♕b7
11	b4	♕e7
12	♕b2	♗bd7
13	♗bd2	♜c8

The game is level, Ivkov-Nikolić, Yugoslav Ch 1982.

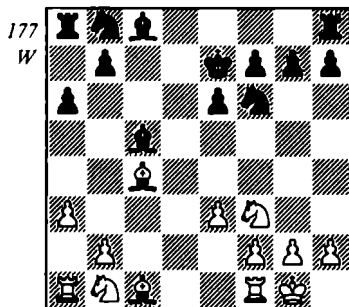
B

7 ... ♕xc5

This continuation allows White a wider range of possibilities, since Black will face some difficulties on

account of the position of his king in the centre.

8	♜xd8+	♕xd8
9	a3	♗e7 (177)



This is the most accurate move. 9 ... b5 10 ♕e2 ♕b7 11 b4 ♕b6?! (11 ... ♕e7 is better) 12 a4! ba 13 ♗c3 ♗bd7 14 ♗xa4 ♕c7 15 ♜d1 ♗e7 16 ♕a3 ± Pomar-Lehmann, Palma de Mallorca 1969.

10	b4	♕d6
11	♕b2	b5

Or 11 ... ♗bd7 12 ♗bd2 ♜d8 13 ♗d4 ♗b6 14 ♕b3 ♕d7 = Rytov-Keres, Tallinn 1975.

12	♕e2	♕b7
13	♗bd2	♗bd7

The game is roughly level, Csom-Portisch, Palma de Mallorca 1971.

25 6 0-0: others

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♙xc4	c5
6	0-0	

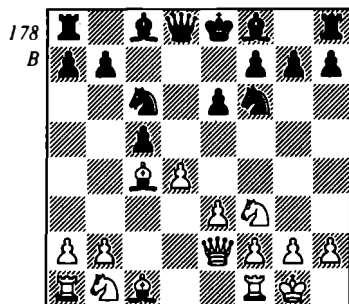
We conclude our survey of the lines following 4 e3 e6 with an examination of two rarely adopted continuations.

A 6 ... ♘c6

B 6 ... cd

A

6	...	♘c6
7	♙e2 (178)	



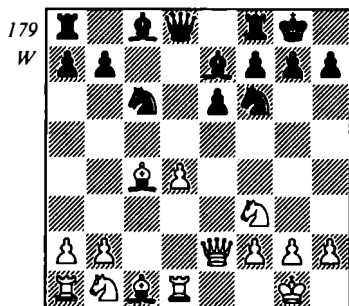
A standard continuation. White

intends, as usual, ♙d1. 7 a3 and 7 ♙d3 are fully playable, of course, but then Black will capture at d4 and reach variation B.

7	...	cd
8	♙d1	♙e7

8 ... d3 is unsuccessful largely because the black queen has no good retreat square: 9 ♙xd3 ♙c7 10 ♘c3 a6 (here this is simply a forced waste of time) 11 e4 ♙e7 12 e5 ♘d7 13 ♙f4 ± Yudovich-Klidzeis, Ventspils 1976.

9	ed	0-0 (179)
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There is an interesting option in 9 ... a6 10 ♘c3 (after 10 a4 the play transposes into the lines with 6 ...

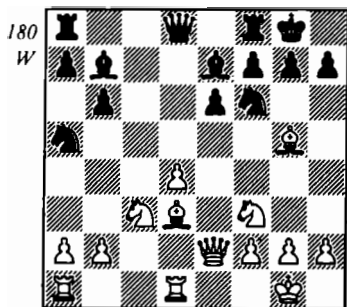
a6 7 a4) 10 ... ♖a5 11 ♙d3 b5 12 ♙g5 ♙b7 plans to aim for d5 first, and castle later. The main line now is 13 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 14 d5!? and Rajković-Marjanović, Yugoslav Ch 1982, continued 14 ... ♚b6!? 15 ♙e4 (15 ♙f5! looks very strong) 15 ... ♙xd5 16 ♙xf6+ gf 17 ♙xh7 ♙d8 18 ♙e4 with advantage to White.

10 ♙c3 ♖a5

This is the only way to develop the queenside. 10 ... b6 is met by 11 d5!, and 10 ... ♙d5 fails to 11 ♙d3 with threats against h7, forcing the knight to retreat to f6.

11 ♙d3 b6

12 ♙g5 ♙b7 (180)



This is an important point of departure for the variation. White has the more active play. He has chances on the kingside and in the centre because of the wayward knight at a5 and the weakness of the b1-h7 diagonal and the e5 square.

13 ♙ac1

White's thinking here involves the exchange of the light-squared bishops after, say, ♙a6, exploiting the unfortunate position of the knight on a5. White has other possibilities as well, for example 13 ♙c2 ♙d5 14 ♙d2 ♙c8 15 ♙e5 ♙c6 16 ♙e4 ♙f6 17 ♙xc6 ♙xc6 18 ♙h4 g6 19 ♙h3 with chances for an attack on the kingside, Zaltsman-Bjarnasson, Reykjavik 1982.

13 ... ♙d5

On 13 ... ♙c8 White can play 14 ♙e5 ♙c6 15 ♙b1 g6 (15 ... ♙xd4 16 ♙e3 ♙d5 17 ♙h3 is very dangerous, as White has many threats) 16 h4! ♙e8 17 ♙f3 with strong pressure for White in Gulko-Lombardy, Biel IZ 1976. But White can also play the very strong 15 ♙a6!.

14 ♙e4! g6

Not 14 ... ♙f6 15 ♙h4 h6 because of 16 ♙xh6! with a strong attack for White.

15 ♙h4 f6

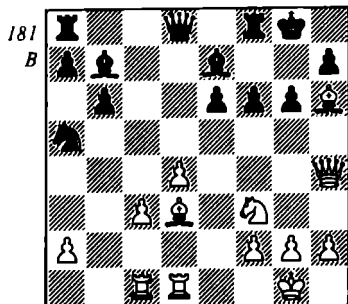
Another possibility is 15 ... h5, but it seriously weakens the position of the black king.

16 ♙h6 ♙xc3

An important exchange which prevents ♙e4, which would have limited the scope of the bishop on e7.

17 bc! (181)

The continuation 17 ♙xc3, intending to double on the c-file, is



inferior: 17 ... ♕xf3 18 gf f5 19 ♖g3 (19 ♖f4 g5!, but not 19 ... ♜f7 20 ♜dc1 ±, Belyavsky-Gulko, USSR Ch 1978) 19 ... ♜f7, when the weakness of the d-pawn will tell.

17 ... ♕xf3

18 gf f5

19 ♖g3

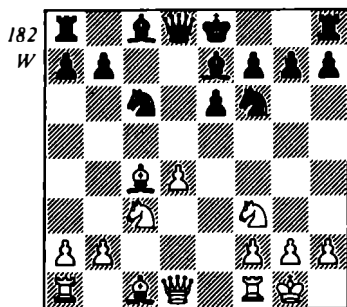
White's position is preferable due to the light-square weaknesses along the periphery and at e6. Vukić-Marjanović, Niš 1979, continued 19 ... ♕d6 20 f4 ♜f7 21 ♜e1 ♖d7 22 ♜e3 ±.

B

6 ... cd

7 ed ♜c6

8 ♜c3 ♕e7 (182)



The variation examined in this section prevents White from achieving the formation with ♖e2 and ♜d1, but White has no problems developing his queen's bishop. The clarification of the position early in the opening allows White to develop an initiative.

9 a3

This is the plan which was introduced into serious competition by Larsen. It involves the transfer of the light-squared bishop to c2 and the development of the queen at d3, aiming at the weak point of the castled position of the black king.

9 ... 0-0

10 ♜e1

10 ♕d3 and 10 ♖d3 are also playable here, but the text must be played sooner or later.

10 ... a6

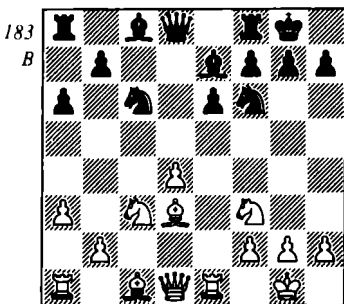
Black prepares an extended fianchetto. After 10 ... b6 and 11 ... ♕b7 he will later have to play ... a6 and ... b5 anyway if he wants to have some space for his pieces on the queenside and/or develop his queen along the d8-a5 diagonal: 10 ... b6 11 ♖d3 (11 ♕d3 is also playable) 11 ... ♕b7 12 ♕g5 (White's idea is to thoroughly prepare d5) 12 ... ♜d5 (on 12 ... ♜a5 there follows 13 ♕a2 ♜c8 14 ♜ad1 and later ♜b1 with threats of d5 and play along the long diagonal) 13 ♕xd5! ♕xg5 (if 13 ... ed then 14 ♕xe7 ♜xe7 15 ♜g5 or 15 ♜e5

with a kingside attack) 14 ♖e4 h6
15 ♖ad1 ♖e8 16 d5! ed 17 ♘xd5
with an advantage to White in
Andersson-Morovic, Lucerne Ol
1982.

11 ♖d3 (183)

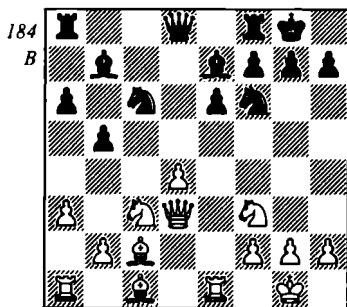
An interesting alternative is 11
♗d3 b5 12 ♖a2 ♖b7 13 ♖g5 ♖c8
14 ♖ad1 preparing the thrust d5.
After 14 ... ♘a5 15 ♘e5 ♖d5
Black has stabilised the position.
Play may continue 16 ♖xf6 ♖xf6
17 ♖xd5 ed 18 ♘g4 ♖c6 19 ♗f3
with some advantage for White,
Larsen-Panno, Mar del Plata 1982.

11 ♖a2 is also playable, intending
11 ... b5 12 d5 ed 13 ♘xd5 ♘xd5
14 ♗xd5 ♖b7 (14 ... ♗xd5 leads to
the loss of a piece after 15 ♖xd5)
15 ♗h5 with a slight initiative to
White, F. Portisch-Flesch, Hungary
1976, or 11 ... ♘d5 12 ♘e4! b6 13
♗d3 ♖a7?! 14 ♖b1 g6 15 ♖a2
♖d7 16 ♖h6 ♖e8 17 ♖ad1 ♖b7 18
h4 with advantage to White in
Farago-Flesch, Budapest 1976.



11 ... b5

12 ♖c2 ♖b7
13 ♗d3 (184)



This is a widely known position,
especially since a lot of leading
players have succumbed to White's
attack. It can arise from a number
of Queen's Gambits, a Nimzo-
Indian, and others. The key to
White's attacking possibilities lies
in the fact that the harmless-looking
13 ... ♖c8 unexpectedly runs into
14 d5! ed 15 ♖g5 with unstoppable
threats of 16 ♖xf6 and 17 ♗xh7
mate. So on 15 ... g6 the winning
line is 16 ♖xe7! ♗xe7 17 ♘xd5
and on 15 ... ♘e4 then 16 ♘e4 de
17 ♗xe4 g6 18 ♖ad1! ♗c7 19 ♗h4,
Lukacs-Flesch, Szolnok 1975.

13 ... g6
14 ♖h6 ♖e8
15 ♖ad1 ♖c8
16 ♖b1

Forced, because of the threat of
... b4.

16 ... b4

More solid is 16 ... ♘a5 17 ♘e5
♖d5, although then White creates

strong threats to f7 with 18 ♔e3 ♕c4 19 ♖f4, or 18 ♖g3 ♕h5 19 ♖h3, which threatens both f7 and d6.

17 ♕a4

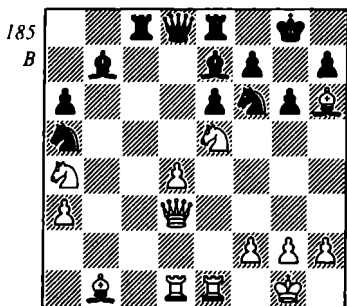
17 ♕e4 ♕xe4 18 ♖xe4 achieves nothing – a draw was agreed in Smyslov-Flesch, Szolnok 1975.

17 ... ba

18 ba ♕a5

19 ♕e5 (185)

Despite the weakness of the queenside, White's position appears more promising due to the chronic weakness at f7. Van der Wiel-



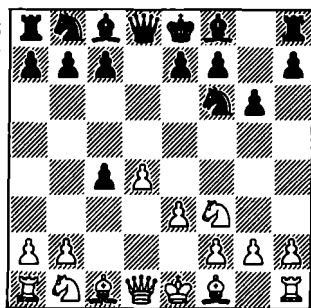
Kuligowski, Wijk aan Zee 1983, continued 19 ... ♗d5 20 ♕c5 ♕c6 and now White unleashed 21 ♕xf7! ♕xf7 22 ♕xe6! and obtained a very dangerous attack.

PART SIX

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dc
3	 f3	 f6
4	e3	g6

186

W



26 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 e3 g6

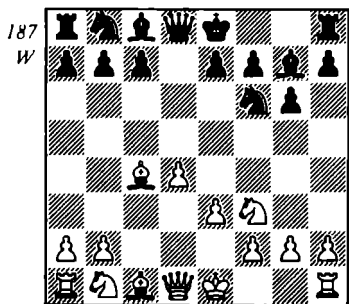
- 1 d4 d5
2 c4 dc
3 ♘f3 ♘f6
4 e3 g6 (187)

This variation was introduced by Vasily Smyslov in the early 1950s. Black's strategy is similar to that of the Grünfeld Defence in allowing White a large pawn centre which may become a target.

5 ♙xc4

An automatic reaction, but 5 ♙a4+ ♘bd7 6 ♙xc4 ♙h6 (6 ... ♙g7? 7 ♙xf7+!) 7 g4!? ♘xg4 8 ♙g1 ♘f6 9 ♘c3 led to lively complications in Marjanović-Stoica, Bucharest 1978 (1-0, 32).

5 ... ♙g7 (187)



6 0-0

Alternatives lead nowhere:

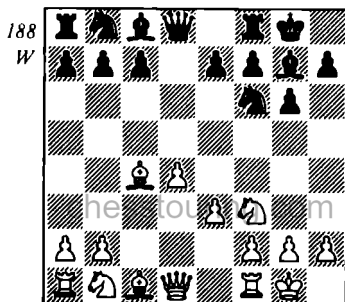
a) 6 ♘e5 0-0 7 ♙b3 e6 8 0-0 ♘fd7 (8 ... c5!? is also good) 9 f4 c5 10 ♙d1 cd 11 ed ♘c6! 12 ♙e3 ♘a5 ♙ Padevsky-Mechkarov, Bulgarian Ch 1954.

b) 6 ♘c3 0-0 7 h3 (7 0-0 transposes to the column) and now:

b1) 7 ... a6 8 a4 c5 9 d5 ♘e8 10 e4 ♘d6 11 ♙b3 c4 12 ♙c2 ♘d7 13 0-0 b6, Shamkovich-Smyslov, USSR Ch 1960.

b2) 7 ... ♙f5 8 ♙e2 ♘e4 9 0-0 ♘d7 10 ♙d1 ♘df6 11 ♙d2 c6 12 ♙el ♘xc3 13 ♙xc3 ♙c8 14 ♙ac1 ♘e4, Bielicki-Smyslov, Mar del Plata 1962, with reasonable play for Black in both cases.

6 ... 0-0 (188)



6 ... c5 7 d5 0-0 8 d3 e8 9 e2 d6 10 d3 e5 11 e4 is in White's favour, according to Mechkarov.

White has three main possibilities:

A 7 b3

B 7 e2

C 7 d3

Others:

a) 7 b4 c6 8 e2 b7 9 d3 b6 10 b3 b5 = Fuderer-Sandor, Yugoslavia-Hungary 1957.

b) 7 h3 c5 8 d3 cd 9 d4 and now not 9 ... d6? 10 dxc6 bc 11 e4 ± Gheorghiu-Ghitecu, Bucharest 1966, but 9 ... d7 10 e4 d6 11 e3 d4 12 d4 d6 =.

A

7 b3 c6

8 b2 g4

9 b7 d7

10 h3 f5

Not 10 ... xf3?! 11 dxf3 b6 12 e2 d7 13 a4 ± Matanović.

11 e1

11 d4!? Matanović.

11 ... b6

Karpov-Korchnoi, Candidates (24) 1974, continued 12 f1 e4 13 xe4 xe4 14 d2 f5 15 e1 c8 16 e2 c7 17 a4 c8 18 a3 ±. The line with 7 b3 clearly deserves further practical tests.

B

7 e2 d7

8 d1 b6

9 b3 g4

9 ... d6 10 h3 a5 11 a4 b4 12 d3 e6 13 e4 c6 14 e3 d7 15 e1 ± Foguelman-Rossetto, Belgrade 1962.

10 h3 xf3

11 xf3 d6

11 ... c6 12 b7 d2 e6 13 e4 d8 d7 14 d2 d5 15 e1, Stahlberg-Bronstein, Moscow Ol 1956, when Black is solid but cramped.

12 d3 e5

12 ... e6 13 d4 c8 14 d2 b8 15 e1 ± Udovčić-Milić, Yugoslav Ch 1952.

13 d5 a5

14 c2 ac4

15 e4

White has a space advantage, Möhring-Hauregi, Moscow Ol 1956.

C

7 d3 d7 (189)

Initiating minor-piece play typical of the Grünfeld. Alternatives do not have a good reputation:

a) 7 ... b7 8 e4 b6 9 e2 c6 10 f4 g4 11 h3 xf3 12 xf3 d7 13 a4 ± Mititelu-Zita, Sofia 1957.

b) 7 ... c6 8 h3! f5 9 g5! b5 10 b3 h6 11 e4 c8 12 f3 ± Suba-Negulescu, Romanian Ch 1981.

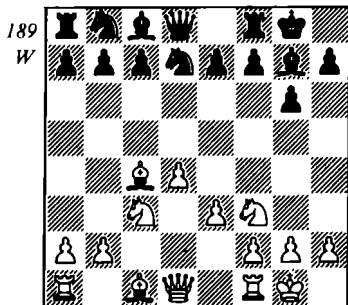
c) 7 ... c5 and now:

c1) 8 d5 xd1 9 xd1 b7 10 c6! bc 11 d2 b6 12 e2 ± - Mechkarov.

c2) 8 d5 g4 9 e4 b7 10 e2 xf3 11 xf3 a6 12 e1 c7 13

g5 ± Taimanov-Portisch, Lenin-grad v Budapest 1959.

d) 7 ... d6 8 d5 (more promising than 8 h3 a6 9 e4 b5 10 b3 d7 11 g5 a5, Milev-Smyslov, Moscow 1959, or 8 e4 g4 9 d5 a5 10 e2 c6 11 h3 xf3 12 xf3 cd 13 ed c8 = Fuchs-Smyslov, Leipzig Ol 1960) 8 ... a5 9 e2 c6 10 dc dxc6 and now White should play 11 a4 followed by d1 and e4.



White now has:

C1 8 e4

C2 8 e2

C3 8 h3

Others:

a) 8 d4 b6 9 b3 a5 10 a4 c6 11 c5 d5 12 e4 db4 13 d5, Portisch-Plater, Balatonfüred 1958.
b) 8 a4 a5 9 e4 b6 10 b3 g4 11 e3 c6 12 b5 b4 13 h3 xf3 14 xf3, Korchnoi-Bronstein, USSR 1962. White's position is preferable in both cases.

C1

8 e4

b6

9 e2

9 b3 g4 10 d5 c6 11 h3 xf3 12 xf3 cd 13 dxd5 c6 = Stenberg-Plater, Moscow Ol 1956.

9 ... g4

10 e3

10 d5 c6 (10 ... d8d7 11 a4 a5 12 g5 h6 13 h4 xf3 14 xf3 c4 15 e2 d6 16 c2 ± Velikov-Barua, Frunze 1983) 11 h3 xf3 12 xf3 cd 13 ed d8d7 14 g3 e5 = Unzicker-Gheorghiu, Hamburg 1965.

10 ... c6

11 d5

11 e5 d5 12 b3 dxe3 13 fe h6 14 d4 e6 15 c3 d5, Nogueiras-Garkov, Varna 1982 (1-0, 60).

11 ... xf3

11 ... d5?? 12 dxe5! xe2 13 dxf7! ±± Taimanov.

12 xf3

12 gf d5 13 d4 g5! ± Klamann-Taimanov, USSR 1952.

12 ... d5

13 e2 dec4

14 f4

14 c1 c6 = Evans-Smyslov, Helsinki Ol 1952.

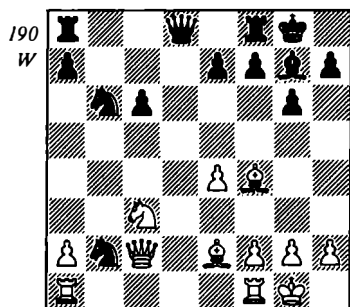
14 ... c6

14 ... dxb2? 15 b3! xc3 16 xc3 d2a4 17 a5 ±± Taimanov.

15 dc

15 xc4 dxc4 16 e2 cd 17 dxd5 dxb2 18 g5 f6 19 f4 f5 = Uhlmann-Gheorghiu, Havana Ol 1966.

15 ... bc
16 ♖c2 ♘xb2 (190)



Now:

a) 17 ♖xb2 ♘a4 18 ♘xa4 ♖xb2 19 ♘xb2 ♗d4 20 ♘c4 ♖xe4 21 ♖e3 leads to an unclear position.

b) Practice has seen 17 ♖a6 ♗d7? 18 a4 ♘6c4 19 ♖a2 and wins, Portisch-Gheorghiu, Havana Ol 1966. An improvement on this is 17 ... ♘6c4! 18 ♘e2 ♘e5! 19 ♖ab1, Portisch-Tatai, Palma de Mallorca 1967, and now Black should have played 19 ... ♖b6! 20 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 21 ♖c4 a5 with a large advantage. C2

8 ♖e2 ♘b6
9 ♖b3 a5

Or:

a) 9 ... ♖g4 10 h3 ♖xf3 11 ♖xf3 ♘c6 12 ♖d1 ♖c8 13 ♘e4 ♘a5 14 ♖c2 ♘ac4 15 ♘c5 ± Golombek-Gligorić, Moscow Ol 1956.

b) 9 ... ♘c6 10 ♖d1 ♖d7 (10 ... ♖g4 11 h3 ♖xf3 12 ♖xf3 e6 13 ♘a4 ± Taimanov-Ravisekhar, New Delhi 1982) 11 ♘e4 a5 12 a4 ♖f5

13 ♘c5 ± Goldenberg-Filip, Mar del Plata 1961.

10 ♖d1

Pachman suggests 10 a3!?, while 10 a4 ♘c6 11 ♖d1 ♖g4 12 h3 ♖xf3 13 ♖xf3 e6 14 ♖d2, Geller-Plater, Szczawno Zdroj 1957, is also promising for White.

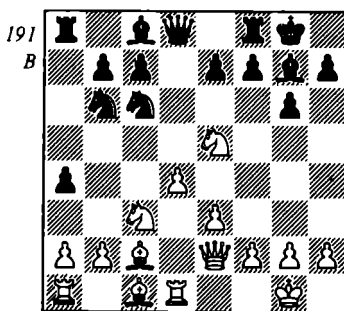
10 ... a4

10 ... ♘c6 11 a3 a4 12 ♖a2 ♖d7 13 h3 ♖c8 14 e4 e5 15 de ♘xe5 16 ♖f4 ± Sokolov-Marić, Belgrade 1962.

11 ♖c2 ♘c6

12 ♘e5 (191)

12 a3 ♖d7 13 d5 ♘a5 14 e4 – Golombek-Smyslov, Budapest 1952 – gives White some advantage, whereas 12 ♘e4 ♖g4 13 ♘c5 e5 14 ♘xb7 ♖f6, Polgar-Gheorghiu, Örebro 1966, gives Black some compensation for the pawn.



12 ... ♘xe5

13 de ♖e8

14 f4 ♖e6

15 e4

We are following the game Bolig-

Gheorghiu, Vrnjačka Banja 1963.
White is a little better, but Black is
not without counterplay.

C3

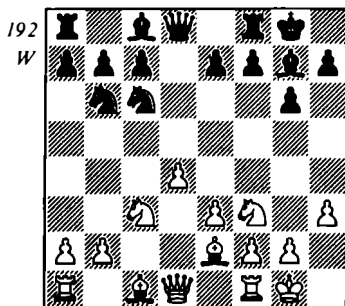
8 h3 ♖b6

9 ♙e2

The alternative is 9 ♙b3 ♘c6 10
a3 (10 ♙e1 e5 11 d5 ♘a5 12 e4 c6
13 ♙g5 ♙d6 14 dc ♙xd1 15 ♙axd1
bc ½-½ Schmidt-Radulov, Indo-
nesia 1983) 10 ... e5 11 d5 ♘a5 12
♙a2 (12 ♙c2 c6 13 e4 cd 14 ed
♘ac4 15 a4 ♘d6 16 ♙a2 ♙f5 =
Farago-Radulov, Albena 1983) and
now 12 ... ♘ac4 gives equal chances.
Instead, Tal-Kir.Georgiev, Lvov
1984, went 12 ... c6? 13 e4 cd 14
♘xd5 ♘xd5 15 ♙xd5! ± and
Black had to struggle to draw in 66
moves.

9 ... ♘c6 (192)

Or 9 ... a5 10 e4 a4 11 ♙e3 ♘c6?!
12 ♙c1 ♙d7 13 d5 ♘a5 14 ♙d4 ±
Gligorić-Westerinen, Havana 1967.
Better was 11 ... c6 followed by 12
... ♙e6, but one must still prefer
White's chances.



After 9 ... ♘c6 practice has seen:

a) 10 ♙b5 e6 11 ♙xc6 bc 12 b3
♙e8 13 ♙b2 ♘d7 14 ♙c2 c5 15
d5 ± Zilberman-Barua, Frunze
1983.

b) 10 b3 a5 11 ♙a3 ♙e8 12 ♙c1
♘b4 13 ♙b2 ♘d6 14 ♙d2 b6 15
♘xd5 ♘xd5 16 e4 ♘f6 17 ♙c2
♙b7 18 d5 ± Lukacs-Velikov,
Vrnjačka Banja 1985.

Both these games were won by
White.

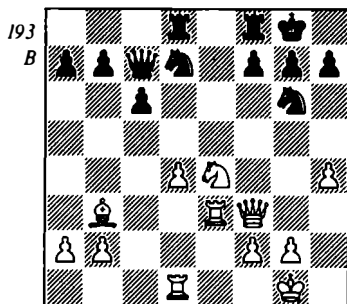
On this evidence 8 h3 seems a
good choice for retaining a small
advantage. White deprives Black
of potential counterplay before
expanding in the centre.

Illustrative Games

Vaganian-Hübner Tilburg 1983

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dc 3 dxc3 e5 4 e3 ed 5 ed
 6 f6 6 xc4 e7 7 f3 0-0 8 0-0
 9 bd7 (8 ... g4 gets Black into
 trouble after 9 h3: 9 ... xf3 10
 xf3 c6 11 e3 xd4 12 xb7
 and 9 ... h5 10 g4 g6 11 e5
 both lead to favourable positions
 for White) 9 e1 b6 10 b3 c6
 11 g5 g4 12 d3 xf3?! (This
 is the source of Black's future
 troubles. Better is 12 ... h5 in-
 tending 13 ... g6) 13 xf3 fd5
 14 xe7 (A tempting alternative is
 14 xe7 de7 15 e1 b6 16
 e2 e8 17 xf7+ xf7 18 e6+
 f8 19 e3, but it doesn't work
 because of 19 ... d6! 20 f3+
 df5 21 xf5+ xf5 22 xf5+
 f6!! and White loses) 14 ... xe7
 15 e5! (A strong manoeuvre
 which keeps the black pieces out
 of d5 and thus assures the bishop
 on b3 of free rein along the a2-g8
 diagonal) 15 ... g6 16 e4! d7
 17 d1 a5 (On 17 ... f6 White

could play 18 e5! transferring
 the rook to f5, where it will have
 maximum effect, putting pressure
 on both f7 and d5) 18 e3 (White
 was compelled to take measures
 against ... f6) 18 ... ad8?! (18 ...
 f6 was necessary) 19 e4! c7
 20 h4! (193)



20 ... h6 (The pawn is taboo: 20 ...
 dxh4 21 h5 g6 22 h3 gives
 White an unstoppable attack) 21
 g4 h8 22 h5 f4 (The X-ray
 power of the bishop on b3 is
 displayed in the variation 22 ...
 f4 23 xf4 xf4 24 d6! and
 Black loses material) 23 g3 g5

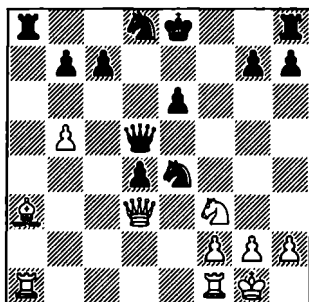
24 hg fg 25 ♖e1 (Threatening 26 ♖g5! hg 27 ♖h3+ ♖xh3+ 28 ♖xh3+ ♗g7 29 ♖e7+! and mate) 25 ... ♖de8 26 ♖ge3 ♖b6 27 ♖c5 ♖c8 (This loses immediately. But even after 27 ... ♖xe3 28 fe! Black has no defence) 28 ♖xf4! 1-0

Belyavsky-Hübner

Tilburg 1984

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dc 3 e4 e5 4 ♖f3 ed 5 ♗xc4 ♗b4+ 6 ♖bd2 ♖c6 7 0-0 ♗xd2 8 ♖xd2 (White intends b3, ♗b2, ♖ad1 and recapturing the d4 pawn followed by active play in the centre) 8 ... ♗e6 9 ♗xe6?! (More precise is 9 ♗b5 ♗d7 10 b3, following the plan outlined above) 9 ... fe 10 b4 a6 11 a4 ♖f6 12 ♗a3?! (The point of this move is to threaten 13 b5, discouraging Black from castling kingside. But White underestimates the defensive resources available to Black, which are appropriately exploited in the game) 12 ... ♖xe4 13 ♖d3 ♖d5 14 b5 ab 15 ab ♖d8! (168)

194
W

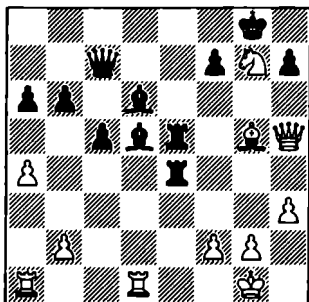


(The point of this move is to fortify e6) 16 ♖fe1 ♖d6 17 ♖ac1 ♖xb5 18 ♖xd4 ♖xa3 19 ♖xg7 ♖xf3! (A very strong continuation which reacts to the threats of ♖e5 and ♖xc7) 20 ♖xh8+ ♖f8 21 ♖xh7 ♖f7 (Black has a significant advantage, with a strong defensive position in the centre and active passed pawns on the queenside) 22 ♖c2 ♖f5 23 ♖a2 (White's endgame chances are practically nil. His only hope is to throw all of his forces at the black king) 23 ... ♗d7 24 ♖c3 ♖g7?! (There is no point in placing this rook in an indefensible position. Simpler was 24 ... ♖c6) 25 ♖b2! ♖g4?! 26 h3 ♖g8 27 ♖d1 ♖e4 28 g3 ♖a4?! 29 ♖d4! (Black's inaccurate play has led to a state of affairs where White has been able to centralise his pieces and create counterplay) 29 ... ♖xd4 (The retreat of the queen with 29 ... ♖a7 would have allowed White to force a draw with 30 ♖a3 ♖c5 31 ♖c3! ♖b6 32 ♖b3 etc) 30 ♖xc7+ ♗xc7 31 ♖xd4 b5 32 h4 ♖c6 33 ♖f6 b4 34 h5 b3 35 h6 (White's passed h-pawn has brought full equality, despite Black's material advantage, e.g. 35 ... e5 36 h7 ♖b8 37 h8 ♖xh8 38 ♖xh8 b2 39 ♖h7+ ♗b6 40 ♖c2 ♖c4 41 f4! clearing Black's remaining pawn and achieving a draw) 35 ... ♖b8 36 ♖g7+ ♗b6 37 ♖c3 ♗c7 38 ♖g7+ ♗b6 39 ♖c3 ½-½

Jacoby-Radulov Hamburg 1984

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dc 3 ♖f3 ♗f6 4 e3 c5
5 ♙xc4 e6 6 0-0 ♗c6 7 ♖e2 a6 8 a4
♗c7 9 ♗c3 ♙d6 10 ♗d1 0-0 11 h3
b6 12 d5 ed 13 ♙xd5 ♙b7 14 e4
♙ae8 15 ♙g5 (White doubtless
directs the initiative, which is based
on his control of d5. However, by
exploiting a combinational idea
founded, in part, on the pin of the
white queen along the e-file, the
game is brought to an unbalanced
state. As a matter of fact, Radulov
had the position after the 23rd
move against Portisch back at the
Nice Olympiad in 1974, but here
he manages to improve Black's
play) 15 ... ♗d4!? 16 ♗xd4 ♗xd5
17 ♗xd5 ♙xd5 18 ♗f5 ♙xe4 19
♗h5 ♙fe8 20 ♗xg7?! (The bishop
on d5 cannot be touched because
of the check at e1, but 20 f3!? comes
into consideration, and if 20 ...
♙4e5 then 21 ♗g4 with an initiative
for the sacrificed pawn) 20 ...
♙8e5! (195)

195
W



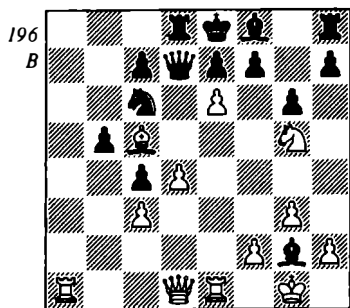
21 f4 ♙xf4 22 ♗e8 ♗c6 23 ♗xd6
(White's threats appear dangerous.
In the Nice game mentioned above
Radulov played 23 ... f6?! and
found himself facing insurmount-
able threats after 24 ♙e1!) 23 ... h6!
(Now on 24 ♙e1 Black can simply
play 24 ... ♙xg5) 24 ♗xh6 ♙e2! (In
this move one finds the heart of
Black's counterplay, the threat of
... ♙xg2+ with a mating attack.
For example, 25 ♙xf4 ♙xg2+ 26
♗f1 ♙c4+ 27 ♗xc4 ♗f3+ etc) 25
♗e4 ♙fxe4 26 ♗h1 (The exchange
of queens would not make White's
position any easier: 26 ♗xc6 ♙xc6
27 ♗d6 ♙e6 ♗f7) 26 ... ♙h4 27
♗xh4 ♙xg2! 28 ♙a3 ♙xg5+ 0-1

H.Olafsson-Hort

Thessaloniki Olympiad 1984

1 ♗f3 d5 2 d4 ♗f6 3 c4 dc 4 ♗c3 a6
5 e4 b5 6 e5 ♗d5 7 a4 ♗xc3 8 bc
♗d5 9 g3 ♙b7 10 ♙g2 ♗d7 11
♙a3 (This is one of the most
promising lines in this variation.
White hinders Black's kingside
development by discouraging ...
e6, which in present circumstances
would lead to an unfavourable
exchange of dark-squared bishops)
11 ... ♙d5 12 0-0 ♗c6 13 ♙e1
(White prepares the central thrust
e6, disrupting the light squares
in the Black camp) 13 ... g6 (13 ...
♙b8 14 e6!? fe 15 ♗g5 ♙xg2 16
♗xg2 ♗d5+ 17 ♗f3! with a sharp
game) 14 ♙c5! (This gains time by

threatening 15 ab) 14 ... ♖d8 (On 14 ... ♖b8 White could play 15 ab 16 ♖g5! ♙xg2 17 ♙xg2 ♙h6 18 e6! with a strong initiative) 15 ab 16 ♖g5!? ♙xg2 17 e6! (196)



(Here 17 ♙xg2?! would be unsuccessful because in the variation 17 ... ♙h6! 18 e6 ♖d5+ 19 ♖f3 the black queen is defended by the rook and Black simply wins a piece with 19 ... ♙xg5) 17 ... ♙fe 18 ♙xg2 ♖d5+ 19 ♖f3 ♖xf3+ 20 ♙xf3 ♖d5 21 ♙xe6 (White has emerged from the opening with a serious advantage in view of the more active position of his rooks and the strong posting of the white knight at e6) 21 ... ♙d7 22 ♖e2 ♙h6 23 ♖ae1 ♖a8 24 g4 ♙g5?! (Black passes up his last chance to achieve an active game with 24 ... b4!?, which would have provided good equalising chances, e.g. 25 cb c3! 26 g5! ♙xg5 27 ♙xg5 ♖xg5 28 ♙e4! – 28 ♙xe7? ♙xd4+ ♖ – 28 ... ♖f8 29 ♙d3 with only a slight advantage to White) 25 ♙xg5 ♖xg5 26 ♙xe7

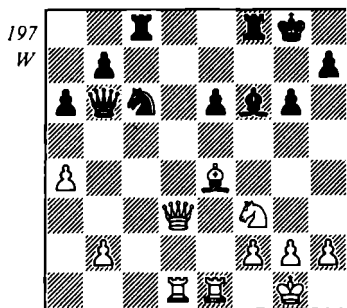
♖d5 27 ♙c5 b4 28 ♙e4! ♖g5 29 cb ♖xg4+ 30 ♙d5! (White has sufficient extra material to win the game) 30 ... ♖b8 31 ♙xc4 ♖xd4+ 32 ♙xd4 ♖xb4+ 33 ♙c5 ♖xd4 34 ♖e7+ ♙xe7 35 ♙xd4 ♙d6 (The winning plan is simple – the white king gobbles the black pawns on the kingside) 36 ♙e4 ♙e6 37 ♖e3 c6 38 ♖h3 h5 39 ♙d4 h4?! 40 ♙e4! g5 41 f4! ♙f6 42 fg+ ♙xg5 43 ♖c3 ♙g4 44 h3+ ♙g5 45 ♖c5+ ♙f6 46 ♙f4 ♙g6+ 47 ♙g4 ♙e5+ 48 ♙xh4 ♙f5 49 ♙g3 ♙e4 50 h4 ♙f5 51 h5 ♙f6 52 ♙h4 ♙f3+ 53 ♙g4 ♙e5+ 54 ♖xe5 1-0 (Since after 54 ... ♙xe5 55 ♙g5 the white pawn promotes)

Chekhov-Sveshnikov

Lvov 1983

1 ♙f3 d5 2 d4 ♙f6 3 c4 e6 4 ♙c3 dc 5 e3 a6 6 a4 c5 7 ♙xc4 cd 8 ed ♙c6 9 0-0 ♙e7 10 ♙g5 0-0 (Black's move order is intended to prevent White from regrouping with ♖e2 and ♖d1 etc. But the fact that the central situation has been resolved allows White to bring his queen's bishop and queen's rook into the game, and then train his sights on key central squares) 11 ♖e1 (The d1 square is reserved for the other rook) 11 ... ♙d7 (Against either 11 ... b6 or 11 ... ♖a5, 12 d5! is strong, as the complications which arise favour White. 11 ... ♙b4 is interesting, intending to blockade the d5 square. In this case

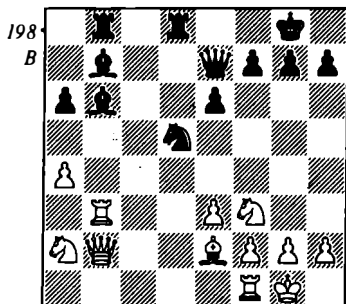
White can strengthen his position with 12 ♖e5) 12 ♖e2 ♙c8 13 ♙ad1 ♜d5 (On 13... ♜b4 White can play 14 ♜e5 ♙e8 15 ♙b3* with much the freer position) 14 ♙xd5 ♙xg5 15 ♙e4 ♙f6 16 d5! ed 17 ♜xd5 ♙e6 18 ♜f4 (This is a difficult moment for Black. White's central initiative seems ominous, but Black could have erected a solid defence with 18 ... ♖e7 19 ♜xe6 fe) 18 ... ♖b6?! 19 ♜xe6 fe 20 ♖d3! (This highlights the weakness of Black's kingside) 20 ... g6? (197)



(This permits a direct attack. Relatively better here was 20 ... h6) 21 ♙xg6! hg 22 ♙xg6+ ♜h8 (Or 22 ... ♙g7 23 ♖xe6+ ♜h8 24 ♙e4 ±±) 23 ♖h6+ ♜g8 24 ♖g6+ ♜h8 25 ♙d7 ♜e7 26 ♖h5+ ♜g7 27 ♜g5! (After this White wins by force) 27 ... ♙xg5 28 ♖xg5+ ♜h8 29 ♖h4+ ♜g8 30 ♙xe7 ♙f7 31 ♙xf7 ♜xf7 32 ♖h7+ ♜f6 33 h4 ♙c4 34 ♖h6+ ♜f7 35 ♖h5+ ♜f8 36 ♖h6+ ♜e7 37 ♖g7+ ♜e8 38 ♖f6 1-0

Karpov-Portisch Tilburg 1983

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dc 3 ♜c3 a6! (This is an interesting possibility for Black. The idea is ... b5 in favourable circumstances) 4 ♜f3 (4 e4 is sharper) 4 ... b5 5 a4 b4 6 ♜e4 ♜d7!? 7 ♜ed2 (This is forced because of the threat of 7 ... ♙b7, although White can also play 7 ♖c2 ♙b7 8 ♜ed2 c3 9 bc e6, when Black will be able to play ... c5 with good equalising chances) 7 ... c3 8 bc bc 9 ♜e4 ♜gf6 10 ♜xc3 e6 11 e3 ♙b4 12 ♙d2 c5 (Black has a fully playable game) 13 ♙e2 0-0 14 0-0 ♙b7 15 ♙b1 ♙b8 16 ♜a2 ♙a5! (After 16 ... ♙xd2?! 17 ♖xd2 Black has problems in developing his queen: 17 ... ♖e7?! 19 ♖a5! or 17 ... ♜e4 18 ♖c2! with advantage to White) 17 ♖e1!? ♙c7!? 18 dc ♜xc5 19 ♙b4 ♙d6 20 ♙xc5!? (The exchange is made in order to gain time. On the natural 20 ♜c3 Black could play 20 ... ♙xf3! with an advantage) 20 ... ♙xc5 21 ♖c3 ♖e7?! (Black weakens his control over a5, and White immediately takes advantage of this. Better was 21 ... ♙d6 and then 22 ... ♖e7, with better chances for Black) 22 ♖a5! 22 ... ♜d5 23 ♙b3! ♙b6 24 ♖d2 ♙fd8 25 ♖b2 (White has resolved the difficult question of the development of his queen, and now the counterplay along the b-file brings him equality) (198)



25 ... ♔c6 26 ♘b4! (The final problem for White is neatly solved with the entrance of his knight into the game) 26 ... ♘xb4 27 ♖xb4 ♔xf3 28 ♔xf3 ♔d4!? 29 ♖b7! (White has no more problems, so . . .) 29 ... ♖xb7 ½-½