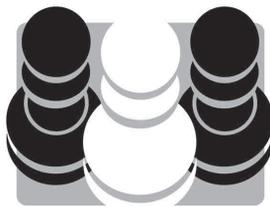


Grandmaster Repertoire 2A

King's Indian and Grünfeld

By

Boris Avrukh



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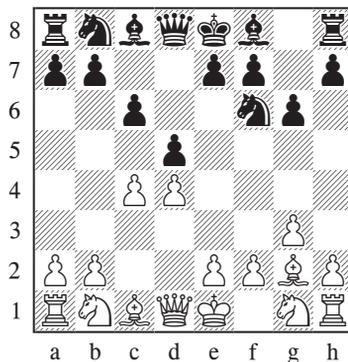
Preface

I am extremely excited to release this third volume of my new series of 1.d4 repertoire books, which replaces the older *Grandmaster Repertoire* Volumes One and Two (henceforth abbreviated to *GM 1* and *GM 2*). Volume 2A is mainly devoted to the challenge of taking on two of Black's most popular and dynamic defences: the Grünfeld and the King's Indian. The former takes up the first four chapters, with the latter comprising Chapters 5-15. The final two chapters continue the theme of Black's kingside fianchetto, dealing with the closed Benoni followed by a tricky move order with an early ...c5.

For readers who liked my recommendations in *GM 2*, I have good news: I decided to retain the Fianchetto System as my weapon of choice. However, there have been enormous changes within several variations, which should come as no surprise. Nearly eight years have passed since *GM 2* was published, which is a tremendous length of time for modern chess theory. This is especially true for the many new ideas I presented in my previous work, many of which have been tested extensively. Some of my previous ideas succeeded in putting the lines in question 'out of business', while in other cases Black players managed to find reliable antidotes to my recommendations. After giving my repertoire a thorough overhaul, I am quite proud of both the modifications and the new ideas I have introduced in this book. Here is a brief glimpse at a few of the most important changes:

The Grünfeld

I decided new directions were needed against two of Black's main options. Firstly, Chapter 1 deals with the rock-solid **3...c6** and **4...d5**, when I will be recommending:



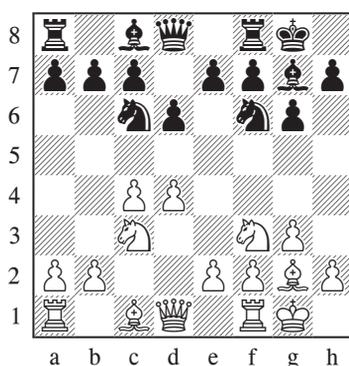
5. ♖a4!?

White intends to exchange on d5 without allowing Black to recapture with the c6-pawn. Black has tried several replies but so far White's results have been excellent. I have presented a lot of new ideas, many of which were discovered when I worked on this variation with Boris Gelfand some years ago.

The next three chapters deal with the structure arising after $4...d5$ $5.cxd5$ $\text{N}xd5$, which I call the Dynamic Grünfeld. After dealing thoroughly with the various sidelines, we will eventually work our way up to the big main line arising after $9...e8$ (variation E of Chapter 4). In *GM 2* I offered $10.e1$, but a huge amount of practical testing and analysis has revealed more than one satisfactory solution for Black. Instead I am recommending $10.h4!$, a recent trend which has yielded excellent results so far. Once again, I have presented a lot of original ideas and analysis to create fresh problems for Black.

The King's Indian

Out of the many changes in this new volume, perhaps the most radical ones have come in the $6...c6$ variation. After $7.0-0$ we reach the following position.



Firstly, $7...e5$ has come into fashion as of late. I developed some nice ideas after $8.dxe5$ $\text{N}xe5$ $9.b3$, which I was able to put to the test in a recent game against the American prodigy Awonder Liang; see Chapter 8 for more about this. Against $7...a6$ and $7...b8$, which are essentially the same concept, I have chosen $8.b3$, taking White's play in a completely different direction from *GM 2*. The main point is to meet $7...a6$ $8.b3$ $\text{B}b8$ with the surprising $9.d5$, which I believe offers White excellent prospects, as you will see in Chapter 10.

Other Lines

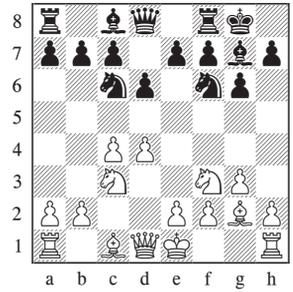
The final two chapters cover a couple of important sidelines. The Reluctant (closed) Benoni contains a lot of subtleties, and I have significantly improved upon my coverage from *GM 2*. Finally, $3...c5$ is a tricky move order which I completely overlooked in *GM 2*. Chapter 17 shows an excellent solution for White, with an important novelty in the most critical line.

I know a lot of chess readers have been waiting for my latest ideas against the Grünfeld and King's Indian Defences in particular, and I hope my new work will satisfy their expectations.

Boris Avrukh
Chicago, December 2017

Chapter 8

King's Indian



6...Nc6 – Sidelines & 7...e5

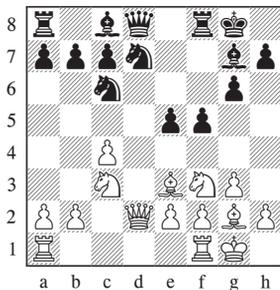
Variation Index

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.O-O 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6

7.0-0

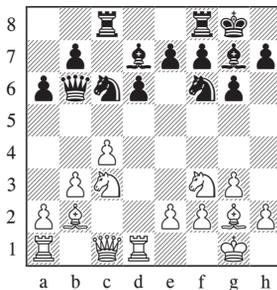
| | |
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| A) 7...Na5 | 155 |
| B) 7...Nd7 | 156 |
| C) 7...Bd7 | 157 |
| D) 7...e5 8.dxe5 | 160 |
| D1) 8...dxe5 9.Bg5 | 161 |
| D11) 9...Qxd1 | 161 |
| D12) 9...Be6 | 162 |
| D2) 8...Nxe5 9.b3! | 163 |
| D21) 9...Re8 | 164 |
| D22) 9...Nxf3† 10.Bxf3 | 165 |
| D221) 10...Bh3 | 166 |
| D222) 10...Ne4!? | 166 |

B) note to 9...Nb6



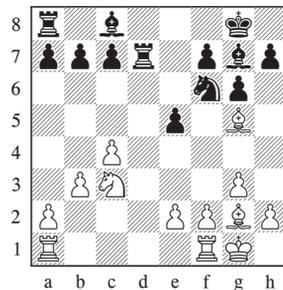
11.g5!N

C) note to 13...b5

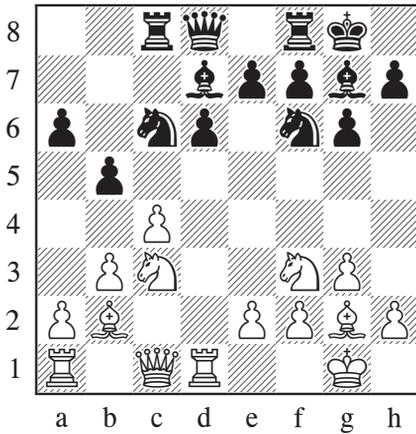


14.Ne1!N

D21) after 12...Re8



13.Na4!N

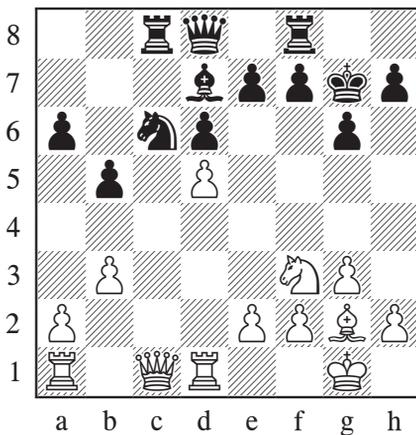


14. ♖d5 ♗xd5

Black has nothing better.

14... ♗e8 runs into an effective counter: 15. ♗xg7 ♖xg7 Now in Schreiner – Watzka, Austria 2013, the simple 16. c5!N would have secured White's advantage.

15. ♗xg7 ♖xg7 16. cxd5



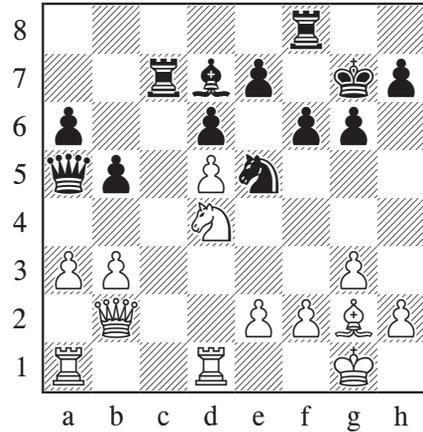
16... ♗e5N

Black needs to improve over 16... ♗a5? 17. ♗b2† ♗g8 18. ♗d2± when White had a large advantage due to the poorly placed knight in KhademaIsharieh – Kostitsina, Maribor 2012.

The text move is clearly a better try. I developed the following line for White:

17. ♗b2 f6 18. ♗d4 ♗a5 19. a3 ♗c7

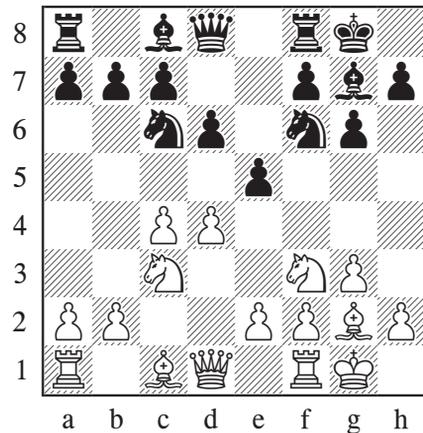
19... ♗c3 achieves nothing due to 20. ♗a2 ♗c7 21. h3 ♗fc8 22. ♖h2 and f2-f4 is coming next.



20. h3 ♗fc8 21. ♖h2 ♗b6 22. f4 ♗f7 23. ♗d3

White has a lasting advantage due to the passive knight on f7.

D) 7...e5



8. dxe5

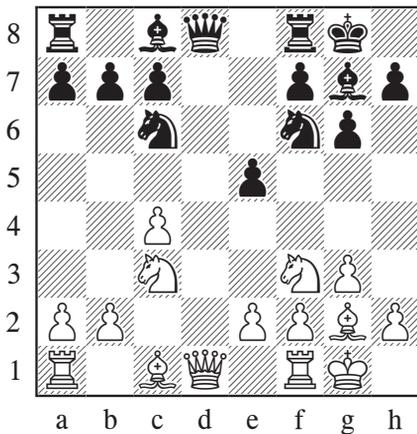
This is a significant change from my previous work. In *GM 2*, I recommended

8.d5 and showed some nice ideas for White after 8...♗e7 9.e4, but neglected to consider 8...♗b8!, which has led to good results for Black in recent years. I was unable to find any advantage for White against this line, which is why I now prefer to exchange on e5.

Before moving on, it is worth mentioning that 8.h3!? is an interesting alternative, but some of the ensuing variations look pretty double-edged to me.

After the text move, Black must obviously choose between D1) 8...dxe5 and D2) 8...♗xe5.

D1) 8...dxe5



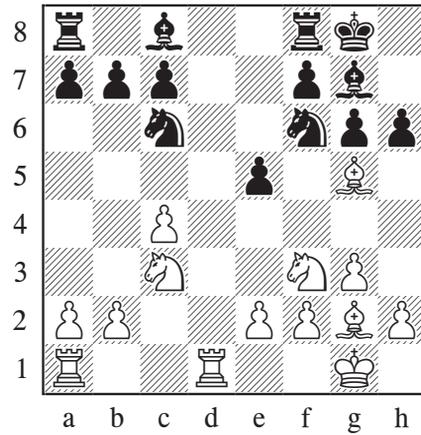
This recapture is the more desirable option for Black from a structural point of view. However, the open d-file and the constant possibility of a knight jump to d5 present Black with some difficulties.

9.♙g5

Black's main candidates are D11) 9...♗xd1 and D12) 9...♙e6.

9...h6?! runs into 10.♗xd8 ♖xd8 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.♗d5 ♗g7 13.♗xc7 ♖b8 14.e4! when Black has no compensation for the missing pawn.

D11) 9...♗xd1 10.♖fxd1 h6



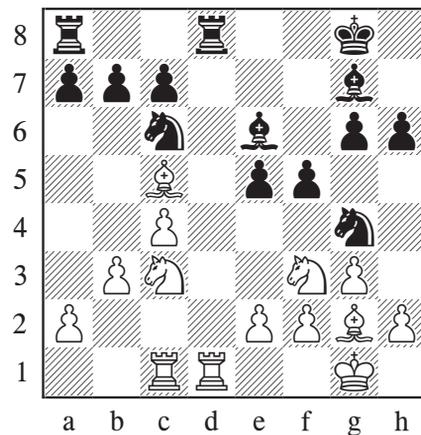
This gives White a pleasant endgame advantage after:

11.♙e3! ♙e6 12.b3 ♖fd8 13.♖ac1

Given the chance, White will improve his position with ♗e1-d3-c5.

13...♗g4 14.♙c5 f5

In Barbasco – Kostiuk, Balatonlelle 2000, White missed a nice way to increase his advantage:



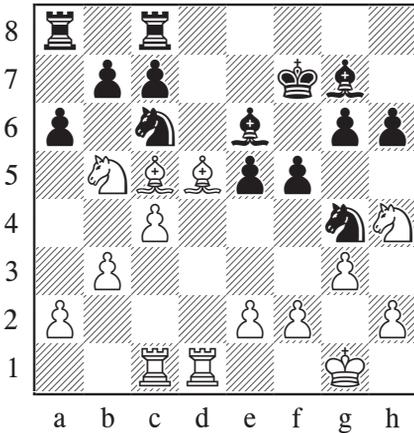
15.♗b5!N

The following line is more or less forced.

15...♖dc8 16.♘h4 ♔f7

16...g5? runs into the elegant tactical trick 17.♙d5! and Black is in trouble.

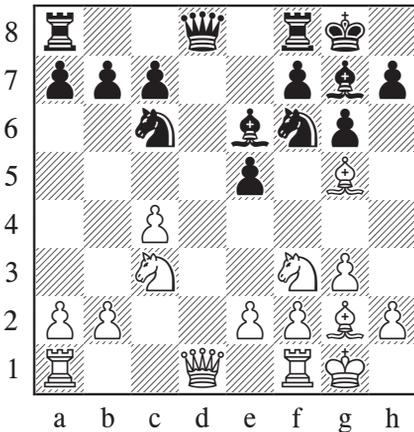
17.♙d5 a6



18.♙xc6 bxc6 19.♘a7!

White keeps an obvious advantage.

D12) 9...♙e6



This seems a better try, but I still like White's chances after:

10.♖c1!?

10.♖a4 has been the most popular move, while 10.♘d5 and 10.♘d2 have also occurred many more times than the text. However, as we

will soon see, the c4-pawn is poisoned. Other advantages of the text are that it prepares ♖d1 and, less obviously but equally importantly, prevents Black from playing ...h6 in the near future.

10...♙c8

This has been Black's usual reply.

10...♙xc4?!

Black gobbled the pawn in one game but it's hardly a good idea.

11.♘d2 ♙e6 12.♘de4 ♘d4



13.♘h1!?

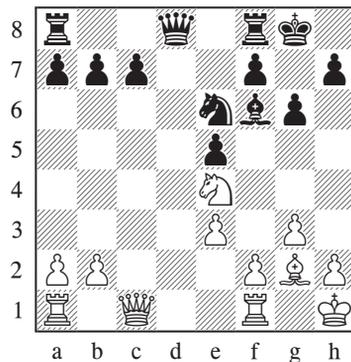
13.e3N ♘f5 14.♖d1 ♖e7 15.♘xf6† ♙xf6 16.♙xf6 ♖xf6 17.♙xb7 is a simple route to a clear positional advantage.

The text move is also promising, and in the game Black failed to solve his problems.

13...♙f5?! 14.e3 ♙xe4 15.♘xe4 ♘e6?

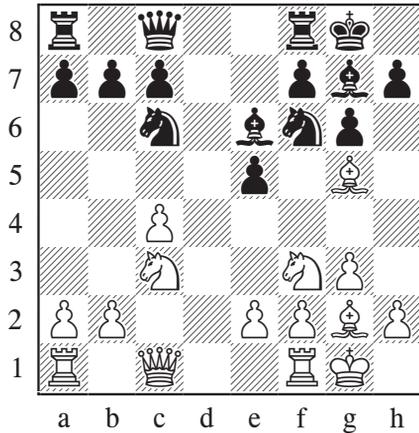
A tactical blunder, but Black's position was difficult in any case.

16.♙xf6 ♙xf6



Up to now White had played a nice game in Sprecic – Nurkic, Tuzla 2003, but here he surprisingly missed a simple tactical solution:

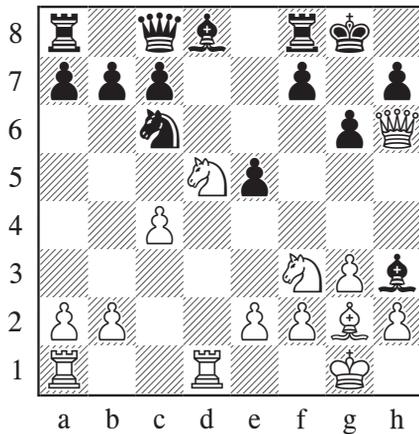
17.♞d1N ♞e7 18.♞d7!
Winning on the spot.



11.♞d1 ♖h3

Black was under serious positional pressure after 11...♖d7 12.b3 f6 13.♖h6 ♜f7 14.♖xg7 ♜xg7 15.♖d2 ♖e7 16.♖de4± in Thybo – Britton, Hastings 2016.

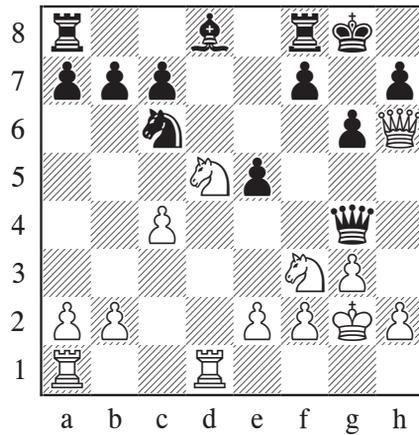
12.♖xf6 ♖xf6 13.♖d5 ♖d8 14.♞h6



14...♖xg2 15.♜xg2 ♞g4?

15...f6N would have been a better bet, although even here White can continue with 16.h4! ♜f7 17.♞e3, maintaining the pressure.

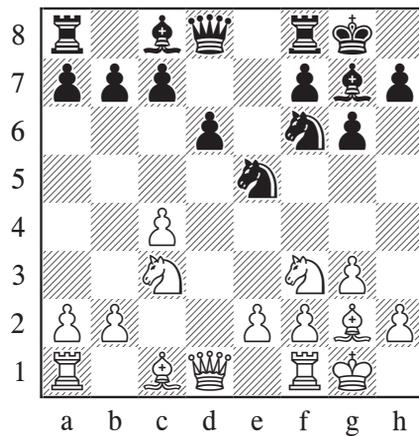
In Vallejo Pons – Pavlidis, Tallinn 2016, White's strongest continuation would have been:



16.♖e3!N ♞e4 17.♞d7±

With an obvious advantage.

D2) 8...♖xe5



9.b3!

9.♖xe5 dx5 has been much more popular. White keeps an edge here too, and can definitely press for a while, but I believe Black should be able to hold the position.

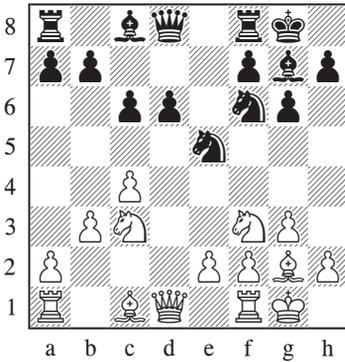
The text move is my first choice, as I really enjoy playing the white side of the resulting pawn structure. We will consider D21) 9...♖e8 and D22) 9...♖xf3†, after first checking a few minor alternatives:

9...a6?! would be a strange choice, and has never been played from this position; I only mention it because the resulting position has sometimes been reached via the 7...a6 move order; see 9...♞xe5 in the notes to variation A4 of Chapter 10 on page 189.

9...♞h5 occurred in Le Quang An – Hoang, Ho Chi Minh City 2017, when 10.♞xe5N ♞xe5 (or 10...dxe5 11.♞a3±) 11.♞b2 would have given White an easy advantage.

9...c6

I would like to suggest a new concept here:



10.♞g5!N

White has mostly chosen either 10.♞xe5 (which is pretty harmless) or 10.♞b2, which places the bishop on a slightly suboptimal square.

I believe the bishop is most active on the c1-h6 diagonal. I was debating between the text move and the immediate 10.♞e3, but decided it would be best to provoke ...h6 in order to have the option of ♞d2 with gain of tempo. The position does not lend itself to a lot of concrete analysis, but I want to show one illustrative line:

10...h6 11.♞e3 ♞xf3† 12.♞xf3 ♞h3 13.♞e1 ♞g4

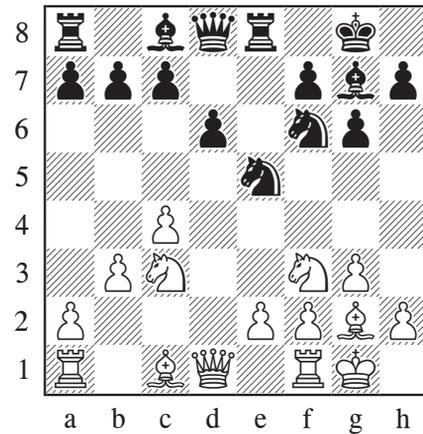
13...♞e8 allows White to arrange his pieces optimally: 14.♞d2 ♞h7 15.♞ad1 with solid pressure.



14.♞xg4! ♞xg4 15.♞d4 ♞e8 16.♞d2

I don't see a good way for Black to make up for his vulnerable pawn structure.

D21) 9...♞e8



10.♞xe5!

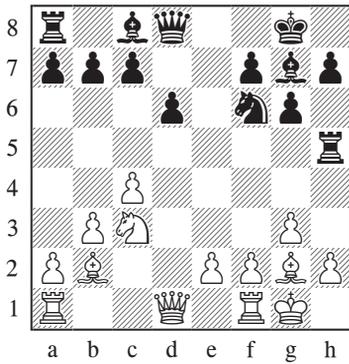
A normal move such as 10.♞b2 should offer White a slightly better game, but I like the text move even more. The point is that the extra b2-b3 move offers White a much better version of the ensuing queenless position.

10...dxe5

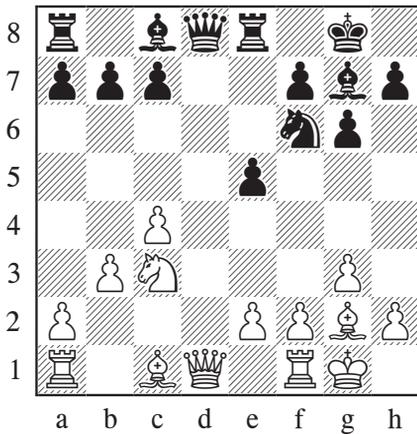
This is certainly the move that Black would like to play.

In the event of 10...♞xe5 11.♞b2, Black's rook is misplaced and the following attacking idea is unlikely to succeed: 11...♞h5 (11...♞e8

12.♙d2 ♖b8 13.♗ad1 led to a comfortable edge for White in Nina – Franco, Lima 2004)



12.e4 This is a logical, human reaction. (The computer suggestion of 12.♙d2!N ♖g4 13.h3 ♗f6 14.h4 looks advantageous as well, as Black has no way forward on the kingside.) 12...♙h3 13.♙xh3 ♖xh3 14.♖g2 ♗d7 15.f3 ♖h5 16.g4!± White was clearly better in Mamedov – Bortnyk, Tallinn 2016.



11.♙xd8 ♖xd8 12.♙g5!

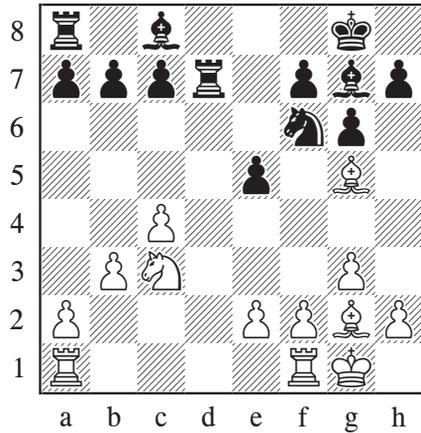
In the analogous position in the 9.♗xe5 dxe5 line, Black's best move is ...♗d4, gaining time by attacking the c4-pawn. The fact that he does not have that resource makes a huge difference here.

12...♗d7

12...♗e8? is much worse, and after 13.♗b5

♗e7 14.♗ad1 White was close to winning in Safronov – Sufiyarov, Ufa 1999.

This position was reached in Schunk – Hentze, Germany 2008, and now White should have played:



13.♗a4!N ♗e7 14.♗c5

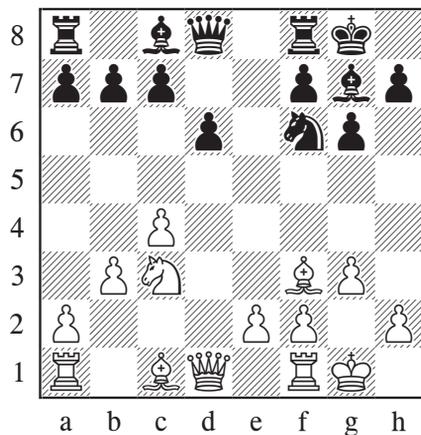
With strong pressure. It's important to mention the following line:

14...c6?

This natural defensive move does not work due to:

15.♗e4! ♖e6 16.♙xf6 ♙xf6 17.♙h3+–
Black loses material.

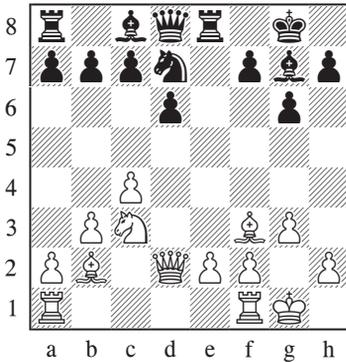
D22) 9...♗xf3† 10.♙xf3



This pawn structure should favour White; his light-squared bishop is strong, and his knight may occupy the d5-outpost in the future. If Black tries to solve those problems by means of ...c6, he will be left with a backward d-pawn.

Black's two main options are **D221) 10...♗h3** and **D222) 10...♞e4!?**.

In the event of 10...♞e8 I think the most accurate move is 11.♞d2!N. (The advantage of this over the obvious 11.♗b2 is to have the possibility of meeting ...♗h3 with ♞d1.) 11...♞d7 12.♗b2 We have transposed to a bunch of games. Here are a few brief examples:



12...a5 (after 12...♞c5 13.♞d5 ♗f5 14.♗xg7 ♗xg7 15.b4 ♞d7 16.♞e3 ♗e4 17.♗xe4 ♞xe4 18.♞d5 White was clearly better in Roghani – Tahbaz, Sowme'eh Sara 2015) 13.♞fd1 ♞c5 14.♞d5 White kept a pleasant positional edge in Andersson – Spitzer Isbert, Sanxenxo 2003.

D221) 10...♗h3

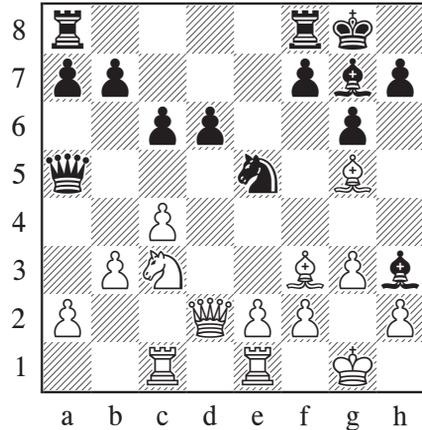
This way Black develops with tempo, but his positional problems remain.

11.♞e1 c6 12.♗g5!

12.♗b2 is playable but, when the knight is still on f6, I think White should take the opportunity to develop the bishop more actively. I only found one game from this position, which continued:

12...♞a5 13.♞d2 ♞d7 14.♞ac1 ♞e5

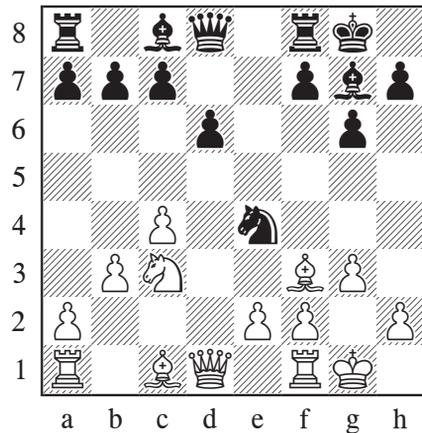
In Gaydukov – Makhnev, corr. 2003, White should have played:



15.♗h1N f6 16.♗h6

White maintains a pleasant edge.

D222) 10...♞e4!?



Black tries to solve his problems by utilizing the long diagonal to force simplifications. I faced this move in a recent game, which we will follow.

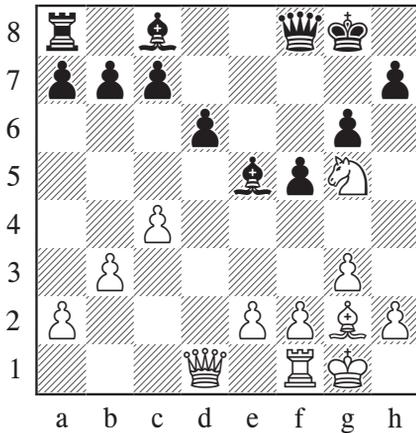
11.♞xe4!

11.♗xe4 ♗xc3 gives too little for White.

11...♗xa1 12.♗g5 f6 13.♗h6 ♗e5 14.♗xf8

♙xf8 15.♙g2 f5 16.♖g5

16.f4 ♙b2! was okay for Black in Jablonicky – Goban, Slovakia 2004. The text move is better; despite Black's bishop pair, he still faces some difficulties in developing his queenside pieces.



16...♙e7

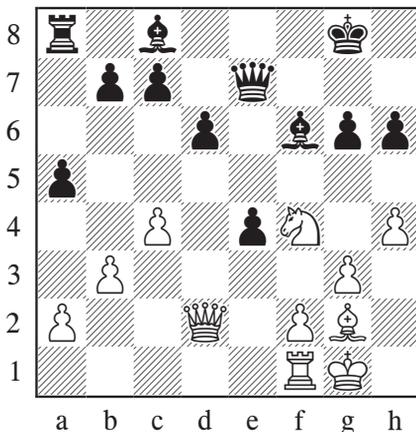
Black most probably should have preferred something like 16...c6N, although after 17.♙d3 I still like White.

17.♙d2 ♙f6 18.h4! a5 19.e4!

White's initiative almost plays itself.

19...h6 20.♖h3 fxe4 21.♖f4

Black's extra pawn will not survive for long, and he has several weak pawns to worry about.



21...♙f5 22.♖d5 ♙g7 23.♖xf6† ♙xf6
24.♙d5† ♙f7 25.♙xb7 ♙e8 26.♙e1

I was much better and eventually converted my advantage against one of the most talented youngsters in the US in Avrukh – Liang, Chicago 2017.

Conclusion

6...♖c6 is a flexible move which can be played with many possible follow-ups in mind. The sidelines 7...♖a5, 7...♖d7 and 7...♙d7 are not so bad, but White has good chances to get an advantage against them, as you would expect. 7...e5 is a more serious option, when 8.dxe5 is a major change from my work in *GM 2*. 8...dxe5 9.♙g5 puts Black under positional pressure, regardless of whether or not he exchanges queens. 8...♖xe5 seems like Black's best bet but 9.b3! is a good reply. Black has several possibilities, but the pawn structure almost always favours White, as long as he gets to develop his pieces on normal squares. 9...♖xf3† 10.♙xf3 ♖e4!? seems like the only serious attempt to stop that from happening, but the continuation of Avrukh – Liang shows that Black faces problems here too.

Abridged Variation Index

The Variation Index in the book is 6 pages long. Below is an abridged version giving just the main variations, not the sub-variations.

Chapter 1

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.♙g2 d5 5.♖a4

| | |
|-------------|----|
| A) 5...a6 | 8 |
| B) 5...♗bd7 | 9 |
| C) 5...dxc4 | 13 |
| D) 5...♙g7 | 17 |
| E) 5...♗fd7 | 21 |

Chapter 2

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 d5 5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.♗f3

| | |
|------------|----|
| A) 6...♗c6 | 26 |
| B) 6...0-0 | 27 |

Chapter 3

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 d5 5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.♗f3 ♗b6 7.♗c3

| | |
|-------------|----|
| A) 7...c5?! | 49 |
| B) 7...♗c6 | 50 |

Chapter 4

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 d5 5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.♗f3 ♗b6 7.♗c3 ♗c6 8.e3 0-0 9.0-0

| | |
|------------|----|
| A) 9...♙g4 | 65 |
| B) 9...♙e6 | 65 |
| C) 9...a5 | 67 |
| D) 9...e5 | 69 |
| E) 9...♖e8 | 71 |

Chapter 5

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3

| | |
|------------|----|
| A) 6...♙g4 | 82 |
| B) 6...c6 | 83 |
| C) 6...♗c6 | 86 |

Chapter 6

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 c6 7.0-0

| | |
|------------|-----|
| A) 7...♙c6 | 100 |
| B) 7...a6 | 101 |
| C) 7...♗a6 | 108 |
| D) 7...♙f5 | 114 |

Chapter 7

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 c6 7.0-0

| | |
|------------|-----|
| A) 7...♖b6 | 128 |
| B) 7...♖a5 | 134 |

Chapter 8

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗c6 7.0-0

- A) 7...♗a5 155
B) 7...♗d7 156
C) 7...♙d7 157
D) 7...e5 160

Chapter 9

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗c6 7.0-0 ♙f5 8.d5 ♗a5 9.♗d2

- A) 9...c6!? 169
B) 9...c5 172

Chapter 10

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗c6 7.0-0

- A) 7...a6 185
B) 7...♞b8 191

Chapter 11

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗bd7 7.0-0

- A) 7...a6 203
B) 7...c5 204
C) 7...e5 206

Chapter 12

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗bd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 exd4 9.♗xd4

- A) 9...♗e5 219
B) 9...♞e8 220

Chapter 13

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗bd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 c6 9.h3

- A) 9...a6 242
B) 9...♞e8 246

Chapter 14

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗bd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 c6 9.h3 ♞a5 10.♞e1

- A) 10...♞b4 262
B) 10...♞e8 263
C) 10...exd4 266

Chapter 15

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗f3 ♗bd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 c6 9.h3 ♞b6 10.♞e1

- A) 10...♞e8 280
B) 10...exd4 285

Chapter 16

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.♗c3 g6 5.♗f3 ♙g7 6.g3 0-0 7.♙g2

- A) 7...♗a6 300
B) 7...e5 308

Chapter 17

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c5 4.dxc5!

- A) 4...♗a6 324
B) 4...♞a5† 327