

The Modernized Barry Attack

Vladimir Okhotnik

First edition 2023 by Thinkers Publishing
Copyright © 2023 Vladimir Okhotnik

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission from the publisher.

All sales or enquiries should be directed to Thinkers Publishing, 9850 Landegem, Belgium.

Email: info@thinkerspublishing.com
Website: www.thinkerspublishing.com

Managing Editor: Adrien Demuth

Assistant Editor: Daniël Vanheirzeele

Proofreading: Kai Tan

Software: Hub van de Laar

Cover Design: Iwan Kerkhof

Graphic Artist: Philippe Tonnard

Production: BESTinGraphics

ISBN: 9789464201789
D/2023/13732/13

The Modernized Barry Attack

Vladimir Okhotnik

Thinkers Publishing 2023



Key to Symbols

!	a good move
?	a weak move
!!	an excellent move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
□	only move
N	novelty
⊙	lead in development
⊙	zugzwang
=	equality
∞	unclear position
∞	with compensation for the sacrificed material
±	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White has a serious advantage
∓	Black has a serious advantage
+−	White has a decisive advantage
−+	Black has a decisive advantage
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
↔	with counterplay
Δ	with the idea of
⊃	better is
≤	worse is
+	check
#	mate

Table of Contents

Key to Symbols	4
Preface.....	7
Introduction.....	9
PART I – The Modern Variation – 5.♘b5	15
Chapter 1 – 6.h3	17
Chapter 2 – 6.e3 c6.....	
Chapter 3 – 6.e3 0-0	
PART II – The Tarzan Attack – 5.♙d2.....	
Chapter 4 – Early Sidelines	
Chapter 5 – 5...c5.....	
Chapter 6 – 5...♘e4.....	
PART III – The Lanka Defense – 4...c6.....	
Chapter 7 – 5.e3	
Chapter 8 – 5.♙d2	
Chapter 9 – 5.h4	
PART IV – Rare Variations After 4...♙g7 5.e3	
Chapter 10 – 5...♙g4.....	
Chapter 11 – 5...0-0 6.h3	
Chapter 12 – 5...0-0 6.♙e2	

PART V – The Murshed System – 7.dxc5

Chapter 13 – 7.dxc5.....

PART VI – The Hebden System – 7.♘e5.....

Chapter 14 – Sidelines on Move 7

Chapter 15 – 7...♘c6.....

Chapter 16 – 7...cxd4

Preface

A Bit for History and a Bit of History

This book is dedicated to an opening with a century of history. It so happens that exactly one hundred years ago (1922) one of the founders of hypermodernism in chess, Savielly Tartakover, used this opening in a tournament in London. Several years passed, and the strongest players of the time (José Raúl Capablanca, Frank Marshall) began to include this opening in their repertoire. Tartakover played it throughout his career, practically till his death. In the post-war period this opening was noticed and played by Soviet chess players, first of all by the long-term coach of Boris Spassky and a chess player of strict positional style, Igor Bondarevsky. But it really took off at the beginning of the 1980's when a number of chess players, primarily the master from Bangladesh Niaz Murshed, but also Ian Rogers and the Czech master Josef Pribyl, found new ways of developing the initiative for White.



Niaz Murshed



Josef Pribyl



Ian Rogers

A few years passed and a whole group of young English masters, mainly Julian Hodgson, Mark Hebden and others, began to explore the theory behind this variation. Around 1990, I too became a fan of this discovery. While Hodgson, having become a grandmaster, ended his playing practice early, Mark Hebden still plays the Barry Attack as White and has hundreds of interesting games and excellent ideas to his credit.



Julian Hodgson



Mark Hebden

This opening would probably have remained an active choice for the second tier, but Covid then suddenly appeared and chess moved to the internet, which oddly enough, spurred its use by top-ranking chess players, led by the world champion Magnus Carlsen. Interesting ideas in blitz and rapid play in the Barry Attack can now be found in the games of Levon Aronian, Fabiano Caruana, and several other players rated over 2700. To understand the real popularity of this opening these days, it is worth looking at the MegaBase, which contains more than 5000 games played in the Barry Attack. Furthermore if you include the thousands of blitz and rapid chess games that are not included in the database, then it becomes clear that this variation deserves the most serious attention. I hope that this book will be useful to chess players of different levels who work in this direction..

Introduction

When a reader picks up a new book on opening theory, he is entitled to expect what to find in it...

How many times have I tried to sit down and write a good book about this opening. I made my first attempt in the mid-2000's, publishing an article about the Barry Attack in three issues of the Polish magazine "*Panorama Szachowa*" but I have only found time to write a serious work now. I have collected good material in my lengthy practice, having played as White 71 tournament games (+47=12-12) and hundreds of rapid and blitz games.

It all started exactly 35 years ago. Playing in 1988 in the famous Open at Cappelle-la-Grande, I played with Black against the famous English grandmaster Julian Hodgson when for the first time, I met this opening in practice. I managed to win beautifully, but in the opening I felt certain pressure on my position and discomfort. The next year I included the Barry Attack in my repertoire. Interestingly, the year before that, something similar had happened to the great connoisseur and promoter of the Barry Attack Mark Hebden. Playing as Black at the Seville Open in 1987 against the French master Davoud Pira, Mark came under a devastating attack and lost. The next year, many English masters then included the Barry in their repertoire.

Nowadays it is unthinkable for professional chess players to play any kind of successful game without having worked out the opening schemes in depth. Not everyone likes such a situation, and many masters I know, and even grandmasters, still don't work with a computer. And indeed, a good command of theory to a certain extent levels the strength of chess players. Even relatively weak chess players starting a game on their own "territory" can play on equal terms with much stronger opponents at the beginning of the game. I remember how at one of the Paris championships I quickly finished my game in group A and decided to see how my friends were doing in group B. I quickly walked between tables and noted that after 15 to 20 moves many of the boards had known theoretical positions. Yet, despite the fact that chess today is a set of stereotyped schemes with deep computer analysis, there are still positions (neural networks have demonstrated this to us) where you can come up with new original plans. I think that only a few chess players know how to effectively combine working with literature and computer analysis.

However the fact that you have bought this book already serves as a good pre-

condition for successfully building your opening repertoire. In this book I have tried to summarize all the achievements of modern theory.

I sincerely hope that this work will become for you, dear reader, an excellent basis for studying this interesting opening. It will be useful to all chess players, regardless of experience and qualifications.

Strategy Tips & Points to Remember

As a playing tip, you must deliberately play your first moves slowly, even though you know in advance that you will play these first four moves. This is not only for its effect upon the opponent, but also for its effect upon you. "Never play a strong move quickly" said Emanuel Lasker. There's a real ego-temptation to keep up with your opponent by bashing out reams of analysis.

Yet often this is how we miss our best chances. Sounds familiar? Knowledge of the individual is important here because against certain players this is exactly what you want to do – just keep hammering them with every move, with no respite. These are the players who play badly when they play too quickly. This is gamesmanship, being observant of other people and surroundings.

Some openings are easy to play because there is a clear long-term plan. One good example is the delayed Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation: 1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♝c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4. ♙a4 ♘f6 5. 0-0 ♙e7 6. ♙xc6 dxc6 7. d3 with ideas such as ♘bd2, ♘c4, b3, ♙b2 and the plan of going f4 after suitable preparation. A good pawn structure, lack of tactics and a clear plan of later kingside expansion helps White. Very similar to this is the Anti-Sicilian line 1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♝c6 3. ♙b5 etc.

In the Barry Attack Anti-KID system we have no such fixed strategy. White must constantly change his plan according to circumstances.

On the other hand, the lack of simplification and the swarming chaos of it all certainly favors the adept, experienced side. There is a greater chance that your opponent won't discern a clear plan with his clock ticking away. This, of course, cuts both ways.

I mention this at some length as a warning largely to first-timers: don't become discouraged and prematurely abandon this great system – understanding will come, trust me. In the Barry Attack you'll often be playing on two flanks but you'll usually finish the game on only one flank. Remember, it's hard for Black to play for the same reasons! One recent Barry Attack article even hinted that it is White who has trouble in the Barry. Personally, I've never felt that way at all about the Barry.

The positional principles of chess teach us that Black cannot equalize rapidly by force but only gradually does he pull even. This is a law of chess. For this to occur it means that White has made an error. Where is White's advantage in the Berlin System, the Ruy Lopez or the Grunfeld Defense this days? You say that White isn't getting anything in the Barry Attack? Compared to what? – I ask. Don't believe this, the Barry Attack is still a large concern for any Black player. I know that when I'm Black I feel very cramped and concerned when facing huge pressure from White.

There is no way that most people can memorize all these lines. Don't even try to do so because it's not necessary. It's important to remember the plans for both sides and some theory. Try to play chess by understanding, not by memory. When you know the right plans you will find a way to execute them. A human's ability to see far ahead is puny compared to a computer's. Thus as humans we must try to compensate by being able to estimate or evaluate the position. Some can understand the position only from concrete variations while others see things in a more general way. They play by principle and experience. Which kind of player are you? Ideally we need a combination of intuition and good calculating ability.

It takes energy to play the Barry Attack – so avoid using it when you are tired or depressed. Our energy is definitely flowing more on some days than others. To play this line without concentration and passion is a good way to be handed your own head, I promise!

The immortal G.K. Chesterton expressed the correct mindset: "Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live, taking the form of readiness to die." With an attitude like this you'll be fine – isn't chess fun!

Every opening has its sticking point. The main problem with the Barry Attack is that Black can equalize in several ways. However the Barry Attack lines are no better, or worse than the KID lines. I'd say that the lines are "=" or a small edge. The colorful

and primitive aspects of the Barry Attack attract me to it. GM Gennady Kuzmin in his book *Chess University*, reveals the magic formula for victory in chess that someone had taught him: "HARMONY+INITIATIVE = VICTORY".

When Morozevich's rating made a big jump upwards, it was during this period that he brilliantly exploited the many shades of 1. e4 e6 2. d3 and 1. e4 e6 2. ♖e2 and 1. e4 c5 2. d3 and so on. It's equal, yet complex; it's small, yet large. We are doing the same thing with our Barry Attack system. For us, a good example can also be seen with Mark Hebden, who in a short time reached grandmaster level, when he included the Barry Attack in his opening repertoire.

The KID complex is a mass of variations that change shape depending on White's various assaults upon it. Fighting the KID is like attacking a giant blob of dough. You can sink your arm into it up to the elbow with no result at all!

Successfully combating the KID system demands a counter-strategy that cannot be avoided by Black and is well suited to the nature and style of the White player.

I think many people today are still searching for their correct style. I also think that many people have a gift for dynamic chess and this book aims to re-awaken these latent talents. White is always seeking to fix or clarify the position. He must be ready to cast off what he has for something new. He's always thinking about transformation. He knows that no matter how chaotic or uncertain things become, the correct plan always exists. He will seek and find certainty in concrete form. White must keep a flexible mind and be alert to elastic or surprising moves in any direction, backwards, forward and sideways.

I like players who see the entire board. White must always be planning 5 or 6 moves ahead, especially when the center is melting down.

One of my favorite concepts is that of "provocation". In order to play for a win you must give something to your opponent. Many people see red instantly when the position after 1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. ♙f4 appears. Some actually get angry when they see this position.

Whatever line you choose to play versus the lines with 1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 g6, Black can sometimes equalize, or do more than just that. He can wrest the initiative from

White and thrive.

Welcome to the real world – this is normal. I'm convinced that chess is an even game. White moves first but has to reveal his plans. If he takes one road, he cannot play another. The theoretical edge for White is elusive and vaporous. A small edge can evaporate instantly. We must always strive for objectivity. Deep knowledge of a small area is a virtue in chess. An asset in the Barry Attack is the very long tactical lines you know beforehand.

In the Barry Attack an attack can come later. You may want to play a positionally questionable move just to deny Black a key square for the knight or other pieces.

Play messy chess, try to stop Black's key pawn breaks. The rationale behind this book is beauty. This system illustrates well the concept of "provocation and controlled brinkmanship" for the higher purpose of sharpening one's game, while having fun doing it! It's a special surprise weapon for that special occasion. There's no forced edge, yet White can always have an unclear, equal, or superior position if he plays correctly. One fact of practical play is that some equalities aren't drawish at all. Theoretical equality doesn't mean that the two opponents are equal in strength, motivation, knowledge or experience. The uncertainty factor and fatigue exact their toll in a practical game. Even in a blitz game this tiring factor is real. We are not machines.

For most people it's not possible to memorize the huge quantity of material in this book. A large part of the book will, with time, become fixed in your memory as you play over the material repeatedly. If you're short of time to prepare for an important game, simply select one small line and learn that. The rest will come gradually. Another crucial point is not to despair or rush to judgement too quickly if your Stockfish analysis gives a different evaluation to the position in this book. A lot of the positions I have tackled defy analysis, even with the most powerful software and processors available today. I rely a lot more on our own knowledge of chess to make evaluations and I think that humans still understand chess evaluations sometimes better than computers. By all means please do bust our lines if you can because that's what it's all about.

I think that those whom I haven't frightened off will be richly rewarded when they

decide to give this repertoire a try. Many players are afraid to give their opponent too much activity, or to let things get out of control. Of course, this sometimes happens in such volcanic terrain; yet, with risk comes opportunity and great growth. It's no secret that after all else has failed, the study of tactics can yield impressive growth in a short time and this might just be more pivotal and crucial than anything else that you may do to improve – "Good tactics is good strategy!" wrote GM Yasser Seirawan. My sincere advice to those who are wavering on the edge, tempted to test the water but afraid to take a bath, is to jump. Open up the position, along with your mind, and you will gain a new-found confidence and power perhaps undreamed of before.

The Barry Attack is somewhat defensive-looking from the start. It tempts Black forward, provocatively. The Barry Attack is, after all, a little rebellious, flouting, as it does, all those common sense development rules. Perhaps your game needs a good shot of tactics to boost your results – it's one of the fastest ways to improve and this is true not only for young players.

If your opponent plays an early move order that's not in this book such as 1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♗f3 g6 3. c5 or 1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♗f3 g6 3. ♗c3 ♕g7 for example, the good news is that Black will be forced to transpose back into the mass of material.

The "super repertoire" that always keeps Black under pressure in all variations is of course, a total myth. Any reasonable opening set-up can work wonders for White or Black if they know it well. This is always going to outweigh theoretical evolution. Playing strong chess is also very much about your level of self-confidence, emotional and physical health. It's about who you are and how you feel in many ways at the precise moment of play in addition to your opening knowledge and general technique.

Anyone who takes the trouble to play through each model example, move by move, note by note, will be rewarded. Your strategic play will deepen and your tactics will improve along with your assessment skills, and you'll end up with a great repertoire! Good luck!

Vladimir Okhotnik, Ukraine, December 2022

Part I

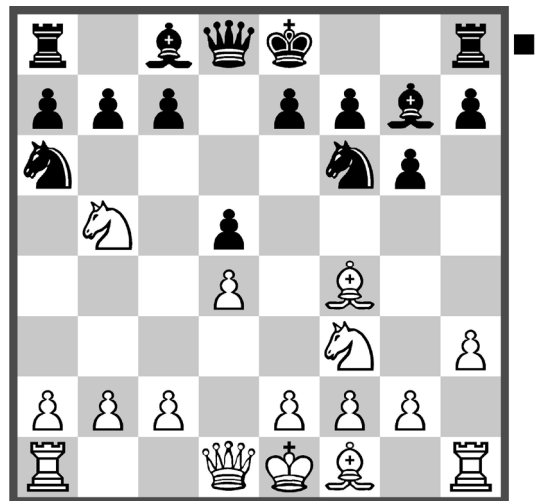
The Modern Variation – 5. b5



6.h3

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♘c3 d5

4.♚f4 ♚g7 5.♘b5 ♘a6 6.h3



Chapter Guide

Chapter 1 – 6.h3

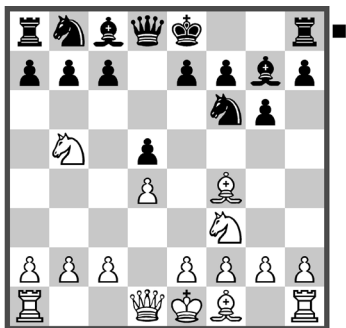
1.d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. ♙f4 ♙g7 5. ♘b5 ♘a6 6.h3

a) 6...0-0..... 19

b) 6...c5 20

a) 6...0-0

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Qf4
 Qg7 5. $\text{Nb5!?$



Position after: 5. $\text{Nb5!?$

According to the MegaBase, this was first played by Artur Bisguier against James Tarjan 50 years ago in the USA Championship. White lost and, as often happens, the variation became for a long time a rare guest in the games of chess players at grandmaster level. The second birth of this variation came in the last decade with victories by Aronian over Anish Giri and Maxim Vachier-Lagrave etc. in blitz and rapid games, which I also noticed. I included these in my repertoire, winning several tournament games and playing dozens of games online. The main idea for White is to disturb the harmony of Black's pieces on the queenside, as well as to limit Black's activity in the opening. The variation certainly arouses interest, but one should not overestimate its strength. I remember that in one of his interviews Levon Aronian said that he

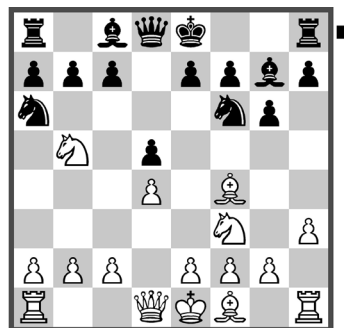
would be glad if White got an equal game after the opening, as he mainly concentrated on the middlegame. Nevertheless, in all seriousness, in spite of the apparent strength of Black's position, they are cramped and must show some precision in order to gain equal play.

5... Na6

The only move.

It would be a mistake to play the following. 5... 0-0? 6. Qxc7! Kd7 7. e3 a6 8. Qxb8 Rxb8 9. $\text{Na7}\pm$ White has an extra pawn.

6. h3!?



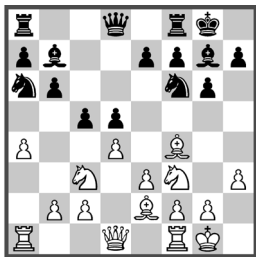
Position after: 6. h3!?

6... 0-0!?

6... c6!? 7. Na3 [7. Nc3 $\text{Ne4!}=$] 7... 0-0
 8. e3 Bb6 9. Bb1 c5=

7. e3 c6 8. Nc3 Qb6

This is passive. Instead, for example, Black can play as follows. 8... b6 9. Qe2 c5 10. 0-0 Qb7 11. a4±

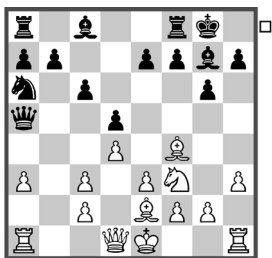


Position after: 11. a4±

11... Nc7 12. a5±

9. a3 c5

9... Nc4 ? 10. Qe2 Nxc3 [10... Qxb2 ? 11. Na4 +] 11. bxc3 Qa5



Position after: 11... Qa5

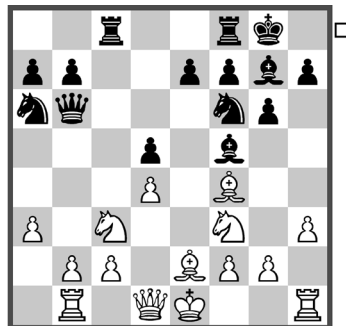
12. Qd2 [12. 0-0!? The idea is as follows. 12... Qxc3 13. Rb1 Qxa3 14.

Qd2 c5 15. $\text{R}a1$ Qb4 16. c3 Qb6 17. Rfb1] 12... Nc5 ! 13. c4 Qxd2 + 14. Qxd2 Ne4 + 15. Qe1 Nc3 16. cxd5 cxd5 17. Qd3 Qd7 =

10. Rb1

10. Qe5 $\text{N}b8$ 11. dxc5 Qxc5 12. $\text{N}b5$ $\text{N}e8$ 13. Qxg7 Qxg7 14. b4 Qc6 15. Qd4 + Qf6 [15... f6 Less accurate because of 16. c4±.] 16. Qxf6 + Qxf6 17. 0-0-0 e6 Thus Black achieves a fairly satisfactory position, albeit somewhat passive.

10... cxd4 11. exd4 Qf5 12. Qe2 Rac8



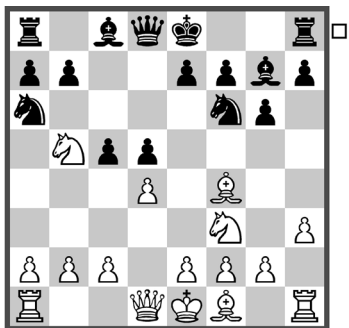
Position after: 12... Rac8

13. 0-0 Rfd8 =

This was played in Okhotnik, V – Meskenas, P Koege 2022.

b) 6...c5

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Qf4 Qg7 5. $\text{N}b5$!? $\text{N}a6$ 6. h3!? c5 (see diagram next page)

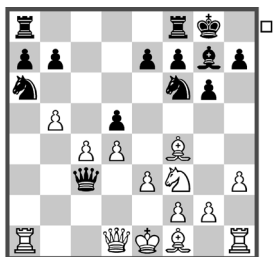


Position after: 6... c5

The most popular continuation. Black has many other playable moves and plans.

7. e3 0-0

This needs further practical testing. 7... c4!? 8. Nc3 [Of course, the following line is unsuccessful now. 8. Qe2 ?! Qa5 + 9. Nc3 Ne4 10. 0-0 Nxc3 11. bxc3 Qxc3 Black has an extra pawn; 8. c3!? 0-0 9. b3 Qd7 10. a4 Qa5 11. bxc4 Qxb5 12. axb5 Qxc3 +



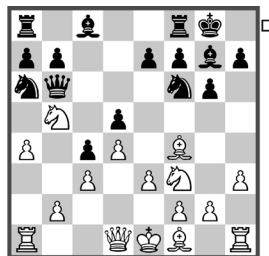
Position after: 12... Qxc3 +

13. Nd2 Nb4 14. Rc1 Nd3 + 15. Qxd3 Qxd3 Black is OK.] Now an interesting move: 8... b5!?.

8. Qe2

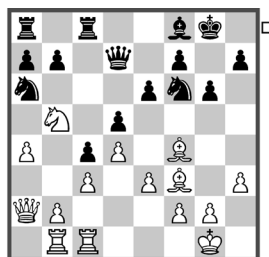
A) Of course, it is just bad to play 8. dxc5 ?! opening the way for Black's bishop on g7. After 8... Ne4 White finds it difficult to control the situation in the center.

B) 8. c3 Interesting. 8... Qd7 [8... Qb6 9. a4 c4?!



Position after: 9... c4?!

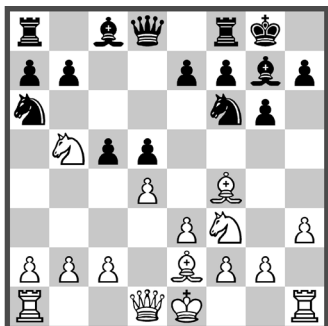
10. b3! cxb3 11. Qxb3 ± It is not easy for Black to propose a game plan, in Nihal, S – Khusnutdinov, R chess.com INT 2020.] 9. a4 Qf5 10. Qe2 ± Qe4 ?! 11. 0-0 Qxf3 12. Qxf3 e6 13. Qb3 c4 14. Qa2 Qd7 15. Rfc1 Rfc8 16. Rab1 Qf8



Position after: 16... Qf8

17. b4!? [17. b3± This is better.] 17... Nb8 White has a slight advantage; Black's position in solid but passive, in

Kovalenko, I – Matamoros Franco, C
chess.com INT 2018.

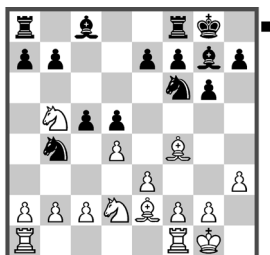


Position after: 8. e2

8... e4!?

A) 8... a5+ An alternative.

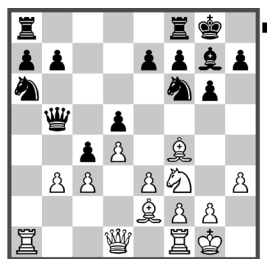
A1) 9. d2 xd2+ 10. xd2 b4
11. 0-0



Position after: 11. 0

11... f5= [11... a6? This is bad. 12. c7 a7 13. c3 c6 14. dxc5 e5 15. g5 d4 16. xf6 xf6 17. d5 d8 18. cxd4 exd4 19. e4± White has an extra pawn.]

A2) 9. c3! d7 10. a4 c4 11. 0-0 The idea is as follows. 11... xb5 12. axb5 xb5 13. b3!



Position after: 13. b3!

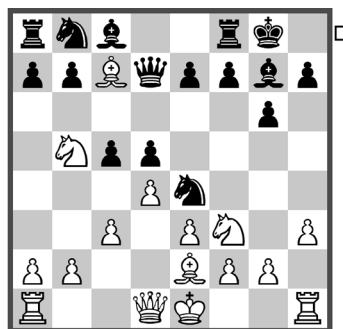
13... xb3 14. xb3 cxb3 15. fb1 fc8 16. xb3 c7 17. xb7 e6 18. xe7 xf4 19. exf4 xc3 20. axa7 It is more pleasant to play as White here, although with some accuracy Black should probably get a draw.

B) 8... b6 9. 0-0 c4 10. a4 f5 11. c3 fc8 12. b3 e4 13. bxc4 dxc4 Roselli Mailhe, B – Paveto, K Buenos Aires 2022. 14. e5 Now this leads to an advantage for White.

9. c3 b8!?

9... d7! 10. 0-0 c4 11. a4!±

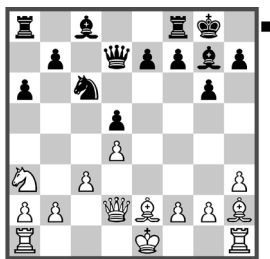
10. c7 d7



Position after: 10... d7

11. ♖xb8!

11. ♖h2!? ♜c6 12. ♞c7 ♜b8 13. dxc5
 [13. ♞b5 ♜a8 14. ♞d2 ♞xd2 15.
 ♜xd2 cxd4 16. exd4 a6 17. ♞a3

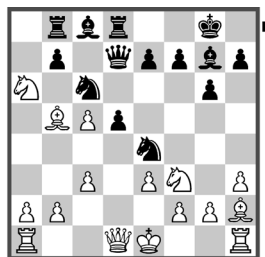


Position after: 17. ♞a3

17... e5 18. dxe5 ♞xe5 19. 0-0±] 13...
 ♜d8 14. ♖b5

A) 14... ♞xc5?! This is now bad after
 the following. 15. 0-0 a6 16. ♖xc6
 ♜xc6 [16... bxc6 17. ♞e6±] 17. c4!?
 e5 18. ♞xd5± A clear advantage for
 White.

B) 14... a6 15. ♞xa6!?



Position after: 15. ♞xa6!?

15... bxa6 [15... ♜a8? 16. ♞c7 ♜a5
 17. 0-0±] 16. ♖xc6 ♜xc6 17. ♖xb8
 ♖xh3 18. ♜xh3 ♜xb8 White's advan-
 tage is most likely symbolic. It's
 not easy for him to take advantage of
 his position and achieve something
 substantial, for example as follows.
 19. ♜b1 ♜xc5 20. ♞d4 ♜c4! =

11... ♜xb8 12. ♞xa7

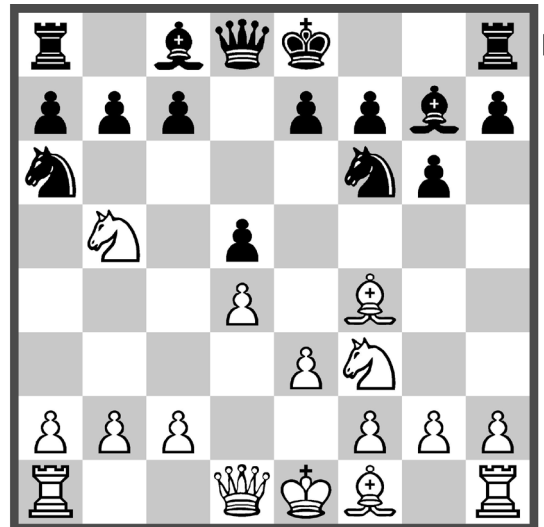
White has an extra pawn.



6.e3 – Sidelines

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♘c3 d5

4.♚f4 ♚g7 5.♘b5 ♘a6 6.e3



Chapter Guide

Chapter 2 – 6.e3 – Sidelines

1.d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. ♙f4 ♙g7 5. ♘b5 ♘a6 6.e3

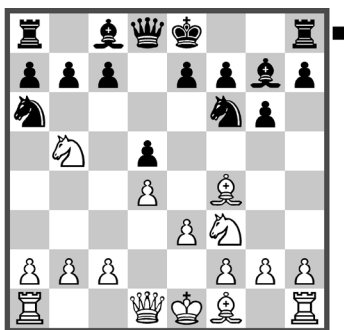
a) 6...--..... 27

b) 6...c6 7. ♘c3 -- 30

c) 6...c6 7. ♘c3 ♘c7..... 34

a) 6...--

1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♗f3 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. ♙f4 ♙g7 5. ♗b5 ♘a6 6. e3



Position after: 6. e3

6... ♗h5

A) There are (after 6. e3) also interesting continuations that, while not popular, are nevertheless noteworthy. 6... ♙g4!?



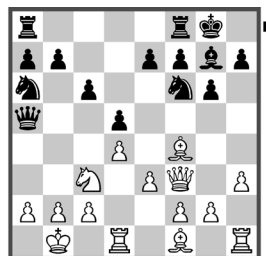
Position after: 6... ♙g4!?

A1) 7. h3 ♙xf3 8. ♖xf3 c6 9. ♘c3

A1.1) 9... ♘c7 10. 0-0-0 ♗e6 [Black shouldn't rush with castling. 10...

0-0 11. g4 ♗e6 12. h4! After this White enjoys positional pressure on the kingside.] 11. ♙e5 b5 12. ♙d3 a5 13. g4 White has a slight advantage.

A1.2) 9... ♖a5 10. 0-0-0 0-0 [10... b5! 11. ♙d3 ♗b4!? 12. ♖b1 0-0 13. ♙e5 This is unclear.] 11. ♖b1



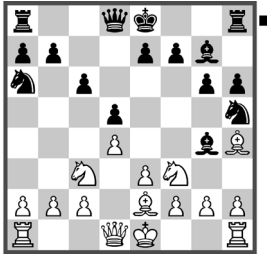
Position after: 11. ♖b1

11... ♗d7 [11... b5 12. h4!? b4 13. ♗e2 ♗e4±] 12. e4 e6?! [12... e5 13. dxe5 ♗xe5 14. ♖g3 ♗c4 15. ♙xc4 dxc4 16. e5∞] 13. h4 [Better is the following line. 13. ♙d6 ♖fd8 14. h4±] 13... c5 14. ♙d2 cxd4 15. ♗xd5 ♖d8 16. ♗f4 ♗e5 This is unclear, in Bauer, C – Colin, V Rochefort 2022.

A2) 7. ♙e2

A2.1) 7... c6 8. ♘c3 ♗h5 9. ♙g5 h6 10. ♙h4

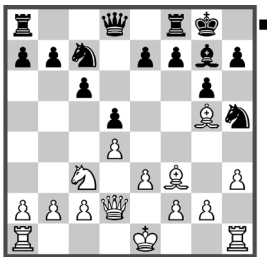
(see analysis diagram next page)



Position after: 10. ♔h4

10... ♖d6 [10... g5 11. ♗xa6 bxa6 12. h3 ♗d7 13. ♘d2 ♘f4 14. exf4 gxh4 15. ♘f3±] 11. 0-0 0-0 12. h3 ♗xf3 13. ♗xf3 ♗f6! 14. ♗xf6 ♘xf6 There is equality.

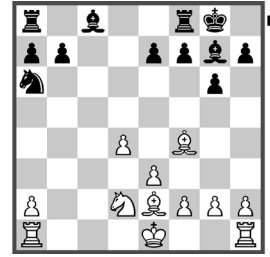
A2.2) 7... ♘h5 8. ♗g5 c6 9. ♘c3 ♘c7 10. ♖d2 0-0 11. h3 ♗xf3 12. ♗xf3



Position after: 12. ♗xf3

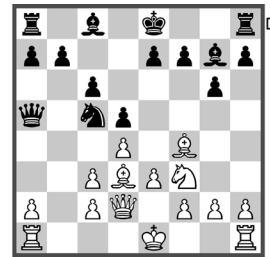
12... ♘f6 13. 0-0-0 A dynamic position with a lot to play for.

B) 6... ♘e4!? 7. ♗d3 [7. c4!? Not tested in practice. 7... c5! However tactically this continuation looks reliable. 8. ♘c3 0-0 9. cxd5 ♘xc3 10. bxc3 cxd4 11. cxd4 ♖xd5 12. ♗e2 ♖a5+ 13. ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 14. ♘xd2



Position after: 14. ♘xd2

14... ♘b4 15. 0-0 ♗e6= Equality.] 7... c6 8. ♘c3 [8. ♘a3?! ♖a5+!? 9. ♖f1 0-0] 8... ♘xc3 9. bxc3 ♖a5 [9... b6?! 10. ♘e5 ♘b8 11. c4±] 10. ♖d2 ♘c5!



Position after: 10... ♘c5!

[10... c5 11. 0-0 0-0 12. ♖fb1 c4 13. ♗e2 ♖a4 This was unclear in Martirosyan, H – Jones, G chess.com INT 2020.] 11. 0-0 ♘e4 12. ♖c1 ♘xc3= 13. a4 ♗g4 Black has a good position, with many plans at his disposal, and White finds it difficult to be active.

C) 6... ♗f5 7. ♗e2 c6 8. ♘c3 ♖b6 [8... ♘h5!? The idea is as follows. 9. ♗g5 h6 10. ♗h4 g5 11. ♗g3 ♘xg3 12. hxg3 ♘b4 13. ♖c1 ♖a5 14. ♖d2 ♘a6 15. 0-0 0-0=] 9. ♖d2