

Jerzy Konikowski / Uwe Bekemann

# Winning with 1.e4!



JBV Chess Books

Jerzy Konikowski  
Uwe Bekemann

# **Winning with 1.e4!**

## **A Repertoire for White**

---

**JBV Chess Books**

---

## Table of Contents

---

<b>Explanation of Symbols</b> .....	9
<b>Preface</b> .....	10
<b>Introduction</b> .....	12
<b>Chapter 1: 1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.♖xd4 ♗c6 4.♖e3 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♖b4 6.♗d2 0-0 7.0-0-0 ♜e8</b> .....	19
Line 1: 8.♗c4 .....	30
Line 2: 8.♖g3 .....	37
Game 1: Shabalov–Shliperman, Newark 1995 .....	48
Game 2: Adams–Anand, Linares 1994 .....	49
Game 3: J. Polgar–Timman, Hoogeveen 1999 .....	50
Game 4: Mieses–Alekhine, Scheveningen 1913 .....	51
Game 5: Winawer–Steinitz, Nuremberg 1896 .....	52
Game 6: Braga–Alpern, Buenos Aires 1978 .....	54
Game 7: Hase–Rubinetti, Buenos Aires 1972 .....	55
Game 8: Azar–Raifen, Israel 1997 .....	56
Game 9: Groot – Hlavacek, correspondence 2017 .....	57
Game 10: G. Hansen–Sørensen, Copenhagen 1994 .....	58
Game 11: Shirov–Karpov, Dos Hermanas 1995 .....	59
Game 12: Souleidis–I. Sokolov, Rethymnon 2003 .....	60
Game 13: J. Polgar–Hort, Prague 1995 .....	61
Game 14: Xie Jun–Flear, Hastings 1996 .....	62
Game 15: Smirnov–Kayumov, Alushta 2002 .....	63
Game 16: Zhang Zhong–Koneru, Wijk aan Zee 2003 .....	64
Game 17: Shabalov–A. Ivanov, Key West 1994 .....	65
<b>Chapter 2: 1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.♖xd4 ♗c6</b> .....	66
Line 1: 4.♖e3 .....	70
Line 2: 4.♖a4 .....	75
Game 18: Rodkin–Yankovski, St. Petersburg 2006 .....	78
Game 19: Hardarson–Gikas, Budapest 2004 .....	79
Game 20: Zimniok–Folk, Czech Republic 2003 .....	80
Game 21: Dunst–Maibaum, Recklinghausen 2005 .....	81
Game 22: Zabarskij–Grüneschild, Nuremberg 1999 .....	82
Game 23: Hardarson–Halldorsson, Hafnarborg 2003 .....	83
Game 24: Hoxha–Gayson, Plovdiv 2010 .....	84
Game 25: Hegner–H. Schmidt, Frankfurt 2000 .....	84

---

## Table of Contents

---

<b>Chapter 3: 1.e4 c6 2.♘c3 d5 3.♖f3</b> .....	87
Line 1: 3...dxe4 .....	88
Line 2: 3...d4 .....	97
Line 3: 3...e6 .....	103
Line 4: 3...♘f6 .....	110
Game 26: Lombardy – Brinck–Claussen, Poland 1964 .....	116
Game 27: Veksler–Mietner, Germany 2001 .....	117
Game 28: Sutton–Revell, correspondence game 1999 .....	118
Game 29: Negele–Melson, correspondence game 1999 .....	118
Game 30: Bellin–Pribyl, Graz 1979 .....	120
Game 31: Negele–Th. Bialas, correspondence game 1996 .....	121
Game 32: Van Bentum–Tuchtenhagen, Germany 1998 .....	122
Game 33: Bredewout–Besser, Hamburg 1965 .....	123
Game 34: Smyslov–Flohr, Budapest 1950 .....	124
Game 35: Negele–Hofstetter, correspondence game 1999 .....	125
Game 36: Regan–Shamkovich, New York 1977 .....	126
<b>Chapter 4: 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4</b> .....	128
Line 1: 4...♘f6 .....	130
Line 2: 4...♙b4+ .....	134
Line 3: 4...dxc4 .....	136
Game 37: Geirnaert–Vandemeulebroucke, Brasschaat 2009 .....	139
Game 38: Stojanovic–Sedlak, Sarajevo 2009 .....	140
Game 39: Paichadze–Martinovic, Fermo 2009 .....	141
Game 40: Okhotnik–Haub, Vandoeuvre 2009 .....	142
Game 41: Geirnaert–Saiboulatov, Aalst 2005 .....	143
Game 42: Okhotnik–Legky, St. Quentin 1999 .....	144
Game 43: Vaganian–Klovans, USSR 1968 .....	145
<b>Chapter 5: 1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.f4 5.e5</b> .....	148
Line 1: 5...♘fd7 .....	151
Line 2: 5...dxe5 6.dxe5 .....	159
Game 44: Vaisser–Palac, Cannes 2000 .....	163
Game 45: Vokác–Votava, Lazne Bohdanec 1996 .....	165
Game 46: Stein–Liberzon, Yerevan 1965 .....	166
Game 47: Banas–Kindermann, Trnava 1987 .....	167
Game 48: Morris–Atzmon Simon, Sydney 2010 .....	167
Game 49: Gu Xiaobing–Wang Xiaohui, Xinghua Jiangsu 2009 .....	168

---

## Table of Contents

---

Game 50: Sorokin–Dubovik, correspondence game 1968 .....	169
Game 51: Nakamura–Smirin, Mashantucket 2005 .....	171
Game 52: Lukin–Tseitlin, Leningrad 1972 .....	171
Game 53: Lavrov–Anshirov, Smolensk 2001 .....	172
Game 54: Mariotti–Saliba, Skopje 1972 .....	173
<b>Chapter 6: 1.e4 ♗f6 2.e5 ♗d5 3.♖c3</b> .....	174
Game 55: Hess–Hristodoulou, chess.com INT 2020 .....	179
Game 56: Zvjaginsev–Savchenko, Serpukhov 2007 .....	180
Game 57: Tseytlin–U. Schulze, Dresden 2013 .....	181
Game 58: Elci–J. Perez, Rio de Janeiro 2014 .....	182
Game 59: L. Evans–Adler, Chicago 1970 .....	183
<b>Chapter 7: 1.e4 d5 2.exd5</b> .....	185
Line 1: 2...♔xd5 .....	186
Line 2: 2...♗f6 .....	191
Game 60: Welling–Lasslop, Germany 2010 .....	196
Game 61: Areshchenko–Almond, Port Erin 2007 .....	197
Game 62: Morozevich–Grischuk, Moscow 2012 .....	198
Game 63: Radjabov–Kamsky, Nice 2009 .....	199
Game 64: Friedel–Pechenkin, Edmonton 2009 .....	200
Game 65: Prasad–Adianto, Calcutta 2001 .....	201
Game 66: Kharchenko–Udovik, Kiev 2004 .....	202
Game 67: Milos–Sapis, Cappelle la Grande 2000 .....	202
<b>Chapter 8: 1.e4 ♗c6 2.d4</b> .....	204
Line 1: 2...d5 .....	206
Line 2: 2...e5 .....	210
Game 68: Heinemann–Wisnewski, Bad Oldesloe 2007 .....	213
Game 69: Romanishin–Mariotti, Leningrad 1977 .....	214
Game 70: Smagin–Šahovic, Biel 1990 .....	215
Game 71: Rosentalis–Johansen, Tilburg 1993 .....	216
Game 72: Hübner–Hort, Germany 1984 .....	217
<b>Chapter 9: 1.e4 g6</b> .....	219
Game 73: Velimirovic–Davies, Vrnjacka Banja 1991 .....	222
Game 74: Jumabayev–Kotsur, Astana 2011 .....	223
Game 75: Plenca–Dragomirescu, Split 2012 .....	225

---

## Table of Contents

---

<b>Chapter 10: 1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 c6</b> .....	226
Game 76: Nyepomnyaschi–A. Ivanov, Dagomys 2010 .....	232
Game 77: Finkel–Oratovsky, Israel 1994 .....	233
Game 78: F. Rohde–Pastor Alonso de Prado, correspondence 2018 .....	234
Game 79: Motwani–Adams, Moscow 1994 .....	235
<b>Chapter 11: 1.e4 a6</b> .....	237
Game 80: Karpov–Miles, Skara 1980 .....	240
Game 81: Volovik–Koslov, USSR 1999 .....	241
<b>Chapter 12: 1.e4 b6</b> .....	243
Game 82: Blackburne–Hamel, England 1868 .....	246
Game 83: Maciejewski–Kruszynski, Lodz 1980 .....	248
<b>Chapter 13: 1.e4</b> .....	249
I. 1...g5 .....	249
II. 1...♗h6 .....	249
III. 1...f5 .....	250
IV. 1...h6 .....	251
V. 1...♗a6 .....	251
<b>Index of sources</b> .....	253

---

---

## Preface

1.e2–e4 is the most popular opening move, followed by 1.d2–d4 and others. This leads to the question of whether the advance of the king pawn might be better than the alternatives.

Which is more useful – a spoon or a fork? Of course, it depends on what kind of food you have on your plate. In chess it's slightly different: The tool of choice depends on what kind of 'food' the player wants to have 'on the plate'.

At the beginning of a game, White can play many moves, but it makes sense to choose the one that suits the intended purpose. When executing a penalty kick in football, the player can shoot wherever he wants. Is it better to aim at the top left corner because the goalkeeper has a weak right side? – Or to one of the bottom corners because the keeper is very tall and won't get on the ground fast enough? Or better at the middle, because you can't miss it and the keeper will most probably jump to one of the sides? So, whether in football or chess, the right choice depends on the intended effect.

What are the advantages of 1.e2–e4? The pawn is moved to the center, and thus to an area that is of great importance in chess. Since the move allows the development of the king bishop and/or the queen, it's the first step in preparing for castling.

1.e2–e4 can be answered with a wide range of openings, all of which come with a ton of theory that is difficult to process and sometimes even impossible to digest. If modern opening theory is already very extensive and complicated in general, this is especially true for the most frequently chosen move 1.e2–e4. Since most players don't have the time and/or patience to study a variety of opening books, they find it difficult to prepare for the opening phase and therefore may have trouble handling it satisfactorily.

1.e2–e4 is the right tool for chess enthusiasts who are looking for lively and combinatorial play in open and dynamic positions. And as for the amount of theory, we get it under control too, because the suggested lines are hand-picked, so to speak, to avoid the jungle of widely known opening theory as much as possible. We offer a lot of interesting knowledge and provide good advice, both of which are helpful to build an own opening repertoire that the reader should be able to master without investing a lot of time.

In many cases, we also throw a certain surprise factor into the equation, and for this purpose we don't shy away from breaking one or the other taboo! For example, the well-known basic rule that the queen should not be brought into play too early is based on a good reason, as an early developed queen can be attacked with gain of tempo and so on and so forth. However, the queen's early

---

## Preface

---

development is by no means always a disadvantage and with an over-cautious approach a player can sometimes let good opportunities slip by.

In a team sport like soccer, imagine who would leave the best player on the bench for a long time, based on the reasoning that otherwise he could be injured? The best player should be activated early on so that he can bring his qualities to the fore as early as possible. And if in chess the queen can intervene in the fight early on without any particular disadvantage – so be it!

In Chapter 1 we focus on the reply 1...e7–e5 without mentioning the ‘King’s Gambit’ 2.f2–f4. The reason is that we have already published a book especially on this subject (King’s Gambit – properly played), which can perfectly round off the repertoire presented in this book.

Finally, we would like to express our hope that not only will you benefit from it, but that you will also enjoy it as much as we did during our work!

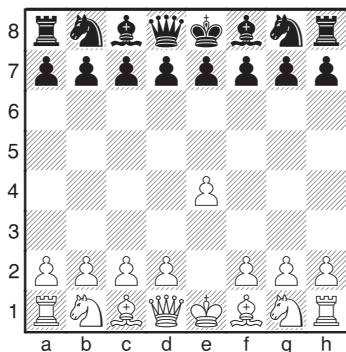


---

---

# Introduction

## 1.e4



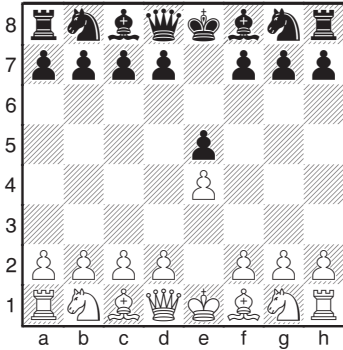
Most chess games start with this move because it has several advantages. The e-pawn immediately takes control of the important central squares on d5 and f5 and at the same time clears the way for the development of the queen and the king bishop. Furthermore, 1.e4 often leads to lively combinatorial play and is particularly popular with young players.

After 1.e4, a big variety of complicated and sharp openings with an abundance of theoretical lines can arise. And since it's absolutely impossible to examine them all in a single book, our focus is on developing a repertoire in particular for learners and less experienced players. A handpicked choice of opening lines, so to speak, that can be learned rather quickly and soon tried out in practice.

Most of the lines suggested are not widely used in practice, so that a certain surprise factor can always play a role. The lines lead to interesting play with a good measure of tactical elements. In many cases, the queen is brought into play early on, although this seems incompatible with one of the basic rules that every learner is taught. In modern chess, however, it's advantageous for a player to be flexible and versatile. Basic rules are only general guidelines, they are not carved in stone. And that's why one should never disregard this other specific 'rule' which says: No rule without exception!

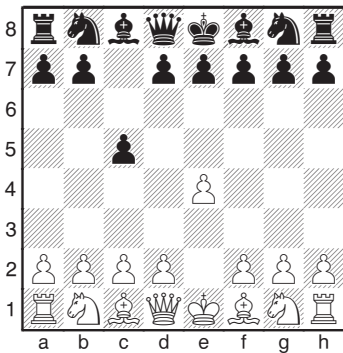
Let's begin with an overview that shows the order in which the different opening systems are treated.

## I. 1...e5



This symmetrical reply is treated in **Chapter 1**. Logically, everything that has been said about its advantages for White also applies here.

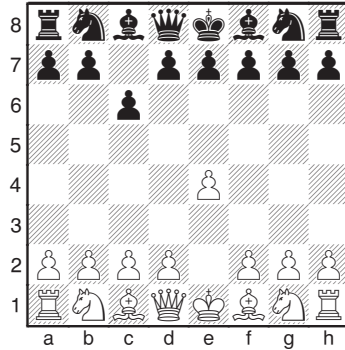
## II. 1...c5



The 'Sicilian Defense' is treated in **Chapter 2**. It's the most popular opening against 1.e4 because it usually leads to sharp and complicated positions, which promise good dynamic counterplay. White's strategy is based on maintaining the center and creating

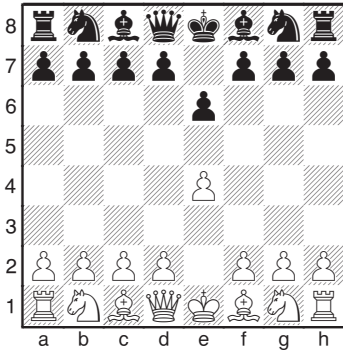
opportunities for attack on the king side. Black, on the other hand, tries to attack the white center and strive for quick counter play on the queen side.

## III. 1...c6



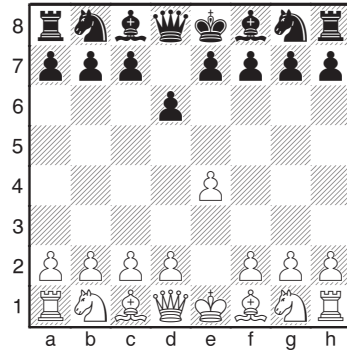
The 'Caro-Kann Defense' is treated in **Chapter 3**. Although it was played by Polish chess masters as early as 1883, it was named after the Hungarian H. Caro and the Austrian M. Kann, who published their analyzes on this topic in 1886. The idea of 1...c6 is to attack the central pawn on e4 with 2...d5. An important positional detail consists in the fact that the black queen bishop (unlike in the 'French Defense') is not locked up. Since this opening has always been known to be rock solid, it can be found in the repertoire of many world-class players.

IV. 1...e6



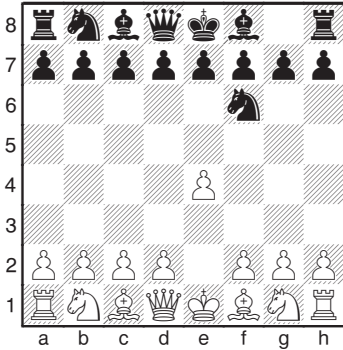
The 'French Defense' is treated in **Chapter 4**. Its name goes back to French players who began to examine and use it more intensively in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Similar to the 'Caro-Kann Defense', Black is preparing to attack the white center pawn with 2...d5. Here, however, the queen bishop's way out is blocked.

V. 1...d6



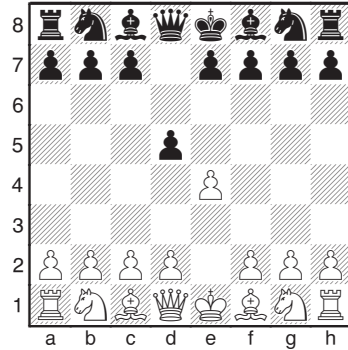
The 'Pirc Defense' is treated in **Chapter 5**. It's named after the Yugoslav master Vasja Pirc (1907-1980). It leads to positions which are similar to those of the 'King's Indian Defense' – with the main difference that White doesn't play c2-c4. Black develops his king bishop on the long diagonal a1-h8, where it can play a very active role, especially if Black manages to apply the central lever c7-c5 at a good moment.

VI. 1...♘f6



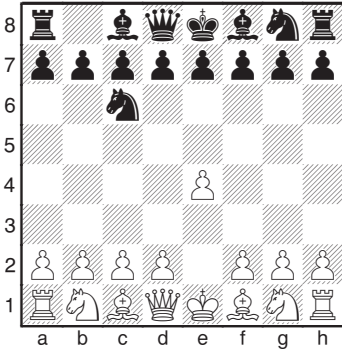
The 'Alekhine Defense' is treated in **Chapter 6**. It's named after the former world champion Alexander Alekhine (1892–1946), who played it successfully in the 20s of the last century. Black provokes his opponent to advance his pawns in order to attack and hopefully destroy the resulting pawn chain with the levers d7–d6, c7–c5 and f7–f6.

VII. 1...d5



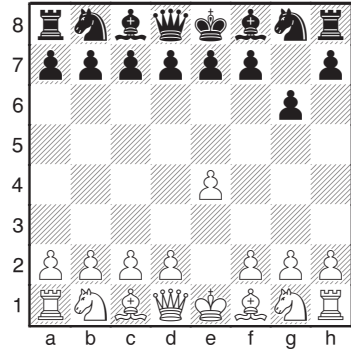
The 'Scandinavian Defense' is treated in **Chapter 7**. It was first recommended by the historical Italian master Lucena way back in 1497. However, the name of the opening is from more recent times, because it was mainly Scandinavian players who made significant contributions to its research. Black immediately attacks the white center and tries to free his piece play with vigorous means. The disadvantage of this approach is that Black loses at least one tempo because his queen or king knight must move to the middle of the board where they can be attacked by opposing pawns or pieces.

VIII. 1...♞c6



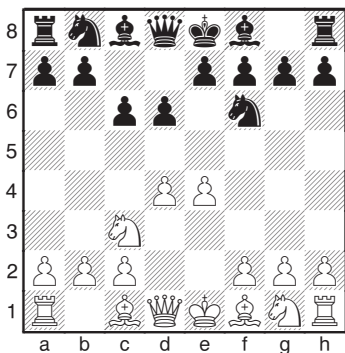
The 'Nimzowitsch Defense' is treated in **Chapter 8**. Black first develops his queen knight, in order to then attack the white pawn center with his d- or e-pawn. Although this opening is rarely played these days, White should not underestimate its potential, as Black can seize the initiative in case of inaccurate play.

IX. 1...g6

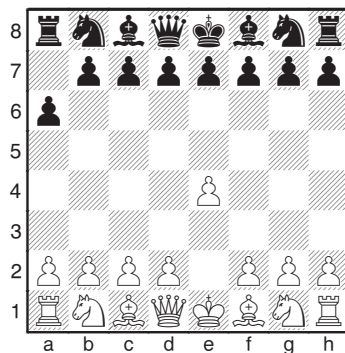


The so-called 'Modern Defense' is treated in **Chapter 9**. Since it's very closely related to the 'Pirc Defense', it often leads identical positions by transposition of moves.

**X. 1...d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 c6**



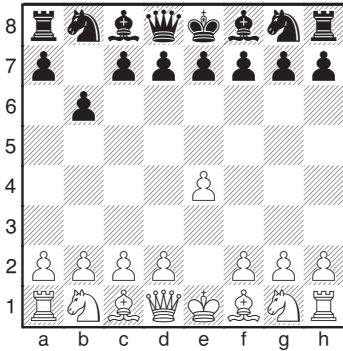
**XI. 1...a6**



The 'Czech Defense' is treated in **Chapter 10**. It was first used in the game Kotic – Tartakower, Bled 1931. Although it reappeared in the game Foltys – Puc, Vienna 1949, the whole idea was not recognized at the time. However, it was rehabilitated in the late 80s thanks to the analyzes of the Czech players Jansa and Pribyl and has been used more frequently ever since. Its basic idea is to place the queen on a5 in order to disturb the opponent's harmonic development and to attack his center with the lever e7–e5.

The rarely played move 1...a7–a6 to fight for the initiative on the queen side is treated in **Chapter 11**. However, this approach has a certain psychological aspect, as White very often tries to quickly refute it, which can lead to the opposite effect, as shown in sample game Karpov–Miles, Skara 1980. So White should also take this 'bizarre' opening seriously.

### XII. 1...b6



The move 1.b7–b6 is treated in **Chapter 12**. Black places his queen bishop on the long diagonal a8–h1 to exert piece pressure on the white center. Since this approach doesn't have a particularly good reputation, it's rarely found in modern practice. In some opening books, this opening is called 'Owen's Defense', which goes back to the English master John Owen (1827–1901), who made a considerable contribution to its development.

### XIII.

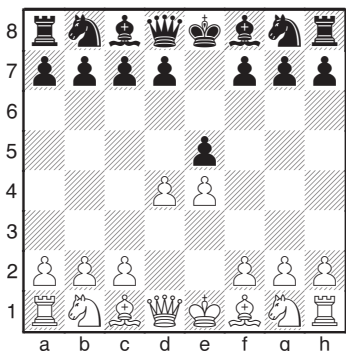
The remaining alternatives, which are extremely rare birds in tournament practice are treated in **Chapter 13**.

**Summary:** We hope the material presented will help you develop your own opening repertoire. You will find many analyzes of well-known grandmasters and theorists. The multitude of lines with their main ideas, evaluations and recommendations are intended to help you understand the strategic and tactical plans of the systems discussed. We particularly recommend that you carefully examine the more than 80 practical games. We have selected instructive examples that illustrate important elements of tactics and strategy, and understanding them will enable you to lead your own games based on a more solid foundation!

# Chapter 1

## The Center Game

1.e4 e5 2.d4



The theoretical recommendation is 2. ♘f3 to prepare the push d2–d4. By immediately pushing the d-pawn, White accelerates the events in the center, although the queen's early activation allows the opponent to gain a tempo by developing the queen knight to c6. However, the main goal of this approach is to castle queen side as quickly as possible and launch an attack on the king. Therefore, Black has to defend very carefully in order not to get into trouble in the opening phase.

### 2...exd4

In addition to this principled reply, Black has some alternatives.

I. 2... ♖c6 3.dxe5 ♗xe5

A) 4.f4 ♗g6

A1) 5. ♗c3 ♘b4

(5... ♘c5 6. ♗f3 d6 7. ♘c4 ♘e6 8. ♘xe6 fxe6 9. ♖e2 ♖d7 10. ♘e3 ♘b6 11. 0–0–0 ♗8e7 12.g3±)

6. ♖d4 ♖e7 7. ♗f3 d5 8. ♘d2 ♗f6 9.e5 c6 10. 0–0–0 ♗g4 11. ♗a4 ♘xd2+ 12. ♖xd2 ♗h6 13. ♘d3 ♘f5 14.g3 ♘xd3 15. ♖xd3 ♖b4 16. ♗c3 0–0–0 17.a3 ♖a5 18. ♗g5 ♖de8 19. ♗xf7 ♗xf7 20. ♖f5+ ♗b8 21. ♖xf7 with a clear advantage for White, Tringov–Feuerstein, Varna 1958.

A2) 5. ♘e3 ♘b4+

(5... ♗f6!? 6.e5 ♖e7 with the double threat ♖e7–b4+ and d7–d6 is worth considering.)

6. ♗d2 ♗f6 7.c3 ♘a5 8. ♗c4 ♘b6 9. ♗xb6 (9.e5!?) 9...axb6 10.e5 ♗e4 11. ♘d3 ♗c5 12. ♘c2 ♖e7 13.b4 ♗a6 14. ♖d2 0–0 15. ♗f3 ♖d8 16. 0–0 d6 17. ♖f2 ♗b8 18.exd6 ♖xd6 19.f5 ♗f8 20. ♘f4 ♖c6 21. ♖fe1 ♖d8 22. ♖g3 ♗bd7 23. ♗d4 ♖c4 24. ♘b3+–, Zagar–Martynovic, Dravograd 1963

A3) 5. ♗f3 ♘c5 6. ♘c4

(6.f5!? and 6. ♗c3!? are interesting alternatives.)

6...d6 7. ♗g5 ♗h6 8. ♗c3 0–0 9. ♗a4 ♖f6 10. ♖d2 ♖d4 11. ♘b3 ♘b4 12.c3 ♖xd2+ 13. ♘xd2 ♘a5 14. ♘c2 c6 15.h3 f5 16.b4 ♘c7 17. ♘b3+ ♗h8 18.exf5 ♘xf5 19. 0–0 ♖ae8 20. ♖fe1 d5 21.g3



---

## Chapter 1 – The Center Game

---

b5 22. ♖c5 ♗b6 23. ♔g2 ♙xc5 24. bxc5 ♜xe1 25. ♞xe1 ♗d7 26. a4 and White stands better, Steiner–Mikenas, Kermeri 1937.

**B) 4. ♖f3**

**B1) 4... ♞f6 5. ♗e2**

(5. ♖c3!? is also playable; e.g. 5... ♗b4 6. ♗d2 ♖xf3+ 7. gxf3 ♗e7 8. ♞e2 ♖g6 9. 0–0–0 with good prospects for White, Plaskett–Sherwin, Birmingham 2002.)

5... ♗b4+ 6. ♖bd2

(6.c3!? ♗c5 7. 0–0 d6 8. ♖d4 Δf2–f4! deserves attention.)

6... ♖xf3+ 7. ♗xf3 ♗e7 8. 0–0 0–0 9. ♖b3 ♖c6 10. g3 ♞e8 11. ♗g2 ♗f8 12. c3 d6 13. f4 ♗e6 14. ♖d4 ♗d7 15. ♗e3 ♖a5 16. ♞d3 c5 17. ♖f3 ♞e6 18. ♖d2 a6 19. b3 ♞ad8 20. ♞fe1 with a positional advantage, Keres–Kevitz, New York 1954.

**B2) 4... ♗b4+ 5. c3 ♖xf3+ 6. ♞xf3 ♗c5 7. ♗c4 ♞f6 8. ♗f4 d6 9. 0–0 ♗e7 10. ♞g3 ♖g6 11. ♗e3 ♗b6 12. ♖d2 0–0 13. f4 ♗d7 14. ♞ae1 ♞ae8 15. ♖h1 ♗xe3 16. ♞xe3 ♗c6 17. ♗d3 ♞e7 18. ♞g4 ♗d7 19. ♞f3 ♞e8 20. g3 ♗c6 21. ♖g1 ♖f8 22. ♖b3 b6 23. ♖d4 ♗a8 24. g4 and in this sharp position, White has better prospects, Tiller–Houska, West Bromwich 2002.**

**B3) 4... ♖xf3+ 5. ♞xf3 d6**

(5... ♞f6 6. ♞g3 ♗c5 7. ♖c3 ♗e7 8. ♗d3 d6 9. ♖b5 ♗b6 10. ♗e3 is favorable for White, Belyavski–Meštrovic, Portoroz 1996.)

6. ♗c4 ♞f6 7. ♞b3 h6 8. ♖c3 c6 9. a4 ♗e7 10. 0–0 ♗d8 11. ♗e3 ♗e7 12. f4 0–0 13. ♞ad1 ♖g6 14. ♗d4

(14. e5! dxe5 15. fxe5 ♞xe5 16. ♗xf7+ +- was even stronger.)

14... ♞e7 15. ♗xg7 ♖xg7 16. f5 ♞e5 17. fxxg6 fxxg6 18. ♞xf8 ♖xf8 19. ♞f1+ ♗f6 20. ♗g8 ♞e7 21. e5! dxe5 22. ♖e4 with a decisive attack, Alekhine–Mollinedo, Madrid 1941.

**C) 4. ♖c3**

**C1) 4... ♗b4 5. ♞d4**

(Another option is 5. ♗d2 ♖f6 6. f4 ♖g6 7. ♗d3 d6 8. ♖f3 c6 9. 0–0 etc.)

5... ♞e7 6. ♗f4 ♗xc3+ 7. ♞xc3 d6 8. 0–0–0 ♖f6 9. f3 0–0 10. ♖e2 h6 11. ♖d4 a6 12. g4 followed by ♖d4–f5 with initiative on the king side.

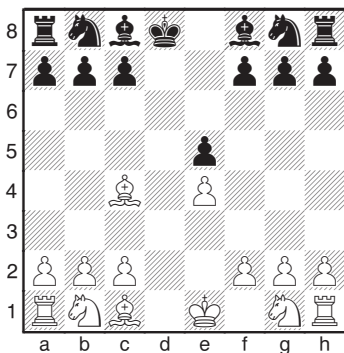
**C2) 4... ♗c5 5. ♗f4 d6**

(5... ♖g6 6. ♗g3 d6 7. h4! h5 8. ♞d2 ♖f6 9. 0–0–0 ♞e7 10. ♖d5! ♖xd5 11. exd5 0–0 12. ♗e2 ♗g4 13. ♗xg4 hxxg4 14. h5±, Dolmatov–Gulko, Hastings 1989)

6. ♞d2 ♗e6 7. 0–0–0 ♗e7 8. ♗e3 ♗b4 9. f4 ♖c4 10. ♗xc4 ♗xc4 11. ♞d4 ♗c5 12. ♞xc4 ♗xe3+ 13. ♖b1 ♗xf4 14. ♞f1 ♗e5 15. ♞xf7+ ♖d7 16. ♞b3 ♞g8 17. ♞b5+ ♖c8 18. ♞d3 ♞e6 19. ♖f3 ♗f6 20. ♖e2 ♞e8 21. ♖f4 ♞d7 22. ♞d1 ♖c6 23. ♖d5 ♗e5 24. ♞hf1 and given the undeveloped black queen side, White has a positional advantage, Lermiteo–Liascovich, Villa Martelli 2008.

## Chapter 1 – The Center Game

II. 2...d6 3.dxe5 dxe5 4.♖xd8+ ♔xd8  
5.♗c4



A) 5...f5 6.♗g5+

(6.exf5 ♗xf5 7.♗f3 ♗c6 8.c3 ♗d6  
9.0-0 ♗f6 10.♗e3 ♔d7 11.h3 ♖ae8  
12.♗bd2 a6 13.a4±)

6...♗f6 7.♗c3 c6 8.♗f3 ♗d6 9.0-0-0  
♔c7 10.♖xd6! ♔xd6 11.♖d1+ ♔c7  
12.♗xe5 ♖d8 13.♗d3 ♖d4

(13...fxe4 14.♗f4+ ♔b6 15.♗a4+ ♔a5  
16.♗d2+ ♔xa4 17.♗c5#)

14.♗f4+ ♔d8 15.e5 ♗e4 (15...♖xc4  
16.exf6+-) 16.♗f7 g5 17.♗e3 ♔e7  
18.e6 ♗xc3 19.♗xg5+ ♔f8 20.bxc3  
♖g4 21.e7+ 1-0, Muniz Giron-Llaneza  
Vega, Asturias 2003

B) 5...♗e6 6.♗xe6 fxe6 7.♗e3 ♗f6 8.f3  
♗c6 9.♗d2 ♗d7 10.0-0-0

(10.♗h3 ♗c5 11.♗f2 ♗xf2+ 12.♗xf2  
♗c5 13.c3 a5 14.♔e2±, Hector-  
Agrest, Norrköping 2002)

10...♔e8 11.♗h3 ♗c5 12.♖he1 h6  
13.♗f2 ♔e7 14.♗b3 ♗b6 15.♗d3  
♗xe3+ 16.♖xe3 ♖hd8 17.♗bc5 and  
given the black pawn weaknesses in

the center, White is slightly better,  
White-Moser, Vienna 1999.

C) 5...f6 6.♗e3 c6 7.♗c3 ♗d6

(7...♗d7 8.0-0-0 ♔c7 9.♗ge2 ♗b4  
10.a3 ♗a5 11.♖d3 ♗e7 12.♖hd1±)

8.0-0-0 ♔c7 9.♗ge2 ♗e7 10.♖d2  
(10.f4!? is also playable.)

10...♗g6 11.♖hd1 ♗e7 12.h3 b6  
13.♗g3 ♗f4 14.♗xf4 exf4 15.♗f5 ♗xf5  
16.exf5

White plans ♗c3-e4 and ♗c4-e6 with  
better prospects, Pech-Novotny,  
Czech Republic 2003.

III. 2...♗f6 3.dxe5 ♗xe4 4.♖e2

A) 4...♗g5 5.f4 ♗e6 6.f5 ♗d4

(6...♗c5 7.♗f3 ♗c6 8.♗g5 ♗e7 9.f6+-)  
7.♖e4 ♗c5 8.b4 ♗b6 9.c3 ♗dc6 10.b5  
♗a5 11.f6 g6

(11...0-0 12.fxg7 ♖e8 13.♗d3+-)  
12.♗h6±

B) 4...♗c5 5.♗c3 ♗c6

(After 5...♗e7 6.♗f3 0-0, White can  
obtain good play with 7.♗e3 followed  
by 0-0-0.)

6.♗f3 ♗e7 7.♗e3 0-0 8.0-0-0 ♖b8  
9.♖d2 a6 10.♖d5 ♗e6 11.♖e4 ♖e8  
12.♗c4 b5?

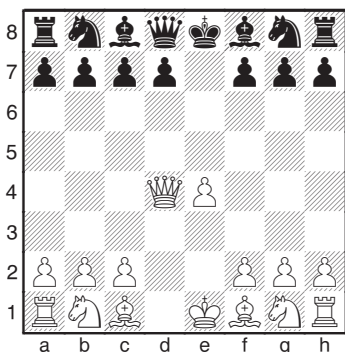
(12...d6!? was necessary; e.g. 13.h4  
♗f8 etc.)

13.♗xe6 fxe6 14.h4 d5

(14...b4 15.♗g5! ♗xg5 16.hxg5 g6  
17.♖h4 ♖e7 18.♗e4+-)

15.exd6 ♗xd6 16.♗g5 g6 17.h5 ♗e5  
18.hxg6 hxg6 19.♖h8+ ♔g7 20.♖h7+  
♔g8 21.♖h4 ♗b7 22.♖f7 1-0, Ruka-  
vina-Vulevic, Zagreb 1977

## 3. ♖xd4



This main move is also our recommendation. We have already explained its basic idea: fast development of the queen side, long castling and – attack! It has also been said that this continuation violates the ‘golden rule’: Don’t bring the queen into play too early! However, in modern chess, this rule is no longer of great importance, because in many opening lines the queen is activated in the early opening phase. Like Tarrasch’s famous rule concerning the infamous ‘knight on the rim’, many ‘good old’ rules should not be applied too dogmatically. In a lot of modern opening lines a knight is developed via a square ‘on the rim’, because it’s simply part of the concept of this or that line.

## 3... ♖c6

This usual move makes sense because the attack on the queen gains an important tempo.

The move order 3... ♖f6 4. ♖c3 ♖c6 5. ♖e3 ♖b4 leads to the main line by transposition of moves.

In addition, Black can choose a completely different approach with d7–d6 or ♖f8–e7.

## I. 5...d6 6. ♖d2 ♖e7

(– After 6... ♖d7, the continuation 7.0–0–0 a6 8.f3 ♖e7 9.g4 h6 10.h4 leads to attack on the king side.

– And after 6... ♖e6 7.0–0–0 ♖e7 8.f4 ♖g4 9.♖e1 f5 10.exf5 ♖xf5 11.h3 ♖f6 12.g4 ♖d7 13.g5, White is in the driver’s seat.)

7.0–0–0 0–0 8.♖g3

(8. ♖c4!? is also playable.)

8... ♖e6

(8...a6 9.f4±, Hase–Karpov, Skopje 1972)

9.f4 a6 10.f5 ♖d7 11. ♖h6 ♖e8 12. ♖f3 ♖h8 13. ♖e3 ♖f6 14. ♖b1 b5 15. ♖d3 ♖b4 16. ♖h3 ♖xd3 17.cxd3 b4 18. ♖e2 ♖c8 19.g4 ♖b7 20. ♖g3 ♖g8 21.g5 ♖e8 22. ♖h4 ♖a4 23. ♖d2 c5 24. ♖g1 b3 25.a3 ♖c8 26.f6 ♖d8 27. ♖f5 with a decisive attack, Orekhov–Tichy, Pardubice 2008.

## II. 5... ♖e7 6. ♖d2

(For the sharp 6. ♖c4 – see **Game 1**, Shabalov–Shliperman, Newark 1995.)

**A)** 6...d5 7.exd5 ♖xd5

(Of course, 7... ♖b4 is followed by 8.0–0–0.)

8.♖g3

(Another option is 8. ♖xd5!? ♖xd5 9. ♖e2 followed by ♖e2–c3, 0–0–0 etc.)

8... ♖xc3