

# MOVE BY MOVE

by

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МАСТЕР СПОРТА СССР ПО ШАХМАТАМ

**ХОД ЗА ХОДОМ**

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# Who Strikes First?

1 e4

The struggle for the center is not always conducted with a symmetrical Pawn formation. There are other popular answers to 1 e4. One of them is the Sicilian Defense.

1 ... c5

The characteristic Sicilian move.

2 ♘f3

One usually develops the g♘ when his e♗ is not under attack.

2 ... d6

Now after developing the White-squared Bishop and castling, White could decide where to put his Black-squared Bishop, but in practice he prefers to open the center first. Of course, a good preparatory move is 3 c3, so as after d4 to recapture with a ♗. But after 3... ♖f6 defending the e♗ is awkward (4 ♙c2? e5!).

3 d4

Now Black must exchange his c♗.

3 ... cxd4

The ♙ does not recapture the ♗ because she would be attacked by enemy pieces brought into play with tempo.

4 ♗xd4

Therefore, the ♗ takes the Pawn.

4 ... ♗f6

To attack the enemy e♗.

5 ♗c3

Where is Black to place his black-squared Bishop? He could fianchetto it (5... g6, 6... ♗g7, 7... O-O – the Dragon Variation) or after ... e6 (The Scheveningen Variation) or ... e5 (The Boleslavsky System) place it on e7. All these are fully possible, but Black first decides to keep White pieces from b5 by moving a Queenside Pawn.

5 ... a6

White has a choice of developing continuations (6 ♗e2, 6 ♗c4, 6 f4, 6 b3) but chooses an idea involved with Queenside castling.

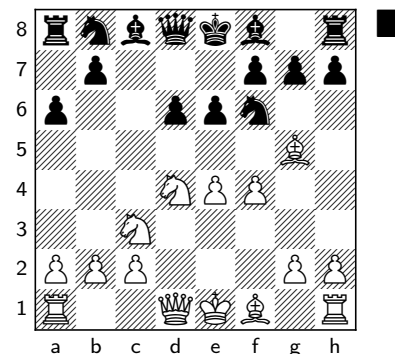
6 ♗g5

Continuing his plan.

6 ... e6

Often played here is 7 ♙d2, but this can be met by the tactical 7... h6 8 ♗h4 ♗xe4! Therefore, 7 ♙f3 comes into consideration (to enable Queenside castling). But first White stops to place another Pawn in the center.

7 f4



Is there a threat of 8 e5? No, this is not true, as after 8... dxe5 9 fxe5 may be met by 9... ♙a5 and 9... ♙c7 and even 9... h6. This continuation is more dangerous after 7... ♗c6 8 ♗xc6 bxc6, but 7... ♗e7 meets the threat. The move 7... ♙b6 is involved with a Pawn sacrifice variation (8 ♙d2 ♙xb2 9 ♙b1 ♙a3 and now 10 e5 ♗fd7 11 f5). Thus Black does not need to defend e5 by ... ♗c6.

7 ... b5

Black continues aggressively.

8 ♙f3

White defends his e♗ against a threat of ... b4.

8 ... ♗b7

Hoping to induce a3 but after Queenside castling, the ♖ on a3 facilitates Black opening play on the Queenside by ...b4. So White protects his e♗ with a piece.

9 ♗d3

Best.

9 ... ♗e7

Continuing his development.

10 O-O-O

Continuing his plan.

10 ... ♖b6

11 ♖he1

Developing and centralizing the White ♖.

11 ... ♗bd7

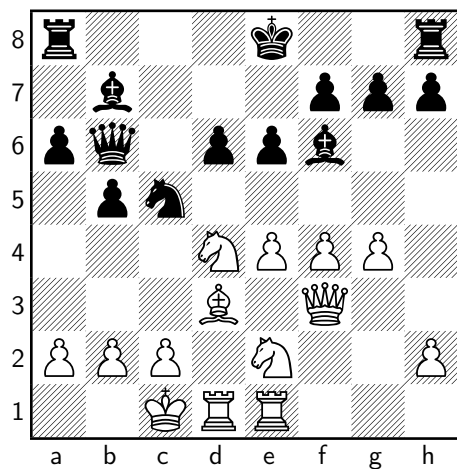
12 ♗ce2

12 ... ♗c5

13 ♗xf6

13 ... ♗xf6

14 g4



14 ... ♗a4

15 c3

15 ... b4

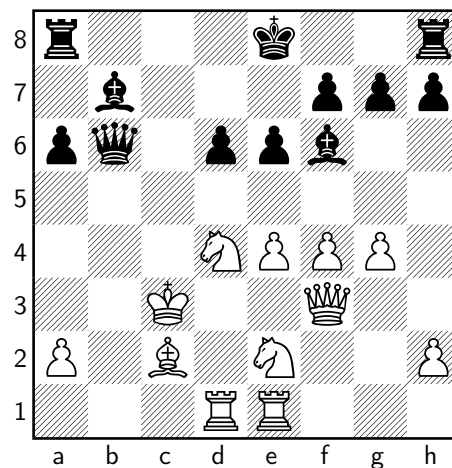
16 ♗c2

16 ... ♗xb2

17 ♖xb2

17 ... bxc3+

18 ♖xc3



18 ... O-O

19 ♖b1

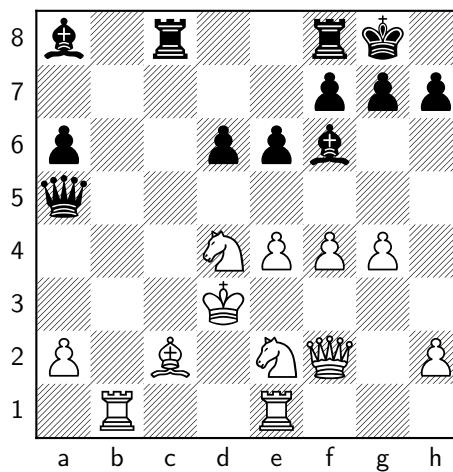
19 ... ♖a5+

20 ♖d3

20 ... ♖ac8

21 ♖f2

21 ... ♗a8



22 ♖b3



22 ... e5

23 g5

23 ... exd4

24 ♖xd4

24 ... ♔xd4

