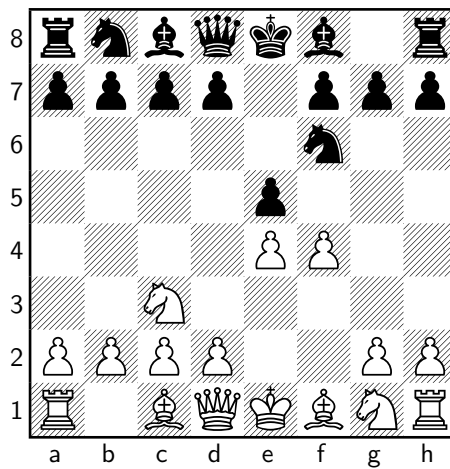


The Vienna Game

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The Vienna Game starts after 1 e4 e5 2 ♘c3 ♗f6 3 f4.



Black can accept or decline the Gambit, but accepting is immediately losing for Black. Declining leads to playable lines with many traps. Any mistakes or typos found are my own - kindly forward any concerns to my inbox.

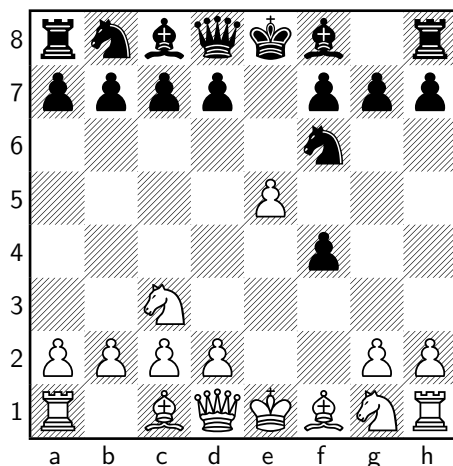
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1 The Vienna Gambit

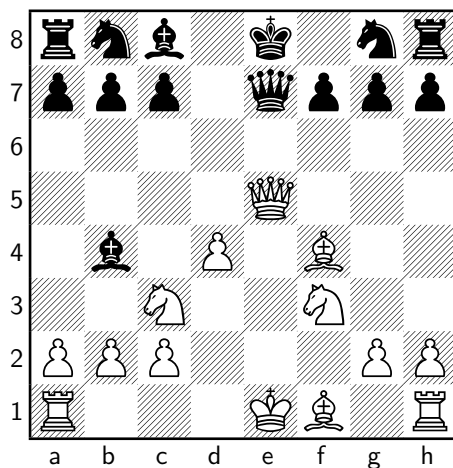
1.1 Vienna Gambit Accepted

If Black accepts the Gambit, after **3... exf4 4 e5** the position is immediately losing for Black(+.60 Stockfish 11).



The knight has no choice but to retreat. Moving the queen to pin the pawn is a crushing mistake (+1.77 Stockfish 11) after 4 e5 ♔e7 5 ♔e2, since the knight still has to retreat back to it's original square.

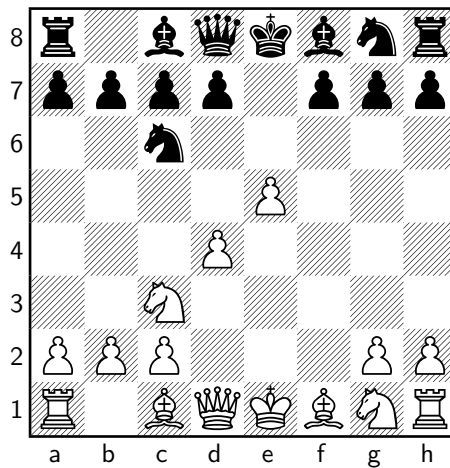
After the knight retreats, we can play moves like 4... ♘g8 5 ♘f3 d6 6 d4 dxe5 7 ♔e2 ♙b4 8 ♔xe5 ♔e7 9 ♙f4, and we have regained the lost pawn and have a massive lead in development. We also have plans to long castle and a threat on the g7 pawn, which would cripple the Black kingside.



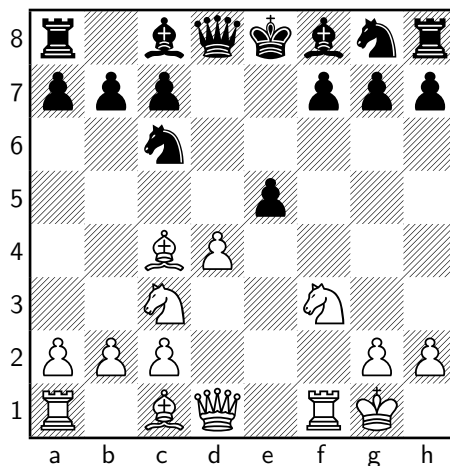
1.2 Vienna Gambit Declined - 1

Black must decline the gambit, but it must be done correctly.

The move **3... ♖c6** is tempting as it defends the pawn and develops the knight, but after **4 fxe5 ♜e5 5 d4 ♜c6 6 e5 ♜g8**, the knight is again forced to retreat and we reach the Vienna Gambit accepted position but with an additional passed pawn.



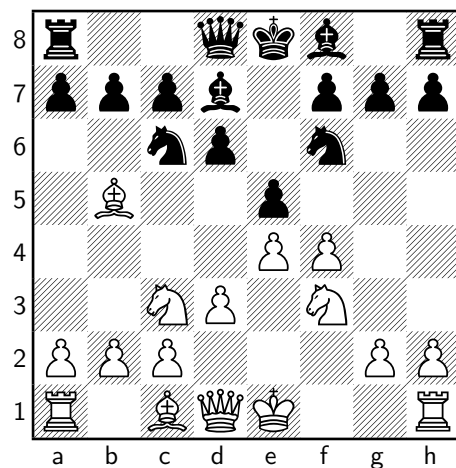
There are many fun lines from here, one such being **7 ♞f3 d6 8 ♙c4 dxe5 9 O-O**, with the plan to sacrifice the bishop on *f7*.



From here, if Black takes on *d4*, we can play an Englund Gambit style move with **9... exd4 10 ♞g5 dxc3 11 ♙xf7**, which has massive threats on the open king.

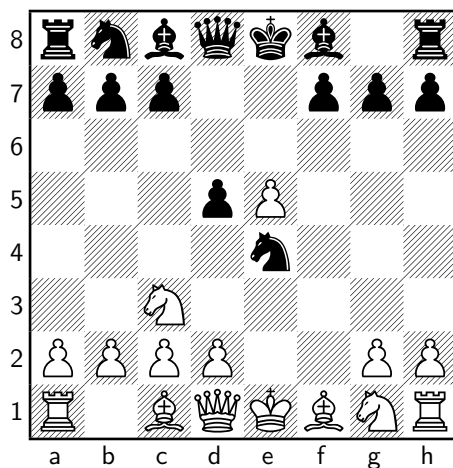
1.3 Vienna Gambit Declined - 2

Black can also decline the gambit with **3...d6**, but this also leads to a better position for White. After **4 ♖f3 ♜c6 5 ♙b5 ♞d7 6 d3**, we have plans to capture on e5, trade the bishop on c6, and short castle which leads to an open f file for the rook.



1.4 Vienna Gambit Declined - Main Line

The only possible move to respond is **3... d5**, counterattacking the pawn. After **4 fxe5** **Qxe4**, we have a position with a couple possibilities, Nf3, d3, and the 3rd most popular Qf3.



The position we would like is for **5 Qf3** **Qxc3** **6 bxc3** with plans to play d4, Bf3 Ke2 and O-O.

