

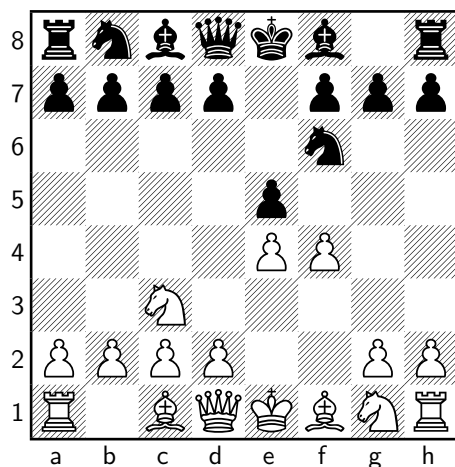
The Vienna Game

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Abstract

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.

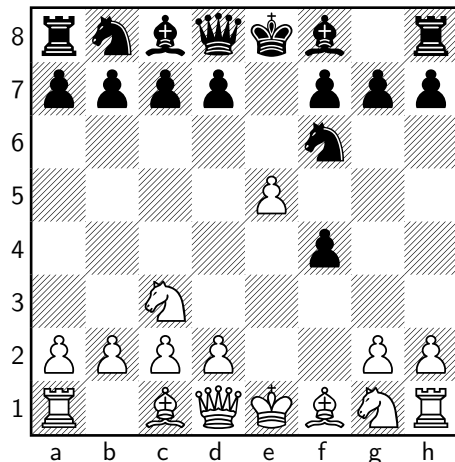
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1 The Vienna Gambit

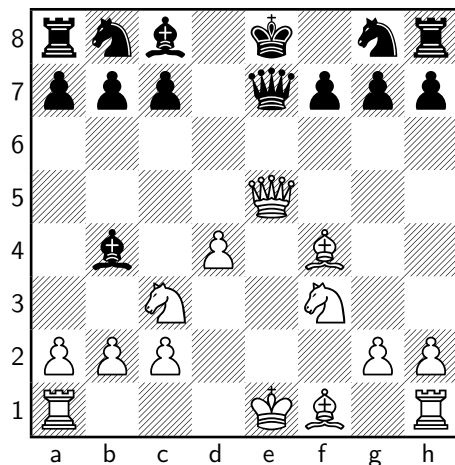
1.1 Vienna Gambit Accepted

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 its original square.

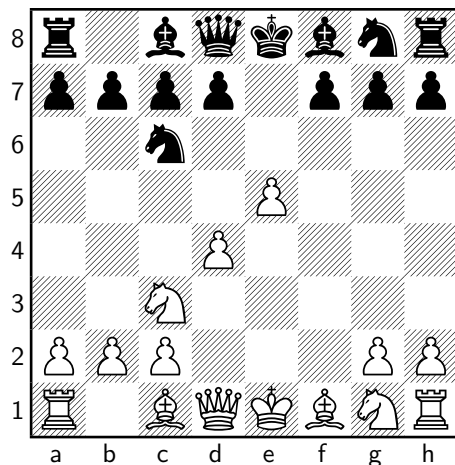
After the knight retreats, we can play moves like **4... ♘g8 5 ♘f3 d6 6 d4 dxe5 7 ♖e2 ♗b4 8 ♖xe5 ♖e7 9 ♗f4**, and we have regained the lost pawn and have a massive lead in development. We also have plans to long castle and a threat on the g7 pawn, which would cripple the Black kingside.



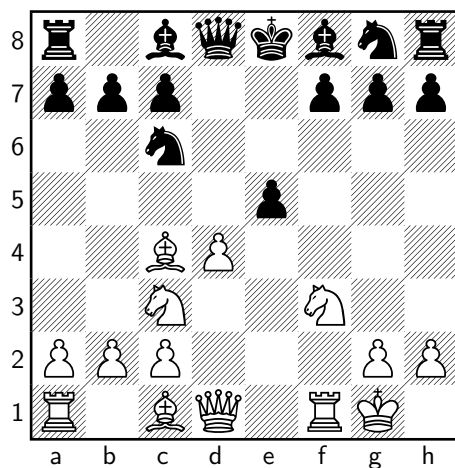
1.2 Vienna Gambit Declined - 1

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.



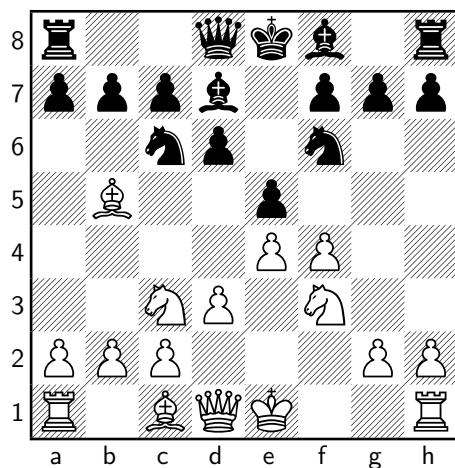
There are many fun lines from here, one such being **7 ♗f3 d6 8 ♙c4 dxe5 9 O-O**, with the plan to sacrifice the bishop on f7.



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 Qf3 Qc6 5 Bb5 Bd7 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