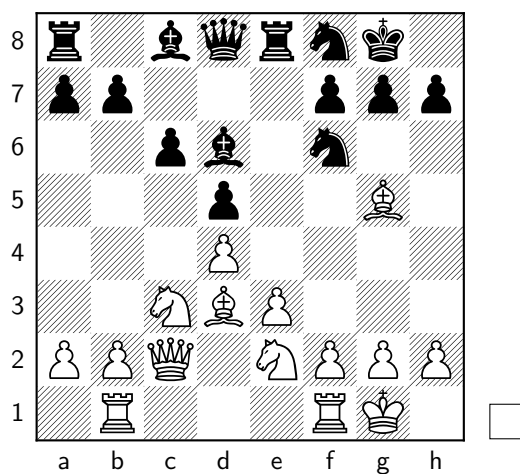


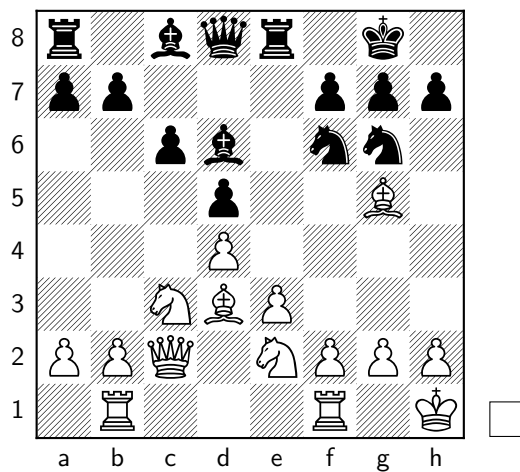
Botvinnik–Keres, 1953

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 cxd5 exd5 5 ♗g5 ♗e7 6 e3 O-O 7 ♗d3
 ♘bd7 8 ♖c2 ♞e8 9 ♘ge2 ♘f8 10 O-O c6 11 ♞ab1 ♗d6

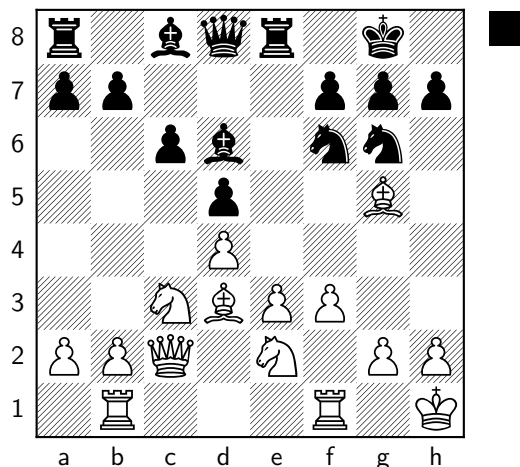


12 ♖h1 ♘g6

Prophylactic move: moves the king away from potential ♗xh2 check. Minority attack loses a piece 12 b4 ♗xh2+ 13 ♖xh2 ♘g4+ 14 ♖g1 ♞xg5 15 ♘f4 ♞h6 16 ♘h3 ♞d6 17 ♘f4 g5.



13 f3



White has two options, minority attack or central play. Minority attack still fails tactically: 13. b4 h6 14. Bxf6 Qxf6 15. b5 Nh4 16. Ng1 Bxh2 17. bxc6 bxc6 18. Kxh2 Qg5 19. g3 Qh5 20. gxh4 Qxh4+ 21. Kg2 Qg4+ 22. Kh1 =, since Black has perpetual check.

White should play for center also because White's pieces are better placed and coordinated to support a central breakthrough.

f3 is a good move because it restricts Black's options: the square g4 is now forbidden, and e4 cannot be occupied by a black piece. **13... ♠e7**

13...h6 14. Bxf6 Qxf6 15. e4 Qh4 16. e5 White closes the b8-h2 diagonal to stop Black's attack at once.

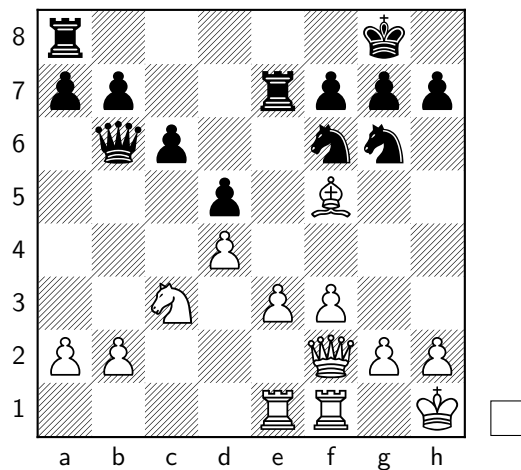
14 ♖be1 ♘d7 15 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 16 ♘g3 ♘f6

Note how White brings all the pieces to attack. The b1 rook and the e2 knight all joins the party.

17 ♖f2

17 ♖f2 is necessary because otherwise d4 pawn hangs.

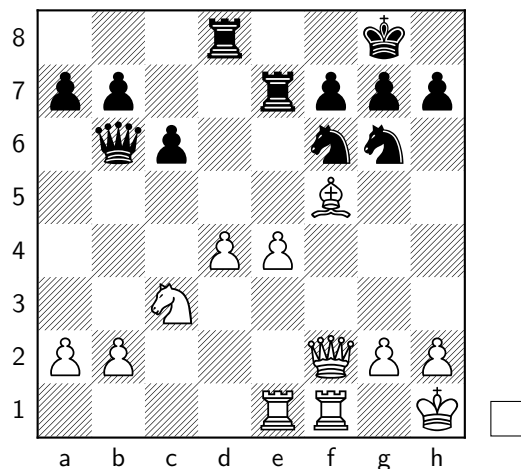
17... ♙e6 18 ♘f5 ♙xf5 19 ♙xf5 ♖b6



Everything is ready. White cannot further improve his position. It is time to strike with e4!

20 e4 dxe4 21 fxe4 Bxd8

White has completed his plan to push e3-e4 breakthrough and is certainly better. The rest is not part of the breakthrough strategy, but still very instructive.



22 e5 Qd5 23 Qe4 Qf8 24 Qd6 Bc7 25 Bxe4 Qe6 26 Bh4 g6 27 Bxd5 cxd5 28 Bc1 Bb7 29 Bc3 Bf8 30 Qf5 Bfe8 31 Qh6+ Qf8 32 Bf6 Qg7 33 Bcf3 Bc8 34 Qxf7 Be6 35 Bg5 Qf5 36 Qh6 Bg7 37 g4
1-0

