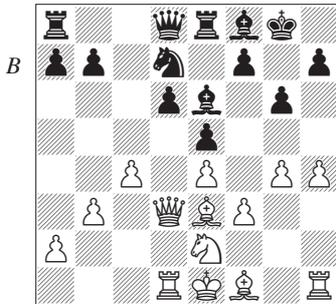


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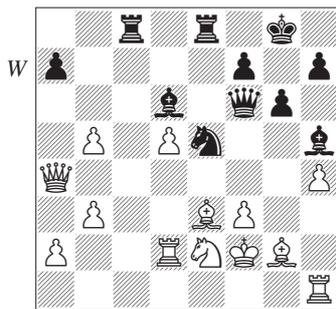
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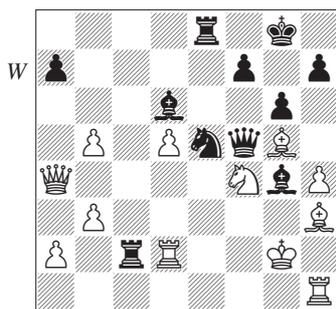
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9a: After White's 16th move



9b: After 24...♖f6



9c: After 28...♞c2!

Strategy 9 – Meet a Flank Attack with Counterplay in the Centre

(9a) Neergaard-Simagin, corr. 1965. White's 'Maroczy Bind' pawns on c4 and e4 seem to give him a grip on the centre, so he has just advanced his h-pawn toward the black king. A violent, uncompromising reply is needed:

16...b5!

Shaking White's grip is the only chance. He threatens to saddle White with a weak c-pawn by ...bxc4.

17 cxb5 d5!! 18 exd5 e4!

Black's three pawn sacrifices have brought about a complete transformation.

19 ♖xe4

The lesser evil, as 19 fxe4 ♘e5 leaves White worrying about f3, g4, e4 and a nasty check on the a5-e1 diagonal.

19...♙xg4! 20 ♖f4

20 ♖xg4 ♜xe3 21 ♔f2 ♙c5 and ...♘e5 puts White under too much pressure.

20...♙h5 21 ♔f2 ♘e5 22 ♙g2 ♙d6! 23 ♖a4 ♞c8!

Eyeing c2.

24 ♞d2 ♖f6 (9b)

Compared to diagram 9a, where he faced the prospect of total passivity, Black's energetic reaction has resulted in all of his pieces taking part in an attack of their own.

25 ♙g5 ♖f5 26 ♘f4 ♙xf3! 27 ♙h3

27 ♙xf3 ♙c5+ 28 ♔g2 ♘xf3 29 ♔xf3 ♞e3+ 30 ♔g2 ♖g4+ is decisive.

27...♙g4 28 ♔g2

28 ♙xg4 ♘xg4+ 29 ♔g2 ♞c2 30 ♖d4 ♘e3+ 31 ♔f3 (31 ♔f2 ♙xf4) 31...♖g4+ 32 ♔f2 ♙xf4.

28...♞c2! (9c) 0-1

A possible end to White's torture is 29 ♖d4 ♞xd2+ 30 ♖xd2 ♖e4+, etc. A lively display of the central counter-punch.

Strategy 10 – The Centre: Dismantle and Occupy

(10a) Gokhale-P.Thipsay, Indian Ch 1993.
White has a firm grip on the centre – time for
an eviction attempt.

10...b5!? 11 cxb5?!

11 dxc6 is less greedy and much safer;
from here on White is steam-rolled.

11...cxd5 12 exd5 ♖b7! 13 ♕f3 ♜c8!

The d5-pawn is not going anywhere.

14 ♘b3

14 ♗b3 ♜c5.

14...♜xc3!

All part of the strategy to take complete
control of the centre.

15 bxc3 e4!

Driving back the bishop, opening the a1-
h8 diagonal and vacating the e5-square.

16 ♕e2 ♘fd5 17 ♕d2 ♘xc3 18 ♕xc3
♕xc3 19 ♜c1 ♕e5 20 ♗d2 ♘d5!

The knight is in its element on the board's
most central outpost.

21 g3

21 ♘a5 ♘f4! 22 ♘xb7 ♗g5 23 g3 ♘h3+.

21...♗f6! (10b)

Black has total command of the centre.

22 ♜c2

22 ♜c4 ♘f4! 23 ♗e3 (23 gxf4? ♕xf4 24
♗c3 ♗g5+ 25 ♖h1! ♗h4 26 h3 e3+ closes
the third rank) 23...d5 also favours Black.

22...♕c3! 23 ♗c1 ♘b4! 24 ♜d2

24 ♜xc3 ♘xa2.

24...♕xd2 25 ♗xd2 ♘d5 26 ♜c1 ♜e8

Now all four of Black's working force are
focused on the centre.

27 ♘a5 ♕a8 28 ♘c6 e3! 29 fxe3 ♘xe3

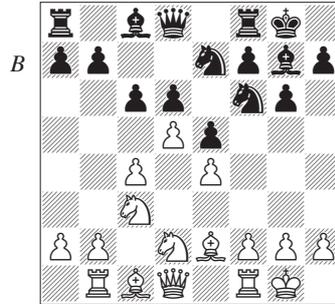
30 ♜c3 ♗e6 31 ♘d4 ♗e5 (10c)

White is under too much pressure.

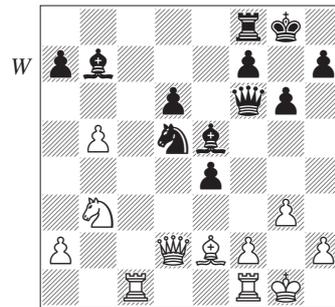
32 ♘c6 ♗e4! 33 ♕d3 ♗d5 34 ♗e2 ♕xc6!

Black's faithful knight is enough.

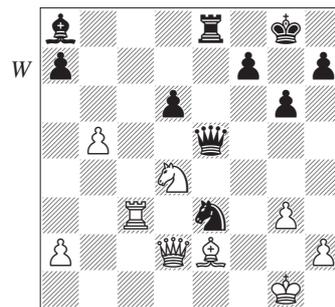
35 bxc6? ♗d4 36 ♜c1 ♘g4+ 0-1



10a: After White's 10th move



10b: After 21...♗f6!



10c: After 31...♗e5