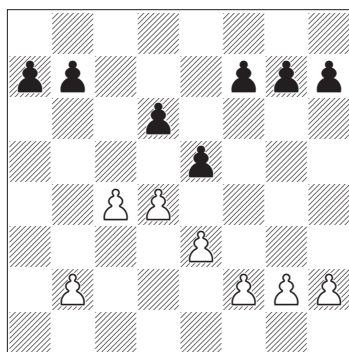
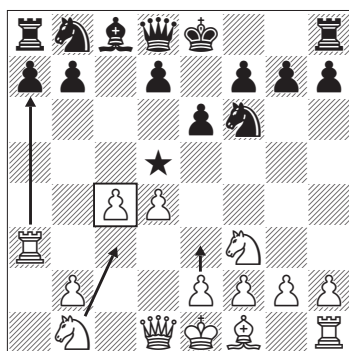


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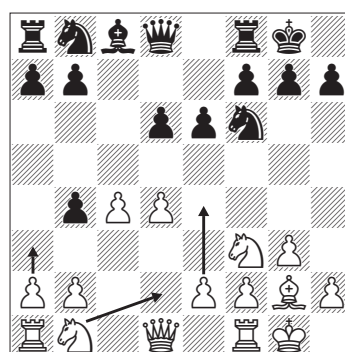


### Planning for White



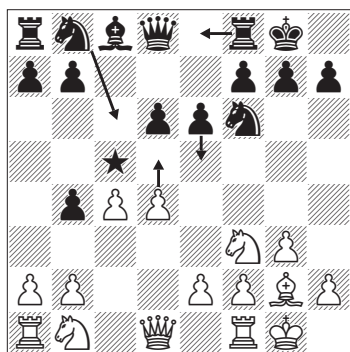
Black's far-advanced b-pawn does hinder White's normal development, so a very logical plan is to exchange it off by the move a3. This is what has happened in the above diagram. The semi-open a-file may help White to generate some play there but, more importantly, sensible development with  $\text{Nc3}$ ,  $\text{e3}$ , etc., is now feasible. As we shall soon find out, a frequent plan for Black is to advance by  $\dots\text{d6}$  and  $\dots\text{e5}$ , and thus White may well try to make

use of the d5-square. Developing with  $\text{e3}$ , contrary to the fianchetto, has the advantage that the slightly vulnerable c-pawn is protected.



An even more popular plan for White is a kingside fianchetto, hoping to exert considerable pressure on the long diagonal h1-a8. However, this diagonal often becomes closed. White retains the possibility of opening the queenside by a3 but awaits the course of events. Sometimes it may be worth arguing that with one more central pawn there is no reason for White to open the queenside. A fairly standard way to develop is to play  $\text{Nbd2}$  and  $\text{e4}$ , to which Black often reacts by playing  $\dots\text{d6}$  and preparing  $\dots\text{e5}$  in some way (often by  $\dots\text{Nc6}$  or  $\dots\text{Re8}$ ). When Black has played the  $\dots\text{e5}$  advance, one idea for White is to close the centre with  $\text{d5}$  and play for a space advantage by opening up the queenside by a3. This has the obvious disadvantage of giving up the c5-square, but White is able to fight to regain control of it by bringing a knight to d3.

## Planning for Black



Here we have the same starting point as in the previous diagram. We already know that White wants to play ♖bd2 followed by e4. A common way to counter this is to play ...♗c6 and ...e5. Preparing ...e5 by ...♞e8 is also seen once in a while, but often Black will need his knight on c6 anyway. The idea behind ...e5 is either to dissolve the tension in the centre or to provoke d5, which gives White a small space advantage but also abandons control of the key c5-square.

## Quick Summary

5 ♙xb4 is without doubt the most popular move, but players who are not keen on the strategic elements arising after this have seemed to favour the immediate fianchetto 5 g3 (Line A). Then Black's sharpest continuation, 5...♞b6, has been the most popular. After 6 ♙g2 ♗c6 Black increases the pressure on the d4-pawn and virtually

forces White to sacrifice it with 7 d5. Nonetheless this is a dangerous sacrifice and Black must be careful, but practice has shown that his defensive resources after 7...exd5 8 cxd5 ♗xd5 9 0-0 ♗de7 10 e4 d6! are adequate.

The main line is 5 ♙xb4 cxb4, when White has chosen between several different set-ups. The quiet 6 e3 (Line B1) should cause Black no real worries. He has the choice between a queenside fianchetto, and traditional development based on ...0-0, ...d6 and ...♗c6. 6 a3 (Line B2) is more dangerous. Here White opens the a-file and in some cases hopes to exert even more pressure by advancing his b-pawn. Again Black can develop traditionally or choose a queenside fianchetto. Line B3, 6 g3, is the most common. By developing the bishop to g2 immediately, White attempts to make the fianchetto less attractive for Black, who may thus choose to play 6...0-0 7 ♙g2 d6. With 8 ♗bd2 (Line B31) White intends to bring this knight to e3. Then if Black plays ...e5 at some stage White has better control of the d5- and f5-squares. The drawback of this is that it is rather time-consuming and it is more often seen that White chooses the simple 8 0-0 (Line B32). Then 8...♞e8 (Line B321) and 8...♗c6 (Line B322) involve the same idea, namely to play ...e5. After 8...♞e8, Black still needs to play ...♗c6 to be able to force ...e5, and the line 9 a3 ♗c6 10 d5! exd5 11 cxd5 ♗e7 12 axb4 ♗exd5 13 b5 has proved quite good for White. Therefore attention is focused on 8...♗c6.

## The Theory of 4 ♘d2 c5

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 ♙b4+ 4 ♘d2 c5

We shall now investigate two main continuations for White:

**A: 5 g3** 116

**B: 5 ♙xb4** 119

Others can be dismissed fairly quickly. For example, 5 a3 is rather innocuous, despite having been tried by a few strong players. 5...♙xd2+ 6 ♖xd2 cxd4 7 ♘xd4 0-0 8 ♘c3 d5! and then:

a) 9 cxd5 ♘xd5 10 e3 ♘xc3 11 ♖xc3 ♙d7 12 ♙e2 ♘c6 13 ♖d1 ♖g5! 14 ♘f3 ♖e7 15 b4 a6 = Oll-Kengis, Sydney 1991.

b) 9 e3 with a further branch:

b1) 9...dxc4 10 ♙xc4 a6 11 a4 ♙d7 12 0-0 ♘c6 13 ♘xc6 ♙xc6 14 ♖xd8 ♖fxd8 = H.Gretarsson-Petursson, Reykjavik 1996.

b2) 9...a6 10 cxd5 ♘xd5 11 ♙d3 ♘xc3?! 12 ♖xc3 b5 13 ♙e4! ♖a7 14 ♖c1 e5 15 ♘f3 f6 16 ♖c5 ♖e7 17 0-0 ♘d7 18 ♖c2 g6 19 ♖fd1 ± H.Gretarsson-Kosashvili, Reykjavik 1996.

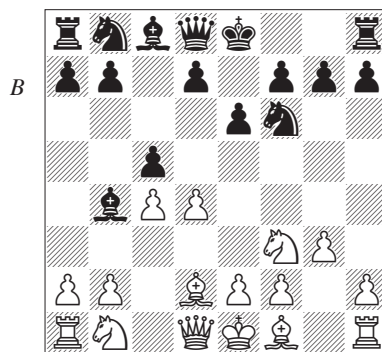
b3) 9...e5!? (much more ambitious, but also more risky) 10 ♘f3 e4 11 ♘d4 dxc4 12 ♙xc4 ♖c7 13 ♙e2 ♖e5 14 ♘db5! ♘c6 15 ♖d6 ♖d8 16 ♖xe5 ♘xe5 with roughly equal chances, Miles-Korchnoi, Biel 1992.

### A)

**5 g3 (D)**

**5...♖b6**

This aggressive move is clearly Black's most popular option. He may



not really be threatening to win a pawn, but exerts a lot of pressure on White's queenside and d-pawn. The disadvantage is that Black is somewhat neglecting his development. Alternatives:

a) 5...0-0 6 ♙g2 ♘c6 7 0-0 d6 (or 7...♙xd2 8 ♖xd2 d6 9 ♘c3 ♖e7 10 d5 ♘a5 11 b3 e5 12 e4 a6 with an unclear game, Dlugy-Garcia Martinez, Havana 1985) 8 ♙e3 ♖e7 9 d5 exd5 10 cxd5 ♘e5 11 ♘xe5 ♖xe5 12 ♘c3 ♙xc3 13 ♙f4 ♖h5 14 bxc3 ♙h3 15 ♙xh3 ♖xh3 16 f3 ♖d7 17 a4 ♘h5 18 ♙d2 ♖ae8 19 ♖a2 ♘f6 with approximately equal chances, Lputian-Vyzhmanavin, Jurmala 1983.

b) 5...♙xd2+ and then:

b1) 6 ♘bxd2 cxd4 7 ♘xd4 ♖b6 and now:

b11) 8 ♘2b3 was analysed by Yudasin, but doesn't seem to promise anything for White after 8...d5 9 c5 ♖b4+ 10 ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 11 ♘xd2 ♙d7 with equality.

b12) 8 ♘4b3 (also analysed by Yudasin) 8...♖c6 9 e4 ♘xe4 10 ♘d4 ♘c3 (for some reason Yudasin does not take into account the possibility