

# Contents

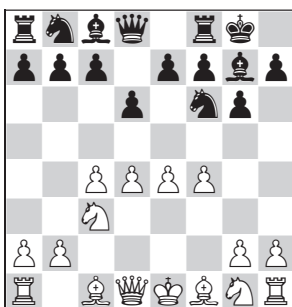
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## FOREWORD

# The King's Indian cottage

The King's Indian is probably the most romantic response against 1.d4, one which has stood the test of time and continues to this day to be used at the very highest levels of the game. For the time being, Black leaves his opponent a virtually free hand in the centre and instead hides within his KID 'cottage', relying on the strength of his powerful fianchettoed bishop.



This position arose in the very first King's Indian game which has come down to us today (i.e. has entered into the computer databases). This was played at Leipzig in 1879, with the black pieces being played by the great German theoretician Louis Paulsen. The Hungarian playing White, Adolf Schwarz, was probably bewildered as to why his opponent, breaking all the accepted canons of play of the day, had granted him a free hand in the centre, and Schwarz happily advanced all four pawns to the fourth rank. However, White's beautiful-looking phalanx soon started crumbling from both sides and ironically, the game was decided by a black passed pawn on the d-file.

However, this was just one isolated episode; neither Paulsen nor Schwarz realised that the Four Pawns Attack, which they had played, would retain its topicality right down to the present time. Indeed, even the name of the opening was not bestowed until some 40 years later, by the light hand of Savielly Tartakower (who else?). By then, the 1920s, the King's Indian was being used regularly by future World Champion Max Euwe and it was also seen quite often in the game of World Championship candidate Efim Bogoljubow. Later, the ranks of King's Indian players were to include Miguel Najdorf, Andre Lilienthal and also another future World Champion, Vasily Smyslov.

Even so, the real flowering of the King's Indian occurred during the 1940s-1950s, when it was subjected to real deep study by such capital theoreticians and strong practical players as Isaac Boleslavsky, David Bronstein and Efim Geller. Their opponents were no slouches either, as one can see by recalling just two names, both World Champions – Mikhail Botvinnik and Tigran Petrosian (ironically, Tigran Vartanovich was famously to say later that he had fed his family for years on the proceeds of the King's Indian – from the white side!).

The theory of this popular opening began to develop extremely rapidly. From time to time, it was announced that the KID had been refuted or was 'incorrect' and should be consigned to the archives, but like a phoenix, it would always rise from the ashes.

Yes, in order to play the KID one needs to be something of a romantic and a poet: to believe in the irresistible strength of the bishop on g7, the power of one's kingside attack, the triumph of spirit over material. Another thing which characterises the KID is the continuity of generations. It is not just trainers who pass on the love and knowledge of the KID to their pupils. Among the current generation, the opening is used successfully by Teimour Radjabov, Hikaru Nakamura and Alexander Grischuk; and a high level of mastery of the opening is also shown by the Chinese star Ding Liren. The Israeli GM Ilya Smirin continues to delight fans with his sparkling and energetic interpretation of the opening, and he has also written an excellent book on it called *King's Indian Warfare!*. And although his handling of the classical variation differs from mine in this book, I nonetheless recommend his games for all-round study. I myself play more and more rarely in serious tournaments these days, but whenever I need to win to order as Black, I choose the KID and I try to pass onto my pupils my love for this complicated, sharp, risky, but also remarkable opening!

But we should end our short historical and lyrical excursion, else we may get carried away and never get to the nub of the matter. The book which you are holding in your hands is quite personal: it is not a textbook on a popular variation, but a 'KID, Bologan-style', in which I write about how I understand and play this opening.

My romance with the KID started in my childhood in the 1970s. My first trainer Ivan Yakovlevich Solonar decided, very sensibly, that he would equip his group with Fischer's opening repertoire! And the 11th World Champion's repertoire included the KID, with over a tenth of his games involving that opening. Typically, Fischer's statistics were deadly: 66-40 in his favour. Incidentally, another World Champion and KID specialist, Garry Kasparov, had an even more crushing record: 91-53, including a few rapid games.

Frankly speaking, I can recall little about these early lessons, since in those days, the openings were only a small part of our study and it was more important simply to learn to play chess. Even so, the foundations were laid and then the process went on. The KID was very popular in Moldavia. I studied for just one month with master Nikolai Popov, (now a well-known sports commentator), but his explanations about how to play against the fianchetto variation I remember to this day.

A special place in my understanding of the KID is occupied by the ideas of the great Moldavian trainer Vyacheslav Andreevich Chebanenko. He was fundamentally different from today's modern KID players, even one may say retro, in his belief that the black queen's knight should be placed on d7. Despite their apparent passivity, his schemes brought us excellent results, and some of them, for example 7...♖bd7 against the Gligoric System, have retained their topicality to this day.

Even so, nowadays I play the KID along the lines of the Latvian theoretician Zigurds Lanka. Recalling the lines he showed me in the early 1990s, I browsed through my old notebooks from the period and compared his variations with those I play now and could not find a single difference. All the main lines were one and the same. In recent times, an important element of opening preparation has been the study of correspondence games and also games between computers. To my great pleasure, I have found that the majority of 'my' lines have stood the test of time and computer. A remarkable success and longevity for Lanka's 'dogmas'!

Here we come to the concept behind this book. Of course, it is impossible to present within a single book all the discoveries and practical results by generations of KID players and theoreticians, over the course of more than a century. I therefore decided to limit myself to a repertoire for Black. With it, I have tried to get across the spirit of the KID, to reveal its secrets and to show typical devices and ideas. The Yugoslav *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings* devotes almost half of its fifth volume to the KID, between the indices E60 to E99.

However, I have not limited myself in this way and have also presented variations where Black does best to transpose into some sort of Benko Gambit or Benoni. In the sixth part, I have dealt with how Black should best set up the KID cottage against an English Opening formation by White, with either a single or double fianchetto, and in the final, seventh part, with the currently popular Torre and London set-ups. Despite Kozma Prutkov's famous warning that 'One must not try to explain the inexplicable!', there have been times in working on this book when I have endeavoured to do exactly that!

The KID is a living organism, which is constantly growing. It is played regularly at all levels, from elite all-play-alls to more democratic opens. The assessments of specific variations are continually being amended and sometimes even change radically from one extreme to the other. I am pleased to note that the first edition of this book, which appeared in 2009<sup>1</sup>, was warmly greeted by readers and critics alike and proved very popular. Later, at the suggestion of ChessBase, I made two DVDs on the KID for Black, which also attracted high evaluations from viewers. I hope I have managed to make a small contribution to popularising the KID.

Of course, theory and practice do not stand still. 'Anti-KID' ideas are also worked on constantly and new, original ideas are unearthed, which pose Black new problems, sometimes just for one game, and sometimes more conceptually. Therefore, in this new edition I have had to add a number of improvements and sometimes develop a whole new defensive set-up. As well as main lines, I also decided to deal with some less serious lines, lines which are not fully correct, but the idea of which is to surprise the opponent and avoid his home preparation. Given that rapid and blitz chess are becoming more and more important, it seems to me that such an approach is justified. In addition, in order to help the reader absorb the material more easily, this second edition includes tests, sometimes where the reader needs to calculate concrete variations, but more often to apply a typical idea, standard manoeuvre, etc. It is impossible to keep all the variations in one's head, but if you can remember the essence of the position, then even in an unfamiliar position you should be able to find a decent plan.

I should warn the reader that he will not find the answers to every one of his questions, but he should be able to make use of it in his games. 'Make use' in the figurative sense, that is, otherwise your opponents might accuse you of cheating!

The book is aimed at players of all levels, because the laws of the KID are the same for all players, be they beginners or GMs.

Victor Bologan,  
Doha, March 2017

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<sup>1</sup> Published as *The King's Indian: A Complete Black Repertoire* by Chess Stars in 2009, with 356 pages.

## CHAPTER 15

**5...0-0 6.♘e3 c5 7.dxc5**

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♘e3**

The most natural and popular plan: the bishop comes to e3, the queen to d2 and then White castles queenside, and only then starts thinking about how to develop the kingside pieces.

**6...c5**

In my opinion, this is the most direct and accurate response – Black is ready to sacrifice a pawn for a small lead in development and active piece play.

**7.dxc5**

In the next chapter, we will examine the popular moves 7.d5 and 7.♗ge2.

**7...dxc5 8.♖xd8**

In a number of games, White has kept the queens on the board, although in this case, Black has more chances to create strong counterplay.

1) 8.♘xc5 ♗c6, and now:

1a) 9.♖xd8 ♖xd8 – (see 8.♖xd8 ♖xd8 9.♘xc5 ♗c6);

1b) 9.♖a4 ♗d7 10.♘f2 ♗b6 11.♖a3 ♘xc3+! 12.bxc3 (Black is better after 12.♖xc3 ♗a4 13.♖c2 ♖a5+) 12...♘e6 13.♖d1 ♖c7 14.c5 ♗c4 15.♘xc4 ♘xc4 – White still has to solve the problem of castling and his extra pawn is more of a weakness

than a strength, Hartmann-Rakovic, corr. 2000;

1c) 9.♘e3 ♗d7 10.♖c1 (10.♗ge2 ♖a5 11.♗d4 (Ibragimov-Kaminski, Warsaw 1990) 11...♖b6 12.♗a4 ♖a5+ 13.♘d2 ♖c7 14.♗b5 ♖b8 – 10...♖a5 11.♗h3 ♖d8 12.♗f2 ♗c5 13.♘d2 ♘xc3! (once again, this non-trivial exchange gives Black the initiative) 14.bxc3 ♘e6 15.♖c2 ♗e5 16.♘f4 ♗xc4 – Dlugy-Gelfand, Palma de Mallorca 1989;

1d) 9.♗ge2 ♖a5 10.♘e3 ♖d8 11.♖c1 ♗h5 12.♗g3 (12.♗f2 f5! – this break is one of Black’s top-10 resources in the KID – 13.exf5 ♗b4 14.♗g3

♙xf5 15. ♘xf5 gxf5 16.g3 ♖h8 17.a3  
 ♘c6 18. ♙e2 f4 19.gxf4 ♘d4= Graf-  
 Zulfugarli, Dubai 2003; 13... ♙xf5!?  
 14.g4 ♘e5 15. ♖g2 ♘d3 16. ♗d2  
 ♘df4+ 17. ♙xf4 ♗xd2 18. ♙xd2  
 ♗d8 19. ♙c1 ♙d7 20.gxh5 ♗xh5=)

12... ♘g3 13.hxg3 ♙e6 14. ♖f2  
 (Polugaevsky-Dzindzichashvili,  
 USSR 1974), and here the most  
 resolute was 14... ♗b4 15.a3 ♗b3  
 16. ♘d5 ♙xb2 17. ♗b1 ♙xd5 18. ♗a2=

18... ♙e6 19. ♗xb2 ♗xa3 20. ♗xb7  
 ♘a5 21. ♗b2 ♗xb2+ 22. ♗xb2 ♘xc4  
 23. ♙xc4 ♙xc4 24. ♗b4 ♙e6 25. ♗a1=.

2) 8.e5 is an interesting attempt  
 to restrict the enemy pieces:  
 8... ♘fd7 9.f4 f6 (the e5-pawn must  
 be broken up at all costs, and the  
 sooner the better) 10.exf6 (10.e6  
 ♘b6 11. ♗xd8 ♗xd8 12. ♙xc5 ♙xe6  
 13.b3 f5 14. ♗c1 ♘a6 15. ♙a3 ♙d4  
 16. ♘d1 ♙c5 17. ♙xc5 ♘xc5 18. ♘f3  
 a5 = Bronstein-Smirin, Oslo 1994)  
 10... ♘xf6! (also interesting is the  
 unusual rook transfer along the 6th  
 rank: 10... ♗xf6 11. ♗d5+ ♖h8 12. ♘f3  
 ♗d6 13. ♗f7 ♗f6 14. ♘g5 ♗b6 15. ♘d5  
 ♗xf7 16. ♘xb6 axb6 17. ♘xf7+ ♖g8=;  
 11. ♙e2 ♗d6 12. ♗c1 ♘c6=) 11. ♗xd8  
 ♗xd8 12. ♙xc5 ♙f5 13. ♘f3 (13. ♘ge2  
 ♘c6 14. ♘g3 ♙e6 15. ♙e2 ♘d7 16. ♙e3  
 ♘b6 17. ♙xb6 axb6 18. ♘ge4 ♘d4=

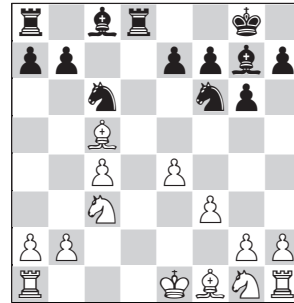
Rustemov-Shulman, Minsk 1994)  
 13... ♘e4 14. ♘xe4 ♙xe4 15. ♙a3  
 ♘c6 16. ♙e2 ♘d4 17. ♘xd4 ♙xd4  
 18. ♙f3 ♙xf3 19.gxf3 ♗ac8= Campos  
 Moreno-Mortensen, Barcelona-  
 Aarhus 1991.

**8... ♗xd8 9. ♙xc5**

9.e5 ♘fd7 10.f4 b6 (Bilgin-Topel,  
 Kocaeli 2002) 11. ♙e2 ♙b7 12. ♙f3

♙xf3 13. ♘xf3 ♘c6 14.0-0-0 f6  
 15.exf6 ♘xf6=

**9... ♘c6**



**A) 10. ♙a3**

**B) 10. ♘d5**

**C) 10. ♘ge2**

The bishop retreat to e3 does not  
 pose any special problems for Black,  
 for example: 10. ♙e3 b6 11. ♗c1 ♘d7  
 12. ♘h3 ♘c5 13. ♘f2 ♙e6 14. ♙e2  
 ♘b4= Levitt-Fedorowicz, New York  
 1994.

The move 10. ♗d1 does not help  
 White's development and so  
 should not cause Black any special  
 unpleasantness. For example:  
 10... ♗xd1+ 11. ♘xd1 (11. ♖xd1 ♘d7  
 12. ♙a3 ♙xc3!? 13.bxc3 ♘de5=  
 Dlugy-Van der Wiel, Wijk aan Zee  
 1990) 11... ♘d7 12. ♙a3 a5 13. ♘e2  
 ♘b4= Möschingers-Salzgeber, Arosa  
 1996.

**A) 10. ♙a3 a5**

This push of the a-pawn is  
 especially effective with the bishop  
 on a3. Black prepares an outpost for  
 his knight and increases the scope  
 of the ♗a8.

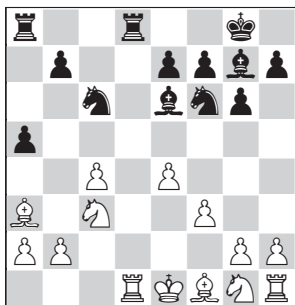
**11. ♗d1**



11.♘d5 ♘xd5 12.cxd5 ♘b4 13.0-0-0 e6 (in principle, Black could also take the pawn – 13...♘xa2+) 14.♙c4 exd5 15.♙xb4 axb4 16.♖xd5 (16.♙xd5 ♙e6 17.♙b1 ♖a5 18.♘e2 ♙xd5 19.exd5 ♖axd5 20.♖xd5 ♖xd5=) 16...♙e6 17.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 18.♙d5 ♙h6+! ♠ Beliavsky-Nunn, Amsterdam 1990.

Black has fully adequate play after 11.♙c5 ♘d7 12.♙e3 a4 13.0-0-0 a3 14.♘ge2 axb2+ 15.♙xb2 b6 16.♙b1 ♙a6 Knaak-Wojtkiewicz, Stara Zagora 1990.

**11...♙e6**



**A1) 12.♖xd8+**

**A2) 12.♘d5**

Harmless is 12.♘h3 ♘b4 13.♘f4 (draw, Jobava-R.Mamedov, Kusadasi 2006) 13...♘c2+ 14.♙f2 ♘xe4+ 15.fxe4 ♘xa3 16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♙d3 ♙xc3=.

**A1) 12.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 13.♘d5 ♙xd5 14.cxd5 ♘b4 15.♙b5**

He cannot block all the files along which Black may penetrate the enemy position: 15.♙xb4 axb4 16.♙c4 ♖c8 17.b3 b5 (giving up the pawn is not obligatory and he may

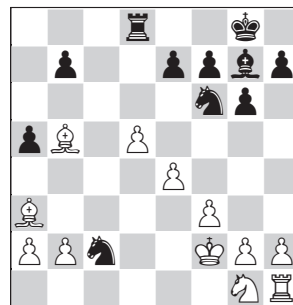
penetrate the white camp by other means: 17...♖a8 18.♘e2 ♖xa2 19.♙f2 ♘d7 20.♖b1 ♙c3 21.♙e3 ♙g7=) 18.♙xb5 ♖c1+ 19.♙f2 (Milovanovic-Dujkovic, Nis 1995) 19...♘d5 20.exd5 ♙d4+=

**15...♘c2+**

15...♘e8 16.♙xe8 ♖xe8 17.♘e2±

**16.♙f2**

No better is 16.♙f1 ♘xd5! 17.exd5 ♖xd5 18.♙a4 ♘xa3 19.bxa3 b5 20.♙b3 ♖d2 21.f4 a4 22.♘f3 ♖b2 23.♙d5 e6 24.♙c6 b4 25.♙xa4 ♖xa2 26.axb4 ♖xa4 Calugaru-Grabner, ICCF 2007.



**16...♘d5!!**

An unexpected sacrifice, thanks to which White's lack of development can be exploited.

**17.exd5 ♖xd5 18.♙c4 ♖d4 19.♙e2**

It was more sensible to agree to a repetition of moves after 19.♙b5=. **19...♘xa3 20.bxa3 ♖d2 21.♙e3 ♖xa2** Black has three pawns for the piece, two of them being connected and passed, and supported by the rook and the ♙g7.

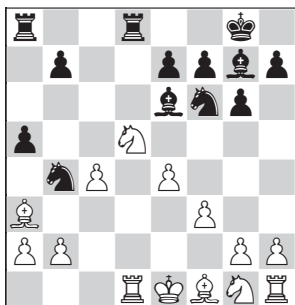
**A2) 12.♘d5**

White is happy to occupy such a fine central square, but Black has

a serious riposte, associated in the first instance with White's lack of development.

### 12... ♖b4!

Sacrificing a second pawn.



### 13. ♖xe7+

1) 13. ♖xb4? axb4 14. ♖xb4 ♖d7 (De Oliveira-Stephan, email 2001) 15. ♖d2 ♖c5±;

2) On 13. ♖d3 there is:

2a) 13... ♖xd5 14.cxd5 and now:

2a1) Somewhat slow is 14... ♖d7!?

15. ♖e2 ♖c5 16. ♖b1 e6 17. ♖c3±; 15... ♖e5 16. ♖b5 e6 17.d6 ♖c2+ 18. ♖f2 ♖xa3 19.bxa3 ♖ac8 20.a4 ♖c2± James-Hebden, Great Britain 1993; 17.dxe6 ♖ed3+ (17... fxe6 18.0-0) 18. ♖xd3 ♖xd3+ 19. ♖xd3 ♖xd3 20. ♖f4 ♖d4 21.e7 – Black still needs to show definite accuracy, to neutralise his opponent's dangerous passed pawn;

2a2) 14... ♖xd3+: Black forces the d5-pawn to become isolated from its colleagues, after which it starts to be attacked from all sides: 15. ♖xd3 e6 16. ♖e7 (16.d6 b5 17. ♖c5 ♖d7 18. ♖d4 ♖e5±) 16... ♖d7 17.d6 (17. ♖xf6 ♖xf6= Dyachkov-Kaminski, Halle 1995) 17... ♖a6 18. ♖e2 (the attempt to penetrate

the enemy camp with the rook by 18. ♖c3 is easily repulsed and Black even has two good responses: 18... ♖a8 19. ♖c5 ♖e8 20.e5 b6 21. ♖b5 ♖c7 22.dxc7 ♖xe7 23. ♖e2 ♖xc7 24. ♖c3 a4± Zhou Jianchao-Volokitin, Moscow 2007, and 18... ♖c6 19. ♖e2 ♖e8 20. ♖xc6 bxc6 21. ♖c3 ♖xd6 22. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 23. ♖e2 ♖xc3 24.bxc3 c5 25. ♖b1 c4= Wang Yue-Dyachkov, Moscow 2007) 18... ♖e8 19.0-0 ♖e5 20. ♖fd1 f6= Pelletier-Glek, Biel 1995.

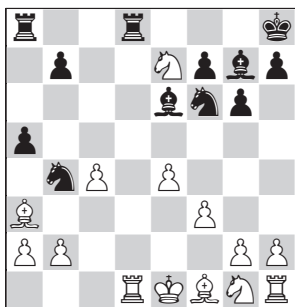
2b) But maybe even more precise is 13... ♖fxd5 14.cxd5 ♖d7 15. ♖e2 e6 (Bullerkotte-Göbel, CServe 1997) 16. ♖f4 ♖e5 17.g3 g5 etc.

3) 13. ♖f2 (Quinteros-Garcia Raimundo, Florida Valle 1993) 13... ♖xd5 14.cxd5 (14.exd5 e6 15.d6 ♖a6 16.c5 ♖c6) 14...e6 (Black creates counterplay according to the same scheme, and with the knight on b4, White does not even have the possibility ♖e7 and then d5-d6) 15.d6 (15. ♖xb4 axb4 16. ♖c4 exd5 17.exd5 b5!? 18. ♖b3 ♖d7 19. ♖e2 ♖c5↑). Here Black has a pleasant choice – immediately to attack the daring pawn or first to activate his queen's rook:

3a) 15... ♖e8 16.d7 ♖f6 17. ♖b5 ♖f8 18. ♖e2 (18.e5 ♖fd5) 18... ♖e7 19. ♖c1 ♖xd7 20. ♖d3;

3b) 15... ♖ac8!? 16. ♖b5 (16. ♖h3 ♖c2+ 17. ♖e2 ♖xa2 18. ♖e3 ♖b4 19.f4 h5 20. ♖f2; 17... ♖e8 18.d7 ♖f6) 16... ♖c5 17. ♖a4 b5 18. ♖xb4 axb4 19. ♖b3 ♖e8. The pawn has been regained and the chances equalised.

### 13... ♖h8



**A2a) 14. ♘d5**

**A2b) 14. ♖xd8+**

**A2a) 14. ♘d5 b5**

An effective continuation, which has survived testing also in correspondence games.

In Golubev's opinion, Black has no problems after 14...♗c2+ 15.♖f2 ♗xa3 16.bxa3 b5, but after 17.a4!? bxa4 18.♙d3 ♖ab8 19.♖b1 he still has to prove his compensation (fewer problems are posed by 17.♗h3 ♖ac8 18.♙e2 bxc4, Bigler-Har-Zvi, Biel 1993).

**15. ♙xb4 axb4 16. ♗xb4**

(Rogozenco-Golubev, Nikolaev 1993)

**16...bxc4**

Golubev's recommendation.

**17. ♖xd8+**

17.♗e2 ♗d7 18.♗d4 ♗b6 19.♗xe6 fxe6 20.♖b1 ♖dc8 21.♖f2 ♗a4 22.b3 cxb3 23.axb3 ♗c3 24.♖e1 ♖cb8 25.♗d3 ♖xb3= Grego-Pascoal, ICCF 2011.

**17...♖xd8 18. ♗e2 ♙h6 19. ♗c3 ♖d2**  
19...♙c1!?

**20. ♗d1 ♖d4 21. ♗c2**

Or 21.♗c6 ♖d6 22.♗a7 ♖b6 23.a4 ♖a6 24.♗b5 ♖xa4 25.g3 ♗d7 26.♗d4 ♗c5= Morley-Mislin, ICCF 2010.

**21... ♖d2 22. ♗a3 c3 23.bxc3 ♖xa2**

**24. ♗c4 ♗d7 25. ♗ce3 ♗e5**

Despite the absence of two pawns, Black has sufficient compensation to draw.

**A2b) 14. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 15. ♗d5**

A surprising thing – Black is two pawns down and White has a superb knight on d5, yet Black is still resisting!

In the event of 15.♙xb4 axb4 16.♗d5 ♖a8 17.♗xb4 ♗d7 18.♙d3 ♗c5 19.♗d2 ♖a4 20.a3 ♙xb2 he even takes over the initiative, Taleb-Watanabe, Yerevan 1996.

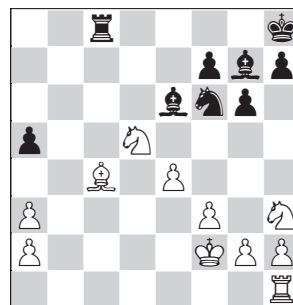
**15... ♗c2+ 16. ♖f2**

16.♗d2 ♗xa3 17.bxa3 b5 18.♗h3 bxc4 19.♙xc4 ♗xd5 20.exd5 ♙xd5 21.♙xd5 ♖xd5+= Gual-Timoscenko, London 1993.

**16... ♗xa3 17.bxa3 b5!**

Breaking up the white centre.

**18. ♗h3 bxc4 19. ♙xc4 ♖c8**



**20. ♗b6**

On 20.♙b3 Black gives yet another pawn – 20...a4!, so as, rather like in draughts, to regain everything with tempo: 21.♙xa4 ♗xd5 22.exd5 ♙xd5 23.♙b3 (or 23.♖e1 ♙d4+ 24.♖g3 ♖c3 25.♙b3 ♙xb3 26.axb3 ♖xb3 27.a4 f6

28. ♖e4 ♖b4 29.a5 (Oger-Pecis, ICCF 2009) 29... ♖a4 30. ♗f4 f5 31. ♖e7 ♗g8=) 23... ♗xb3 24.axb3 ♖c2+ 25. ♗g3 (25. ♗e3 ♖c3+ (Martinovic-Saric, Bjelolasica 2007) 26. ♗e4 ♖xb3 27. ♖d1 f5+ 28. ♗f4 ♖h6+ 29. ♗g3 ♖xa3=) 25... ♗e5+ 26.f4 ♖c3+ 27. ♗f2 ♖d4+ 28. ♗e2 (Lahlum-Gullaksen, Hamburg 2002) 28... ♖e3+ 29. ♗d2 ♖xb3=; 20. ♗xf6 ♖xc4 21.e5 ♖xa2 22. ♗g3 ♖f8= with a probable draw. **20... ♗xe4+! 21.fxe4**

21. ♗e3 ♖c6 22. ♗xe6 ♖xe6 23.fxe4 ♖xb6=

**21... ♖d4+ 22. ♗f3 ♖xb6 23. ♗xe6 fxe6**

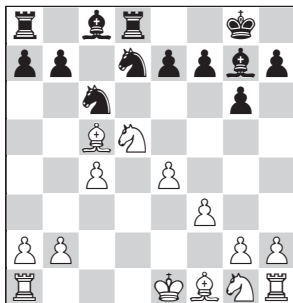
Less accurate is 23... ♖c3+ 24. ♗f4 fxe6 25. ♗e5 ♖xa3 26. ♖b1 with the initiative.

**24. ♖b1 ♖c3+ 25. ♗g4 ♖c7 26. ♗g5 h5+ 27. ♗h4 ♗g7! 28. ♗xe6+ ♗h6 29.g4 g5+ 30. ♗xg5 ♖d8 31. ♖b5 ♖c2 32.h3 hxg4**

And the resources for battle have been exhausted.

### B) 10. ♗d5 ♗d7

There is no half-measure: Black's credo is 'piece activity above all!'



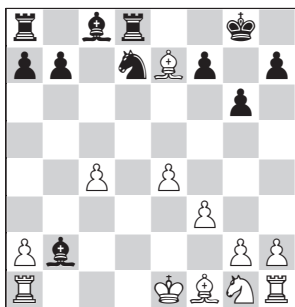
**11. ♗xe7+**

Statistically, 11. ♗xe7 is the most popular. But by the logic of things, White can hardly pretend that he has voluntarily given up his dark-squared bishop: 11... ♗xe7 12. ♗xe7+ ♗f8 13. ♗d5 (13. ♗xc8 ♖xb2 14. ♖b1 ♖c3+?) 13... ♖xb2 14. ♖b1 ♖g7 15. ♗h3 (15.h4 ♗c5 16.h5 (Wang Rui-Moradiabadi, Cebu 2007), and White gets nowhere on the h-file: 16...f5! 17. ♗h3 fxe4 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.fxe4 ♗xe4?) 15... ♗c5 16. ♗f2 ♖e6 17. ♖e2 (17. ♗d3 ♖ac8 18. ♗xc5 ♖xc5 19. ♖xb7 ♖a5=) Andresen-Sonntag, Germany Bundesliga 1993/94) 17... ♖ac8 18.0-0 b6 19. ♖fc1 (Christiansen-Renet, Cannes 1992) 19...f5! =

11. ♖a3 is an attempt to hold things, i.e. to stabilise the position and keep the extra pawn. However, as we have already seen, the bishop is not well-placed on a3 and exchanging it for the knight is also not very favourable for White. Black has sufficient resources to maintain the balance: 11...e6 12. ♗c7 (12. ♗e3 b6 13. ♖d1 ♖b7 14. ♗e2 ♗c5=, winning the battle for the dark squares in the centre, Avery-Valvo, Chicago 1992) 12... ♖b8 13.0-0-0 (13. ♗b5 a6 14. ♗d6 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16. ♗xb5 ♖a6 17. ♗c3 ♖xf1 18. ♗xf1 ♗de5=; 17. ♖c1 ♗de5? Benidze-Grigoryan, Yerevan 2007) 13...b6 14. ♗e2 ♖b7 15. ♗b5 (15. ♖d6 ♗c5 16. ♗b5 ♖bc8 17. ♗ec3 a6 18. ♗a3 f5 19.exf5 gxf5 20. ♗b1 ♗d4 21. ♖e7 ♖d7 22. ♖h4 e5, and Black seizes the initiative, Petursson-Sax, Biel 1985) 15... ♗c5 16. ♗d6 (Stoljarov-Teemae,

corr. 1986) 16...♙a8 17.b4 ♘b7  
18.♗xb7 ♙xb7≠ White's kingside  
is not yet developed and Black has  
enough time to attack the pawns on  
c4 and b4.

**11...♗xe7 12.♙xe7 ♙xb2**



**13. ♖b1**

In the event of 13.♖d1 ♖e8 14.♙d6  
♗e5 the activity of Black's pieces  
compensates for his pawn minus, for  
example: 15.c5 ♙e6 16.f4 ♙c3+ 17.♗f2  
♗g4+ 18.♗f3 ♗f6 19.h3 ♙xa2=  
Behling-Hazai, Hamburg 1984.  
After 13.♙xd8 ♙xa1 14.♗e2 b6  
Black inevitably regains the c-pawn:  
15.♗f4 ♙a6 16.♙c7 ♖c8 17.♗d5 ♗g7  
18.♙e2 ♙c3+ 19.♗xc3 ♖xc7=; or  
18.g3 (Faure-Gilbert, ICCF 2012)  
18...♙c3+ 19.♗f2 ♙d4+ 20.♗g2 ♙e5  
21.♙xe5+ ♗xe5=

**13...♙c3+ 14.♗f2 ♙d4+ 15.♗g3**

After 15.♗e1 ♙c3+ White does  
best to agree to a repetition of  
moves, because his king will feel  
uncomfortable in the centre, for  
example: 16.♗d1 ♖e8 17.♗e2 (17.♙a3  
♗e5 18.♗c2 ♙a5 19.♖b5 b6 20.♙b2  
♗c6 21.a3 a6 22.♖d5 ♙e6 23.♗h3  
♙xd5 24.cxd5 ♗e5 25.f4 ♖ac8+  
26.♗b1 ♗c4≠ Mankeyev-Klimov,  
St Petersburg 2004; 17.♗c2 ♙g7

18.♙d6 ♗e5 19.♙xe5 ♖xe5 20.♗e2  
♖a5 21.♗c1 b6 22.♖b5 ♙d7 23.♖xa5  
bxa5 24.♙e2 ♖b8 25.♗d3 ♙e6  
26.♖b1 ♖xb1 27.♗xb1 ♙xc4 28.♗f4,  
draw, Zelinskis-Rogozenko, corr.  
1988) 17...♙g7 18.♙a3 ♗e5 19.♗f4 b6  
20.♗d5 f5= Jarabinsky-Lilleoren,  
ICCF 2012.

**15...♖e8 16. ♙g5**

After 16.♙d6 ♗f6 (Garmendez  
Gonzalez-Arribas, Matanzas 1993),  
the white king can come under  
attack. For example, White loses by  
force after 17.♗h3? ♗h5+.

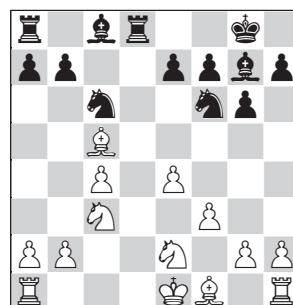
**16...♗f6 17. ♙xf6**

How dangerous it can be to leave  
the black knight is shown by the  
following game: 17.♗h3 ♗h5+  
18.♗h4 ♗g7 19.g4 h6 20.♙xh6+  
♗xh6 21.gxh5 f5 22.♗g3 fxe4  
23.♙g2 gxh5 24.f4 ♖g8+ 25.♗g5 h4+,  
and White resigned because of the  
inevitable mate: 26.♗xh4 ♙f2#, Gil-  
Howell, Gausdal 1986.

**17...♙xf6**

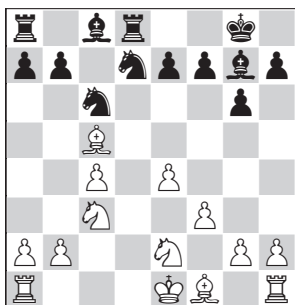
Chances are equal (Graf-Inarkiev,  
Lugo 2007).

**C) 10. ♗ge2**



**C1) 10...♗d7**

**C2) 10...b6**

**C1) 10... ♖d7****11. ♖a3**

1) 11. ♖e3 ♗de5 12. ♗f4 ♗b4. Now:

1a) On 13. ♗d1 Black carries out a simple, but nice combination: 13... ♗xf3+! 14.gxf3 ♖xc3+ 15.bxc3 ♗c2+ 16. ♖e2 ♗xd1 17. ♖xd1 ♗xe3+ 18. ♖d2 ♗xf1+ 19. ♗xf1 b6, and obtains an advantage in the endgame,

1b) In reply to 13. ♖f2 a young Boris Gelfand found an interesting retort: 13... ♖e6!? 14. ♗cd5 ♖xd5 15. ♗xd5 ♗c2 16. ♗c1 ♗xe3 17. ♖xe3 e6 18. ♗c3 ♖h6+ 19.f4 g5 20.g3 ♗g6 21. ♗c2 gxf4+ 22.gxf4 ♖xf4+ ♖ Gunawan-Gelfand, Minsk 1986;

1c) 13. ♗c1 ♖e6 14.b3 (14.a3 ♗bd3+ 15. ♗xd3 ♗xd3+ 16. ♖xd3 ♗xd3= Bezviner-Bonin, Nassau 1992; 14. ♗cd5 ♖xd5 15.cxd5 g5 16. ♖d2 ♗xa2 17. ♗a1 gxf4 18. ♗xa2 ♖h6 Vötter-Bekkesletten, ICCF 2011) 14...g5 15. ♗xe6 (Christiansen-Charbonneau, ICC 2008) 15...fxe6 16. ♖xg5 ♖f7 with approximate equality, after Black takes the exchange, or, in the event of 17. ♗d1 ♗xf3+ 18.gxf3 ♖xc3+ 19. ♖e2 ♗xa2.

2) The bishop retreat to f2 is interesting – 11. ♖f2, so as to have

the possibility of ♖g3: 11... ♗de5 12. ♗f4 b6 and now:

2a) Before going over to active operations, Black needs to bring another piece into the game. Consequently, it is not good to play 12...g5 13. ♗fd5 e6 14. ♗c7 ♗b8 15. ♗d1 ♗xd1+ 16. ♖xd1 ♖d7 17. ♗7b5 a6 18. ♗a3 ♗b4 19. ♖e3 h6 20.h4 ♗ed3 21. ♖xd3 ♗xd3 22. ♖c2± Rowson-A.Hunt, England 4NCL 2007/08;

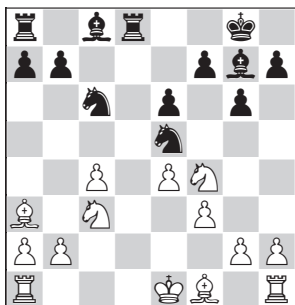
2b) 12...b6 13. ♖e2 (an equal position results from 13. ♗fd5 e6 14. ♗c7 ♗b8 15. ♗d1 ♗xd1+ 16. ♖xd1 (Elsness-Gallagher, Gothenburg 2005) 16... ♗b4=) 13... ♖a6 14. ♗b5 ♗b4! (14... ♗b8 allows White the additional possibility 15. ♖h4) 15. ♗d1 ♗xd1+ 16. ♖xd1 ♗b8 17. ♖e3 ♗b7, and Black equalises with the ... ♗d7+ check and pressure on the queenside, as was proved in several correspondence games.

**11... ♗de5 12. ♗f4 e6**

A typical KID scenario: Black can control d5, but White cannot control d4.

12... ♗d4 is interesting, after which play assumes a more forcing character: 13.0-0-0 ♖h6 14. ♖xe7 (14.g3 ♗ec6 15. ♖b1 e5 16. ♗fd5 ♗xf3 17. ♖e7 ♗d2+ 18. ♗xd2 ♖xd2 19. ♖xd8 ♗xd8= Budraitis-Trygstad, Bergen 2000; 14. ♗cd5 e6 15.g3 exd5 16. ♗xd4 ♗xf3 17. ♗d1 (Granda Zuniga-Glavina, San Fernando 1991) 17...d4 18. ♖b1 ♗g5 19. ♖g2 ♖g4 20. ♖e7 ♖xd1 21. ♖xd8 ♗e6 22. ♗xe6 fxe6 23. ♗xd1 ♗xd8=) 14... ♖xf4+ 15. ♖b1 ♗d7 16. ♗d5 ♗ec6 17. ♗f6+ ♖g7 18. ♗xd7 ♖xd7 (18... ♗xe7

19.♞xd4) 19.♙c5 ♘e3 (O.Andersen-Bekker-Jensen, Helsingor 1997)  
20.♞d3 ♙f2 21.b4 b6 22.♙d6 a6,  
and White has nothing else but to  
repeat moves.



**13.♞d1 ♞xd1+ 14.♘xd1**  
14.♙xd1 ♘a5 15.b3 (15.c5 ♘ac4  
16.♙xc4 ♘xc4=) 15...♘xf3 16.gxf3  
♙xc3 17.♙c2 ♙g7 18.♙g2 ♙d7  
19.♞d1? (19.♘e2=) 19...♘xc4! 20.♞xd7  
(he loses after 20.bxc4 ♙a4+ 21.♙c1  
♙h6 22.♙d6 ♙xd1 23.♙xd1 ♞d8)  
20...♘xa3+ 21.♙d1 b5♣ Simon-  
Timoschenko, Avoine 1993.

#### 14...a5

It was worth considering 14...b6  
15.♙e2 (15.♙f2 ♙h6 16.g3 ♙a6  
17.b3 ♞d8 18.♙e2 (Ufodike-Barnes,  
West Bromwich 2005) 18...♞d2  
19.♙b2 ♙f8 20.♙e1 ♞c2♣ – White  
has not managed to complete his  
development, whilst five black  
pieces are circling like vultures  
around his king) 15...♘d4 16.♙d6  
♙a6 17.♙xe5 ♙xe5♣.

#### 15.♙d6

15.♙c5 (Cossin-Franklin, Cappelle-  
la-Grande 2008) 15...♘d7 16.♙d6  
(16.♙e3 ♘b4) 16...b6 17.♙e2 ♙a6  
– Black will increase his pressure  
on the c4-pawn, occupying such

wonderful squares as c5, e5 and d4  
with his knights.

#### 15...b6 16.c5

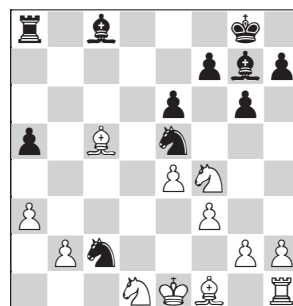
The quicker White gets rid of this  
object of attack, the fewer problems  
he will have.

16.b3 ♘b4 17.♙c7 ♘xa2 18.♘d3  
♘xd3+ 19.♙xd3 ♙d4 20.e5 ♙b7  
21.♙d2 a4 22.bxa4 ♞xa4= Murey-  
Degraeve, Cappelle-la-Grande 1993.  
16.♙c7 ♙a6 17.b3 ♘b4 18.♙xb6  
♘xa2 19.♘d3 ♞b8 20.♙xa5 ♘xd3+  
21.♙xd3 ♞xb3 22.♙e2 ♞b1 23.♙d2  
♞c1 24.f4 ♙xc4= Alvares Vilar-  
Ludsenberger, corr. 1998.

#### 16...bxc5 17.♙xc5 ♘b4

The black knight begins hassling  
the white position by itself.

#### 18.a3 ♘c2+



#### 19.♙d2

The king should defend the queen-  
side, otherwise difficulties can  
arise: 19.♙f2 ♞b8 20.♙e2 ♙d7 21.h4  
♞b3 22.♙d6 (22.h5 g5) 22...♘d4  
23.♙xe5 ♙xe5. The pressure on the  
pawn, plus the two bishops, ensures  
Black equal chances.

#### 19...♘a1!

A paradoxical knight jump into the  
very heart of White's position.

#### 20.♙f2

If 20. ♖e3, then on this square the bishop will be hit with another tempo after ...♗c4. For example: 20... ♖a6 21. ♖xa6 ♜xa6 22. ♗d3 ♗b3+ 23. ♖e2 ♗c4 24. f4 ♜c6 25. e5 f6 26. exf6 ♖xf6 27. ♞e1 a4, and Black has sufficient compensation for a draw.

**20... ♖d7 21. ♗c3 ♜b8 22. ♖c1 ♗b3+ 23. ♖c2 ♗c6 24. ♗fe2**

Probably it was better just to complete his development, by bringing the bishop to c4 – 24. ♖c4 ♗cd4+ 25. ♖d1 ♜c8 with compensation, or to d3 – 24. ♖d3 ♗cd4+ 25. ♖b1 ♗c5 26. ♖c4 ♗a4 27. ♗xa4 ♖xa4 28. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 29. ♗d3 ♖g7. With two bishops in an open position, Black does not risk losing.

**24...f5! 25.h4 fxe4 26.fxe4 ♗e5 27. ♗f4 ♗g4 28. ♖a7 ♗d4+ 29. ♖xd4 ♖xd4**  
With an edge for White (Roques-Lutzenberger, corr. 2000).

**C2) 10...b6 11. ♖a3**



**11... ♖b7**

Another possibility is the more refined 11... ♖a6 12. ♗b5 (12.b3 ♗d7 13.0-0-0 ♗c5) 12... ♖b7 (after 12... ♜d7 13. ♗ec3 ♖b7 14. ♗a4 ♜ad8 15. ♖e2 ♗h5 16. g3 f5 17. exf5 gxf5 18. ♖f2 White's chances are superior, Ivanchuk-Grischuk, Monaco 2011) 13. ♗ec3 (Lilleoren-Jarabinsky, ICCF 2010) 13... ♗e8!? 14. ♗d5 (14. ♗a4 f5 15. exf5 gxf5 with play for both sides) 14...e6 15. ♗e7+ ♗xe7 16. ♖xe7 ♖xb2 17. ♜b1 ♜d7 18. ♜xb2 ♜xe7 with an equal position.

**12. ♗d5**

If 12. ♜d1, then 12... ♗d7 (12... a5 is also possible, for example: 13. ♗c1 ♗b4 14. ♖d3 ♖h6 15. ♗d5 (Wang Yue-Radjabov, Sochi 2008) 15... ♖xd5 16. cxd5 e6 with counterplay) 13. ♗d5 ♗de5 14. ♗ec3 e6 15. ♗e7+ (worse is 15. ♗e3 ♜xd1+ 16. ♗cxd1 ♜d8 17. ♖e2 ♗d4 with the initiative, Posedaru-Atalik, Obrenovac 2013) 15... ♗xe7 16. ♖xe7 ♜dc8 17. c5 bxc5= Mchedlishvili-Bacrot, Tromsø 2014.

On 12. ♗f4 a good move is 12...e6 (12... ♗d4 13. ♖d3) 13. ♜d1 ♜xd1+ 14. ♗xd1 ♜d8 15. ♖e2 (Primrose-Hulse, ICCF 2012) 15... ♗d7 16. ♗e3 ♗c5 with sufficient compensation.

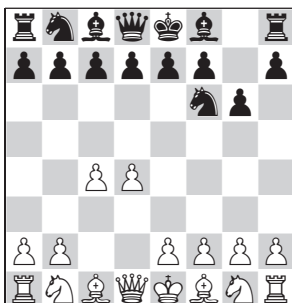
**12...e6 13. ♗e7+ ♗xe7 14. ♖xe7 ♜d7 15. ♖b4 ♜c8 16. ♗c3 ♗h5 17. ♜d1 ♜cd8 18. ♜xd7 ♜xd7 19. g3 ♖d4 20. ♖a3 f5**

And Black obtains sufficient counterchances, Romm-Ziese, ICCF 2011.



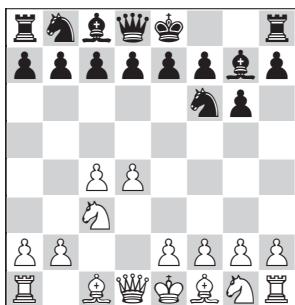
# Index of variations

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6



## Part I – Rare continuations

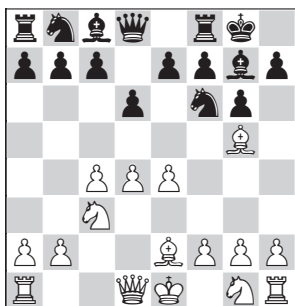
3.♘c3 ♖g7



4. ♖g5 d6.....	12
4...c5 .....	14
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6...♘c6 .....	115

## Part II – Averbakh System

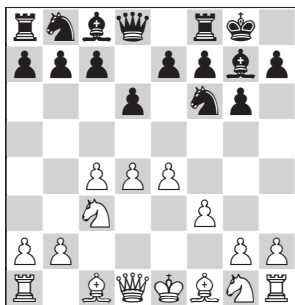
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.♙e2 0-0 6.♙g5



6...♗a6 7.♚c2 .....	122
7.f4 .....	123
7.♗f3 .....	124
7.♚d2 .....	125
7.h4 .....	129
6...h6 7.♙e3 c5 8.d5 .....	134
8.dxc5 .....	136
8.e5 .....	137

## Part III – Sämisch System

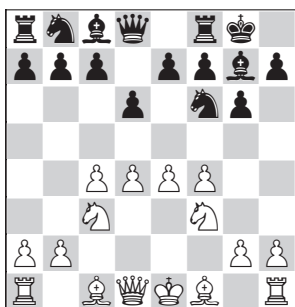
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0



6.♗ge2 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♙e3 .....	144
8.♗g3 .....	145
6.♙g5 a6 .....	152
6...c5 .....	155
6.♙e3 c5 7.dxc5 .....	160
7.d5 .....	170
7.♗ge2 .....	172

## Part IV – Four Pawns Attack

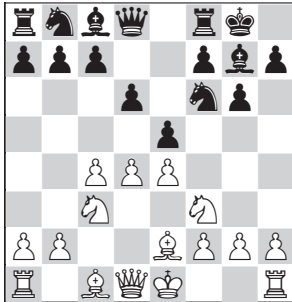
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.♗f3



6...c5 7.♙e2 .....	188
7.dxc5 .....	189
7.d5 e6 8.dxe6 .....	198
8.♙e2 exd5 9.cxd5 ♙g4 .....	202
9...♗bd7 .....	208
9...♚e8 .....	210
6...♗a6 .....	194

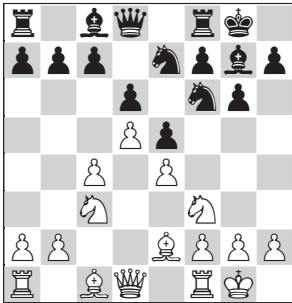
**Part V – Classical System**

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6 5.♝f3 0-0 6.♖e2 e5**



7.dxe5 .....	221
7.0-0 ♗c6 8.dxe5.....	227
7.♖e3 ♘g4 8.♖g5 f6 9.♖c1 .....	232
9.♖h4.....	236
7.d5 a5 8.♖e3.....	246
8.h3 .....	247
8.♗d2.....	248
8.0-0 .....	249
8.♖g5.....	251

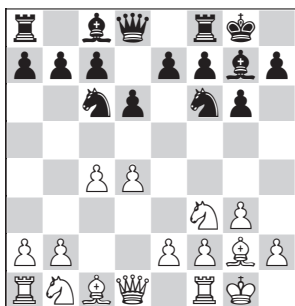
**7.0-0 ♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7**



9.♖d2 ♗h5.....	259
9...♗e8 .....	259
9.♖e3 .....	260
9.a4 .....	261
9.♖g5 .....	262
9.b4 ♗h5.....	264
9...c6 .....	279
9...a5 .....	282
9.♗e1 ♗d7 10.♗d3.....	286
10.f3 .....	290
10.♖e3 .....	292
9.♗d2 c6 10.b4.....	305
10.♖b1.....	306
10.dxc6.....	307
10.a3 .....	309
9...a5 10.a3 ♗d7 .....	312
10...♖d7 .....	316

## Part VI – Fianchetto King's Indian

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗f3 ♕g7 4.g3 0-0 5.♖g2 d6 6.0-0 ♘c6



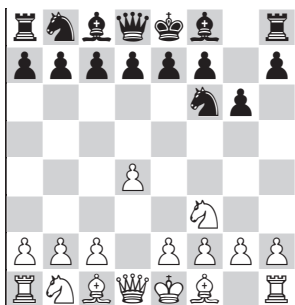
7.d5 ♘a5 8.♖a4 .....	323
8.♘bd2.....	324
7.♘c3 a6 8.♖d2 .....	326
8.♞e1 .....	328
8.♞d3.....	330
8.e3 .....	331
8.e4 .....	333
8.h3 ♖d7 9.♖g5 .....	336
9.♖e3 .....	337
9.e4 .....	339
8.d5 ♘a5 9.b3.....	345
9.♘d2 .....	349
8.b3 ♞b8 9.♘d5 .....	358
9.e3 .....	362
9.♖b2 .....	363

## Part VII – Other fianchetto lines

1.♗f3 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.b3 ♖g7 4.♖b2 d6 5.d4 c5 .....	368
3.d4 ♖g7 4.♖g2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 .....	372
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 g6 3.g3 ♖g7 4.♖g2 0-0 5.e4 .....	376
5.♗f3 .....	380
5.e3 .....	388

## Part VIII – Torre and London Systems

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 g6



3.♖f4 ♖g7 4.e3 c5 5.c3 b6 6.♘bd2	
♖b7 7.♖e2.....	392
7.♖d3 .....	393
3.♖g5 ♖g7 4.♘bd2 0-0 5.c3 .....	395
5.e4 .....	396
3.c3 b6 4.♖g5 ♖g7 5.♘bd2 ♖b7 6.e3..	396