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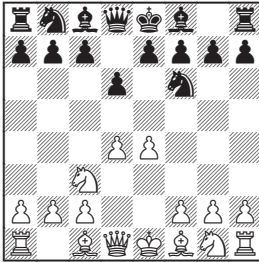
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Chapter 2

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♗c3



We will analyse here: **a) 3...♗g4**, **b) 3...e6** and **c) 3...a6**.

About 3...♗bd7 – see the next chapter, the move 3...e5 will be dealt with in chapters 4-5, the possibility 3...c6 – will be analysed in the second part of our book, while the main line 3...g6 – in the third part of the book. As for the line: 3...♗c6 4.♗f3 – see 1...♗c6.

Black's position is very bad after: 3...c5 4.dxc5 dxc5 (Black is just lost after: 4...♖a5 5.cxd6 ♗xc4 6.♖d5+- Hector – Milan, Linares 1987) 5.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 6.♗f4 ♗c6 7.0-0-0+ ♗d7 8.♗f3±. White's pawn-structure is superior, he dominates on the only open file and he enjoys a space advantage.

a) 3...♗g4 4.f3 ♗h5

After 4...♗d7 5.f4±, it is quite unclear why Black has developed his bishop on the d7-square. It only hinders his natural development and piece coordination there.

5.♗e3 e6

White has a great lead in development and a huge space advantage after: 5...♗bd7, Simeoni – Orefice, Cecchina 1997, 6.g4 ♗g6 7.g5 ♗g8 8.f4 e6 9.d5 ♖e7 (9...h6 10.dxe6 fxe6 11.♖g4±) 10.dxe6 fxe6 11.♖f3±.

6.♖d2 ♗c6

Black's lag in development becomes quite considerable after: 6...d5 7.g4 ♗g6 8.g5 ♗g8 (8...♗h5 9.0-0-0±) 9.0-0-0 c6 10.h4 h5 11.gxh6 ♗xh6 12.♖g2 ♗d7 13.♗d3 ♗b6 14.♗h3± Lopez Mateo – Carbonell Bofill, Spain 1993.

It is hardly better for Black to try: 6...c6 7.h4 h6 (7...♗g6 8.g4 h5 9.g5 ♗fd7 10.♗ge2±) 8.♗h3 ♗g6 9.♗f4 ♗h7 10.g4±, because the enormous lead in development of White and his total control of the centre make Black's

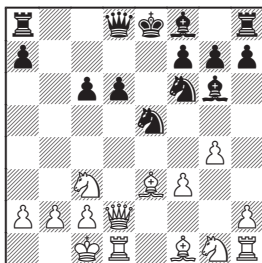
defence really problematic, Carasco – Demarche, Meudon 1992.

7.d5 exd5

Or 7...♗e5 8.g4 ♘g6 9.h4±.

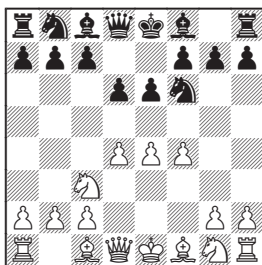
8.exd5 ♗e5 9.0–0–0 c6 10.g4 ♘g6 11.dxc6 bxc6

It is not preferable for Black to try here: 11...♗xc6 12.g5 ♗d7 13.h4±.



12.g5! ♗g8 (Black loses immediately after the other possible retreats of the knight: 12...♗h5 13.f4 ♗d7 14.♗e2 ♖a5 15.♗f3+–, or 12...♗fd7 13.f4 ♗g4 14.♗d4+–) **13.f4 ♗d7 14.♖e1 ♗e7 15.♗f3±**. Black has great problems to complete his development successfully.

b) 3...e6 4.f4



4...♗e7

The endgame would be very unpleasant for Black after: 4...c5 5.dxc5 dxc5 6.♙xd8+ ♗xd8 7.♗f3 ♗c6 8.♗e3± Sebastianiuk – Jagielski, Krynica 1994. White's development is superior and he dominates on the d-file.

His advantage is quite clear too after: 4...e5 5.dxe5 ♘g4, Bertolini – Menato, Ischia 1997. Now, the simplest line for White would be: 6.♗f3 ♗xf3 7.♙xf3 dxe5 8.fxe5 ♗fd7 9.♗f4±.

After 4...d5 5.e5 ♗e4 6.♗xe4 dxe4 7.c3 ♗c6, McCafferty – Barragan, Dos Hermanas 2003, Black's defence is difficult: 8.♗h3! ♖d5 9.♙h5 ♗d8 (It would not help much if Black tries: 9...♗xd4 10.cxd4 ♗b4+ 11.♗d2 ♗xd2 12.♗xd2 ♙xd4 13.♗c2+–) 10.g3 c5 11.dxc5 ♗xc5 12.♗g2 ♖d3 (12...♙c4 13.♗g5±) 13.♗g5±, and White wins a pawn.

Black has also tested in practice:

4...c6 5.♗f3 ♗e7, Klovans – Schiner, Werfen 1992. After 6.♗d3 0–0 7.♙e2±, White preserves a powerful centre and better development;

4...♗bd7 5.♗f3 ♗e7 (5...c5 6.♗e3 ♗g4 7.♗g1 ♗e7 8.♙d2± Perez Cadenas – Rodriguez Codes, Pasao 1997) 6.e5 dxe5 7.dxe5 ♗g8 8.♗e4 ♗h6 9.♗e3 ♗f5 10.♗f2 b6 11.♗d3 ♗b7 12.♙e2± Paz – Belitz, Dos Hermanas 2003. White dominates on the d-file and in the centre and his development is admirable;

4...♗fd7 5.♗f3 ♗e7 6.♗d3 c5,

Palas – Riha, Klatovy 1999. After 7.d5 exd5 (7...0–0 8.0–0±) 8.♗xd5, White's advantage is obvious;

4...♗c6 5.♗f3 d5 (It is worse for Black to play 5...♗d7 6.♗d3 ♖e7 7.0–0 0–0–0 8.d5±, and White enjoys a huge lead in development and good attacking prospects, Schimmer – Leistner, Frankfurt 2002) 6.e5 ♗e4 7.♗d3♗b4 (in case of 7...♗xc3 8.bxc3 ♗e7 9.0–0 0–0 10.♗g5!, White has excellent attacking chances, for example: 10...h6 11.♗h7 ♖e8 12.♗h5±) 8.♗d2 ♗xd2 9.♗xd2±. White remains with a slight, but stable advantage due to his extra space; moreover Black will have difficulties to prepare c7–c5.

5.♗f3 0–0

The strange move 5...a6?! was tried by Black in the game Kulashko – Saksena, Auckland 2000. After 6.♗d3 ♗c6 7.0–0 0–0 8.e5 ♗d5 9.♗xd5 exd5 10.f5, White had excellent attacking chances.

5...c5, Christoff – Dengler, Gluecksburg 1988, leads to a difficult endgame for Black: 6.dxc5 dxc5 7.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 8.e5 ♗d5 9.♗e4 ♗e7 10.♗d2±.

5...d5 6.e5 ♗fd7, Ruiz Jimenez – Gallego Vaquero, Malaga 2001. The line: 7.♗e3.c5 8.♗d2±, transposes to the French Defence except that White has already an extra tempo.

5...♗d7?! 6.♗d3 c5, Beharry – Butt, Thessaloniki 1984. After

7.dxc5 dxc5 8.♗e5 ♗c6 9.♗e3 0–0 10.♗xd7 ♖xd7 11.0–0±, White remains with the two-bishop advantage.

5...b6 6.♗d3 ♗b7 7.♗e2 ♗bd7 8.0–0±, and White had a better development and a space advantage in the game Arsenault – Laurin, Hull 1997.

6.♗d3 c5

The other possibilities are not so good for Black either:

6...b6 7.♗e2 ♗b7 8.♗d2± Kankainen – Kaunonen, Finland 1997;

6...♖e8 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 ♗fd7, Garcia Miracle – Garcia Blazquez, Sant Boi 1997, 9.0–0±;

6...h6, Polo – Barrios, Barranquilla 1999, 7.♗e2 ♗c6 8.e5 ♗d5 (8...♗d7 9.a3±) 9.♗xd5 exd5 10.c3±;

6...♗bd7 7.e5 ♗e8 (7...♗d5 8.♗xd5 exd5 9.0–0±) 8.0–0± J.Nielsen – Jacobsen, Copenhagen 2000;

6...d5 7.e5 ♗fd7, Summers – Williams, Cardiff 1995, after 8.h4! h6 (8...c5 9.♗xh7+) 9.f5±, White can organize a dangerous attack;

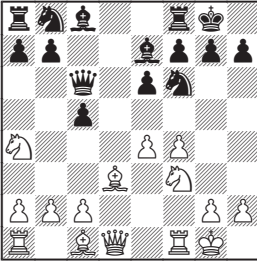
7.dxc5 dxc5

It is worse for Black to play: 7...d5 8.e5 ♗fd7 9.♗e3 a5 10.h4! g6 (10...h6 11.♗e2 ♗xc5 12.0–0–0±) 11.h5→ Palos – Bidwell, Washington 1998.

8.0–0 ♖b6

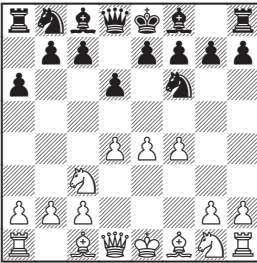
This is an attempt by Black to solve his strategical problems by tactical means.

9.♗a4 ♖c6



10.c4 ♗d8, Kallio – Halldorsson, Korr 1992, **11.e5 ♗g4** **12.♘c3 ♖d7** **13.♙c2 ♗c6** **14.♚e2±**. Black's position is quite unpleasant, because his pieces are cramped and not well coordinated.

c) 3...a6 4.f4



4...e6

About 4...g6 5.♗f3 – see chapter 13, 1...d6 2.d4 ♗f6 3.♗c3 g6 4.f4 a6 5.♗f3.

It is too bad for Black to play here: 4...c5?! 5.dxc5 ♖a5?! (after 5...dxc5 6.♗xd8 ♗xd8 7.e5 Black has to defend a difficult endgame) 6.cxd6 exd6 (or 6...♗xe4 7.♗d5 ♗c5 8.♙b5+ axb5 9.♗xc5 ♗a6 10.♗xb5 ♗xb5 11.♗xb5±) 7.♙d3±, and White remained with a solid extra pawn in the game Afek – Basman, London 1979.

The move 4...b5?! enables White to start some decisive actions immediately: 5.e5 dxe5 (White remains with an extra pawn and better development after: 5...b4 6.exf6 bxc3 7.fxfg7 ♙xg7 8.bxc3 c5 9.♗f3 ♖a5 10.♙d2 ♖a4 11.dxc5 dxc5 12.♙d3± Solberg – Bae, Oslo 2005.) 6.fxe5 ♗d5 7.♗f3 ♙b7 8.♙d3 e6 9.♗ge2± Olsson – Gustafsson, Stockholm 1993.

In case of 4...d5 5.e5 ♗g8 6.♙d3 g6 7.♗f3±, White had a powerful centre and a huge lead in development in the game Shamugia – Startsev, Togliatti 2001.

4...♗c6 5.d5 ♗a7?! (after 5...♗b8 6.♗f3, White has a noticeable space advantage and an evidently better piece development) 6.♗f3 ♙d7 7.e5± Villing – Rohrbacher, Karlsruhe 2003.

The move 4...♙g4?! – only helps White's development. 5.♙e2 ♙xe2 6.♗xe2 e6 (after Black's other possibilities White's lead in development is even greater: 6...c6 7.♗f3 e6 8.0–0 ♙e7 9.e5 ♗fd7 10.exd6 ♙xd6 11.f5± F.Fluvia – Sole Rojals, Sant Cebria 1998; or 6...♗c6 7.♗f3 e5 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.dxe5 ♗g4 10.♙f4 ♙c5 11.h3±; 9...♗d7 10.♙g5 ♙e7 11.♙xe7 ♗xe7 12.♗d5 ♖d8 13.0–0±; it is the best for Black to play here: 7...♗d7, Martos Martin – Ciurana Roig, Barcelona 1997, but even then after: 8.d5 ♗cb8 9.♙e3±, all of his pieces remain on

their initial squares) 7.♘f3 ♕e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♔h1 c5 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.♞d1 ♖c7 12.e5 ♜fd7 13.♕e3 ♜c6 14.♜e4±, and Black's defence will be rather difficult, because his bishop is bad and his position is cramped Torres – Jaramillo, Cali 2002.

5.♘f3 ♜bd7

After 5...b5 6.♕d3 ♕b7, Weidmann – Schmitz, Nickenich 1998, White could have started active actions in the centre with: 7.e5 ♜d5 8.♜xd5 ♕xd5 9.0-0±, and he would have had a lead in development and a powerful centre.

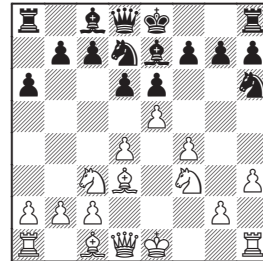
5...d5, Smistik – El Kher, Rimavska Sobota 1992, transposes to the French Defence with an extra tempo for White after: 6.e5 ♜fd7 7.♕e3±.

There occurred a transposition to the Sicilian Defence with several extra tempi for White after: 5...c5 6.dxc5 ♖a5 (The endgame is very difficult for Black after: 6...dxc5 7.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 8.♕e3±.) 7.♕d3 ♖xc5 8.♖e2 ♜bd7 9.♕e3 ♖c7 10.♕d4 ♜c5 11.0-0-0 ♕e7 12.g4± Bartel – Cicak, Cork 2005;

6.e5 ♜g4

In case of 6...♜d5 7.♜xd5 exd5 8.♕d3 ♕e7 (8...c5 9.♜g5±) 9.0-0±, White ends up with a lead in development and a powerful centre.

7.h3 ♜h6 8.♕d3 ♕e7



9.0-0± Bittner – Velenderic, Bergen Enkheim 1997. White has a huge lead in development, a definite space advantage and a clear plan for the development of a kingside initiative after 10.♜e4. Black tried in the game to counter all that with the move: 9...d5, but after 10.♜e2 there arose a pawn-structure, which was typical for the French Defence. White maintained a great space advantage; moreover Black's pieces remained a sorry sight.

Conclusion for Chapters 1 and 2

All of the rarely played lines, that we have analysed in these chapters, transpose practically to some other openings. Black usually loses one or two tempi in the process, or he plays some unnecessary moves like h7-h6, and all that makes his task to equalize extremely difficult. It is far from easy for White to obtain a great advantage always, but even when his edge is not so impressive – it is stable and long-lasting – throughout the game.