

Sozin and Velimirovic Variations

Black plays 2...♘c6 and 5...d6, White plays 6.♙c4

SI 26.2

□ Madl

■ Chiburdanidze

Batumi 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 a6 8.♙b3 ♗c7 9.f4 ♙e7 10.♖f3

A good alternative is 10.0-0; 10...0-0 11.♖f3 ♗xd4 12.♙xd4 b5 13.e5 gives rise to interesting positions. The books will tell you more.

10...♗xd4 11.♙xd4 b5 12.e5

Sharp play! Good for Black is 12.0-0-0 ♙b7, but 12.f5 is also an option.

12...dxe5 13.fxe5

13.♖xa8?! is very risky; after 13...exd4 14.♗e2 0-0 15.♖f3 ♙b7 16.♖h3 ♙b4+ 17.c3 dxc3 18.bxc3 ♙c5 Black has good play for the exchange.

13...♙b7 14.♖g3 ♗e4!?

This was a new move in the days this game was played. The books of the time gave 14...♗h5 15.♖g4 g6 16.0-0-0 0-0-0, with the assessment “unclear”, but 15.♖f2!? may be stronger.

15.♖xg7?

This looks very dubious, and the refutation duly follows. Simply 15.♗xe4 ♙xe4 16.0-0 0-0 resulted in an equal position.

15...0-0-0 16.♖f1

16.0-0-0 is met by 16...♖dg8, and after both 17.♖xf7 and 17.♖h6 White loses her queen with 17...♙g5+. No better is 16.♗xe4 ♙xe4

17.♖f1 (17.0-0-0? ♖dg8 loses the queen again) 17...♙g6, and White is in serious trouble.

16...♖hg8 17.♖xf7

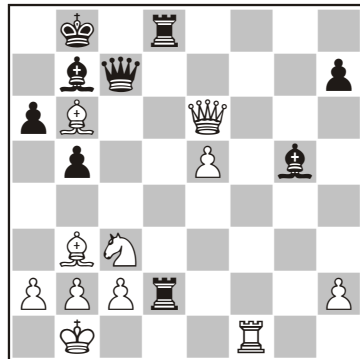
17.♖xh7 is met by 17...♗g5 18.♖d3 ♙c5 19.♖f4 ♖xd4! 20.♖xd4 ♖xe5+ 21.♗e2 ♙xd4 22.♖xd4 ♗f3+! 23.gxf3 ♖xd4 24.♗xd4 ♖g1+, and Black has a winning endgame.

17...♖xg2 18.♖xe6+

18.♗xe4 is no better; after 18...♖xd4 19.♖xe6+ (or 19.♗d6+ ♗b8), 19...♗b8 Black wins.

18...♗b8 19.0-0-0 ♙g5+ 20.♗b1 ♗d2+ 21.♖xd2 ♖xd2 22.♙b6

This is probably what White had intended. But Black throws a serious spanner in the works!



22...♖xc3! 23.♙xd8

23.bxc3 runs into 23...♖d1+ 24.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 25.♗b2 ♙c1+, and mate on the next move.

23...♖f3!

The point of the move 22...♖xc3! The queen is untouchable in view of mate on d1, which is very much on the cards anyway.

24.♙c7+ ♖xc7 25.♗f7+ ♗xf7 26.♖xf7+ ♖d7

White resigned.

SI 26.6

□ Ankerst

■ Panchenko

Bled 1992

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 ♙e7 8.f4 0-0

Also interesting is 8...d5!?, which is followed by 9.exd5 exd5 10.♙b5 ♙d7 11.♗f3, with an unclear position.

9.♗f3 ♗xd4

After 9...♗a5 White simply goes 10.♙d3.

10.♙xd4 e5

Another reasonable idea is 10...♗a5 11.0-0, and only then 11...e5.

11.♙e3

11.fxe5 dxe5 12.♙xe5 is met by 12...♗g4 13.♙f4 ♗d4 14.♙d3 ♙b4! 15.♙d2 ♙c5, and Black has compensation for the pawn, according to Panchenko.

11...exf4 12.♙xf4

After 12.♗xf4, 12...♗g4 looks like a good reply.

12...♗a5 13.♙b3 ♙g4 14.♗d3?!

Better was 14.♗g3 when, according to Panchenko, 14...♙d7 is Black's strongest reply.

14...d5!

Another pawn sacrifice!

15.exd5

15.e5 is followed by 15...d4! 16.♗xd4 ♗d7 17.♗d5 ♙c5, with compensation, while after 15.♙xd5 ♗xd5 16.♗xd5 ♗b6 17.♗b3 ♗d4 Black also has good play for the pawn.

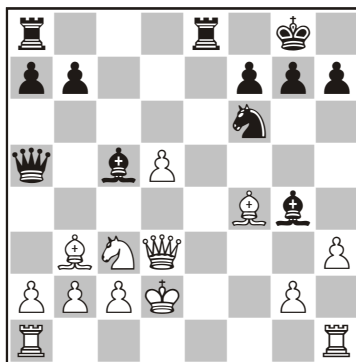
15...♙c5 16.h3?!

White should have played 16.♗d2! at once,

although Black has good prospects after 16...♖fd8 17.♖ae1 ♙b4, again according to Panchenko.

16...♖fe8+ 17.♗d2?

Now this move is nicely refuted. Correct was 17.♗f1, with good prospects for Black after 17...♙h5 (or 17...♙d7!?) 18.g4 ♙g6 19.♗b5 ♗xb5+ 20.♗xb5 ♙e4, Panchenko.



17...♙e2! 18.♗f5

After 18.♗xe2 ♖xe2+ 19.♗xe2 ♙b4 White has to be lost.

18...♗e4+ 19.♗c1 ♗xc3! 20.♗xe4

Or 20.bxc3 ♙a3+ 21.♗b1 ♗xc3 mate!

20...♖xe4

White resigned.

SI 26.6

□ De Firmian

■ Grischuk

Esbjerg 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗c3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♗f6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 ♙e7 8.f4 0-0 9.♗f3 e5!?

Black can also play 9...a6 or 9...♗a5, or even 9...♗xd4 10.♙xd4 e5 – as in Ankerst-Panchenko.

10.♗xc6 bxc6 11.f5

After 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.h3 Black can choose

between 12...♙e6 and 12...♘e8, in both cases with approximately equal play.

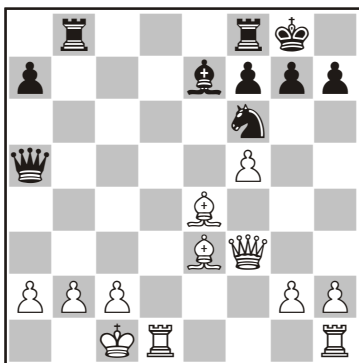
11...♙a5 12.0-0 ♙b7

An alternative is 12...♞b8!?, e.g. 13.♙b3 (according to Golubev White should play 13.♙d2!?) now to prevent the coming exchange sacrifice) 13...♞xb3! 14.cxb3 d5 15.exd5 cxd5 16.♞xd5 ♘xd5 17.♘xd5 ♙d6 18.♙d1 ♙xa2 19.♘f6+ ♖h8! (19...gxf6? loses: 20.♙h6 ♖h8 (the only move) 21.♙xf8, Gaprindashvili-Hartoch, Amsterdam 1976, as 21...♙xf8 is met by 22.♞d8) 20.♞xd6 gxf6 21.♙h6?! (21.♙d2 looks better) 21...♞g8 22.♙d2? (this is very bad; White must not relinquish square a6) 22...♙a1+ 23.♖c2 ♙a6 24.g4 ♙b7, and Black had a winning attack, Borkowski-Tupek, Slupsk 1992.

13.♙b3 d5!? 14.exd5

White is as good as forced to accept the pawn sacrifice, as after 14.♙d2?!, 14...♙b4! 15.a3 ♙xc3 16.♙xc3 ♙c7 is good for Black.

14...cxd5 15.♘xd5 ♙xd5 16.♙xd5 e4 17.♙xe4 ♞ab8



18.♙d5!

18.♖b1? runs into 18...♞xb2+!, and mate, while 18.a3? is met by 18...♞xb2!, and it is plain to see that this also wins.

18...♞xb2!

The consequence of what went before; but now things are less clear.

19.♖xb2 ♘xd5 20.♙xd5?!

Now Black has perpetual check. 20.♞xd5? was clearly not possible in view of 20...♙a3+, and mate, but with Golubev's suggestion of 20.♙d4! White could have tested the correctness of Black's play. The question is whether Black would have enough compensation for the sacrificed exchange after, for example 20...♞b8+ 21.♖a1 ♘b4 22.♙b3 ♙xf5 (22...♘c6? is met by 23.♙g3) 23.♙d2 ♙f4 24.♙c3.

20...♙a3+ 21.♖b1 ♙xd5 22.♞xd5 ♞b8+ 23.♖a1 ♙b2+ 24.♖b1

Draw.

SI 26.7

□ Pavlov

■ Kharitonov

Correspondence game 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 ♙e7 8.♙e2

The notorious Velimirovic Attack.

8...0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.♙b3 ♙c7 11.g4

For the second main line, 11.♞hg1, I refer to the games that can be found under the code SI 26.8 below.

11...♘xd4 12.♞xd4

After 12.♙xd4 Black can probably safely play 12...e5 13.♙e3 ♙xg4.

12...♘d7

Now 12...e5?! is dubious in view of 13.♞c4 ♙d8 14.g5, e.g. after 14...♘d7 15.♞xc8!? ♙xc8 16.♘d5 ♙d8 17.h4, and Black's position isn't all that great.

13.g5 b5

The alternative is 13...♘c5. I have to refer you to the theory books.

14.♙h5 ♞d8 15.♞g1 ♘c5 16.e5

In order to take the rook quickly to h4. An alternative is 16.♞g3, which could be followed by 16...g6 17.♙h6 ♙f8 18.♙h4 ♙e7!? 19.f4 h5 20.f5 ♞b8, with an unclear position. Thus