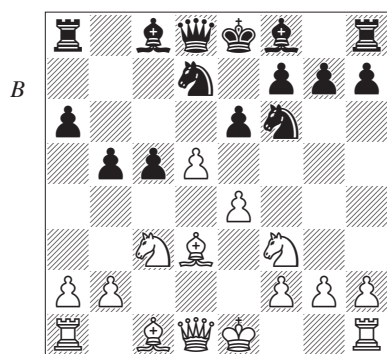


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## 10 The Reynolds Variation (9 e4 c5 10 d5): Deviations from the Main Line

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 e6 5 e3 ♘bd7 6 ♙d3 dxc4 7 ♙xc4 b5 8 ♙d3 a6 9 e4 c5 10 d5 (D)



In this chapter we shall begin our survey of the Reynolds Variation, which is introduced when White meets Black's 9...c5 with 10 d5, by discussing the deviations from the main line 10...c4 11 dxe6 fxe6 12 ♙c2 ♙c7 13 0-0, which is dealt with in the next chapter. There are several possibilities for both sides to deviate. Black can, for example, play 11...cxd3, or he can close the centre with 10...e5. White on the other hand can delay or even sometimes avoid the capture dxe6, by playing 11 ♙c2, though this gives

Black the chance to get a better version of the closed centre lines by playing 11...e5. Black can of course try to reach the main lines by 11...♙c7 but here after, for example, 12 0-0 ♙b7 White can try to increase the pressure with 13 ♘d4. Finally, we shall discuss lines in which Black delays ...c4, or even avoids it altogether.

### Quick Summary

I think White obtains an advantage in Line A (10...e5). The closed centre seems to be to White's advantage due to his space advantage, and this also applies to Line B21, although the insertion of ...c4 and ♙c2 should be to Black's advantage. I would state, though, that the opposite view also can be taken as it gives White a sort of target on the queenside. The most important of the lines examined in this chapter is Line C, where Black delays or sometimes wholly avoids ...c4, and simply continues 10...♙c7. This has certain points as Black's control of the centre is better compared to the main line of the Reynolds. The drawback is that White can attempt to attack Black's queenside with ideas such as b3 followed by a4, but Black has

defended those positions quite well. A final mention has to be made of Line B22 (10...c4 11 ♖c2 ♜c7). This attempts to reach the main lines but White can delay the capture on e6, and, for example, 12 0-0 ♗b7 13 ♘d4 has been tried, although Black's resources do not look bad in this line either.

### The Theory of the Reynolds Variation (10 d5): Deviations from the Main Line

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 e6 5 e3 ♗bd7 6 ♗d3 dxc4 7 ♗xc4 b5 8 ♗d3 a6 9 e4 c5 10 d5

Now:

A: 10...e5 96

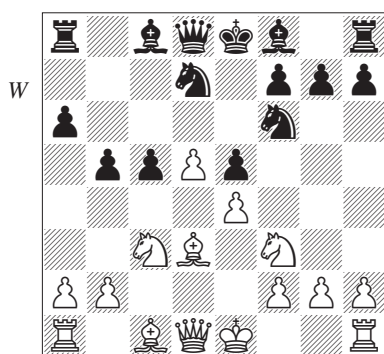
B: 10...c4 97

C: 10...♜c7!? 106

10...exd5?! 11 e5 ♗g4 12 ♗g5 is good for White.

A)

10...e5 (D)



Often White is able to generate pressure on e6 and thus the text-move is a fairly logical solution to this problem, and in the long term Black might even be dreaming of creating a passed pawn on the queenside, which may be feasible due to his three vs two majority. Moreover, White's passed d-pawn can easily be blockaded. However, the protected passed pawn on d5 is also the reason that Black has slightly less space in which to operate. If White keeps Black cramped, then he will have good chances of obtaining an advantage as long as he can also restrain Black's queenside pawns.

11 b3

The key move in White's effort to hold back Black's queenside pawns. Now if Black tries to push his c-pawn it is most likely to end up isolated. 11 0-0 c4 transposes to Line B21.

11...c4!?

Nonetheless, Black seizes the opportunity to grab some space on the queenside before it is too late. Yes, the c-pawn will end up isolated but in return some dark squares become available to his pieces. A few alternatives:

a) 11...♜c7 12 0-0 ♗d6 13 ♜e1 (13 a4?! c4 14 bxc4 b4 gives Black good compensation, according to Marin, due to his firm control of the dark squares and White's extremely bad light-squared bishop) 13...0-0 14 ♗f1 (now White is ready to play a4) 14...c4 15 bxc4 bxc4 16 ♜c2 ♗b6 17 ♗g5 ± Marin-Rogers, Manila IZ 1990.

b) 11...♗d6 12 0-0-0 13 ♜e1! (13 a4 c4 14 bxc4 b4 15 ♗e2 ♗c5 gives Black fairly useful dark-square play,

which has been considered to provide reasonable compensation for the pawn since Boleslavsky-Botvinnik, Voronovo 1952) 13...♖b8 14 ♕f1 ♜e8 15 a4 b4 16 ♗b1 ♗b6 17 ♗bd2 ♜e7 18 ♕b2 ♗e8 19 ♜c1 ± Polugaevsky-Biyiasas, Petropolis IZ 1973.

**12 bxc4 ♕b4 13 ♕d2 bxc4**

13...♞c7 14 0-0 (14 ♞e2!? is possible) 14...bxc4 15 ♕c2 0-0 16 ♗h4 ♗b6 17 ♞f3 ♕c5, Krasenkov-Moroz, Lubniewice 1994, and now 18 a4!? gives White an edge.

**14 ♕c2**

Even 14 ♕xc4 might be possible since 14...♞c7 15 ♞e2 keeps the pawn, because 15...♗b6 can be met by 16 ♕b5+ and 15...0-0 by 16 ♜c1. Hence, 14...♕xc3 is objectively best, but White can keep an edge after 15 ♕xc3 ♗xe4 16 ♞c2 ♗xc3 17 ♞xc3 0-0 18 0-0.

**14...0-0**

14...♞a5 15 ♗e2 ♗xe4 16 ♕xe4 c3 17 ♗xc3 ♕xc3 18 0-0 ♕xd2 19 ♗xd2 0-0 20 ♗c4 ♞b4 21 d6!? was better for White in Berggreen-Pappier, corr. 1986.

**15 0-0 a5 16 a3 ♕d6 17 ♗a4 ♕a6 18 ♕c3 ♞c7 19 ♜e1 ♕b5 20 ♗h4 g6 21 ♞f3 ♞d8 22 ♕d2**

White is better, Lukacs-Acs, Budapest 1997.

**B)**

**10...c4 (D)**

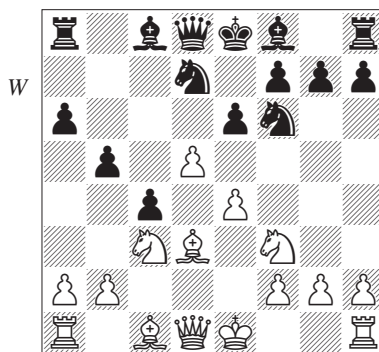
Now:

**B1: 11 dxe6 97**

**B2: 11 ♕c2 101**

**B1)**

**11 dxe6 cxd3!?**



Black avoids the weakness on e6 associated with 11...fxe6 and even gains the bishop-pair. The danger is, of course, that the pawn on d3 becomes weak and quite often is simply lost.

11...♗c5 is a dubious sacrifice. 12 exf7+ ♗e7 13 ♕c2 ♞xd1+ 14 ♗xd1 ♕b7 15 ♕e3! ♗cxe4 16 ♗xe4 ♕xe4 17 ♕xe4 ♗xe4 18 ♕c2 ♗xf7 19 ♜ad1 gave White a strong initiative in Ziegler-Hector, Gothenburg 1997.

11...fxe6 12 ♕c2 ♞c7 13 0-0 is considered in the next chapter but White has also tried the immediate 13 ♗g5 although this should not attract many followers as after 13...♗c5 14 f4 h6 15 e5 hxg5 16 exf6 gxf6 17 ♕g6+ ♗e7 Black was better in Guseinov-Ziatdinov, Tashkent 1985.

**12 exd7+**

The sacrifice 12 exf7+?! ♗xf7 13 e5 is hardly good enough. White retains some pressure but Black develops quickly after 13...♞e7 14 ♕f4 (probably a better try than 14 ♗g5+ ♗e8 15 0-0 ♗xe5 16 ♜e1 h6, which was insufficient in Seirawan-Korchnoi, Barcelona 1989) 14...♗b6 (there