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Foreword for the 2022 Print Edition

In 2016 this book was reissued in the Kindle and Chess Studio electronic formats. This made the book available again to those who hadn't bought a copy before the original edition went out of print, and in the case of the Chess Studio edition, enabled the reader to see the board position at any point in the text.

Naturally, in 2016 I corrected any errors that I was aware of. I also took the opportunity to revise the analysis. The original edition was scrupulously checked with the best software and tools available at the time, but since then computers have become many times faster, and analysis engines have advanced dramatically. So I was curious to see what improvements they could find in Slav theory. I set one of my computers to work, chugging through the PGN file of the book's chess content for about a week, and then scoured its output for meaningful improvements. The outcome was similar to when I performed a similar procedure with my book on the Torre in 2015: a significant number of refinements to the analysis but relatively few real haymaker novelties. Nevertheless, a careful reading of this book will reveal some very significant new points in certain lines.

This 2022 reissue in print form features all the revisions from 2016, and hundreds of extra diagrams compared to the 2001 print edition. There are also many additional analytical revisions, and a number of entirely new passages on some key variations that have been developed extensively in the 21st century.

But I should clarify that this isn't a full-blown 'new updated edition'; it does not feature new game references. In a sense, it is a 'digitally remastered' version of the original book, such as I might have written if modern hardware and software had fallen back through a time-warp to my 2001 self. As you would expect, most of the revisions to the analysis are in the more concrete tactical lines, but there are some surprising little refinements and modified assessments throughout many of the outwardly quieter lines too.

Of course, Slav theory has moved on substantially since 2001. In the main line with 6 ♖e5, the lines in Chapter 9 are nowadays rarely seen, as the theoretical debate seems largely resolved in White's favour, with Line A2 of Chapter 8 taking much of the new traffic, and in particular Morozevich's 11...g5 idea. The various branches of the ...a6 Slav have remained highly topical. The main development from White's side is the rise to main-line status of the 'Slow Slav', i.e. 3 ♖f3 ♖f6 4 e3 (with 4...♗f5 5 ♖c3). It's not a line to make Slav players quake in their boots, and its popularity should be seen as a testament to the Slav's solidity. I provided coverage of this line (from a 'white repertoire' viewpoint) in my 2013 book *A Cunning Chess Opening Repertoire for White*. But for most other lines, the current book should prove a useful reference source, with some of the analytical refinements quite possibly anticipating future developments.

I mentioned that this book features some entirely new passages. These are a somewhat breathless whistlestop tour of the most critical lines in a number of variations that have undergone the most significant development. They focus on the following:

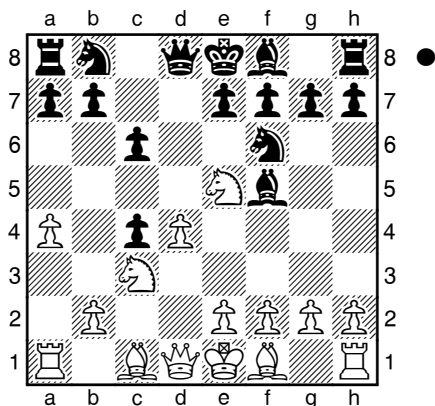
- The 3 ♖f3 dxc4 4 e3 ♗e6 line
- The 3 ♖c3 ♖f6 4 e3 ♗f5 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 ♗b3 ♖c6!?! gambit
- The Slow Slav
- 6 ♗e2 in the Geller Gambit
- Morozevich's 11...g5
- Various ideas after 6...e6 7 f3 c5 in Chapter 8

For more detail and 'colour' you will need to look to other sources, such as your database and engines, but these new sections should mean you are well informed on the current status of the critical lines in each case. Naturally, I have been assisted in all new analysis for this edition by mid-2022 NNUE-based engines.

Graham Burgess
Woodbury, Minnesota, July 2022

8: 6 ♘e5: Deviations from the Main Line

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 1 d4 | d5 |
| 2 c4 | c6 |
| 3 ♘f3 | ♗f6 |
| 4 ♗c3 | ♙xc4 |
| 5 a4 | ♙f5 |
| 6 ♗e5 (D) | |



White prepares to seize space by f3 and e4, and regain the c4-pawn without making any concessions. This is the most critical attempt for an advantage, and should be regarded as the main line of the Slav. Traditionally, 6 ♗e5 has tended to be a little less popular than 6 e3, but this is presumably because many players are not willing to play the most critical lines, and also because Black's problems following the piece sacrifice in the main line (6...e6 7 f3 ♙b4 8 e4 ♙xe4) were underestimated for many years.

In this chapter we consider both sides' alternatives to the sequence 6...e6 7 f3 ♙b4 8 e4. There is quite a lot of older theory on White's alternatives, but the main area of recent investigation has been ideas for Black, such as the sharp 7...c5, while on the previous move the old-fashioned 6...♗bd7 has been infused with new ideas.

We consider these lines as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| A: 6...♗bd7 | 196 |
| B: 6...e6 | 206 |

Or:

- a) 6...♗fd7?! 7 ♗xc4 ♗b6 8 ♗e5 (8 e4! ±) 8...e6 9 f3 (an odd move, given that 9 e4! is

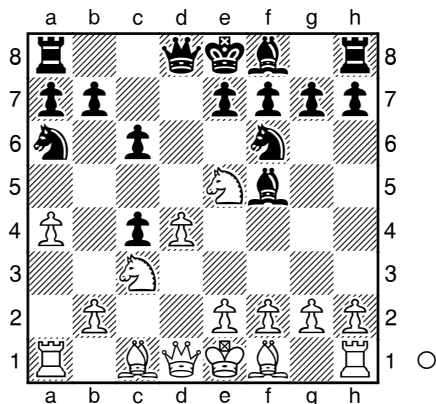
again possible) and then: 9...♗d7 10 e4 ♙g6 11 ♗c4 ♗b6 12 ♖b3 ± Norwood-Velikov, Marseilles 1990; 9...♗8d7 – 6...♗bd7 7 ♗xc4 ♗b6 8 ♗e5 e6?! 9 f3! ♗fd7 ±; 9...f6 looks best.

b) 6...♗d5?! has been abandoned after Beliavsky published a piece of analysis claiming it lost by force. 7 e4!? (7 ♗xc4 ♗d7 – 6...♗bd7 7 ♗xc4 ♗d5?!) 7...♗xc3 (Lobron-Beliavsky, Munich 1994) 8 ♙xc4 e6 9 bxc3 ♙xe4 10 ♖b3 (10 ♖e2! ♙d5 11 ♙d3! may prove a more convincing refutation attempt) and now:

b1) 10...♗d7 11 ♗xf7 ♗xf7 12 ♙xe6+ ♗f6 13 h4 (White could make a 'real' sacrifice of it with 13 0-0!?) 13...h6 14 ♙g5+ hxg5 15 hxg5+ '+–' was Beliavsky's line, but even this may not be so clear after 15...♗xg5 16 ♖xh8 ♖e7.

b2) The obvious 10...♖c8 denies White any clear-cut way to smash through, though 11 0-0 gives White promising compensation.

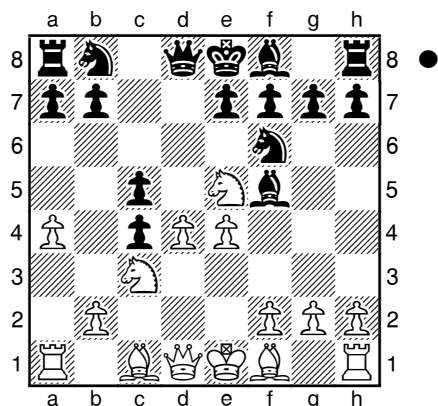
c) 6...♗a6 (D) and now:



c1) 7 f3 (this is ineffective) 7...♗d7 8 ♗xd7 (8 ♗xc4?! e5! gives Black excellent play; e.g., 9 e4 exd4 10 ♗e2 ♙b4+ 11 ♗f2 ♙g6 12 ♗xd4 ♖f6 with the better chances for Black, Illescas-Gretarsson, Groningen FIDE Knockout 1997) 8...♙xd7 9 e4 e5 10 ♙xc4 exd4 11 ♖xd4 ♗b4 12 ♖e5+ ♙e6 (12...♖e7 13 ♖xe7+ ♙xe7 = Hübner) 13 0-0 ♖f6 14 ♖xf6 gxf6 = Ivanisević-Miles, Szeged Maroczy Memorial 1997.

c2) 7 e3 ♗b4 (7...e6 8 ♙xc4 ♗b4 – 6 e3 ♗a6 7 ♙xc4 ♗b4 8 ♗e5 e6 ±) 8 ♙xc4 – 6 e3 ♗a6 7 ♙xc4 ♗b4 8 ♗e5 ±.

d) **6...c5? 7 e4!** (D) (7 d5 – 5...c5?! 6 d5!
 ♖f5 7 ♗e5) and here:



d1) **7...♗xe4?** 8 ♖xc4 e6 9 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 10
 ♖f3 +- Garcia Ilundain-Niehaus, Groningen
 1991.

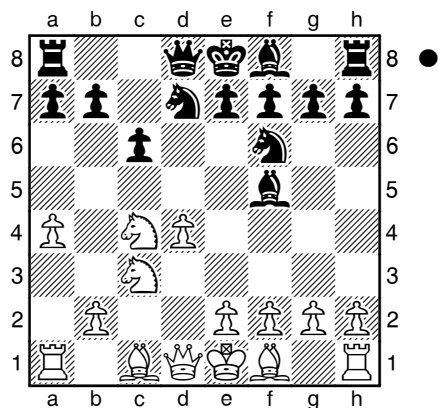
d2) **7...♗g6?** looks like mute surrender, but
 White has two pawns attacked. **8 d5!** is strong;
 e.g., 8...♗xe4 9 ♖xc4 ♗xg2 10 ♖g1 ♗h3 11
 ♖f3 ♖c8 12 ♖f4 with an overwhelming position.
 Black won't get out of the opening alive.

d3) **7...♗xc4?!** 8 ♖f3 (8 ♖xc4? ♗d6 9 dxc5
 ♗xc4 10 ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 11 ♗xf7+?! is much
 less clear) 8...e6 (8...cxd4 9 ♖xf5 ♗d6 10
 ♖xc4! e6 11 ♖b5+ ♗e7 12 ♗g6+ hxg6 13
 ♗d5+ exd5 14 ♖e5# (1-0) Nadel-Margulis,
 Berlin 1932) 9 g4 ♖xd4 (or 9...cxd4 10 ♗xe4)
 10 gxf5 ♗xc3 11 ♗xf7 +-.

d4) **7...♖xd4** 8 ♖xd4 cxd4 9 exf5 (9 ♗b5 is
 also good) 9...dxc3 10 ♖xc4 is horrid for Black.

A)

6 ... ♗bd7
 7 ♗xc4 (D)



Now:

A1: **7...♗b6** 197

A2: **7...♖c7** 199

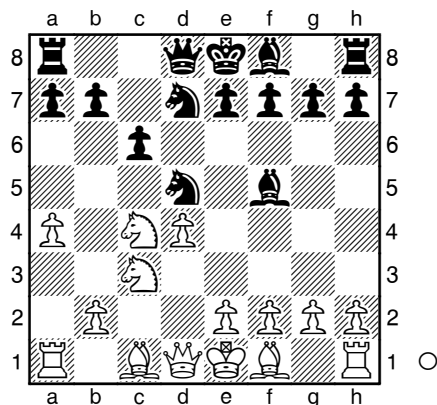
The former is a little passive but very solid;
 the latter is a traditional line where Morozevich
 has introduced a flurry of new ideas.

Alternatively:

a) **7...e6?!** 8 f3 ♖b4 – 6...e6 7 f3 ♖b4 8
 ♗xc4 ♗bd7?! ±.

b) **7...♗d5?!** was the subject of some ex-
 perimentation by Misailović (via the move-
 order 6...♗d5?! 7 ♗xc4 ♗d7) in the mid-1990s,
 but remained in complete obscurity until it was
 used by Morozevich in a game he won against
 Kramnik – the latter's first loss as World Cham-
 pion. Although that victory was by no means
 convincing, the idea is certainly interesting.

Now:



b1) **8 ♖b3?!** is a common response in the
 Queen's Gambit to lines where Black ends up
 with a knight on d5 and a bishop on f5, as
 White often genuinely threatens e4, and ...♗xc3
 can be met by exf5 in some cases. However,
 8...♗xc3 9 bxc3 ♖c7 10 f3 (10 g3 e5 11 dxe5
 doesn't work since Black has various effective
 replies, including the simple 11...♖e6) 10...e5
 11 e4 ♖e6 doesn't look bad for Black.

b2) **8 g3?! e5!** and then:

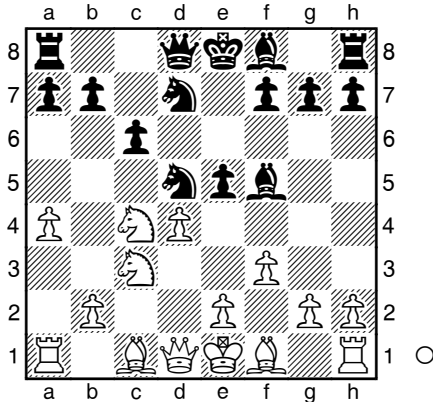
b21) **9 dxe5** ♗c5! 10 ♗xd5 cxd5 11 ♗d2
 ♖c8 12 ♖g2 ♗e6! gives Black full compensa-
 tion for the pawn.

b22) **9 ♖g2** and now:

b221) **9...exd4** 10 ♖xd4 (10 ♗xd5?! cxd5
 11 ♖xd5 ♗c5 is unsatisfactory for White)
 10...♖f6 = Shipov.

b222) 9...♖xc3 10 bxc3 exd4 11 ♖xd4 ♖c5 12 ♖e3+ ♖e6 13 a5 ♖c2 14 ♖a3 ♖xa3 15 ♖xa3 (the opening has turned out well for White) 15...♖b3 16 a6 ♖d5 17 axb7 ♖b8 18 f3 c5 (Kramnik-Morozevich, Wijk aan Zee 2001) and now Shipov recommends 19 ♖h3! as good for White.

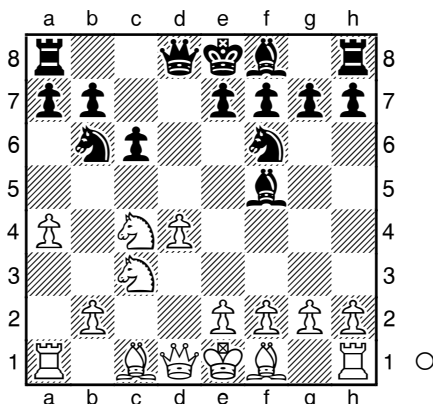
b3) 8 f3! e5 (D) is Black's principal idea.



Then 9 ♖xd5? cxd5 10 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 11 dxe5 ♖c8?! (11...♖c5!) 12 e3? ♖b4+ 13 ♖d2 0-0 14 a5?! ♖c2! 15 ♖c3 ♖xb2 16 ♖d4 ♖e7 17 ♖d1? ♖h4+! 18 ♖xh4 ♖xc3+ 19 ♖d2 ♖xd2 0-1 was the rather drastic finish of Jovanovski-Misailović, Yugoslav Team Ch, Niš 1994. However, 9 e4! ♖xc3 10 bxc3 ♖e6 11 d5! cxd5 12 exd5 ♖f5 13 ♖e3! ♖g6 14 d6! offers White a very significant advantage.

A1)

7... ♖b6 (D)



This was described by Ian Rogers as "A somewhat passive line, suitable only for a player wishing to grovel for a draw." I think that

is a little harsh, given that the move's current theoretical status isn't too bad at all. However, there is no denying this idea's draw-seeking nature.

8 ♖e5

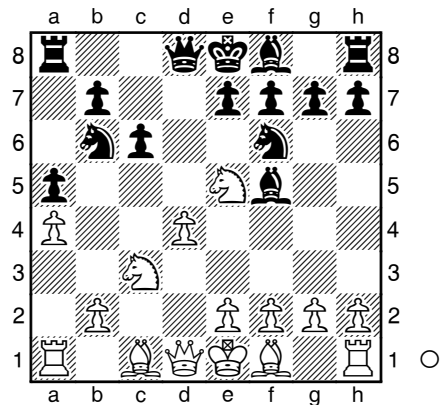
8 e3 e6 9 a5 ♖xc4 10 ♖xc4 ♖d6 11 ♖e2 (11 a6 b5 12 ♖e2 is mentioned by Tukmakov; 11 f3!?) 11...♖c7 (11...e5!? Tukmakov) 12 h3 0-0 13 0-0 e5 = F.Portisch-Weinzettl, Vienna 1986.

8... e6?!

This was once regarded as a very solid line, but it doesn't look so impressive any more. There is one important alternative:

a) 8...♖bd7? (this has occurred in a few presumably prearranged draws, but don't be fooled by the statistics – it is basically just a pawn blunder) 9 ♖b3 ± Kasparov-Timman, Riga Tal Memorial 1995.

b) 8...a5!? (D) and now:



b1) 9 f3 ♖fd7 (9...e6?! – 8...e6?! 9 f3 a5 ±) 10 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 11 e4 ♖g6 and then:

b11) 12 h4 h5 13 f4 e6 14 ♖f3 (14 ♖c4 ♖f6 15 f5? exf5 16 e5 ♖g4 17 ♖f4 ♖b4 led to a quick victory for Black in V.Mikhalevski-I.Sokolov, Vlissingen 2000) 14...♖f6 15 f5 (Sokolov also mentions 15 ♖e3 with ideas of 0-0-0 or f5) 15...exf5 16 exf5 ♖h7 ∞ Sokolov.

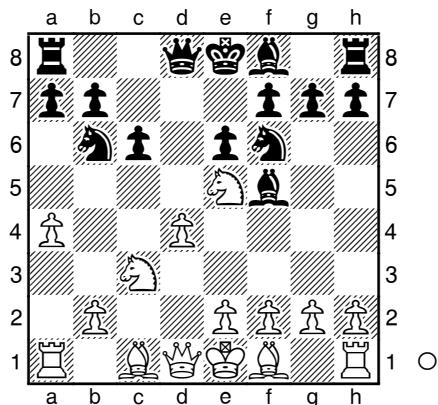
b12) 12 d5 e5! 13 dxe6 fxe6 14 ♖e3 ♖c5 15 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 16 ♖c4 ♖xd1+ 17 ♖xd1 ♖e7!, intending ...♖hd8, ...♖e8, ...♖ab8 and ...b5, gave Black counterplay in Rogozenko-Kuporosov, Gelsenkirchen 1996.

b13) 12 ♖e3 e6 13 ♖c4 (13 ♖e2 ♖b4 14 0-0 0-0 15 ♖b3 ♖c7 16 ♖ac1 ♖fe8 17 ♖c4 ♖ac8 18 ♖e2 ♖d6 is reasonably OK for Black, Adianto-Short, Jakarta (2) 1996) 13...♖b4 14

0-0 0-0 15 ♖b3 ♗c7 16 ♜ac1 ♞ad8 17 ♚h1 ♚h8 and now 18 f4?! (18 ♜fd1! ± Rogozenko) 18...♙xc3 19 f5 exf5 20 bxc3 fxe4 led to unclear complications in Rogozenko-Kuporosov, Münster 1995.

b2) 9 g3 e6 10 ♙g2 ♙b4 11 0-0 0-0 12 e3 h6 13 ♗e2 ♙h7 14 ♞d1 ± Kramnik-Short, Novgorod 1994.

We now return to 8...e6?! (D):



9 f3!

Or:

a) 9 e3 is unambitious: 9...♙b4 10 ♙d2 ♚fd7 11 ♚d3 ♙e7 12 e4 ♙g6 = Razuvaev-Chernin, USSR Ch, Riga 1985.

b) 9 ♙g5 ♙b4!? (9...♙e7 10 e3 h6 11 ♙h4 0-0 12 ♙d3 ± Ki.Georgiev-Ninov, Stara Zagora Zonal 1990) 10 ♞c1?! h6! (10...♚xa4?, Cebalope.Schmidt, Bled 1995, 11 ♗xa4 ♗xd4 12 ♗b3 and Black doesn't get enough for his piece) and here:

b1) 11 ♙h4?! and now 11...♚xa4 does work since the bishop is loose on h4, while 11...g5 12 ♙g3 ♚e4 is also good.

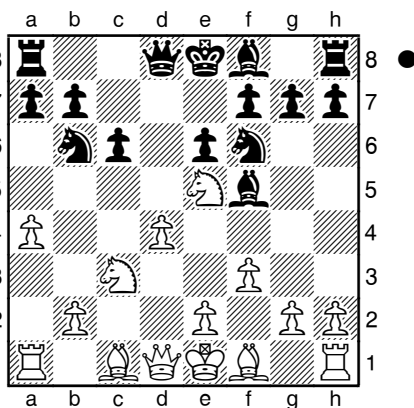
b2) 11 ♙xf6 gxf6 12 ♚f3 ♗d5, with ideas of ...♗a2, is pleasant for Black.

c) 9 a5 has been recommended more than once, but has very rarely been played:

c1) 9...♚bd5?! 10 a6?! (10 f3!) 10...♚b4 is the only reason I can see why White might have been avoiding this line, although even then 11 axb7 ♞b8 12 e4 ♙xe4 13 ♚xe4 ♚xe4 14 ♞xa7 doesn't look too bad for him.

c2) 9...♚bd7 10 a6 ♗c7 (Black should try 10...b5!?, 10...bxa6 11 ♚xc6 ♗b6 12 e4 ± Shashin) 11 ♙f4 looks good for White.

We now return to 9 f3! (D):



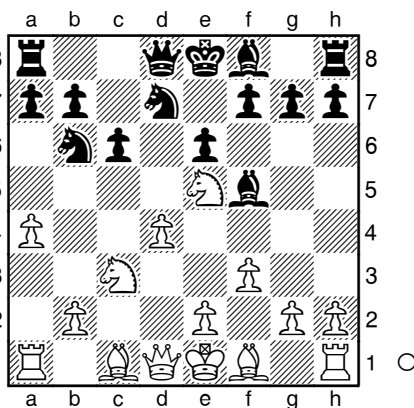
9... ♚fd7

Other moves make White's task easier:

a) 9...♙b4? 10 e4! ♙xe4 (10...♙g6 11 a5! ♚bd7 12 ♗a4 ±) 11 fxe4 ♚xe4 12 ♗d3 ♚d5 (12...♗h4+ 13 g3 ♚xg3 14 ♗xg3 ♗e4+ 15 ♚d2 +) 13 ♙d2 ♚xd2 14 ♗xd2 0-0 (Chabanon-Kirov, France-Bulgaria (Sofia) 1990) 15 ♙c4 +.

b) 9...a5?! allows White good prospects: 10 e4! (10 g4? is best met by 10...♚fd7!) 10...♙g6 11 ♙e3 ♙b4 12 ♙e2 (12 ♗b3 and 12 h4! are good alternatives) 12...♚fd7 (12...0-0 13 0-0 ♚fd7 14 ♚xg6 hxg6 15 ♚h1 ♗e7 16 ♙g1? {16 ♚a2 ±} 16...♞fd8? {16...e5!} 17 ♗b3 c5 18 ♚a2 gave White a substantial advantage in Ružele-Thorstens, Lyons European Clubs Cup 1994) 13 ♚d3 (better than 13 ♚xd7 ♚xd7 – 8...a5 9 f3 ♚fd7 10 ♚xd7 ♗xd7 11 e4 ♙g6 12 ♙e3 e6 13 ♙e2 ♙b4) 13...0-0 (13...f5 14 0-0 ♗e7 15 ♗b3 ± Van der Sterren-Böhm, Wijk aan Zee 1985) 14 0-0 ♚c4 15 ♙c1?! (15 ♙f2 ±) 15...♚cb6?! (15...♚db6 =) 16 ♗b3 ± V.Mikhalevski-S.Ernst, Vlissingen 1998.

We now return to 9...♚fd7 (D):



10 a5!

10 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 11 e4 ♖g6 12 a5 (12 ♖e3 ♖b4 13 ♖b3 ± Vokač-Meduna, Czech Team Ch 1996/7) 12...♖d6 (12...♖b4 13 ♖b3 ♖xa5 14 ♖xb7 gives Black more problems, Haba-Meduna, Czech Ch, Lazne Bohdanec 1999) 13 ♖e3 0-0 14 ♖e2 ♖c7 15 e5?! ♖b4 16 ♖a4 c5 17 f4?! a6 18 0-0 b5 gave Black counterplay in Haba-Meduna, Czech Extraliga 1999/00.

Now (after 10 a5!):

a) **10...♖d5** 11 e4 ♖xe5 12 dxe5 ♖xc3 13 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 14 bxc3 ♖g6 15 ♖e3 and Black will come under enormous pressure.

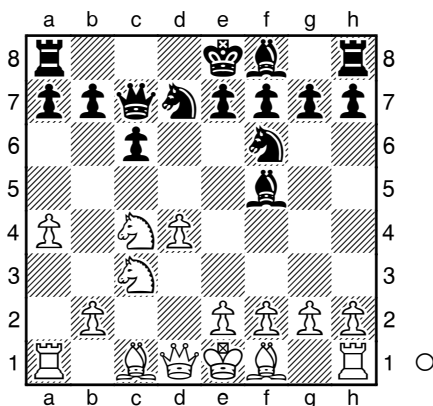
b) **10...♖xe5** 11 axb6 ♖d7 12 e4 ♖g6 and then:

b1) **13 bxa7** ♖b6 14 ♖e2 ♖xa7 15 ♖xa7 ♖xa7 16 ♖e3 e5 (16...♖d6 17 0-0 0-0 18 f4 f6 19 ♖c4 ♖f7 ± Kramnik-Chernin, New York rapidplay 1995) 17 0-0 exd4 18 ♖xd4 ♖xd4+ 19 ♖xd4 ♖c5 20 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 21 b4 ♖d7 22 f4 f6 23 ♖a1 ♖e7 24 ♖f2 ♖d6 25 h4 ♖f7 26 ♖e3 ♖b6 = Piket-Kobaliya, Elista Olympiad 1998.

b2) **13 ♖xa7!** ♖xb6 14 ♖xb7! ♖a1 (Lutz-Meduna, Porz 1988) looks risky for White, but after 15 ♖d3!? Black has nothing for the pawn (15...♖xd4? 16 ♖b5! +-).

A2)

7 ... ♖c7 (D)



This venerable move prepares the freeing ...e5 advance.

8 g3

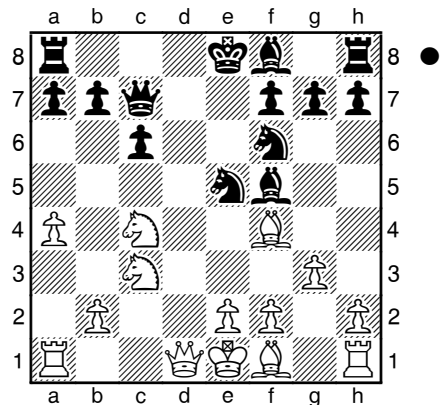
White reacts to the changed circumstances, and abandons the idea of forcing through e4 in favour of quick development and positional pressure. Other moves are less effective:

a) **8 f3** e5 9 e4 exd4 is at least OK for Black.

b) **8 ♖d2** is a very unnatural move, whose sole point appears to be that **8...e5?** 9 dxe5 ♖xe5? loses to 10 ♖f4. Tukmakov recommends **8...g6**, while **8...e6** has done well in practice; e.g., 9 f3 (9 ♖f4 =) 9...♖b4 10 e4 ♖g6 11 ♖f4 e5 12 dxe5 ♖h5 13 ♖h4 ♖xe5 14 ♖d2 ♖xc4 15 ♖xc4 0-0 ♖ 16 0-0?? ♖b6+! → Gofshstein-Gausel, Hoogeveen 1998.

c) **8 ♖g5** e5 (8...♖e4 9 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 10 f3 ♖d5 11 e4 ♖xc4 12 ♖xc4 ± Azmaiparashvili-Finegold, Amsterdam 1989; 8...♖d8 9 ♖b3 ♖e4 {9...e5!?!} is Shashin's recommendation) 9 ♖xf6 (the natural 9 e3 is surely best) 9...gxf6 10 e3 ♖g8 11 ♖d3 ♖xd3 12 ♖xd3 ♖xg2 13 ♖xh7 0-0-0 is absolutely OK for Black, Timman-Bouwmeester, Busum 1982.

8 ... e5
9 dxe5 ♖xe5
10 ♖f4 (D)



This is one of the traditional main-line positions of the Slav, which was quite unpopular until recently.

10 ... ♖fd7

A more old-fashioned main line is **10...♖d8** 11 ♖c1 ♖d6 (11...♖fd7? loses material: 12 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 13 ♖f4 ♖d6 14 ♖xf5 ♖xc4 15 ♖e4+ ♖e5 16 f4 ±) 12 ♖xd6+ ♖xd6 13 ♖g2, when White's bishop-pair should count for something:

a) **13...♖e6** 14 0-0 ♖c4 15 a5 ♖h3 16 b3 ♖xg2 17 ♖xg2 ♖d6 18 ♖e3 ♖de4 19 ♖xe4 ♖xe4+ 20 ♖xe4+ ♖xe4 21 ♖e3 a6 22 ♖fd1 ± Gulko-Torre, Biel 1988.

b) **13...♖e7** 14 0-0 a5 15 h3 0-0 16 g4 ♖c8 17 ♖e3 ± Haba-Trichkov, Lazne Bohdanec 1994.

c) **13...0-0** and then:

c1) **14 0-0** ♖fd7 (14...a5 – 13...a5 14 0-0 0-0 ±) 15 a5 (15 ♖e3 a5 – 13...a5 14 0-0 0-0 15 ♖e3 ♖fd7 ±) 15...a6 16 ♖a4 ♖b4 17 ♖d2 (17 ♖c3!?) 17...♖b3 18 ♖c3 ♖e6 19 ♖e3 f6 20 ♖fd1 ♖fe8 21 ♖d4 ♖f7 22 ♖f4 ± P.Cramling-Campora, Biel 1990.

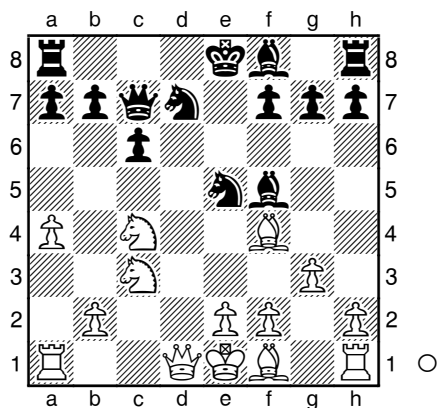
c2) **14 a5** ♖e6 (14...a6 15 0-0 ♖e7 16 b3 ♖d5 17 ♖xd5 cxd5 18 ♖e3 ± Vaiser-G.Agzamov, Sochi 1984) 15 0-0 a6 16 ♖d1 ± Tukmakov-G.Agzamov, USSR Ch, Moscow 1983; 16 ♖a4 and 16 ♖a4 also promise White some advantage.

d) **13...a5 14 0-0 0-0** and now:

d1) **15 ♖d1** ♖e6 16 ♖e3 ♖e4 17 f3 ♖d5 18 ♖c3 ♖fe8 19 ♖fd1 ♖g6 (19...h6, Stohl-Zurek, Olomouc 1998, 20 ♖xd5 cxd5 21 ♖xa5 favours White according to Stohl) 20 ♖g5 ♖d6 (Hübner) looks OK for Black.

d2) **15 ♖e3** ♖fd7 (15...♖fg4 16 ♖b6 ♖b4 17 ♖xb4 axb4 18 ♖a2 ♖g6 19 ♖c1 b3 {19...♖fe8!?) 20 ♖c3 ♖c2 21 a5 ± Browne-Miles, Surakarta/Denpasar 1982) 16 ♖ad1 (16 ♖fd1 is also good) 16...♖e6 17 ♖a7 ♖c2 18 ♖d2 ♖b3 19 ♖c1 ♖f5 20 ♖e4 ± H.Grünberg-Meduna, Sochi 1983.

We now return to 10...♖fd7 (D):



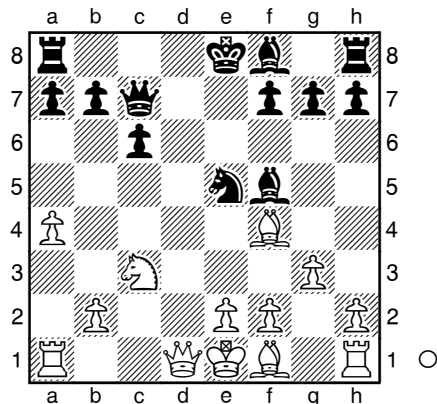
11 ♖g2

Alternatively:

a) **11 ♖d4?! f6** 12 ♖d1 ♖c5 13 ♖xe5 (13 ♖d6+ ♖f8 14 ♖d2, Sandler-Gromov, USSR 1987, 14...♖d3+ 15 exd3 ♖xd6 was given as ♠ by Engqvist, but 16 ♖xd6+ ♖xd6 17 ♖g2 isn't so bad for White) 13...fxe5 14 ♖d6+ ♖xd6 15 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 16 ♖xd6 ♖e7 ♠ Van Laatum-Gormally, Hastings Challengers 1998/9.

b) **11 a5** f6 (11...a6 is also possible, but represents a slight concession) 12 ♖c1 (12 ♖g2 – 11 ♖g2 f6 12 a5 =) 12...♖e6 13 ♖xe5 fxe5 14 ♖e3 a6 15 ♖c2 ♖b4 16 ♖a4 ♖d6 17 ♖g2 ♖c5 18 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 19 0-0 ♖xc3 20 bxc3 0-0 21 ♖b4 ♖xb4 22 cxb4 ♖c4 23 ♖ac1 ½-½ Ehlvest-Torre, Istanbul Olympiad 2000.

c) **11 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 (D)** and here:



c1) **12 a5** (intending a6) and then:

c11) **12...f6?! 13 a6** gives White some advantage, Beliavsky-Haba, Koszalin 1998.

c12) **12...a6** 13 ♖g2 ♖d8 14 ♖b3 (14 ♖c1 – 12...♖d8 13 ♖c1 a6 14 ♖g2 =) 14...♖d6 15 0-0 ∞ Haba.

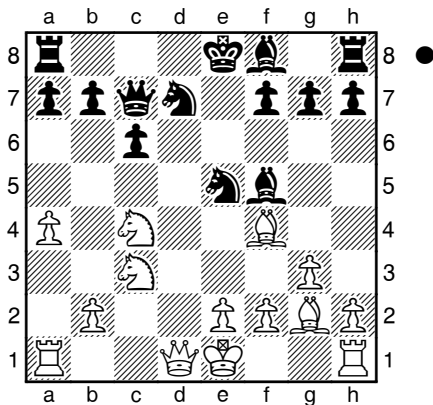
c13) **12...♖d8** 13 ♖c1 (13 ♖b3 ♖e6 14 ♖xe5?! ♖xe5 15 ♖xb7 ♖d5 works well for Black) 13...a6 (13...♖e7!?) 14 ♖g2 (14 ♖e3 f6 15 ♖g2 ♖b4 exploits the vulnerable a5-pawn) 14...♖b4 15 0-0 ♖xa5 16 e4 ♖c8 17 ♖d5 cxd5 18 ♖xa5 ♖xa5 19 ♖xe5 0-0 20 ♖xg7 ♖xg7 21 ♖g5+, with a draw, is a line analysed by V.Ivanov.

c14) **12...♖e7** (with some direct threats!) 13 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 14 ♖c1 (Atalik gave very detailed analysis of alternatives in *Informator*; here are some sample lines: 14 ♖g2 is met by 14...♖b4 15 ♖b3 ♖xa5 16 0-0 ♖c8!; 14 ♖b3 ♖e4 is an annoying prod, when 15 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 16 f3 ♖b4+ can't be bad for Black; 14 a6 ♖e4 15 f4 ♖e6 16 axb7 ♖b8 17 ♖h3! ♖xh3 18 ♖d4! ♖e6 19 ♖xe4 ♖xb7 and now there are a great many possibilities, but Black seems to be OK – 20 ♖g5 ♖d6 21 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 22 0-0-0 ♖e7 23 ♖e4 0-0 = is one line given by Atalik) 14...♖b4 15 a6 bxa6 16 ♖g2 0-0 is at least OK for Black, Beliavsky-Atalik, Yugoslavia 1998.

c2) **12 ♖g2 a5** (12...♙d8 is also good; 12...♙a5?! 13 ♗b3 0-0-0 {13...♖b4!?!} 14 0-0 ♖e6 15 ♗c2 ♖g6 16 ♖e3 gave White good attacking prospects in Rogozenko-Morozevich, Kishinev 1998) 13 0-0 ♖b4 14 e4 ♖g6 15 ♖c1 ♙d8 16 ♖d5 ♗b8 17 ♖xe5 ♗xe5 18 f4 ♗b8 19 ♗e2 (Se.Ivanov-Skachkov, St Petersburg 1998) 19...cxd5 20 exd5+ ♖f8 21 f5 ♗d6 22 fxg6 hxg6 was given as equal by Se.Ivanov.

c3) **12 ♗d4 f6 13 ♖g2** (13 a5?! has traditionally been considered a little better for White, but Morozevich has demonstrated it is White's queenside that is in danger: 13...a6 14 ♖g2 ♙d8! 15 ♗a4 ♖c5 16 0-0 ♙d4 17 ♗a2 ♗c7 18 ♙ac1 ♗b4 19 b3 ♖e6 20 ♖e4 ♖a7 ♞ Iskusnykh-Morozevich, Russian Ch, St Petersburg 1998) and now Stohl gives the untested 13...a5 as fully satisfactory for Black.

We now return to 11 ♖g2 (D):



11 ... f6

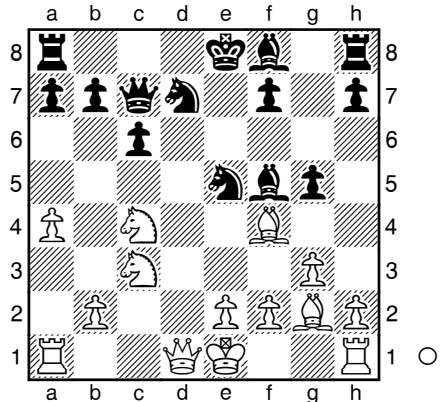
Or:

a) **11...♖e6 12 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 13 0-0** (13 ♗d4 f6 14 a5 a6 15 ♖e4 ♙d8 16 ♗c3 ♖d5 17 0-0 ± Browne-Unzicker, Wijk aan Zee 1981) 13...f6 (13...♖e7?! 14 ♗c2, with ideas of ♖b5 or ♖d5, gave White a serious advantage in Alekhine-Euwe, Amsterdam World Ch (1) 1935) 14 ♗c2 ♖d6 15 ♖e4 0-0 16 ♙ad1 ♙ad8 17 ♗c3 ♖e7 18 ♖g5 ♙xd1 19 ♙xd1 (19 ♖xe6!?) 19...fxg5 20 ♖xe5 ♗b6 21 e3 ± P.H.Nielsen-L.B.Hansen, Danish League 1995/6.

b) **11...♙d8 12 ♗c1 f6 13 0-0 ♖e6** and now: **14 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 15 ♖e4** (15 a5?! a6 16 ♖e4 ♖b4 gives Black a nice target in the form of the a5-pawn, Alekhine-Euwe, Ermelo World Ch (21) 1935) 15...♗a5 16 ♖d2 ♖b4 =

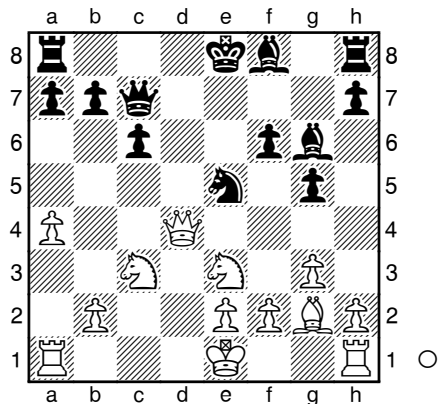
Levenfish-Flohr, Moscow 1936; **14 ♖e4 ♖e7 15 a5 a6 16 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 17 ♖c5** ± Taimanov-Ignatiev, USSR 1971.

c) **11...g5 (D)** was an idea introduced by Morozevich against Kasparov.



At the time the first edition of this book was published, this radical idea of the ever-creative Morozevich was very new, and it wasn't clear if it would stand the test of time. It since then went on to become basically the main line of the whole 4...dxc4 Slav, with an extensive body of elaborate theory. There follows a brief summary of the critical lines:

c1) **12 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 13 ♗d4 f6 14 ♖e3** (14 0-0-0 ♖e6 {this seems the most accurate} 15 f4 gxf4 16 gxf4 ♙d8! 17 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 18 ♙xd8+ ♖xd8 19 fxg5 ♖xc4 20 exf6 ♖c7 and the ending should not offer White any real winning chances) **14...♖g6 (D)** and now:



c11) **15 0-0-0 ♗a5!?** (preparing both ...♖c5 and ...♙d8; 15...♖e7 16 ♖e4!) and now:

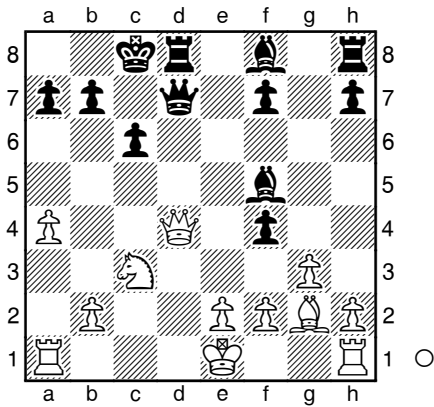
c111) **16 ♖e4 ♙d8 17 ♗xd8+ (17 ♖xf6+ ♖f7 18 ♗xd8 ♗c5+ with perpetual check)**

17...♖xd8 18 ♜xd8+ ♕xd8 19 ♘xf6 ♙g7 20 ♘e4 g4 with compensation for the pawn.

c112) 16 ♘g4 ♙e7 (16...♜d8 is viable here too) 17 ♘xe5 (17 ♙e4 ♜d8) 17...♖xe5 18 ♖xe5 fxe5 19 ♙e4 ♜d8 and Black's pawns will look odd, but his pieces work well.

c12) 15 a5 a6 16 0-0 (16 ♘e4 ♜d8! 17 ♖c3 ♖e7 is OK for Black, who plans ...f5) 16...♗d6 17 ♖a4 ♖b4 and Black has little to fear.

c2) 12 ♘xe5 gxf4 13 ♘d7 0-0-0? 14 ♗d4 ♖xd7 (D) and now:



c21) 15 ♖xh8 offers White nothing: 15...♗d2+ 16 ♖f1 ♖xb2 17 ♜e1 ♙b4 18 ♖f6 ♖c2 19 ♘e4 ♙xe4 20 ♖xf4 (20 ♙h3+?! ♖c7 21 ♖xf4+ ♖b6!) 20...♙xg2+ 21 ♖xg2 ♙xe1 22 ♜xe1 ♗d2 with a sharp but equal major-piece ending.

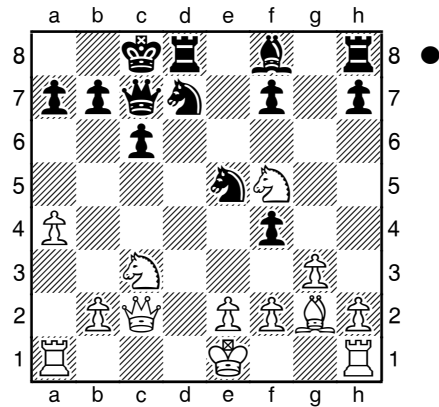
c22) 15 ♖xf4 ♙d6 with play for the pawn; e.g.:

c221) 16 ♖c1 ♖b8 17 0-0 a5 18 ♘e4 (18 ♜d1 ♖e6) 18...♙xe4 19 ♙xe4 f5 followed by ...f4; the opposite bishops will help with Black's attack and reduce White's winning chances if he does somehow liquidate.

c222) 16 ♖h6 ♖b8 17 ♜d1 (17 0-0 ♖e6! 18 ♖xe6 ♙xe6 and Black is fully OK despite being a pawn down) 17...♖e6! 18 ♖xe6 (18 ♖c1 ♙c7 19 0-0 ♖b3) 18...♙xe6 and with the bishop-pair and White's vulnerable queenside pawns, Black has little to fear.

c3) 12 ♘e3 is generally viewed as the most testing reply, though both captures on e5 have their points, as we have seen. 12...gxf4 13 ♘xf5 0-0-0 (13...fxg3 14 hxg3 0-0-0 15 ♖c2 ♖b8 16 0-0-0 is more difficult for Black) and now:

c31) 14 ♖c2 (D) and then:



c311) 14...♘c5 15 0-0 ± Kasparov.

c312) 14...♘g4?! was played in the stem game: 15 a5 fxg3 (15...♙c5 16 0-0 ♘df6 17 a6 ♘xf2 18 axb7+ ♖b8 19 ♘a4 ♘h3++ 20 ♖h1 ♘f2+ 21 ♜xf2 ♙xf2 22 ♘c5 ♖b6 23 ♘d3 gives White an attack – Kasparov) 16 hxg3 a6 17 ♜a4 ♘df6 18 ♘e4 ♘d5 (18...♘xe4? 19 ♙xe4 h5 20 ♖f1 ♖b8 21 ♖g2 ♙e7 22 ♘e7! ♖xe7 23 ♙f3 ± Kasparov-Morozevich, Wijk aan Zee 2000) 19 ♘c5 h5 20 0-0 ± Kasparov.

c313) 14...♖b8 is the modern preference. 15 gxf4 (15 0-0-0 ♘g6 is fully OK for Black) 15...♘c4 16 e3 ♘c5 17 ♜d1 ♜xd1+ 18 ♘xd1 ♖a5+ 19 ♘c3 (19 ♖e2? ♖a6!) 19...♖b6 20 ♘e4 (20 0-0 ♖xb2 is equal) 20...♖b4+ 21 ♖e2 ♖xb2 22 ♖xb2 ♘xb2 and Black is OK after 23 ♘xc5 (23 a5 ♘ba4) 23...♙xc5 24 a5 ♘a4 25 ♜a1 ♘c3+ 26 ♖f3 (26 ♘d3 ♘b5 27 ♖c4 ♙a3) 26...♖c7.

c32) 14 0-0 fxg3 15 hxg3 ♖b8 (D) (15...h5 16 ♜c1 ♖b8 17 ♘d5 ♖a5 18 b4 ♙xb4 19 ♘xb4 ♖xb4 20 ♜b1 ♖c5 21 ♖c1 offers White good play for the pawn) and now:

