

## 13. KRAMNIK SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2ND EDITION

Vladimir Kramnik's ascent to the world title did not involve radical new approaches to the openings. Instead, Kramnik represents a return to the classical style of Capablanca, introducing small refinements rather than radical new ideas. He has, however, developed a new approach to openings in match play. We look at three significant contributions.

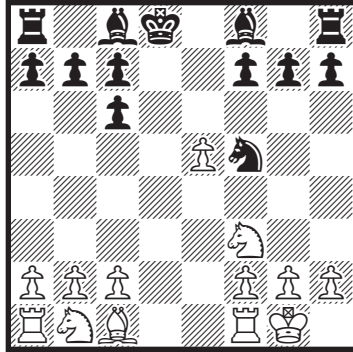
His faith in the **Rio de Janeiro Variation** in the Spanish Game, his main weapon in his title match against Kasparov, turned out to be justified. Although the line had a reputation for being a bit dubious, hard work in the chess laboratory determined that it is playable. White certainly *seems* to stand better, but Kramnik showed that it is very, very hard to defeat.

The classical Queen Gambit lines find Kramnik very much at home. He has found a number of subtle move order tricks that have caused problems for his opponents. We take a look at one example in the **Queen's Gambit Accepted**.

Finally, we see Kramnik taking the classical approach when faced by the hypermodern King's Indian Defense. After solid development, he launches the sharp **Bayonet Attack** on the queenside, having complete confidence in his ability to withstand the inevitable kingside attack characteristic of Black's opening.

## WORLD CHAMPION OPENINGS

### SPANISH GAME: RIO DE JANEIRO VARIATION



- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1.e4    | e5   |
| 2.Nf3   | Nc6  |
| 3.Bb5   | Nf6  |
| 4.O-O   | Nxe4 |
| 5.d4    | Nd6  |
| 6.Bxc6  | dx6  |
| 7.dxe5  | Nf5  |
| 8.Qxd8+ | Kxd8 |

This is the main line of the Rio de Janeiro Variation. It seems the position is very good for White since the kingside pawn majority, king safety and development all favor White. Black's bishop pair is of some use, but the king seems a bit vulnerable in the center. The king can move to the queenside, or even back to e8. It is by no means clear which of these is the superior strategy.

Hundreds of games have been played from this position, but we'll just look at the critical lines seen in the Kasparov-Kramnik games. I've chosen the third game of the match to represent the Kramnik Variation. This game showed the typical game flow, with Black suffering an uncomfortable position but with resolute and accurate defense bringing about a draw.

#### (103) KASPAROV - KRAMNIK

##### World Championship Match, London 2000

1.e4 e5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 Nf6; 4.O-O Nxe4; 5.d4 Nd6; 6.Bxc6 dxc6; 7.dxe5 Nf5; 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8; 9.Nc3.

9.Bg5+ develops the bishop with check, but it doesn't really accomplish much. 9...Ke8; 10.Nc3 (10.Nbd2 h6; 11.Bf4 Be6; 12.Rfe1 Rd8; 13.Rad1 Nd4; 14.Nxd4 Rxd4 gave Black a good game in the blitz game Bonnet-Kramnik, Lyon 2000.) 10...h6; 11.Bd2 Be7; 12.Ne2 Be6; 13.b3 Rd8; 14.Rad1 Bd5; 15.Ne1 c5; 16.c4 Bc6; 17.Nc2 Be4; 18.Ne3 Nd4 showed another good use for the d4-square in von Schallopp & Allies-Lasker, Germany 1890. Alternatively, 11.Bf4 Be6; 12.Rad1 Rd8; 13.Ne4 c5; 14.Rxd8+ Kxd8; 15.Rd1+ Kc8 brought Black equality in Harmonist-Tarrasch, Germany 1889. Black has, in effect, castled queenside and the king is safe. The bishop pair offsets White's advantage in space and kingside pawn majority.

9.Rd1+ Ke8; 10.Nc3.h6; 11.h3 Be7 gave Black a solid position in Lasker-Herz & Lewitt & Keidanski, Berlin 1896. Or 10.b3 h6; 11.Bb2 a5; 12.Nbd2 Be6; 13.Ne4 Bd5; 14.Nfd2 a4;

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15.Ng3 Nxc3; 16.hxc3 Bb4 gave Black a strong initiative in Morgan-Pillsbury, 1904.

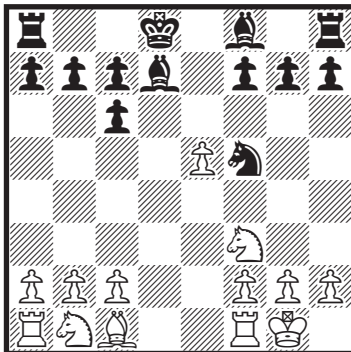
9...Bd7. Black has explored over a dozen plans in this position, and many are transpositional. We'll just concentrate Kramnik's choices. In any case, White's plans will usually include a queenside fianchetto, centralizing the rooks, and using e2 or e4 for a knight. Black will often walk the king over to b7, allowing the rook to enter the game. Most importantly, White's kingside ambitions will be thwarted by a timely ...h5. Kramnik invented many new defensive plans for Black, and White has been struggling to find some sort of tangible advantage.

9...h6 is becoming popular. Kramnik used this move quite effectively against Kasparov. It is too soon to tell whether it deserves to be elevated to the status of a main line, or whether it is merely a move order finesse. 10.b3 Be6; 11.Bb2 Be7; 12.Rad1+ Kc8; 13.Rfe1 g5; 14.Ne4 b6; 15.Nd4 Nxd4; 16.Rxd4 Kb7 was an early version of Kramnik's plan, seen in Porges-Tarrasch, 1892. 10.h3 Ke8; 11.Ne4 c5; 12.c3 b6; 13.Re1 Be6; 14.g4 was agreed drawn in the 13th game of the Kasparov-Kramnik match.

10.Rd1+ Ke8; 11.h3 is a modern approach. 11...a5; 12.Bf4 Be6; 13.g4 Ne7; 14.Nd4 Nd5; 15.Nce2 Bc5; 16.Nxe6 fxe6; 17.c4 Nb6; 18.b3 a4 gave Black good counterplay in the 9th game of the Kasparov-Kramnik match.

9...Ke8 10.h3. This is the move that used to give Black fits, but Kramnik used it even though his 9...h6 move had been holding up well. White is generally considered to have a slight advantage after this move. Black has tried 10...a5, 10...Bb4, and the strange-looking 10...Ne7, among others, but Kramnik chose another plan. 10...Be7 (10...h6 can transpose back to the 9...h6 lines.) 11.Bg5 Bxc5; 12.Nxc5 h6; 13.Nge4 b6; 14.Rfd1 Ne7; 15.f4 Ng6. Black was only a little worse in Kasparov-Kramnik, Corus 2001. This game was played a few months after the World Championship match and both sides had plenty of time to prepare. This game did not, however, affect the main theory of the line as Kramnik deviated from his London plans.

9...Ne7 can lead to independent and very interesting play. 10.Nd4 Ng6; 11.f4!? Bc5; 12.Be3 Bb6!; 13.Rae1!? Nh4!? 14.e6!? as in Shirov-Almasi, Tilburg 1996, where Black should have tried 14...c5!? Instead, Black got blown up after 14...fxe6?; 15.Nxe6+! Bxe6; 16.Bxb6 axb6; 17.Rxe6 Kd7 and wound up in a decidedly inferior endgame after 18.Rfe1 Rae8; 19.Rxe8 Rxe8; 20.Rxe8 Kxe8; 21.Kf2.



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**10.b3.** The immediate fianchetto is a sensible plan, but often each side advances the h-pawn first.

10.h3 h6; 11.b3 doesn't seem to change things much, but it was Kasparov's choice when he finally broke down Kramnik's defense at Astana 2001: 11...Ke8; 12.Bb2 Rd8; 13.Rad1 Ne7; 14.Rfe1 Ng6; 15.Ne4 Nf4; 16.e6 Nxe6; 17.Nd4 c5; 18.Nf5 with a very active position for White.

10.Rd1 Kc8; 11.Ng5 Be8; 12.b3 b6; 13.Bb2 Be7; 14.Nge4 Kb7; 15.Rd3 Rd8; 16.Rad1 Rxd3; 17.Rxd3 h5; 18.Bc1!? turned out well for White in Leko-Kramnik, Budapest 2001.

Instead of the fianchetto, White can play 12.Nge4, which is usually countered by 12...b6, for example 13.h3 Kb7; 14.g4 Ne7; 15.Bf4 h5; 16.f3 c5; 17.Kf2 Nc6; 18.Nd5 Nd4; 19.c3 Ne6; 20.Bg3 Bc6; 21.Rd2 hxg4; 22.hxg4 c4; 23.Kg2 Rd8; 24.Rad1 Ba4; 25.Re1 Bc6; 26.Red1 Ba4; 27.Re1 Bc6 was agreed drawn in Kasparov-Kramnik, Zurich 2001. An alternative is 13.b3 c5; 14.Bb2 Nd4; 15.Rd2 Kb7, when 16.Nd5 Rd8; 17.c4 Bc6; 18.Bxd4 cxd4; 19.Rxd4 looks promising for White, though Black eventually won in Leko-Kramnik, Budapest 2001.

10...h6. 10...Kc8; 11.Bb2 Be7; 12.Rad1 a5; 13.h3 h5; 14.g3 Ra6; 15.Bc1 Re8; 16.Bg5 Bb4 allowed Black to take the initiative in Shirov-Kramnik, 2001. 12.Rfe1 is a sensible alternative. 12...a5 13.h3 h5; 14.Ne4 a4; 15.Neg5 Be6; 16.Nxe6 fxe6 was only marginally better for White in Leko-Kramnik, 2001. 11.Bb2 Kc8; 12.Rad1. The most promising move.

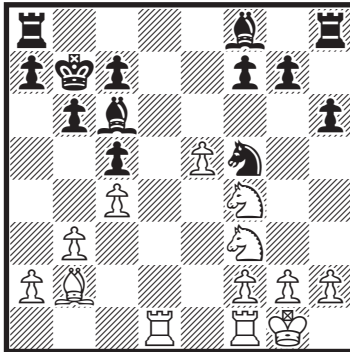
12.h3 b6; 13.Rad1 Ne7 has seen a lot of action.

14.Rd2 c5; 15.Rfd1 Be6; 16.Ne2 g5 provided Black with a good game: 17.h4 g4; 18.Nh2 h5; 19.Rd8+ Kb7; 20.Rxa8 Kxa8; 21.Rd8+ Kb7; 22.Nf4 Ng6; 23.g3 c4!; 24.bxc4 Nxf4; 25.gxf4 g3; 26.Nf1 gxf2+; 27.Kh2 Bxc4 White resigned, Anand-Kramnik, Mainz 2001.

14.Nd4 Ng6; 15.f4 a5; 16.a4 h5; 17.Ne4 Be7; 18.Ng5 c5; 19.Nxf7 led to a White win in Shirov-Rizouk, Moscow 2001.

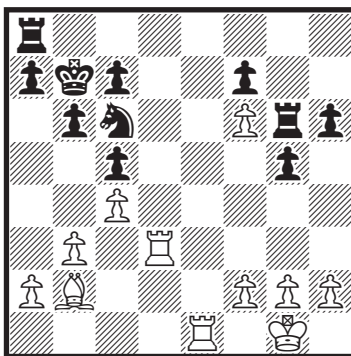
14.Ne2 is interesting. After 14...Ng6 White has two plans: 15.Ng3 Nf4; 16.Nd4 a5 17.a4 b5; 18.Kh2 bxa4; 19.bxa4 Black's messy queenside held together with the help of the bishop pair in Shirov-Kramnik, Astana 2001. The alternative 15.Ne1 intends to pivot the knight to d3. 15...h5; 16.Nd3 c5; 17.c4 a5; 18.a4 h4; 19.Nc3 Be6; 20.Nd5 Kb7; 21.Ne3 Rh5; 22.Bc3 Re8; 23.Rd2 Kc8; 24.f4 Ne7; 25.Nf2 Nf5 was agreed drawn in the first game of Kasparov-Kramnik, 2000.

**12...b6; 13.Ne2 c5; 14.c4 Bc6; 15.Nf4 Kb7.**



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Black has managed to get the king to safety but it has taken a lot of time. White owns the d-file and the important d5-square. 16.Nd5! Ne7. 16...Bxd5; 17.cxd5 would be very bad for Black, as the central pawns can march forward, supported by the rooks. 17.Rfe1 Rg8. Black prepares for active play on the kingside. A chessplayer can only sit still so long before restlessness sets in!; 18.Nf4 g5; 19.Nh5. The knight was much better placed on d5, but as it will wind up on f6 in any case, that doesn't matter. 19...Rg6; 20.Nf6 Bg7; 21.Rd3 The pressure is building, with White about to double rooks on the d-file. Black reacts by trading both bishops for the White knights. 21...Bxf3; 22.Rxf3 Bxf6; 23.exf6 Nc6; 24.Rd3.



There can be no doubt that White has the advantage here. A strong pawn at f6, control of both open files and a good bishop add up to a serious plus. On the other hand, Black's two structural weaknesses at h6 and f7 can be defended, even if it is a bit awkward.

24...Rf8; 25.Re4 Kc8; 26.f4. White needs to open up the game, or else Black can just sit on the position. 26...gxf4; 27.Rxf4 Re8; 28.Bc3 Re2. Real counterplay at last! Black's pieces, which lay humbled just a few moves ago, suddenly have all gained roles in the game. 29.Rf2 Re4; 30.Rh3 a5! As White turns his attention to the h-file, Kramnik reacts on the opposite flank. 31.Rh5. To prevent ...Ne5.

31...a4; 32.bxa4 Rxc4; 33.Bd2 Rxa4; 34.Rxh6 Rg8; 35.Rh7 Rxa2; 36.Rxf7. All the weak pawns have been removed. White still has a theoretical advantage, since the f-pawn is advanced and White has three connected passed pawns. 36...Ne5; 37.Rg7 Rf8; 38.h3. Moving the pawn to h4 would have been a better try. 38...c4; 39.Re7 Nd3; 40.f7 Nxf2; 41.Re8+ Kd7; 42.Rxf8 Ke7; 43.Rc8 Kxf7; 44.Rxc7+ Ke6; 45.Be3 Nd1; 46.Bxb6. 46.Rxc4? Rxc4+!! (46...Nxe3?; 47.Re4+); 47.Kxg2 Nxe3+; 48.Kf3 Nxc4 and Black would win!

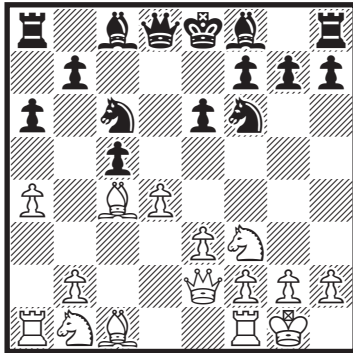
46...c3 47.h4. 47.Kh2 was perhaps better, but the endgame is likely to be drawn in any case. 47...Ra6; 48.Bd4 Ra4!; 49.Bxc3 Nxc3; 50.Rxc3 Rxh4.

At the World Championship level, White has no chances to win this endgame, even though the Black king can be cut off on the f-file. If the king were on the d-file, it would be a different story.

51.Rf3 Rh5; 52.Kf2 Rg5; 53.Rf8 Ke5. Agreed drawn.

## WORLD CHAMPION OPENINGS

### QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED: MAIN LINE WITH 7.A4



1.d4	d5
2.c4	dxc4
3.Nf3	Nf6
4.e3	e6
5.Bxc4	c5
6.O-O	a6
7.a4	Nc6
8.Qe2	

#### (104) KRAMNIK - SADVAKASOV [D27]

International Tournament Astana, Kazakhstan, 2001

1.d4 d5; 2.c4 dxc4; 3.Nf3 Nf6; 4.e3 e6; 5.Bxc4 c5; 6.O-O a6; 7.a4 Nc6; 8.Qe2. This position can also be reached via the Slav: 1.d4 d5; 2.c4 c6; 3.Nf3 Nf6; 4.e3 e6; 5.Bd3 dxc4; 6.Bxc4 c5; 7.O-O a6; 8.a4 Nc6; 9.Qe2 Qc7 reaches the same position by transposition, with one move additional for each player! This was seen in Karpov-Timman, Linares 1989.

Kramnik follows the current preference, placing the pawn at a4 to discourage any queenside advance by Black. The downside is that there is a big hole at b4. 8...Qc7; 9.Rd1.

9.Nc3 is more popular. 9...Bd6; 10.Rd1 O-O; 11.h3 b6; 12.d5 Ne5; 13.Nxe5 Bxe5; 14.dxe6 Bxe6; 15.Bxe6 fxe6 was seen in Karpov-Timman, Linares 1989. Black has a weak pawn at e6 but White has some difficulty completing development, so chances are about equal. 10.Bd2 O-O and now:

11.Rac1 Bd7; 12.dxc5 Bxc5; 13.Bd3 Qd6 was agreed drawn in Tal-Korchnoi, Skelleftea World Cup 1989. Chances are even, and there is no reason why this position can't be played further. The sacrifice at h7 is premature, but bringing a knight to g5 should provide White with some advantage.)

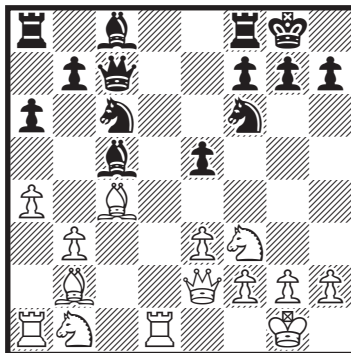
11.d5 exd5; 12.Nxd5 Nxd5; 13.Bxd5 Rd8; 14.h3 Bh2+!; 15.Nxh2 Rxd5 gave Black a promising game in Kramnik-Anand, Monte Carlo 1999.

9...Bd6; 10.dxc5. White delays this capture until Black's dark square bishop has moved, in order to pick up a tempo. 10...Bxc5; 11.b3. A logical plan, intending to use the dark square bishop on the long diagonal and free c1 for a rook. 11...O-O. 11...b6; 12.Bb2 Bb7; 13.Nbd2 O-O; 14.Rac1 Rfd8 was about even in Neverov-Vladimirov, Frunze 1988.

11...Na5; 12.Bb2 Nxc4; 13.Qxc4 may not look like much, but White has a very serious advantage in space and owns the d-file. The advantage can lead to rapid victory, for example. 13...Bd6; 14.Nbd2 Qe7; 15.Bxf6! gxf6; 16.Ne4. The control of d6 is terminal. 16...Ba3 (16...Bb4; 17.Rac1 O-O was Black's best but 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6; 19.Qxb4 leaves Black in a hopeless position, in the long run.) 17.Rxa3! Qxa3; 18.Nd6+. Black resigned, Lutz-Schulz, Bundesliga 1990.

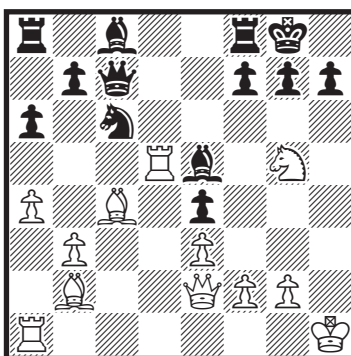
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**12.Bb2 e5!** Having castled, Black's next task is to determine a spot for the bishop at c8. A queenside fianchetto is possible, but the c8-h3 diagonal is a more aggressive choice.



**13.Nc3. 13.h3** keeps the bishop off g4. **13...e4;** **14.Ng5 h6;** **15.Bxf6 hxg5;** **16.Bb2** allowed White's bishops to dominate the board in a battle of two top female stars, Zhukova-Skripchenko Lautier, Belgrade 2000. **13...e4. 13...Bg4;** **14.h3 Bh5;** **15.g4** gives White a strong initiative. **14.Ng5 Bd6.** Black takes aim at the undefended pawn at h2. White, surprisingly, lets it go. Black must lose important time extracting the position from White's home.

**15.Nd5!** **15.h3** was good enough, but Kramnik goes for the kill. It is hard to blame Sadvakasov. The Grandmaster surely felt that the critical f7 square, though under attack, had sufficient defense. **15...Nxd5;** **16.Rxd5 Bxh2+.** **16...h6;** **17.Qh5 hxg5??** falls into an impressive checkmating combination. **18.Bxg7!! Bxh2+;** **19.Kh1 Kxg7;** **20.Qxg5+ Kh7;** **21.Qh4+ Kg6;** **22.Rg5+ Kf6;** **23.Rg3+ Ke5;** **24.Qf4#.** **17.Kh1 Be5.** Black had to retreat to this square immediately.



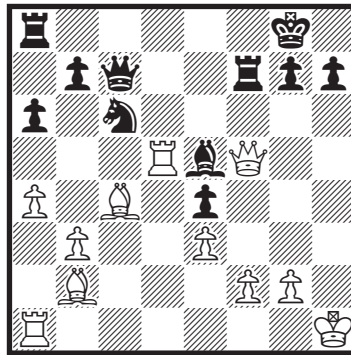
The bishop is defended by both knight and queen, sufficient to hold off the White rook and bishop. Kramnik's next move not only threatens immediate checkmate, but also puts the queen in a position to take aim at e5.

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18.Qh5! Bf5? Black defends h7 and is ready to chase out the invaders with ...Bg6 and...h6. However, it would have been better to play ...h6, not so much to attack the knight as to protect the h7-square.

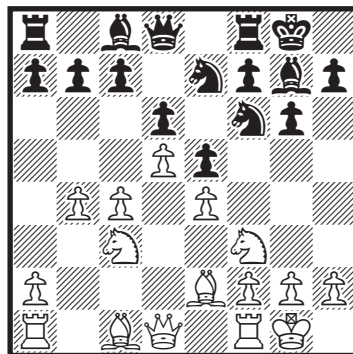
18...h6 also allows the knight sacrifice, but it isn't as devastating as in the game. 19.Nxf7! Rxf7; 20.Rxe5! Nxe5; 21.Bxe5 Qe7 allows White to transition to a great endgame by removing a few pieces. 22.Bxf7+ Qxf7; 23.Qxf7+ Kxf7; 24.Rc1. The bishops of opposite colors are not drawish with rooks on the board. Black will find it hard to develop without losing the b-pawn. Add the weak pawn at e4 into the mix, and it is clear that White has excellent winning chances.

19.Nxf7!! Rxf7; 20.Qxf5!!



The queen cannot be captured because of discovered checkmate by Rd8. This would have been an elegant conclusion to the game. Black however, chose a more prosaic finish. 20...g6; 21.Bxe5. Black resigned.

### KING'S INDIAN: BAYONET ATTACK



- |       |     |
|-------|-----|
| 1.d4  | Nf6 |
| 2.c4  | g6  |
| 3.Nc3 | Bg7 |
| 4.e4  | d6  |
| 5.Nf3 | O-O |
| 6.Be2 | e5  |
| 7.O-O | Nc6 |
| 8.d5  | Ne7 |
| 9.b4  |     |

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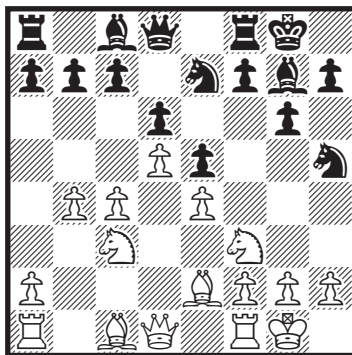
The Bayonet Attack is one of the most popular, and logical, strategies for White in the Classical King's Indian Defense. White tries to get things going on the queenside as quickly as possible, before Black has a chance to launch the kingside attack. Black will move the knight from f6, and then play ...f4, followed by a kingside pawn storm in many cases. This clash between Kramnik, who prefers a solid and principled approach to the opening, and Kasparov, for whom the wild King's Indian has been a long time favorite, illustrates the key ideas of this variation.

### (105) KRAMNIK - KASPAROV [E97]

Novgorod Russia, 1997

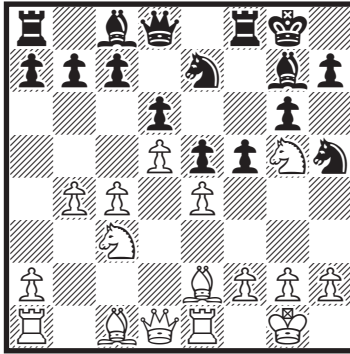
1.Nf3 Nf6; 2.c4 g6; 3.Nc3 Bg7; 4.e4 d6; 5.d4 O-O; 6.Be2 e5; 7.O-O Nc6; 8.d5 Ne7; 9.b4 Nh5.

9...a5 confronts White's strategy immediately. There is a strong reply available in 10.Ba3! (10.bxa5 Rxa5; 11.Nd2 c5; 12.a4 Ra6; 13.Ra3 Nd7; 14.Nb5 f5; 15.exf5 gxf5 is no worse for Black, Bareyev-Smirin, Moscow 2002.) 10...axb4 (10...b6 can be inserted. 11.bxa5 Nh5; 12.Re1 f5; 13.Bb4 bxa5; 14.Ba3 gives White a free hand on the queenside, Kramnik-Smirin, Belgrade 1999.) 11.Bxb4 Nd7; 12.a4 f5; 13.Ng5 Nc5; 14.Bxc5 dxc5 led to a lively game in Kramnik-Kasparov, Moscow 1998. White eventually won.



10.Re1. White needs to play this so that the bishop can retreat to f1 after Black plants a knight at f4. 10...Nf4. This obvious move is not necessarily best. Black does a little better by launching the kingside attack by advancing the f-pawn. An interesting alternative is 10...f5; 11.Ng5. Kramnik has had plenty of experience in that arena.

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Black can try to sink the knight at f4. 11...Nf4; 12.Bxf4 exf4; 13.Rc1 Bf6; 14.Ne6 Bxe6; 15.dxe6 Bxc3; 16.Rxc3 fxe4 has seen Kramnik sitting on the White side twice. (17.Bg4 Nc6; 18.Rxe4 is Kramnik-Shirov, Monte Carlo 1998.) 17.Bf1 was met by 17...e3; 18.fxe3 fxe3 ;19.Rcxe3 with a clearly better game for White in Kramnik-Shirov, Tilburg 1997.

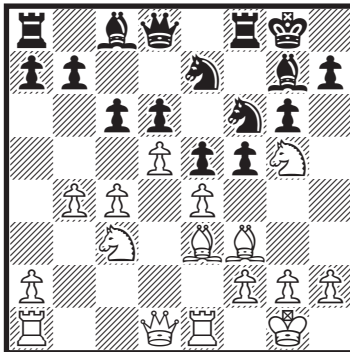
The more common 11...Nf6 lets White choose between a bishop and pawn to support e4 from f3: 12.f3 led to a fine Kramnik victory. Black chose to hide in the corner with 12...Kh8. (Better is 12...h6, encouraging the knight to go to e6, where it will be captured and White will have a weak pawn at e6.) 13.Be3 Ne8; 14.Rc1 c6; 15.c5 Ng8; 16.exf5 gxf5; 17.f4 Ne7; 18.cxd6 Nxd6; 19.dxc6 Nxc6; 20.Bc5 exf4; 21.Bxd6 Qxg5; 22.Bxf8 Bxf8; 23.Bf3. Black resigned, Kramnik-Ivanchuk, Monaco 2000.

12.Bf3 had previously been his favorite.

12...Kh8; 13.Bb2 a5; 14.b5 Rb8; 15.Ne6 Bxe6; 16.dxe6 Ne8; 17.Qb3! set up a possible defense for the pawn at e6, and brought White the advantage in Kramnik-Polgar, Vienna 1996.

12...fxe4; 13.Ngxe4 Nf5; 14.Bg5 gave White a slight pull in Kramnik-Gelfand, Vienna 1996.

12...c6; 13.Be3 is an important position.



## WORLD CHAMPION OPENINGS

Black can play on either wing, or capture in the center.

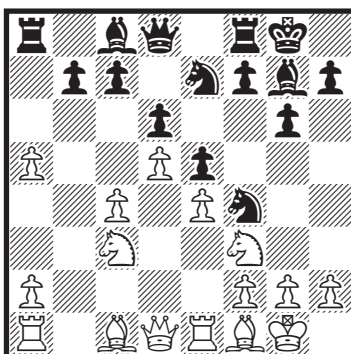
13...f4; 14.Bc1 h6; 15.Ne6 Bxe6; 16.dxe6 Nc8; 17.b5! White keeps the initiative, not worrying about the pawn at e6. 17...Qe8; 18.bxc6 bxc6; 19.c5 Qxe6; 20.Ba3. White has plenty of compensation, since Black's pawns are weak, Kramnik-Gelfand, Belgrade 1997.

13...h6; 14.Ne6 Bxe6; 15.dxe6 g5; 16.exf5 Nxf5; 17.Qd3 Nxe3; 18.Rxe3 is very strong for White, for example 18...Qe7; 19.Rd1 Rad8; 20.Ne4 g4; 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6; 22.Bxg4 Qxf2+; 23.Kh1 Rf4; 24.Rf3 Qh4; 25.Rxf4 exf4; 26.Bf3 Qe7; 27.Re1 Be5; 28.Qg6+ Qg7; 29.e7! Black resigned, Kramnik-Nijboer, Wijk aan Zee 1998.

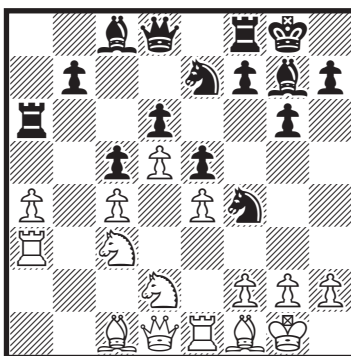
13...a5; 14.bxa5 Qxa5; 15.Qb3 cxd5; 16.cxd5 with a big space advantage for White, Kramnik-Piket, Monte Carlo 1998.)

13... cxd5; 14.cxd5 h6; 15.Ne6 Bxe6; 16.dxe6 fxe4; 17.Nxe4 Nxe4; 18.Bxe4 d5; 19.Bc2 Black's pawns are weak, and White's bishops are strong, Kramnik-Polgar, Linares, 1997.

11.Bf1 a5; 12.bxa5.



12...Rxa5. Black doesn't have to recapture the pawn right away, though there is no reason to delay. 12...c5; 13.a4 h6; 14.Nb5 Rxa5 (14...g5; 15.g3! Nfg6; 16.Nd2 Kh8; 17.Ra3! brought White the edge in Ivanov-Loginov, Russia 1998.) 15.Ra3 g5; 16.Nd2 Ra6; 17.g3 Nfg6; 18.Be2 f5; 19.exf5 Nxf5; 20.Bh5 Nge7; 21.Bg4. Black's only target is at f2; that is easy to defend, Sherbakov-Sapunov, Russia Championship 1998. 13.Nd2 c5; 14.a4 Ra6; 15.Ra3.

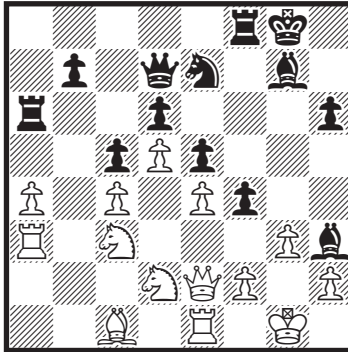


## WORLD CHAMPION OPENINGS

The rook lift is a typical strategy in the Bayonet Attack. The rook can easily slide over to the kingside. 15...g5. Black tries to get the kingside attack going. But it would be better to establish some light square control first. 15...Bd7!?: 16.Nb5 Qc8; 17.Bb2 g5 comes into consideration, though after 18.a5! White looks a bit better.

16.g3!? Kramnik chooses to boot the knight. 16.Nb5 has also been explored. 16...Nh3+. Retreat is hardly part of Black's strategy! 17.Bxh3 Bxh3; 18.Qh5! White wins a pawn. 18...Qd7. 18...g4 would have cut off the bishop forever.

19.Qxg5 h6; 20.Qe3 f5; 21.Qe2 f4.



White can be happy with the position, but will have to exercise caution, as the kingside doesn't have much defense.

22.Nb5. 22.a5 comes into consideration. 22...Kh7; 23.gxf4. Again, White could have advanced the a-pawn.

23...exf4 24.Kh1 Bg4; 25.Nf3 Ng6; 26.Rg1. The pin on the knight is only a minor annoyance. White's kingside is now completely safe. Notice that the rook at a3 protects the knight, so that ...Nh4 is no big deal. 26...Bxf3+; 27.Qxf3 Ne5. Black has a good square for the knight, but that is all. 28.Qh5 Qf7; 29.Qh3 Nxc4. Black has the pawn back, but now the Black kingside is weak.

30.Rf3 Be5; 31.Nc7! Rxa4 32.Bxf4. Black resigned, because there is no way to avoid catastrophe on the kingside, aided by a superknight at e6.