## Black is Back!

## What's White's Advantage Anyway?



New In Chess 2016

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## Foreword - Swan Song

They say swans sing their most beautiful song just before they die.
Well, I'm not planning to leave this life any time soon, but in any case it doesn't hurt to draw up the balance. I hope this is not only going to be my last opus, but also my best. It is a pleasant duty to conclude my 30-year mission of BLACK is OK!. Yes, it was 1985 when I had my first doubts about the dogma that says 'White is better'. All of the 11 books, hundreds of articles and thousands of analyses I've written, have been dedicated to the theme of BLACK is OK!, except for the booklet titled QuoVadis Garry? (German edition 1989, English title 'The Change of a Child’). It is indeed hard to believe that in all of chess history there has been practically nobody who studied this territory of science and philosophy deeply - except me. This may sound Tarzan-like, but it is in fact rather sad that people do not seem to think in depth.

Some great players, like Steinitz, Lasker, Portisch, have declared that the perfect chess game ends in a draw. But all the same, players have descended into prejudice, strengthened by statistics. And all players are crazy about learning new and more new opening variations, but they find it unimportant to occupy themselves with the most important field of theory.

Our royal game is beloved by us, but there are other board games too. In some of them, the right to make the first move is an advantage. But in other cases it's just the opposite! Finally, we also have games where it is just the same either way. I have a large amount of evidence to show that chess belongs in the third group. Just you wait and see!

Well, dear reader, you have a long way to go but it's worth the trip. It may sound dry, but during the process there will be pleasure too. It's a cure which will eliminate all your complexes concerning playing with BLACK.

Either that, or your money back!
Andras Adorjan
Budapest, March 2016

## Chapter 1

## Wishful Thinking?

Almost every chess player has (major) problems with black. Yet, I am sure that, apart from other crazies such as Alexander Morozevich, nobody uses more than 30-40\% of their total training time to study the black side of chess science in general. The late IM Tibor Florian once said: 'People very much like to exercise things they already know well.'

I never expected to see BLACK is OK! clubs all over the world, or an international science movement under that name, but I hoped that the question would be a subject of serious, many-sided debate by the strongest players, trainers and analysts around. After all, the key, and only, question in chess is: what would be the result of a perfect game? Is it a draw? Or does White win? Or - surprise: would BLACK win? In quite a lot of board and other mind games, the 'Nachziehende' (not the 'second player'!) is the one who leads in the statistics.

Do you know that this is a world of right-handers? Once I read a serious essay where it was argued, with many examples, that left-handed people are handicapped in the use of many everyday tools and devices. I saw a demo film about it too. Blasphemy! Society doesn't bother too much - left-handers are few, and in schools, for example, they are the subject of bad jokes. They also become victims of an education that forces them to use their 'nice' hand. King George was only one of many famous victims. See The King's Speech - a wonderful film.

A left-handed boxer has a clear advantage. Of his potential opponents, the overwhelming majority will be right-handed. They face the usual 'service' in almost all of their matches and are trained that way (right vs. right). But our guy is different. This works in the favour of the left-handed fighter (for whom, by the way, it would also be odd to train only left vs. left), which may be very important between fighters of balanced strength. Now take the Almighty Initiative. Some fighters make a point of being the first to occupy the centre of the ring after the sounding of the gong. This is stupid and has no purpose. It's just a show. Even the achievement of pushing the opponent into the corner is worth nothing, unless the partner is already dizzy. Otherwise, a double-fist defence will cover everything while the defender still has a fair chance to swing some blows himself. You can do the same in chess: with white, play quietly and hope to win, but be objective and don't overdo it. There will be another day, when you can try to win with black. Your opponent will feel obliged to play for a win, and this may give you a good chance to land a counterblow - you don't have to push over your force. If it's going to be a game, you will have your psychological and professional chances too.

Let me conclude with some thoughts about happiness. In Hungary we have a great writer called Zsigmond Moricz, in whose novel 'The Happy Man' somebody asks an old peasant: ‘Has your life been happy?' The answer is: 'I never thought about this.' He was a healthy character, who handled his problems only when he was sure to face them. A happy man.

I have always considered that with my talent I had a duty to serve. This is normal, I think. Even so, I sometimes felt that this was too much of a burden on my shoulders. Mahatma Gandhi once said: 'Let everybody have salvation by his own
faith.' The leaders of certain religions, who visited him, were not very happy with this. One of them - guess who - said: 'But I suppose you agree that Jesus was the greatest prophet of all?' The little man just smiled and answered: 'Your words, not mine' (which was JC's answer to Pontius Pilate's question: 'Are you the king of the Jews?') After my near-death experience in a Budapest hospital earlier this year, such reflections naturally went through my head - not for the first time in my life, of course. What will happen when we pass away?

Strangely enough, after this whole chain of intensive suffering, humility and half-death in the first few months of 2016, all of a sudden something else came up. The human race is represented in billions of bodies and minds, but still it is one entity, and I am a part of it. And after passing away physically, I will somehow still be present in this spiritual community, by the things I've done - good or bad - and hopefully by my peak performances. It's difficult to imagine that Lenin, Stalin or Hitler would get away with their track record, but even this cannot be excluded. Clearly I have no reason to pity myself, or appeal for anybody's pity - as they say, everyone has his cross to bear. I won't disappear unnoticed. I did something in return for using up all that oxygen. I got credit for it too. Not enough, I feel. But that happens in every corner.

I don't miss the high official recognitions, the swords of honour, the Order of the Garter. I got a few (international) titles, not given by any jury. World Championship Candidate for one; three-time Hungarian champion. Olympic gold medallist. But I had badly hoped to have a serious influence on chess theory and practice with my true conviction that BLACK IS OK!.

30 years were not enough - I won't see a chain of BLACK IS OK! education centres where pupils are taught that:

In chess the initial position is equal - or rather, chances are even. The right of the first move offers no advantage and the result of the game is likely a draw.

Wishful thinking? Daydreaming? Instead I have seen in print such things as 'the aim of the chess game is to avoid getting mated'. If you think I'm joking - consult Wikipedia!

## Appetizers

| Peter Hardicsay | 2345 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Andras Adorjan | 2560 |
| Hungary tt 1986 |  |

## 17．f2－f3？？



17．．． 8 d 5 ！

Zoltan Ribli
Andras Adorjan
Hungary tt 1983

## 27．聯e3－c3



27．．．畕f1！！

Vladimir Liberzon
2550
Andras Adorjan
Amsterdam 1977 （15）
45．g3xh4


0－1
45．．．䓢e1！

Darko Gliksman
Andras Adorjan
Birmingham 1973
25．©f3－e1


25．．．．̈ㅡ 1！26．f3 包2＋
0－1

 28．．．嫘 $\mathrm{h} 5+$ ．
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Lajos Portisch } & 2630 \\ \text { Andras Adorjan } & 2465\end{array}$
Amsterdam 1971 （15）
58．f2xe3


58．．． $0 x$ xb3！59．axb3 c4

Bela Balogh
Andras Jocha
Hungary 1968
31．${ }^{\text {en }} 1$－d1



Roland Sallay
Andras Jocha
Budapest 1966

## 34．聯e2－e4？？



0－1

34．．．巴 $x$ xg！
0－1 35．hxg3 签h3＋36．． This game was played in the last round of the semi－final for the Hungarian Championship．I qualified and gained the title of National Master．

## Chapter 2

## The Way It All Started

## The Continuing Story of 'BLACK IS OK!'

Earlier versions of this text were published first in the 'BLACK IS OK!' zero copy in 1992, and then in the book ‘Black is Still OK!' (2004). It has evolved over the years and can be regarded as a kind of manifesto. It is also a confession of love and gratitude to my mother, who showed me the way by her life and death.

My mother died in 1985. When death gathers its crops on a large scale, but at a safe distance, it is - regretfully but true - not such a big deal for us. But the loss of someone close to us tends to shake us deeply. It's not only that we cry for the deceased, as we know from Hemingway that, 'hearing the bell toll, you should never ask for whom it tolls. It tolls for you. It's preceded by the statement that it's me who loses something with every death. That's why you should never ask for whom the bell tolls.' (Actually it was John Donne who wrote this.)

Can there be anything good in losing someone you loved? Isn't it a morbid thought? I managed to tell my mother on her deathbed: ‘Don't you be afraid, you of all people. You've done a lot of good to others in your life, and you are doing good to us even at the moment of your death. You're reminding us to keep together, and to leave as little debt as possible.' She was still teaching in a primary school a couple of months before her death (at the age of 70), in rather bad health. But she was happy at the school, surrounded by children, more than anywhere else.

When, in that fateful year 1985, I experienced how ephemeral human life is, it prompted me to ponder the meaning of our being here. After a quite long search for an answer, I figured we should do something in return for the oxygen we breathe in and transform into carbon-dioxide during our presence on earth. We must leave something lasting, something that lives on when we die.

That was the time when I started to think of building up a 'life-work'. I was not quite satisfied with my career in tournament chess, although I had had some big successes in that field. Writing seemed to be the right course of action for me. I had done quite a lot of writing from my teens onwards: chess articles, analyses, reports, prose and poetry (17 poems in English too), lyrics, occasionally even music. I am extremely extroverted, as a psychologist would put it, and so it was natural for me to take pen in hand.

I wanted to create something original, something novel and daring, and what I created had to have a certain common denominator, some kind of 'meaningful harmony', as Vassily Smyslov would put it. After a long while I suddenly realized that many of my most creative games and writings more or less supported Black's case. Then I recalled that I liked playing with black (or at least I wasn't afraid of the 'dark') already at 20 or even earlier, and in many tournaments most of my victories had been with black (as was the case with 5 of my 7 wins in the Riga Interzonal). I didn't actually feel that I had found my mission - it was the other way round. I was probably predestined to do this; it was my calling, all I had to do was listen to the message.

So I got down to work. I started with a 'black' approach to the Keres (IM Endre Vegh was my co-author), which was first published in two articles in New In Chess
in December 1985 and January 1986. It was titled 'A Blow to the Keres Attack'. Other magazines followed in quick succession, in almost all the chess countries in the world. As the reception was encouraging, I then decided to pursue the 'BLACK IS OK' mission, committing myself to something that was much larger than just a nice-sounding witticism. It was, and is, something I believe in, and my belief is getting deeper and deeper. In the beginning, however, even my best friends looked at this thesis with - how to describe it - condescending cheerfulness, and regarded it as a strange hobby-horse. Nobody said anything nasty - but it was in the air, and I could smell it. I kept 'building my sand-castle’ with persistence and dedication. It is not by chance that the 'logo' of our struggle features Don Quixote, as in the early days our efforts - to make people rethink things day by day instead of following dogmas - seemed just as futile as fighting windmills.


However, as time went on, the army of sceptics lessened, and I saw my pieces published in various chess magazines in 59 countries. The mission was spread in my books Black Is OK!, Black Is Still OK! and Black Is OK Forever!, and these works were favourably received worldwide. But what really matters is not what pleases me. More important is that me and my 'brothers-in-arms' have done our bit to 'straighten out' a little part of the world that had 'gone aslant'.

However, nowadays there are probably very few people left who completely reject the idea that it is quite tolerable to play with black. I received two letters where the writers went even further. One of them wrote that there is a limited number of 'good moves' for each player in the starting position, and if either of them runs out of good moves, he will only make things worse with any further move, and the 'right' to move actually becomes a burden. Now, as White starts the game, he will have to make the first 'bad move'. Therefore, with both players making the best possible moves, Black is the one who must win. Well... it looks a bit far-fetched, but it has its logic too.

My other penfriend challenged the view that it is White who determines the character of the game. I think he is right in saying that Black can also choose from a great variety of answers to White's first move, influencing the position at least as strongly as White does. He also told me that in some board games, e.g. in NineMen's Morris, it is disadvantageous to be the one who starts.

What I am claiming, though, is not more than 'BLACK IS OK'. I will probably repeat it on my deathbed, unlike Goethe, who in fact didn't want more Black but more 'light'. I am more like that other 'fellow-heretic', Galileo Galilei, who claimed: 'And yet the earth does move'.

I don't think I could deny it even in a torture chamber. Unless... someone convinced me it isn't true! My 'mission' is actually a scientific experiment to find out how each idea works in practice. It is all very nice that in my own practice playing with black was a bliss rather than a burden, and that my results support my thesis. But it is still rather like someone vaccinating himself with black pox, then with the serum he has invented, and surviving. It doesn't prove that the vaccine
can be used all over the world - only that this particular guy didn't die from it. In clinical practice it takes 5-10 years to legalize a drug, to prove it isn't toxic, to rule out all harmful side effects, etc. Similarly, we can collect thousands of games by organizing theme tournaments, and see how my ideas will stand the test of serious tournament practice. With various friends I have organized theme tournaments on certain openings with black, and also events featuring alternative forms of the chess game, like Rainbow Chess and SwitChess - see my game with against Giorgadze in the chapter 'Black Is Brutal IV'. The statistics for black and white are always interesting to look at, and $99 \%$ of (wo-)men treat them as evidence. However, plain statistics don't prove anything, they are just collected findings, supposed to lead to a correct diagnosis. (My wife since 1998, Ilona, is a statistician, by the way...)

The ultimate goal of the experiment is not to confirm my thesis, and definitely not 'by all means' to claim that I am the one who is right, folks. It is to discover the truth. If after 5-10 years, it should turn out that BLACK is not OK at all, or maybe only a little bit OK, well, that would be a disappointment for me personally - and it would be quite unexpected for me! But it would still do great service to chess science, as even a refuted hypothesis takes us closer to the truth. So the strongest motivation of this work is (childish) curiosity. Curiosity that keeps asking, somewhere inside: What's going to become of all this? Will this be a fresh spring in chess theory, or will White reign until the end of time? Will White score a devastating 8-1 like in the K vs K match for the World Championship in 1986? Or even 7-0, as in the next match? Well, just remember that several 'invincible' empires have also fallen in world history!

So, in the distant future there may come a teacher who tells his amused students about what nonsense people got into their heads a couple of millennia ago. But sometimes I have another bizarre daydream. Centuries from today, triangle-headed, intelligent creatures with plastic legs and green bodies from outer space appear on Earth. These creatures, who are a whole lot cleverer than our proud human race, study the history of our culture. They come across my ‘BLACK IS OK’ book, and, since they can play chess (it would be a funny part of the galaxy if there were intelligent beings who couldn't play chess, right?), they have a look at it. And after reading it, they conclude with a sigh: 'What a pity! This poor devil was the only one who knew what it was all about. It's a shame he wasn't important and noisy enough to be listened to!'

Well, dear reader, only time will tell. As for me, I will keep 'laying my eggs'. Do you know the anecdote where a lady goes to the psychiatrist for help because her husband thinks he is a hen? The doctor asks 'How long has this been going on?' 'Some three years.' 'And only now you come to me?' 'You know, doctor, we are not well off, and the money for the eggs came in handy.' If you don't mind, I will win quite a few more games as BLACK, whether based on firm scientific grounds or just on the power of faith. In return, I promise that I am not going to push anyone to take my side. I will use only concrete facts, data from experiments, statistics - that is, objective factors, to recruit new 'converts'.

Some say about artists that they are tolerated by the rest of mankind and saved from Hell for their works only. If my BLACK IS OK! mission is successful, perhaps I can also hope for a place in Purgatory...

Odoyd Cudse's


 White resigned a few moves later．

## 國ae8 19．置f4



History repeats itself：the game Belenkij－ Pirogov（1959）saw this position first． I did not know this game，and only noticed the diagram among a number of other combination exercises．
The rest of the game was the same．To my great surprise I found another（full） example on this theme：Feco－Pohranc， Slovakia tt B 2003／04．Only 40 years after my game．．．
After 19．罳d2 Black could have obtained a decisive attack by 19．．．罭6 and 20．．．党fe8．However，the text allows a powerful finish．

19．．．党e1！！20．c4
The only move that doesn＇t lose at once．

## 20．．．．ひxg1！

20．．．bxc4？？would run into 21.0 c3＋－

## 

23．寞b6 f5 24．蔂c5 発e8
The d－pawn can wait－Black is going for mate．
 And White resigned．

## K．Velinszky <br> Andras Jocha

Budapest 1963
1．e4 e5 2．©f3 ct 3．兾c4 f5？


Jocha？Morphy！My gambit was not quite so original for，as I later learned， Paul Morphy had already played it．

## 4．d4 fxe4

4．．．exd4 is no better，cf．5． $0 x d 4$ xd4

 12．䇾 $\mathrm{d} 5+$ 声f8 13．0－0，which is quite pleasant for White．

## 

As they say：patzer sees a check，patzer gives a check．Instead there were several ways for White to get an advantage：



6．．．g6 7． Vxg $^{\text {x }}$
 dxc4 9．蒐g5 宽e7 and the knight is caught．

## 7．．． $2 f 6$ 8．Mh4



## 8．．．hxg6

More convincing was 8．．． $0 x d 4$ ！9．宽b3 ©f5 10．Miry h3 ©e7－an even more humoristic knight catch．

9．散xh8 dxc4 10．畕g5？

Better was 10．c3 gaty 11．Mi h4，keeping some play．


12．c3 Ele6 achieves nothing．
12．．．畧g4 13．象b1
White had to try $13 . f 3$ ，after which $13 . .$. exf3 14．gxf3 寞xa3 15．甾 $x d 8$ 当xd8
 Qe4 should win for Black．

## 皆d6

Taking over the attack．


0－1

## Termes

Andras Jocha
Budapest 1963
局6 5．0－0 崽e76． 8．c3 d5
Happy Marshall days．．．
9．exd5 气xd5 10． $0 x$ xe5 包xe5



A very careful move，but it has its drawbacks too．

12．．．宴d6 13．d4 ©h5
A trifle too gung－ho．13．．．宽b7！？gives good compensation．

On 16．留e4 Black has 16．．．寞g4．
16．．．兾f5 17．思e4？！
17．䜌 $3 \pm$ ．
17．．．崽xe4 18．ت̈xe4
Not consistent．More logical was 18．留x xe4

 though Black has compensation here．



20．諺f1
Some thematic shots are 20．宽d2？Df4！


21．宦d2 was safer．
21．．．f5


22．f3？
A bad mistake．22．a4 23．axb5 ${ }^{2}$ e2＋
 white king＇s position will be easy to breach．

## 

 through with 24．．． $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{B}} \mathrm{xg} 3$ 25．hxg3 0 xg3 26．睍g5 答e2＋27．

## 23．．． 分 $4 ~_{4}$

Or again 23．．．寞xg3 24．hxg3 ©xg3， winning easily since after $25 . \triangleq f 1$包e2＋26．珰h1 xc1 White cannot take back due to $27 . .$. 颜 $h 6+$ ．

## 却5！27．04


 ©xf1

## Bela Juhasz <br> Andras Jocha

Budapest 1963
This was a romantic game，if not without mistakes．

1．e4 e5 2．©f3 ©c6 3．d4 exd4

The play sharpens．The safer option was 5．．．h6 6．宽xf6 瑗xf6 7．c3（7． E b5 䔬c5
 clearly favours Black）7．．．寞c5 8． C f3 0－0

## $6 . c 3$

6． 0 xc6 bxc6 7．e5 doesn＇t work in view
 10．宽xe2 葸xb2．

## 6．．．0－0

Also here，safer was $6 \ldots$ ．．．h6！7．0xc6 bxc6 8．寞xf6（8．\＆ Q 4 g 5 just loses a pawn）

 good alternative．

7．f3 d5 8． 0 xc6 bxc6 9． 0 d 2



## 9．．．dxe4

It was stronger to increase the pressure on e4 with 9．．．${ }^{\text {岢e8．There＇s no safe }}$ shelter for the white king．

10．曽xf6？
An amusing line is 10． 0 xe4 ©xe4
寞 $\mathrm{e} 6 \bar{\mp}$ ）11．䜌xd8（11．宽xd8 loses to


 14．尝g1 包h3 15．胃h1）13．．．蔂f5 14．寞g5
寞 $x$ x 1 ，which still gives Black something of an edge．

Black＇s attack is also strong after the
唱xe4！14．fxe4（14．寞xe4 寞a6＋－again！
営d8－＋


12．．．트xe4＋！？
There was a simpler win by $12 \ldots$ ．．．inh $4+$ ！


## 13．fxe4

On 13． 4 xxe4 Black has two good possibilities：

 the king cannot get away；
B）But more convincing is $13 \ldots$ ．．． d 7



> 13...畧g4 14. 冥d3

On 14．寞c4 新f4 is strong；I should have played this after the text move as well．




16．寞e2？？
韩h8 19．b4 畕e3 wins for Black，but $16 . g 3$ was a better defence；Black should then play 16．．．畕e3！．



## Mihaly Gombi

Andras Jocha
Hungary tt 1963


With the king still on e1，there can only be one move here：

## 14．．．e3！15．dxe3

15．fxe3 䈓xe3－＋．
宸xd2\＃

## Janos Havasi

Andras Jocha
Budapest jr 1964 （7）
Today we even see categories like Under－8 in junior tournaments．In our time we all played in one under－ 20 group．I was only 14 in this Championship，probably the youngest ever to win the competition－ahead of Tompa（17）and Szel（18），among others．It＇s funny，but later on my best result would be second place．

5．先c3 0 c6 6．鼻e2 dxc4 7．0－0 cxd4
8．exd4 置e7 9．寞xc4 0－0 10．a3 气d5
11．h3 ©xc3 12．bxc3 崽f6 13．思f 4
b6 14．断e2 包 a 5 15．崽d3 崽b7
16．气e5 를8 17．프ac1 气b3 18．프c2
数d5 19． 0 f3
19．新 94.
铛d5 22．a4 a5 23．鼻a3


23．．．${ }^{\text {定xd4？}}$
Bad，but winning．That＇s what happens in must－win situations．
Nice and fine was 23 ．．．



（threatening mate in a few）30．常e1曷xf3（a less romantic soul would win


 35．．．宽g5 36．党h3＋噚g6，winning in the endgame；
 25．．．事xh7 as in line a）26．断e3 ©xf3＋

寞xf3 and Black is much better in the endgame after either 30．藚e7 睍xe7
哭d4！．
 highly unclear after 25 ．宽b5．

24．르d1 e5 25．cxd4 e4？
The best chance was $25 \ldots . 巳^{2} \mathrm{xd} 426$ ． $\mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{c}}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{e} 3$


26．Ёxc8 登xc8 27．Ёe1 f5 28．累c2
28．宦a6！was winning．
28．．．exf3


29．恉e5？？
Still winning was 29．Me7e7！©xd4 30．寞b2 and Black can＇t take either way because of mate．
 fxg2

Bela Vigh
Andras Jocha
Budapest blindfold 1964
I still remember this game very well． We were part of the＇crowd and soldiers＇for a movie they were making
called＇White resigns＇．Chess played an important part in the story．But we were rather bored and tired after a while and then started playing a blindfold game， which is given below．

1．d4 d5 2．c4 e6 3．© c3 0 f6 4．cxd5
 7．．．c6．


8．$勹$ ge2？
Both of us didn＇t＇see’ 8．莴xf6 蒐xf6 9．Miry $\mathrm{C} 5+-$

8．．．罟b7 9．0－0 ©bd7 10．䇾c2 包 4 ！
11．兾xe7 㢇xe7 12．ㄹae1 c5 13．f3

をeae8 17．累xd7？
17．e4！．


h5 23．${ }^{\text {Effe1 }}$ 寞a6 24．e4 c3 25．e5
置xe2 26．exf6 cxb2


27． $0^{2}$ b
27．©cxe2 loses to 27．．．畳xe2 28．${ }^{\text {．}} \mathrm{xe2}$


 30．르xe2
This loses，as do the alternatives 30.4 b 1発xf3 and 30.0 b3 蔦xb3 31．axb3 蔂d3 32．党xe6 b1 新＋

句dxe2 33．

0－1
Comment by the winner：＇Nice game． Both the refutation of White＇s e3－e4 break and the way Black takes advantage of the back－rank weakness are pretty．＇

## Laszlo Antal

Andras Jocha
Hungary tt 1965
1．e4 e5 2．d4 exd4 3．䇾xd4 気c6
4．紧e3


White plays the Centre Gambit the way Bela Bacsi played it－like myself，Laszlo was his pupil．I＇ve never understood why it is called a gambit．A decent gambit involves some sacrifice，while here White regains the pawn immediately，giving two tempi to Black．In addition，e3 can hardly be the
final station for the queen．It becomes a target again after my real gambit move．

## 4．．．f5！？

I am sure that this brainchild of mine is at least as playable as any other healthy move，but strangely enough， 21 years would pass until somebody repeated it． With success．

## 5．exf5＋

 7．誓xe7＋寛xe7 8．寞f4 gives White



7． 0 f3 0－0 8．0－0 d5 looks like a good reversed King＇s Gambit for Black．

## 7．．．0－0 8．0－0 d5

Also possible is $8 \ldots$ b4－see Havasi－ Füsthy，Hungary tt 1986 in the ＇Connections＇chapter at the end of this book．

## 9． 0 f 4 䛒d6

The immediate 9．．． 5 g4 doesn＇t work very well due to 10．断h3 Ege5
 $11 . g 4$ 寞h4 12．${ }^{2} \mathrm{C}$ d2 and White consolidates．

10．


## 11．断f3？？

Now Black＇s set－up is justified．White could win by making use of the pin on the h2－b8 diagonal with 11. ． 4 gis 3 ！ 5 12．©c3 c6（12．．．©xd3 13．cxd3 寞xf5
 17．昆xe7 喈xe7
 even stronger than $13 . \mathrm{h} 3$ is 13.0 fxd5！ cxd5 14．宽f4 寞f6 15．彎xg4＋一．
The text move wins a second pawn on d5，but after that Black gets fantastic piece play even（or should we say ＇precisely＇？）without the queens．



13．．．曽c5？
Strong was 13．．．寞h4！14．宽e3 宽xf5 15．宽xf5 总xf5 and now：


A）16．寞c5 黒xf2！；
B）16．曽e2 c6 17．h3 cxd5 18．hxg4
 19．莫d4 寞xf2＋！followed by ．．．量af8；
C）16． 0 xg 4 and Black remains a little better．

## 14．崽 3 ©xd3？

The wrong exchange．After 14．．． Exe3 $^{2}$
 18．fxe6 曾bd8 19．苞c3 包xd3 20．cxd3

 pawns back，with an edge．

15．cxd3 蔂d6

15．．． $0 x$ xe3 16．fxe3 寞xf5 17．d4 崽d6
 compensation for the pawn．

## 16．h3

Or first 16．寞f4 寞c5 17．寞g3 寞xf5 18．Oe7＋罗h8 19．h3 and White is slightly better．

16．．． en $^{2}$ 17．d4？
17．寞f4 $\pm$ ；17．f6 $\pm$ ．

## 

More accurate may have been 18．．．
 pressure for the pawn．

19．b3
White could have freed himself with



22． 0 c3 Ёe6 23．${ }^{\text {Eld }} 1$
Or 23．蔂g5 莺g6 with initiative．

## 23．．．ひg6 24．古h1



## 24．．．b5 25．${ }^{2}$ b2？

White cannot really disentangle in this way．He might have done so with


25．．． $0 x$ xb2 26．${ }^{\text {Exb }}$ 2


26．．．b4
With the nice 26．．．曽xh3 27．f3（27．gxh3
 Black could have obtained an advantage with his two bishop versus not a minus pawn．

27．© 2 4 崽e4
Again， $27 . .$. 宽xh3！was possible．
28．̈ㅡㅁㄱ？

This allows an immediate decision． White would also be in trouble after
 winning the f－pawn．


## 鼻f3

The victim in this game was a talented player，but he did not become a professional．Forty years later，he told me why（half a bottle of whiskey makes you sincere）：＇You know，when I realized that chess can be played the way you played it，I saw no reason to hope for a shining future． I sold my chess books the next day to a second－hand shop＇（Ervin Nagy became sad when he heard this story and added ＇Unfortunately，mine too，which I had lent him＇）．Instead，Laszlo Antal became a well－ known name in the circles of European economists．And that＇s not the end of the story．We have a saying in Hungary：＇Blood doesn＇t turn into water＇．Today we have a grandmaster called Gergely Antal－his son． I wish we had more parents with such sane self－criticism and more talented children． But give up chess？No！Chess can be played for fun as an amateur，and many people play it with pleasure until a high age．

## Kakoczki

 Andras JochaHungary tt 1965

 7．置b3 0－0

$8 . c 3$
8．d4 ©xd4！？（8．．．d6＝）9．宽xf7＋曾xf7 10．Oxe5 亘f8 11．销xd4 gives Black interesting play for the pawn after

寞e5，with compensation．Also nice is 9．苞xd4 exd4 10．e5 笣e8 11．䇾xxd4 崽b7 （11．．．d6 12．崽d5 dxe5 13．签xe5 崽f6 （13．．．寞d6！？14．宽xf7＋㯖h8）14．䠌h5

 d5 14．© C 3 fxe6 15 ．睼xe6 c6＝

## 8．．．d5 9．exd5 e4！？

At best dubious，like Frank Marshall＇s
 11．曾xe5 f6？！．It＇s funny，but $11 \ldots . . c 6$ has become drawish these days，although it＇s pretty sharp．

10．dxc6 exf3 11．慆xf3
11．d4 fxg2 12．寛g5＝．

## 11．．．寞g4 12．宸g3 䓢d6 13．岩h4 <br> 皆e8 14．f3 蔂f5 15．d4



15．．．是xh2＋！？
A move with a shock effect．Since chess is played by human beings，the psychological
side to the game is always important．My weaker opponent sees ghosts and falls victim to his own timidity：

寞xg4 18．量xe8＋慈xe8 19．fxg4謄e 1 offers roughly equal chances）

 21．d5＋－）20．gxf5 亘e8 21．d5 登f1 22．d6 cxd6 $23 . \mathrm{g} 4$ was better for White as Black is tied to the c6－pawn．

16．．．ㅡㅡxe1＋17．聯xe1 響d6
Winning．
18．暻e3

18．．．를e8 19．㘳 d2 气h5！20．g4


White cannot survive such a weakening of his position．


38．क्ष్d d 3
 41．．ibd 4 동xg4 $42 . e 4$ h5 leads to a queen ending with a plus pawn for Black．

## 38．．．f4！！

It＇s almost incredible that this move， which gives White a protected passed pawn，not only wins，but is also the only move that wins．
On the other hand，38．．．h5？39．e4＋


 only a draw．

39．e4＋
39．exf4 loses to the simple 39．．．gxf4
 opposition；and if 39．韩c 3 ，韩 C 5 ！wins．

## 39．．．．．

Good enough．But simpler and quicker

 a4－pawn falls．
The white king is paralysed by the threat of ．．．h4－h3）and now the well－ known breakthrough 41．．．g4 42．畚xa5 h4 43．．ٔ．b6 h3 44．gxh3 gxf3 or 44．．．g3．

40．喜c3 h5 41．．
 the same story．If $42 . \mathrm{e} 5$ gxf3 43．gxf3 h4 wins．
 45．홀e4


45．．．f3！46．gxf3
46．夡e3 fxg2 47．．

On 48．f4 韩g4 49．f5 韩h3！decides the issue．

49．舞f1 器xf3－＋
49．．．罗e3！
Not 49．．．高xf3？？50．寻f1＝．Now the g－pawn is under control，and if Black gives it up for the a－pawn，the white king still reaches the queenside in time．
$50 . f 4$

50．．．g2
White resigned．
東h3 would also have won．

## Andor Lilienthal Andras Jocha

Budapest simul 1966
Andor Lilienthal was born in Hungary， but he travelled a lot and lived in the Soviet Union for thirty years．However， he often visited his native country Hungary，giving lectures and simuls．
Nobody likes to lose，not even in a simul．The game given below is one which he lost and I won．
He knew he was playing against the Junior Team of Hungary，but maybe he still wasn＇t careful enough．However， instead of flying into a rage he said：＇But my dear boy，you are a very good player already．Congratulations！＇．

1．d4 ©f6 2．c4 g6 3．ec3 d5 4．0f3
 ©a6 8．e5 0 d79．e6？
Too optimistic．Uncle Lili should have continued his development instead．

## 

In the event of 11．断e2 2 b4（11．．．c5
 13．a3 0 bd5 Black already has an edge due to his better development．

11．．．e5 12．d5
12．dxe5 is dangerous after 12．．． 0 ac $5 \overline{\text { F }}$
12．．． 0 dc 5


## 13．断d1




 19．bxc3 3 部f6 gives Black a winning attack； After 13．鰝 4 c6！the position is opened up，which will be disastrous for White＇s undeveloped position．



17．．．所e7 18．axb4 唇xe4＋19．宦e3
 21．．．宽c3＋－＋．
断e5

## Zoltan Ribli

Andras Jocha
Balatonszeplak 1967 （6）
勾6 5．0－0 b5 6．崽b3 置b7 7．d4
 10．断 xd4 c5 11．兹e3 宸c7 12． 0 f 3





Since Zoltan and I were already friends at the time，and worked together，we avoided the variations we had analysed in our mutual games．My choice was luckier：Black is not only OK，he is already better here．

20．a4 c4 21．axb5 axb5 22．．̈fe1 를
23．© 4 崽xe4 24．皆xe4 畕f6

27．를1 d5 28．b3 d4 29．噚f1 륻 5

It＇s still too early for $30 \ldots \mathrm{~d} 3+31$ ．${ }^{\text {B }} \mathrm{d}$ d

 and White can contain the passed pawn．

## 31．bxc4 bxc4 32．f3 党b5 33．蔂f2



## 33．．．d3＋！34．cxd3

Now 34. ．tad 2 fails tactically to 34 ．．．${ }^{\text {苞b2 }}$
党xc2＋37．鲁xc2 宽xe3＋．

34．．．びb2＋


35．噚e3
35．亘d2 loses immediately to 35 ．．．c3． 35．声f1 c3 36．畕e3 c2（36．．．罗d5
寞e5 40．d4 寞xd4 41．寞xd4 當b1＋




 c1 欮＋and wins－the power of the passed pawn！

35．．．c3 36．${ }^{\text {unc }}$（ 38．的f4





44．置xc3 h4 45．韩f4 h3 46．置xg7 를 0－1
Now the other passed pawn decides－ 47．夢g3 嚍g2＋．

## Chapter 4

## The Dogma is Dead - BLACK is BACK!

It is not only that fresh material has come up ever since my previous book Black is OK forever! (2005). No, it is simply that I have finally found a convincing refutation of the dogma (or, as the dogmatists believed it to be, the 'axiom') of hundreds, maybe even thousands of years: that White has any advantage. It is not true. Not in the beginning position, and not in the further development of the game. I have worked on this subject for over 30 years. Already in the beginning, in 1985, I declared that starting the game with white in no way means taking the initiative. Stating that White is the one who chooses the direction of the opening and, consequently, the rest of the game, is false. Every single move on either side gives a player the opportunity to find his own way.
(See Black is OK, Batsford 1988)
Years ago, my wife Ilona discovered a nice discussion on Wikipedia about the following question: is there a first-move advantage in chess? One argument in this discussion was that the perfect chess game naturally ends in a draw. It is good that Steinitz, Lasker, Capablanca and many great players supported this opinion, but what we still need is concrete evidence.

Well, the first piece of evidence - which I have hardly seen mentioned anywhere in serious chess literature - is that ever since chess has been played, nobody has ever won a game without a mistake by the opponent. This mistake may be identified and corrected, and then everything is in order. It's so easy to understand, and nobody has ever refuted or even questioned this basic truth. It is not in accordance with the 'official' standpoint, so they keep schtumm about it.

The more I studied this key subject, the less I understood the nature of White's socalled advantage. Grandmaster Sveshnikov and another reader drew my attention to the fact that it is much easier to create a repertoire for Black than for White.

A simple example: if White plays 1.e4 he must be prepared - and very carefully too; after all 'White should be better' - for at least 9 return moves, followed by a lot of different defences! If Black wants to play the Sveshnikov, he only has to know the target opening plus the Sicilian sub-variations (2.f4, 2.b3, 2.g3, 2.c3 etc). Only the last of this list is considered to be (relatively) serious, the rest may even be better for Black already. And, I never realized this before, but in case of $1 . \mathrm{d} 4$ the balance turns out to be approximately the same!

So, surprisingly enough, it turns out that White has to prepare at least twice as many lines as Black, who can choose his direction without learning a hell of a lot of other variations.

A good combination, for example, is the Sveshnikov with the Caro-Kann. This allows you to play in quite different styles, depending on the opponent and your ranking in the tournament.

We will illustrate this further on in the book, in Chapter 9, with a complete overview of all the possible opening lines after 1.e4 and 1.d4, assembled by Endre Vegh.

