

**Opening for White According to
Anand 1.e4**

Book X

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3
Chelyabinsk Variation**

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Part 2. Chelyabinsk Variation

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Preface

Dear readers,

You are holding in your hands book ten of the series “Opening for White According to Anand – 1.e4”. It is devoted mostly to the Sveshnikov system, which is also popularly named as the Chelyabinsk variation. Naturally, it is worth remembering that the move 5...e7-e5 was played for the first time back in the year 1910 by great Lasker and this opening system changed its name numerous times throughout the years. The theory of that variation started developing rapidly during the 70ies of the last century, thanks to the efforts of Evgeny Sveshnikov, Gennadij Timoschenko and Alexander Panchenko (They all lived in the city of Chelyabinsk during those years.) and it seemed that the contemporary name should be most appropriate and logical.

In fact, starting from the seventies of the 20th century, the Chelyabinsk variation has never lost its popularity. The evaluation of that opening system has fluctuated between “100% reliable” to “almost refuted”; nevertheless, its theory has been developing intensely. Recently, the “anti-Chelyabinsk” systems – 3.♘b5 and 3.♘c3 are becoming top fashion and that only proves that the Chelyabinsk variation should be taken quite seriously. Practically all the best chess players of the world have contributed to the theory of that variation and the majority of them for both sides at that.

Well, if we follow strictly the classical principles, it would hardly be possible to classify Black’s set-up as positionally correct. It looks like White’s undisputed dominance over the d5-outpost should provide him with a stable advantage. Still, things are much more complex in practice. Amazingly enough, Black always finds resources for active counterplay based on some already typical strategical maneuvers around White’s basic outpost on d5.

My work with this book was a rather complicated task by itself. My colleagues asked me often (sometimes ironically, sometimes with genuine interest) whether I had managed to refute the Chelyabinsk variation and when that refutation would be published? Here, I must admit: no, I have not refuted the Chelyabinsk variation. Frankly speaking, I have not even tried to do that. As far as my experience and my understanding of chess are concerned, Black's opening set-up has a sound strategical basis and it can never be refuted outright. Having that in mind, I decided to try something different and that was to systematize the amassed material and knowledge and to point out the most unpleasant lines for Black.

In the first part of our book, we have analyzed some lines, which do not belong exactly to the Chelyabinsk variation (That is some rare tries for Black on move five after 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3.), as well as some not so popular sidelines of the Sveshnikov variation. All these opening systems have long been outside of the favourable recommendations of theory and quite deservedly so. We did not need to add anything principally new, but still White should play very precisely. I hope that we have pointed out clear-cut and logical ways of obtaining the advantage for White in the opening.

The second part of the book comprises in fact its focus in the aspect of common sense. It deals with positions, which are being tested practically every month at all possible levels of competition. I agree completely with the majority of the grandmasters, who consider that the greatest problems which Black must face nowadays in the Chelyabinsk variation are in the system 5...e5 6.♗db5 d6 7.♙g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗d5 ♙e7 10.♙xf6 ♙xf6 11.c3. I have not tried to change radically any theoretical evaluations, but I have managed to discover some new ideas and I have to tell you that Black will need to solve difficult problems after them.

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