THE ANTI-SICILIAN BIBLE

A Complete Opening Repertoire for Black

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Efstratios Grivas

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Key to symbols

!	a good move
?	a weak move
!!	an excellent move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
□	only move
=	equality
∞	unclear position
⩲	with compensation for the sacrificed material
⩱	White stands slightly better
∓	Black stands slightly better
±	White has a serious advantage
∓	Black has a serious advantage
+–	White has a decisive advantage
–+	Black has a decisive advantage
→	with an attack
↑	with initiative
⇄	with counterplay
Δ	with the idea of
⩿	better is
N	novelty
+	check
#	mate

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Foreword

The Sicilian Defense

The Sicilian Defense is an opening that commences with the moves **1.e4 c5**.

The Sicilian Defense is the most popular and best-scoring response to White's first move 1.e4. For example, 1.d4 is a statistically more successful opening for White because of the high success rate of the Sicilian Defense against 1.e4.

New In Chess stated in its 2000 Yearbook that of the games in its database, White scored 56.1% in 296,200 games beginning 1.d4, but 54.1% in 349,855 games beginning 1.e4, mainly because the Sicilian Defense held White to a 52.3% score in 145,996 games.

17% of all games between GM's and 25% of the games in the Chess Informant Database began with the Sicilian Defense. Almost one quarter of all games used the Sicilian Defense.

Grandmaster John Nunn attributes the Sicilian Defense's popularity to its combative nature; in many lines Black is playing not just for equality, but for the advantage.

The drawback is that White often obtains an early initiative, so Black has to take care not to fall victim to a quick attack. Grandmaster Jonathan Rowson considered why the Sicilian Defense is the most successful response to 1.e4, even though 1...c5 develops no pieces and the pawn on c5 controls only d4 and b4. Rowson writes: "To my mind there is quite a straightforward explanation. In order to profit from the initiative granted by the first move, White has to make use of his opportunity to do something before Black has an equal number of opportunities of his own.

However, to do this, he has to make 'contact' with the black position. The first point of contact usually comes in the form of a pawn exchange, which leads to the opening of the position. ...

So the thought behind 1...c5 is this: 'OK, I'll let you open the position, and develop your pieces aggressively, but at a price – you have to give me one of your center pawns' ". (Jonathan Rowson, *Chess for Zebras: Thinking Differently About Black and White.*)

By advancing the c-pawn two squares, Black asserts control over the d4-square and begins the fight for the center of the board. The move resembles 1...e5, the next most common response to 1.e4 in that respect. Unlike 1...e5, however, 1...c5 breaks

the symmetry of the position, which strongly influences both players' future actions.

White, having pushed a kingside pawn, tends to hold the initiative on that side of the board. However, 1...c5 does little for Black's development, unlike moves such as 1...e5, 1...g6, or 1...♘c6, which either develop a minor piece or prepare to do so.

In many variations of the Sicilian Defense, Black makes a number of further pawn moves in the opening (for example, ...d6, ...e6, ...a6, and ...b5). Consequently, White often obtains a substantial lead in development and dangerous attacking chances.

Meanwhile, advancing a queenside pawn has given Black a spatial advantage there and provides a basis for future operations on that flank.

Often, Black's c5-pawn is traded for White's d4-pawn in the early stages of the game, granting Black a central pawn majority. The pawn trade also opens the c-file for Black, who can place a rook or queen on that file to support the queenside counterplay.

History of the Opening

The earliest recorded notes on the Sicilian Defense date back to the late 16th century by the Italian chess players Giulio Polerio and Gioachino Greco.

As already mentioned above, the Sicilian Defense was analyzed by Giulio Polerio in his 1594 manuscript on chess, though he did not use the term Sicilian Defense. It was later the subject of analyses by leading players of the day Alessandro Salvio (1604), Don Pietro Carrera (c. 1617), and Gioachino Greco (1623), and later Conte Carlo Francesco Cozio (c. 1740).

The great French player and theoretician André Danican Philidor opined of the Sicilian Defense in 1777: "This way of opening the game ... is absolutely defensive, and very far from being the best ... but it is a very good one to try the strength of an adversary with whose skill you are unacquainted".

In 1813, the English master Jacob Henry Sarratt effectively standardized his English translation of the name of this opening as the Sicilian Defense, referring to an old Italian manuscript that used the phrase, "il gioco siciliano" (The Sicilian Game).

The Sicilian Defense was fairly popular for much of the 19th century; Louis-Charles Mahé de La Bourdonnais, Adolf Anderssen, Howard Staunton, Louis Paulsen, and Carl Jaenisch all played it with some consistency.

In the ninth edition of *Modern Chess Openings*, Walter Korn noted that the Sicilian "received three of its earliest practical tests, and a big boost in popularity, in the 1834 MacDonnell [sic] – La Bourdonnais match, 1843

Staunton – St. Amant match, and the 1851 London Tournament".

Staunton wrote of the Sicilian Defense: "In the opinion of Jaenisch and the German Handbuch, with which I coincide, this is the best possible reply to 1.P–K4, [1.e4 in algebraic notation] as it renders the formation of a center impracticable for White and prevents every attack".

The opening fell out of favor in the later part of the 19th century, when some of the world's leading players rejected it. Paul Morphy, the world's best player in the late 1850's, decried "that pernicious fondness for the Sicilian Defense ... extending from about 1843 to some time after 1851".

Wilhelm Steinitz, the first FIDE World Champion, also disliked the Sicilian Defense and rejected it in favor of 1...e5. The death of the opening's two greatest proponents, Staunton and Anderssen, in 1874 and 1879 respectively, also contributed to its decline. It has been said that "these losses almost dealt a knockout blow to the Sicilian because it took a long time to find such important figures to carry the Sicilian's standard".

George H.D.Gossip, in *The Chess Player's Manual*, first published in 1874, wrote: "Of late years ... discoveries have been made which have the effect of considerably strengthening White's attack, and the Sicilian Defense is now considered by most modern authorities to be a comparatively weak mode of play".

Freeborough and Ranken, in their treatise *Chess Openings: Ancient and Modern* (1889, 1896), wrote that the Sicilian Defense "had at one time the reputation of being the best reply to 1.P–K4, but this has not been confirmed by popular practice. Several eminent players have, however, held to the opinion that it is quite trustworthy".

The Sicilian Defense continued to be shunned by most leading players at the start of the 20th century, as 1...e5 held center stage. J.R.Capablanca, FIDE World Champion from 1921 to 1927, famously denounced it as an opening where "Black's game is full of holes". Similarly, James Mason wrote: "Fairly tried and found wanting, the Sicilian has now scarcely any standing as a first-class defense. ... [It] is too defensive. There are too many holes created in the Pawn line. Command of the field, especially in the center, is too readily given over to the invading force".

Siegbert Tarrasch wrote that 1...c5 "is certainly not strictly correct, for it does nothing toward development and merely attempts to render difficult the building-up of a center by the first player. ... [T]he Sicilian Defense is excellent for a strong player who is prepared to take risks to force a win against an inferior opponent. Against best play, however, it is bound to fail".

The Sicilian Defense was not seen even once in the 75 games played at the great St. Petersburg 1914 tournament. Nonetheless, some leading players,

such as Emanuel Lasker (FIDE World Champion from 1894 to 1921), Frank Marshall, Savielly Tartakower, Aaron Nimzowitsch, and later Max Euwe (FIDE World Champion from 1935 to 1937) played the Sicilian Defense.

Even J.R.Capablanca and S. Tarrasch, despite their critical comments, occasionally played the opening. It was played six times (out of 110 games) at New York 1924. The following year, the authors of *Modern Chess Openings* (4th edition) wrote: "The Sicilian has claims to be considered as the best of the irregular defenses to 1.P–K4 at Black's disposal, and has been practiced with satisfactory results by the leading players of the day".

In this period Black's approach was usually slow and positional, and the all-out attacks by White that became common after World War II had not yet been developed. The fortunes of the Sicilian Defense were further revived in the 1940's and 1950's by players such as Isaac Boleslavsky, Alexander Kotov, and Miguel Najdorf. Reuben Fine, one of the world's leading players during this time period, wrote of the Sicilian in 1948: "Black gives up control of the center, neglects his development, and often submits to horribly cramped positions.

How can it be good? Yet, the brilliant wins by White are matched by equally brilliant wins by Black; time and again the Black structure has been able to take everything and come back for more".

Later, Bent Larsen, Ljubomir Ljubojević, Lev Polugaevsky, Leonid Stein, Mark Taimanov and Mikhail Tal, all made extensive contributions to the theory and practice of the Sicilian Defense.

Through the efforts of World Champions Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov, the Sicilian Defense became recognized as the defense that offered Black the most winning chances against 1.e4. Both these great players favored sharp, aggressive play and employed the Sicilian Defense almost exclusively throughout their careers, burnishing the defense's present reputation.

Today, most leading GM's include the Sicilian Defense in their opening repertoire. In 1990, the authors of *Modern Chess Openings* (13th edition) noted that "in the twentieth century the Sicilian has become the most played and most analyzed opening at both club and master levels".

In 1965, in the 10th edition of that book, Grandmaster Larry Evans observed that: "The Sicilian is Black's most dynamic, asymmetrical reply to 1.P–K4. It produces the psychological and tension factors which denote the best in modern play and gives notice of a fierce fight on the very first move".

Note that the research on the played games is up to the Spring 2022.

Efstratios Grivas
Sharjah, July 2022

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SD B20-31

Miscellaneous Lines

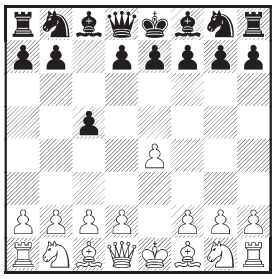
Introduction

Facing the Sicilian Defense with the white pieces can be joyful or a nightmare when you think of the endless variations that Black can opt for!

So, there is a certain percentage of players who prefer to adopt some miscellaneous lines and forget about long theoretical battles. Although this policy cannot really fight for an opening advantage, it has its pros and cons and cannot be underestimated. The main plus is that it is quite unlikely for the Black player to have a decent preparation and he is often caught in nasty situations.

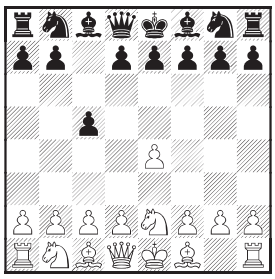
These lines are classified in the Encyclopedia of Chess Openings (ECO) under B20 or B31.

After the initial moves **1.e4 c5**



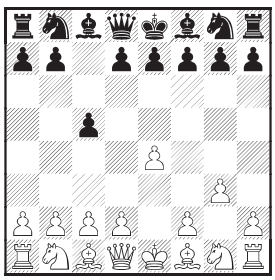
White can make various miscellaneous choices:

↘ Sub-Chapter A: **2.♘e2**



The Keres Variation – a favorite of Paul Keres, which has similar ideas to the Chameleon System. White can follow up with 3.d4, with an Open Sicilian Defense, 3.g3, with a Closed Sicilian Defense, or 3.♘bc3, continuing to defer the choice between the two (ECO B20).

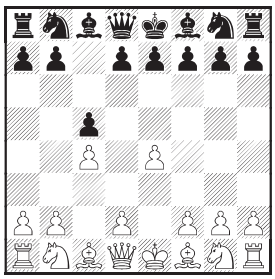
↘ Sub-Chapter B: 2.g3



The Steinitz Variation or Lasker-Dunne Attack, was sometimes played by Mark Taimanov. It can transpose

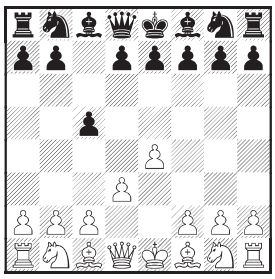
to the Closed Sicilian Defense but offers other options such as 2…d5 3.exd5 ♕xd5, with Black's queen threatening to capture White's exposed rook, and an incipient central build-up with c3 and d4 for White (ECO B20).

↘ Sub-Chapter C: **2.c4**



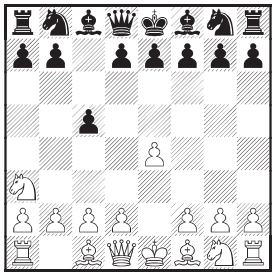
The Staunton-Cochrane Variation, occasionally leads to positions that resemble lines in the English Opening. Richard Palliser and Paul Keres recommend avoiding mainline English theory with 2…♘c6 3.♘c3 e5!, which prevents White from playing d4 (ECO B20).

↘ Sub-Chapter D: **2.d3**



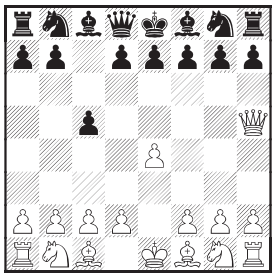
The text signals White's intention to develop along King's Indian Attack lines, and usually transposes to the Closed Sicilian Defense (ECO B20).

↘ Sub-Chapter E: **2.♘a3**



The Kronberger Variation is an eccentric move recently returned to prominence by GM Vadim Zvjaginsev at the 2005 Russian Chess Championship Superfinal. He used it thrice during the tournament, drawing twice and beating FIDE World Champion Alexander Khalifman (ECO B31).

↘ Sub-Chapter F: **2.♕h5**



Threatening the c-pawn as in the Wayward Queen Attack, was played twice in 2005 by H. Nakamura, but the move is considered dubious. Simply 2…♘f6 gives Black a comfortable position after 3.♕xc5 ♘xe4, while 3.♕h4 displaces the queen and loses time.

Hikaru Nakamura lost in 23 moves to Andrei Volokitin in 2005, and Neil McDonald criticized the opening experiment as "rather foolish" (ECO B20).

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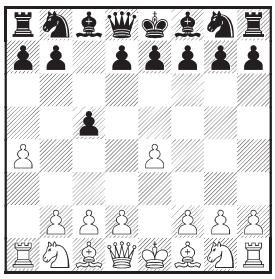
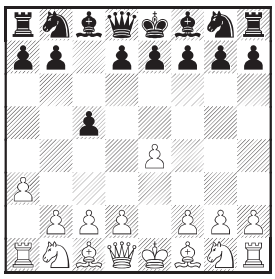
↘ Sub-Chapter G: **2.a4**



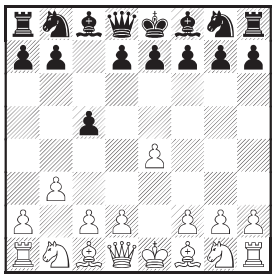
This is usually followed up with 3.f4, with play similar to a Grand Prix Attack. Simon Williams once defeated Jovica Radovanovic with the line (ECO B31).

↘ Sub-Chapter H: **2.a3**



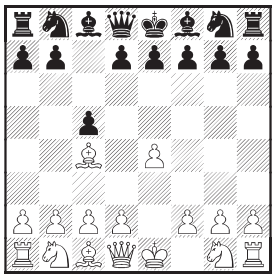
The Mengarini Variation is similar to the Wing Gambit – the idea being to play 3.b4 on the next move (ECO B20).

↘ Sub-Chapter I: **2.b3**



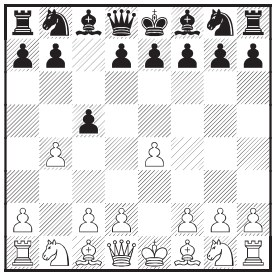
This is followed by 3.♗b2 and it is the Snyder Variation, named after the USCF master Robert M. Snyder. It has been used occasionally by Nigel Short and is a favorite of the Georgian GM Tamaz Gelashvili (ECO B20).

↘ Sub-Chapter J: **2.♗c4**



This is the Bowdler Attack, and though once played at the highest level, is popular today only among club players or beginners who are unfamiliar with the Sicilian Defense and are looking either to attack the 'weak' f7-pawn or to prepare for a quick kingside castle (ECO B20).

↘ Sub-Chapter K: **2.b4**



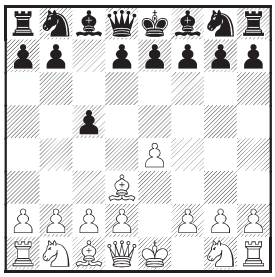
This is the Wing Gambit. White's idea is 2.b4 cxb4 3.a3, hoping to deflect Black's c-pawn, then dominate the center with an early d4. However, chess theory has proven in the past that this idea is dubious at best.

The Wing Gambit is thus generally

considered too reckless, and rarely seen in grandmaster praxis. GM Joe Gallagher calls it "a forgotten relic", hardly having set foot in a tournament hall since the days of Frank Marshall and Rudolph Spielmann.

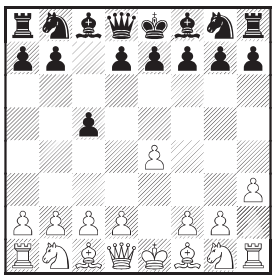
White sacrifices a pawn for… well, not a lot. Magnus Carlsen is the one notable player who has tried this in recent times at faster time controls, but apart from its surprise factor, the Wing Gambit doesn't have a lot going for it (ECO B20).

↘ Sub-Chapter L: **2.♗d3**



English IM Danny Kopec suggests the move 2.♗d3 (or 3.♗d3), against any of Black's common responses, intending to follow up with c3 and ♗c2. This line is known as the Kopec System (ECO B31).

↘ Sub-Chapter M: **2.h3**



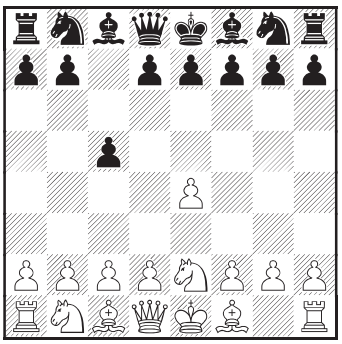
A child of the internet era, which has been 'developed' during the isolation of the 'corona times'! But anyway, it remains a suspicious way to handle the Sicilian Defense and cannot be suggested (ECO B31).

Chapter 1

Move By Move

Sub-Chapter A – 2.♘e2

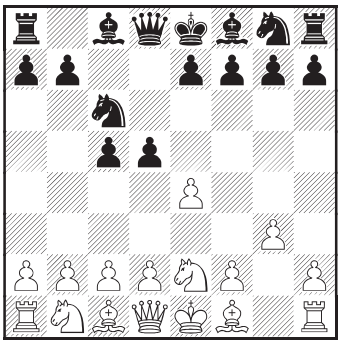
1.e4 c5 2.♘e2



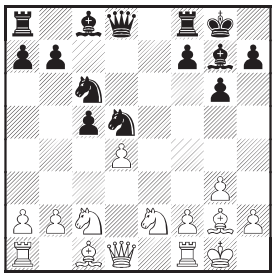
2...♘c6 3.g3

3.♘bc3 e5 This transposes to the Chameleon System and probably White should opt for it.

3...d5



The principal way. If Black wishes he can also opt for the following alternative. 3...g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.c3 e5 6.0-0 ♘ge7 7.♘a3 (7.a3 d6 8.b4 0-0 9.d3 ♗e6 10.♗e3 b6 11.b5 ♘b8 [11...♘a5?! 12.c4 ♕d7 13.♗d2 ♘b7 14.♘bc3 f5 15.♘d5± Motylev,A–Hou Yifan Wijk aan Zee 2009] 12.c4 [12.♘d2 a6 13.a4 d5!∓] 12...a6! 13.♘bc3 axb5 14.♘xb5 ♘bc6 15.♖b1 ♕d7= Averbakh,Y–Parma,B Beverwijk 1963) 7...0-0 8.♘c2 d5 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4



a) 11...c4 12.♘e3 (12.♘c3 ♗e6 13.♕f3 ♘b6∓ Ikonomou,G–Michelakis,G Crete 1996; 12.♗d2 ♗f5 13.♘e3 ♘xe3 14.fxe3 ♕d7∞ Mucha,M–Chen,Y Belfort 2005) 12...♘b6 13.d5 ♘b4 (13...♘e7!? 14.♘c3 ♘f5∞) 14.♘f4 ♗d7 15.♗d2± Al Qudaimi,B–Grivas,E Sharjah 2016

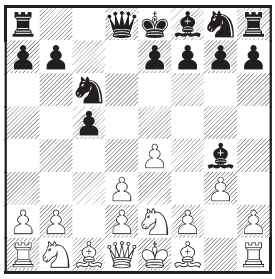
b) 11...cxd4 12.♘exd4 ♖e8 (12...♘xd4 13.♘xd4 ♘b4 14.♗e3 ♘d5 15.♗c1= Salaun,Y–Kallai,G France 2007) 13.♘b5 (13.♘xc6 bxc6 14.♘e3 ♗e6∓) 13...a6 14.♘bd4 ♘xd4 15.♘xd4

♘b6 16.♗e3 ♘c4∓ Demchenko,A–Kokarev,D Voronezh 2010

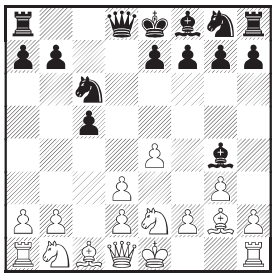
4.♗g2

White has no real option:

a) 4.♘bc3?! d4 5.♘b1 e5 (5...d3 6.cxd3 ♗g4



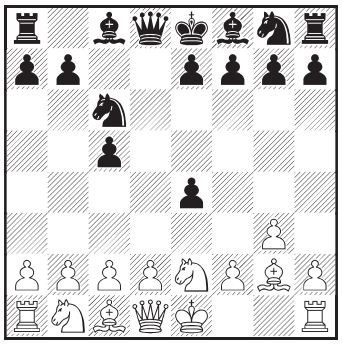
7.♗g2 [7.♕b3 ♘f6! {7...♘e5 8.♘g1 ♗f3 9.♕b5+ ♕d7 10.♕xd7+ ♔xd7 11.♘xf3 ♘xf3+ 12.♔d1∞ Sourav,B–Basu,S Kolkata 2002} 8.♘a3 ♗f3 9.♖g1 ♕d7∓]



7...♘b4 8.0-0 ♕xd3 9.f3 ♗d7 10.♔h1 e5∓ Sanz Aguado,J–Diez del Corral,J Barcelona 1956) 6.d3 ♗e6 7.♗g2 ♕d7 8.h3 0-0-0∓ Ivanov,I–Panev,R Sofia 1992

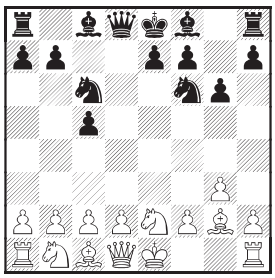
b) 4.exd5?! ♕xd5 5.♖g1 ♕h5 (5...♘e5 6.♗g2 ♘f3+ 7.♗xf3 ♕xf3 8.♘ec3 ♕xd1+ 9.♘xd1 e5∓) 6.♗g2 ♕xh2 7.♔f1 ♗h3 8.♘f4 ♗xg2+ 9.♖xg2 ♕h6∓ Piotrowicz,M–Galazewski,T Wroclaw 2007

4...dxe4



5.♘bc3

A lot of games have been played as follows. 5.♗xe4 ♘f6 (5...g6 6.♘bc3 ♗g7 7.d3 ♕d7 8.♗e3 b6 9.d4 ♘f6∓ Bartel,M–Howell,D Internet 2021) 6.♗g2 g6 (6...♗g4 7.h3 ♗h5 8.g4 ♗g6 9.♘bc3 e6 10.d3 ♗d6 11.♗e3 0-0∞ Bartel,M–Moiseenko,A Internet 2020; 6...e5 7.d3 h6 8.♘bc3 ♗d6 9.h3 ♘d4 10.0-0 0-0∓ Krutko,A–Seo,J Internet 2022)



7.0-0 (7.♘bc3 ♗g7 8.d3 0-0 9.♗g5 [9.0-0 ♕d7 {9...e5 10.f4 exf4 11.♗xf4 ♗g412.♕d2♖e813.♖ae1♕d7∓Belus,B–Micek,J Bratislava 2010} 10.♘e4 b6∓ Castrogiovanni,C–Gurevich,D Ischia 1997] 9...♕d7 10.♕d2 b6 11.h4 h5 12.0-0-0 ♗b7∓ Bartel,M–Bacrot,E Internet 2020) 7...♗g7 8.♘bc3 ♘d4 9.d3 0-0

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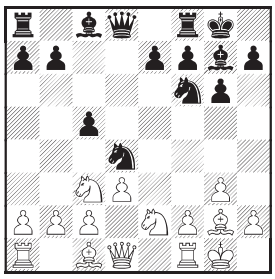
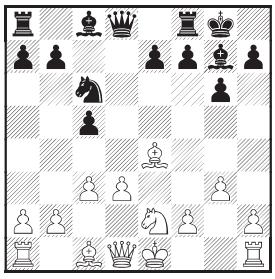


10.♗g5 (10.♘f4 ♗g4 11.f3 ♗d7 12.♘e4 ♖c8∓ Arguelles Ovando,V–Capo Vidal,U Mexico City 2001; 10.♘xd4 cxd4 11.♘e2 ♕b6∓ Sokhanvarian,P–Vaibhav,S Kemer 2007) 10...♗g4 11.f3 ♗f5 12.♖b1 h6 13.♗e3 ♖c8∓ Costagliola,M–Lallemand,R Saint Quentin 2000

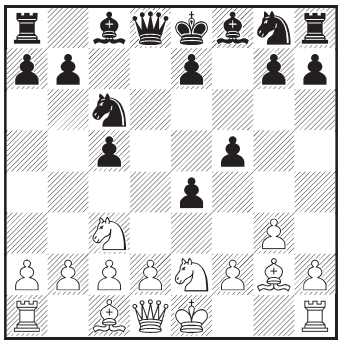
5.0-0?! This sacrifice is not advisable. 5...♘f6 6.♘bc3 ♗f5 7.f3 exf3 8.♗xf3 e6 9.d3 ♗e7∓ Likhit,C–Gupta,A New Delhi 2018

5...f5

Of course the following is fully playable. 5...♘f6 6.♘xe4 ♘xe4 7.♗xe4 g6 (7...♕d6 8.♗g2 g6 9.0-0 ♗g7 10.d3 0-0 11.♗f4 e5 12.♗e3 ♗g4 13.h3 ♗e6∓ Mihalj,M–Stojanovic,M Zlatibor 2007) 8.♗xc6+ (8.♗g2 ♗g7 9.0-0 0-0 10.d3 ♕c7 11.♗f4 e5 12.♗e3 b6∓ Sudakova,I–Miton,K Warsaw 2012; 8.d3 ♗g7 9.c3 0-0



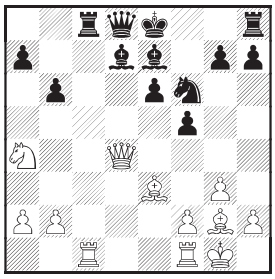
10.♗e3 ♕d6 11.♕c2 e5 12.f4 exf4 13.♘xf4 ♗d7 14.0-0 ♖ae8 15.♖ae1 b6∓ Pogosian,V–Epishin,V St Petersburg 2012) 8...bxc6 9.♘c3 ♗g7 10.♕f3 0-0 11.d3 ♖b8 12.0-0 ♕a5 13.♖e1 ♗e6∓ Onischuk,V–Najer,E Internet 2020



6.0-0

White has a number of alternatives here:

a) 6.d3 exd3 7.cxd3 (7.♘f4?! dxc2! [7...♘f6 8.♘xd3 e6 9.♗f4 ♗e7 10.0-0⩲ Guiria,O–Ozturk,K Khalkidiki 2003] 8.♗xc6+ bxc6 9.♕xc2 [9.♕h5+ g6 10.♘xg6 ♘f6–+] 9...e5∓) 7...♘f6 8.0-0 e6 (8...g6? 9.♖e1 ♗g7 10.♗e3± Kubicka,A–Gevorgyan,M Internet 2020) 9.♘a4 ♗d7 10.♗e3 b6 11.♖c1 ♖c8 12.d4 cxd4 13.♘xd4 ♘xd4 14.♕xd4 ♗e7∓



Goiriz,Y–Diaz Hollemaert,N Asuncion 2007

b) 6.g4 ♘f6 7.gxf5 ♗xf5 8.h3 e6 9.♘g3 ♗e7∓ Sharipov,K–Ganzhurov,R St Petersburg 2002

c) 6.f3 exf3 7.♗xf3 ♘f6 8.d3 e5 9.♗g5 ♗e6 10.♕d2 ♗e7∓ Penson,T–Nieto,E Belgium 2001

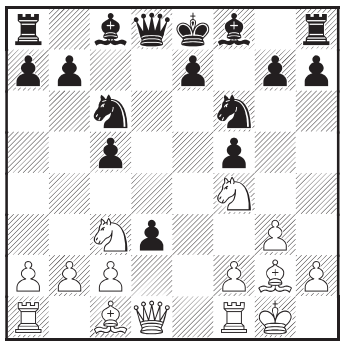
d) 6.♘f4 ♘f6 7.d3 e5 8.♘h5 ♘xh5 9.♕xh5+ g6 10.♕d1 exd3 11.♗xc6+ bxc6 12.cxd3 ♗e6∓ Wieland,I–Lommen,F Leverkusen 2008

6...♘f6 7.d3

7.f3?! exf3 8.♗xf3 e5 9.d3 ♗e7 10.♗g5 0-0∓ Abramsson,L–Arnlind,E Stockholm 1963 – White has no compensation.

7...exd3 8.♘f4

The main alternative is: 8.cxd3 e6 (8...e5 9.f4 ♗d6 10.fxe5 ♗xe5 11.♕b3 ♕e7 12.♖e1⩲) as above in Goiriz,Y–Diaz Hollemaert,N Asuncion 2007.



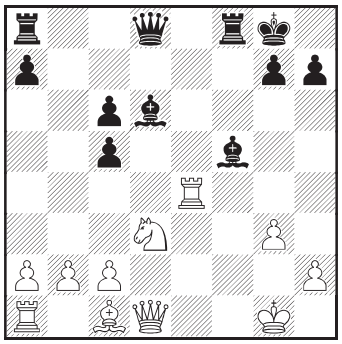
8...e5

8...dxc2! It seems that this is fully playable. 9.♗xc6+ (9.♕xc2 e5∓ 10.♖d1? ♘d4–+) 9...bxc6 10.♕xc2 e5 11.♖d1 ♕c7 12.♘g2 ♗e6∓ Hamad,E–Kukelko,A New Delhi 2019

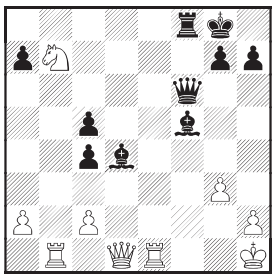
9.♗xc6+

Maybe White should try the following. 9.♖e1 ♗d6 10.♘xd3 e4 11.f3 0-0 12.fxe4 ♘g4∓

9...bxc6 10.♖e1 ♗d6 11.♘xd3 e4! 12.f3 0-0 13.fxe4 fxe4 14.♘xe4 ♘xe4 15.♖xe4 ♗f5∓



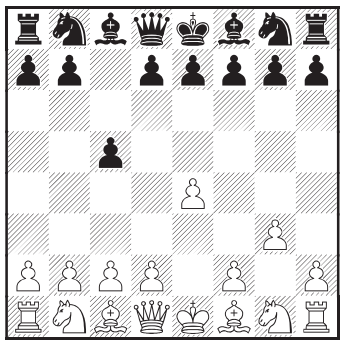
Salem,A–Grivas,E Sharjah 2019. The game ended as follows. 16.♖e1 ♕f6 17.♗e3 c4 18.♘c5 ♖ae8 19.♘b7 ♗e5 20.♗c5 ♗xb2 21.♗xf8 ♖xf8 22.♖b1 ♗d4+ 23.♔h1 c5



24.♕f3 ♗xc2 25.♕xf6 ♖xf6 26.♖e8+ ♔f7 27.♖be1 ♗a4 28.♖c8 c3 29.♘xc5 ♗c6+ 30.♖xc6 ♖xc6 31.♘b3 c2 32.♔g2 ♗b2 33. ♘c1 ♖d6 34.♖e2 ♗xc1 35.♖xc2 ♖d2+ 0-1

Sub-Chapter B – 2.g3

1.e4 c5 2.g3

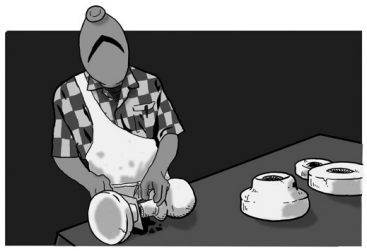


2...d5

The direct central assault might be the most active way for Black. But if he doesn't feel like it, he can always switch to the Closed Sicilian Defense with 2...♘c6 3.♗g2 g6, or to similar set-ups, as previously analyzed.

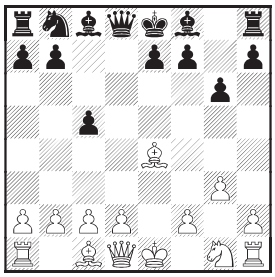
3.exd5

Black has no problem with the following line. 3.d3 dxe4 4.dxe4 ♕xd1+ 5.♔xd1 ♘c6 (5...♘f6 6.f3 ♘c6 7.c3 ♗d7 8.♗e3 0-0-0 9.♔c2 e6 10.♘d2 ♗e7= Moussard,J–Duda,J Internet 2020) 6.♗e3 (6.♘d2 f5 7.f3 ♘f6 8.♗h3 g6 9.♘e2 ♗h6 10.exf5 ♗xf5 11.♗xf5 gxf5 12.c3 0-0-0 13.♔c2 ♘d5∓ Kireev,A–Melkumyan,H Internet 2019) 6...b6 7.c3 ♘f6 8.f3 ♗b7 9.♘d2 e6 10.a4 ♘d7

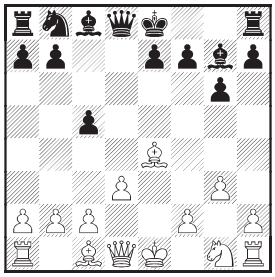


11.♔c2 ♗e7= Seirawan,Y–Kamsky,G Internet 2006

Another try is: 3.♗g2 dxe4 4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.♘xe4 ♘xe4 6.♗xe4 g6



7.d3 (7.♕f3 ♕c7 8.♘e2 [8.♕c3 e5 9.b4 ♘d7 10.h4 h5∞ Mansoor,S–Leuenberger,U Zuerich 2012] 8...♗g7 9.♘c3 0-0 10.0-0 ♘c6∞ Priborsky,M–Wulfmeyer,J Bayern 2011) 7...♗g7



8.♘e2 (8.h3 0-0 9.♘e2 ♘c6 10.♗g2 ♕d7 11.0-0 ♖d8 12.♖b1 b6 13.♗e3 ♗b7∓ Borras Ferreros,I–Garcia Cano,A Catalunya 2008) 8...♘d7 9.0-0 0-0 10.c3 ♘f6 11.♗g2 ♕b6∞ Kokolias,K–Malakoudis,D Athens 1997

3...♕xd5 4.♘f3

Although it doesn't look good to get the knight under a pin, this is the best way for White to fight.