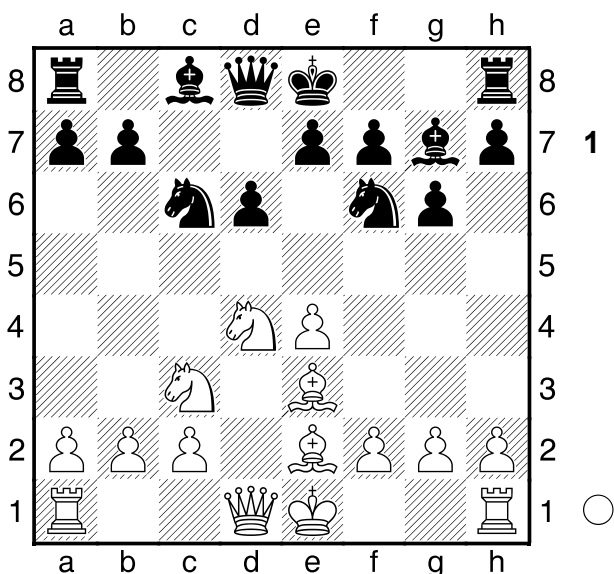


□ Alekhine, Alexander
 ■ Botvinnik, Mikhail
 Nottingham Round:
 [Moreno Ruiz, Javier]

B72
 1936

FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF THE CENTRE. CENTRAL COUNTER-ATTACK. 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♙e2 ♗g7 7.♙e3 We are going to analyse White's rash attempts to attack by leaving the king in the centre in this structure, and play on the basis of rapid h4 or g4. Black's position is solid and well developed, and therefore he does not seem to have any problems in dealing with these generally premature attacking attempts. 7...♗c6



8.♗b3 This move is necessary to avoid the central counterplay d5 at some point, as well as the typical tactical theme of Ng4, speculating with Nd4 in the air, as well as another typical tactical blow: Qb6. IT IS WORTH BEARING THESE MOVES IN MIND IN THE DRAGON AT ALL TIMES.

[8.f4 0-0 9.g4?! ♗b6! Instructive tactical stroke: either xb2, xg4 or e4 are threatened. 10.♖b1? (10.♗f5? ♗xb2! 11.♗a4 ♗b4+ 12.c3 ♗xe4 13.♙f3 ♗e6+) 10...♗xe4! 11.♗xe4 ♗xd4+] [8.g4? This allows us to see another instructive tactical theme. ♗xg4! 9.♗xc6 (9.♙xg4 ♗xg4 10.♗xg4 ♗xd4 11.0-0-0 ♗c6) 9...♗xe3 10.♗xd8 ♗xd1]]

8...0-0 The black position is solid and well developed, and is prepared to withstand rapid onslaughts from white with good central counterplay. THE CENTRAL BLOW d5 is fundamental. 9.f4

[9.h4 h5! 10.f3 d5!? Un golpe central muy instructivo, aunque haya que considerarlo como un tanto arriesgado en este momento. (10...♙e6 Parece sencilla y buena. 11.♗d2 d5) 11.exd5 (11.♗xd5 ♗xd5 12.exd5 ♗b4 13.♗d2 ♗xd5 14.0-0-0 ♙e6 15.♗d4 ♗c7 16.♙xg7 ♗xg7 17.♗d4 ♗f4 18.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 19.g4 ♗h8=) 11...♗b4 12.♗d2 (12.♙c4 ♗c7 13.♙c5 ♙f5 14.♙xb4 ♗xc4 15.♙xe7 ♗fe8 16.d6 b5) 12...♗bxd5 13.0-0 ♙e6 14.♗d4 ♗xc3 1/2-1/2 Wurdits, R-Wallner, W/Moesern 1977/EXT 2006]

9...♙e6 10.g4 A dangerous variation, often practised, for example, by Lasker.

[10.h4?! h5 As a rule this move is always advisable before h4. Now White has been severely weakened and g4 is coming up against him, a move that is almost always desirable in the Dragon. 11.f5? gxf5 12.exf5 ♗xf5 13.♙xh5 ♗xh5 14.♗xh5 ♗xc2 Preventing the long castling, and it is evident that the whole white attack is very premature. 15.♙h6 ♙g6 16.♗g5 e6] With one more healthy pawn]

10...d5!! A sensational theoretical novelty of the time, and one which disproved a variation which had worked very well for White. Black's reaction is very logical, and this temporary sacrifice of , in order to activate in the centre nowadays seems almost routine to us. IT IS EXTREMELY LOGICAL TO RESPOND TO A BLOW ON THE FLANK WITH A CENTRAL COUNTERPLAY.

[10...♗a5 11.g5 ♗e8 12.♗d4 ♗c8 13.h4 With a dangerous white initiative, which won several games]

11.f5 ♙c8 12.exd5 ♗b4 An important moment. THE POSITION IS ONE OF ACUTE AND COMPLEX STRUGGLE. White in the centre always gives Black good chances, but White has many options to take the game into murky waters. 13.d6 After a long reflection, Alekhine decides to return the exchange of initiative, but does not achieve much in the face of Black's precise tactical play.

[13.fxg6 ♗fxd5! (13...hxg6 14.♙f3 ♗xg4 15.♙xg4 ♙xg4 16.♗xg4 ♗xc2+ 17.♙e2 ♗xa1 18.♖xa1 ♙xc3 19.bxc3 ♗xd5 And the black ones are fine, it's another simpler possibility.) 14.♗xd5 ♗xd5 15.gxh7+ ♗h8 16.♗d4 e5 17.♙f2 f5! With good black compensation, and sharp fight.]

13...♗xd6 14.♙c5

[14.♗xd6 exd6 15.0-0-0 ♖e8]]

14...♗f4! Looking at the draw, everything that follows is practically forced.

[14...♗xd1+ 15.♖xd1 a5 16.g5± And white is very active here.]

15.♖f1 ♗xh2 16.♙xb4 ♗xg4! 17.♙xg4 ♗g3+ 18.♖f2

[18.♙e2? ♗xg4+ 19.♖f3 ♗xb4+]]

[18.♙d2?? ♙h6+ 19.♙e2 ♗e3#]

18...♗g1+ 19.♖f1 ♗g3+ 20.♖f2 ♗g1+ A game of great theoretical and strategic importance, against a variation that was considered too strong for White. A LARGE NUMBER OF TACTICAL THEMES OF THE DRAGON CAN BE SEEN IN THIS GAME.

1/2-1/2

B73

□ Slater, Derek
 ■ Donaldson, John W
 Seattle
 [Moreno Ruiz, Javier]

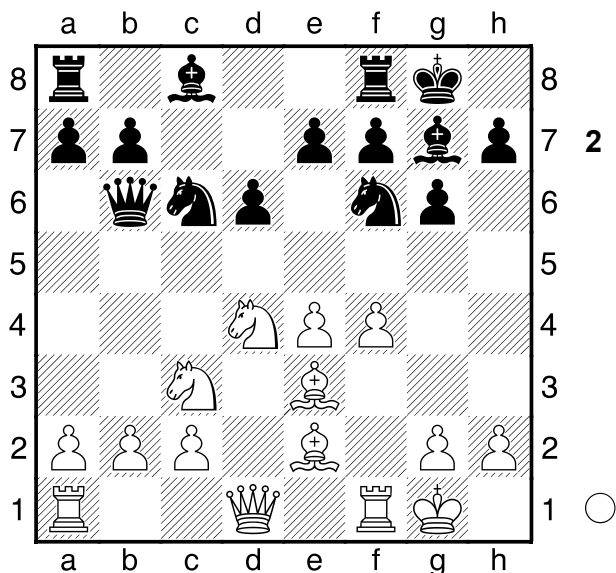
1987

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♙e2 ♗g7 7.♙e3 ♗c6 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4?! ♗b6!

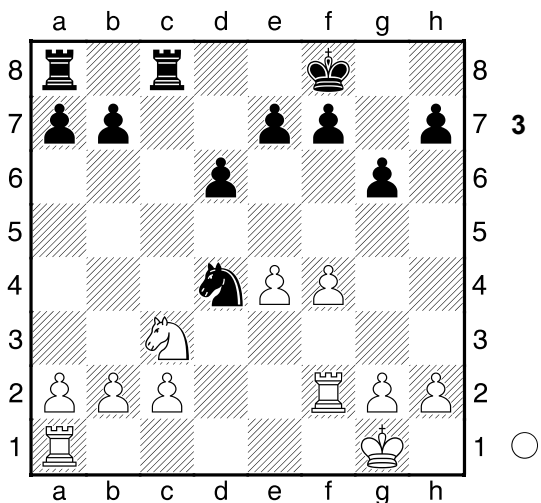
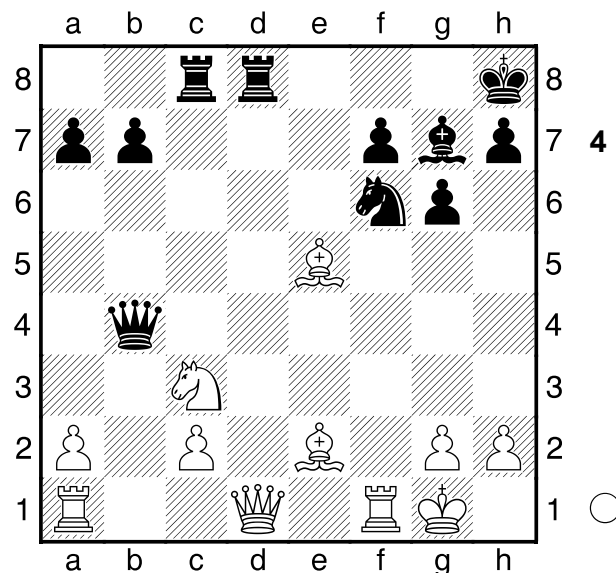
(Diagrama 2)

A topic to remember. Black have the threat of ♗xb2 and ♗xe4. 10.e5!?

[10.♗d3 ♗g4 11.♙xg4 ♗xd4 12.♙xd4 ♗xd4+



13. ♖xd4 ♜xd4 14. ♙xc8 ♜xc8 15. ♖f2 ♜f8



A endgame typically favorable for black. 0-1 (53 Schaefer, M (2411) -Lobzhanidze, D (2470) Dresden 2007]

[10. ♖b1 ♜xe4 11. ♜f5 ♜xc3 12. bxc3 ♖a5 13. ♜xg7 ♜xg7]

10...dxe5 11.fxe5 ♜xe5 12.♜f5 ♖xb2 13.♜xe7+ ♜h8 14.♙d4 ♖b4 15.♜xc8 ♜axc8 16.♙xe5

[16. ♖b1 ♖e7]

16...♜fd8+

(Diagrama 4)

17. ♙d3 ♖c5+
0-1