

Contents

Preface 7

1. ♖f3 ♗f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♗c3 ♙g7 4. e4 d6 5. d4 0–0 6. ♗e2 e5 7. 0–0

Part 1. 7...exd4 8. ♗xd4

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 1 | various; 8...♗e8 9.f3 without 9...c6 and 9...♗c6 | 11 |
| 2 | 8...♗e8 9.f3 c6 | 20 |
| 3 | 8...♗e8 9.f3 ♗c6 10.♙e3 without 10...♗h5 | 38 |
| 4 | 8...♗e8 9.f3 ♗c6 10.♙e3 ♗h5 | 48 |

Part 2. 7...♗a6 8. ♙e3

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----|
| 5 | various; 8...h6; 8...♗e7 | 63 |
| 6 | 8...♗e8 | 72 |
| 7 | 8...c6 | 83 |
| 8 | 8...♗g4 9.♙g5 f6 | 98 |
| 9 | 8...♗g4 9.♙g5 ♗e8. | 107 |

Part 3. 7...♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7 9.b4

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 10 | various; 9...c6 | 118 |
| 11 | 9...♗h8 | 125 |
| 12 | 9...♗d7 10.♗d2 without 10...f5 | 136 |
| 13 | 9...♗d7 10.♗d2 f5 | 153 |
| 14 | 9...♗e8 | 179 |
| 15 | 9...a5 10.♙a3 without 10...axb4 | 192 |
| 16 | 9...a5 10.♙a3 axb4 11.♙xb4 without 11...♗d7 | 203 |
| 17 | 9...a5 10.♙a3 axb4 11.♙xb4 ♗d7 | 217 |
| 18 | 9...♗h5 10.♗e1 without 10...a5 and 10...f5 | 233 |
| 19 | 9...♗h5 10.♗e1 a5 11.bxa5 ♗f4; 11...f5; 11...♗xa5 12.♗d2 ♗f4 13.♙f1 without 13...c5 | 246 |
| 20 | 9...♗h5 10.♗e1 a5 11.bxa5 ♗xa5 12.♗d2 ♗f4 13.♙f1 c5 | 255 |
| 21 | 9...♗h5 10.♗e1 f5 11.♗g5 ♗f4. | 266 |
| 22 | 9...♗h5 10.♗e1 f5 11.♗g5 ♗f6. | 274 |

Index of Variations 285

Dear readers,

This book is devoted to the contemporary variations of the classical system of the King's Indian Defence. I classify into that group the lines in which after: 1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0, Black plays 7...exd4, 7...♗a6, or 7...♗c6. This definition might seem to you to be a bit unusual, but I believe Black's hopes to obtain a good counterplay are based mostly on these variations, in which the opening theory is developing most intensely.

The system with 7...exd4, used to be considered as not so good for Black for many years. It looked like Black had to defend a strategically difficult position with his chances mostly based on some tactical tricks. Still, in the middle of the 90ies of the last century, largely due to the efforts of grandmasters Anthony Miles and Igor Glek, there gained popularity an effectively new system: 7...exd4 8.♗xd4 ♗e8 9.f3 ♗c6 10.♙e3 ♗h5!?, in which Black opts immediately for an active play on the dark squares. The theory of that variation evolves nowadays too, although White has found ways to obtain a positional advantage, which are analyzed thoroughly in the corresponding parts of our book.

The 7...♗a6 system starts with a move, which would hardly be approved by the classics ("The knight at the edge of the board..."), but it is in fact a typical example of the contemporary treatment of the openings. This idea of GM Leonid Yurtaev, who began to use that development of his queen's knight in almost all the variations of the King's Indian Defence, found its new adherents quickly at almost all levels. At one moment, it seemed that move of the knight at the edge of the board might even become the main line for Black, exceeding the popularity of the traditional move – 7...♗c6. Later, practice showed that the opinions of the classics should not be disregarded and White found plenty of advantageous lines and most of them are based exactly on exploiting the irregular placement of Black's knight on a6. We have done our best to analyze thoroughly the new ideas for White and in particular the sharpest variation – 8.♙e3 ♗g4 9.♙g5 ♗e8 10.c5!?.

Finally, the last and of course the main part of our book is devoted to the variations with the move 7...♖c6. It is worth mentioning that mostly thanks to the efforts of Vladimir Kramnik during the second half of the 90ies of the last century – the system with: 8.d5 ♖e7 9.b4, became extremely fashionable and especially the variation: 9...♖h5 10.♗e1. Meanwhile, the greatest contribution to the theory of that system we owe to several games between Kramnik and Topalov. If we have in mind – there will be a unification – match in the autumn of 2006 between these two players, this book is coming out of print as if at the best possible moment! We should not be surprised if these two adversaries might decide to relive the past and to test in practice the newest discoveries of the opening theory and the new original analyses collected on these pages?!

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