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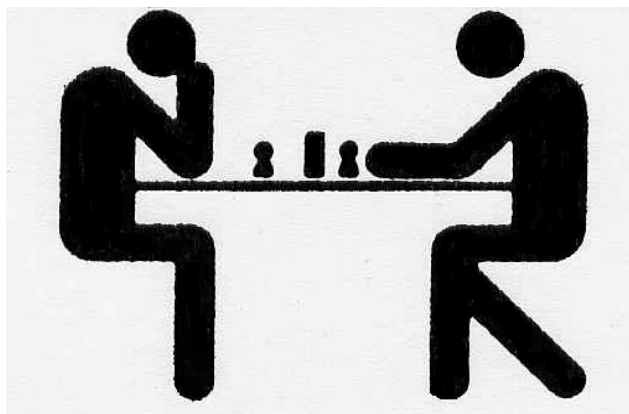
The Exchange Sacrifice

Efstratios Grivas

First Edition in Pdf - 2014

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ISBN-13: 978-618-81200-6-3

ISSN-13: 978-618-81200-2-0

Cover and drawings by Nicolas Sphicas

17.Nxd5 (Analysing the game Keres-Taimanov), 2004, acrylic on canvas, 90x110 cm

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Foreword

FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov

Chess has existed as a sport played at a competitive level for centuries. The common code governing the Laws of Chess is relatively recent, and the foundation of *Fédération Internationale des Échecs* (FIDE), in Paris in 1924, is even more modern. FIDE currently has 182 member federations spread across all continents. Titles for players were introduced by FIDE in 1950, and titles for Arbiters and Organizers followed. From 2005 we are moving to a new phase, with titles for Trainers.

Chess is on the increase in schools across the world. It is part of the mainstream curriculum in many countries. It is a goal of FIDE to make chess an educational tool, and generate worldwide popularity for the game. Examples of the many educational advantages of chess are: shows the need to make people realize the importance of advance planning; develops analytic and accurate thinking; shows the necessity for a combative spirit; teaches fair play and emphasizes the need for preparation and hard work for success. However, with the increasing population of chess players, comes the need for trainers to assist with their development.

This is a new concept of the ever-active FIDE Trainers' Commission. This series is dedicated to advanced subjects, consisting of 80-page books. We do hope that we will be able to deliver 3-4 such books annually, increasing the level and the education of our trainers worldwide. This series will provide excellent manuals for trainers and fulfils a considerable need in modern chess literature, concentrating on the technical side of the game, but also covering various other topics and providing information. The best trainers will contribute to this series, which will be an essential tool in the preparation of trainers at all levels for the future. It will ensure that the next generation of players will be at a great advantage over those that have gone before.



Symbols

+	check	=	equal position
++	double check	∞	unclear position
#	checkmate	∞	with compensation
!!	brilliant move	⚖	Black is slightly better
!	good move	⚖	Black has a large advantage
!?	interesting move	—+	Black is winning
?!	dubious move	1-0	the game ends in a win for White
?	bad move	½-½	the game ends in a draw
??	blunder	0-1	the game ends in a win for Black
+-	White is winning	(D)	see next diagram
±	White has a large advantage	○	White to play
±	White is slightly better	●	Black to play

The Exchange Sacrifice

Terminology

The positional (and tactical) element of the exchange sacrifice (rook for a bishop or a knight) is a very important topic, the exploration of which requires advanced skills and competitive experience.

The exchange sacrifice is a difficult subject to master, as the chess player is requested to overcome the dogmatic rules with which he has been brought up, in particular the quantitative evaluation of material.

In this book we are not concerned with an exchange sacrifice if it is immediately followed by a mating attack or material gains. For this reason, the term 'positional exchange sacrifice' will be used, in order to indicate that the exchange is given up in order to establish long-term advantages (compensation), which the attacker hopes will ultimately repay him.

First Steps

When we are taking our first steps in the process of mastering chess we are taught that a rook's value is five pawns and that of a bishop/knight is three pawns. With this arithmetical preconception we move on to play our royal game for quite a long time. This is a correct approach to teaching, as in this early stages it is quite difficult to master the more complicated methods that govern advanced chess strategies.

When growing up (chess-wise) we note that, from time to time, a bishop/knight can be proven stronger than a rook, but in our minds we might come to the conclusion that this was just a coincidence, a rare phenomenon, and somehow think that the side with the rook did not handle his position with the required accuracy. But this is not entirely true! We have to reassess our chess thinking and discover a different approach to the rook v. bishop/knight concept.

Keep in mind that the increasing frequency of the exchange sacrifice is probably the most widely acknowledged change in modern chess technique!

Explanation of the Concept

In many cases the idea of sacrificing the exchange is born out of necessity, prompted by the opponent's strong threats (i.e. when there is no other acceptable way of meeting them).

However, an exchange sacrifice of this kind (passive) does not guarantee positive results, while its failure to meet one's aims (something quite common in such cases) affects the player psychologically and causes him to refrain from such actions in the future.

In the opening and middle game our pieces should be identified as units that, by cooperating harmoniously, shape our plans, that in turn are executed by means of moves.

Each unit is an integral part of our position and we can determine our advantage or inferiority only by taking all units into account, identifying and evaluating both their positive and negative aspects.

Naturally, it is not easy to identify which of our pieces (or even the opponent's pieces) is carrying out the most significant function. We have to take several strategic elements into consideration, such as the centre, open lines, initiative, attack, etc.

When carrying out such evaluations, the value of our rooks barely differs from that of our minor pieces, since an advantage is only conferred by their fruitful cooperation and not their individual, predetermined value.

If we accept that, as a rule, the superiority of the rook is realized in the endgame (usually the rook is unstoppable in this part of the game), we naturally come to the conclusion that an exchange sacrifice in the opening or the middle game (sometimes in the endgame too!) can occur more and more frequently and may be acceptable for many reasons, furthering several diverse aims.

Of course, the primary aim is to seize the initiative, the momentum of which very often shatters the opponent, as the sacrificing party is actually playing a 'piece ahead' (the rooks have not yet come into action) for some time.

The exchange sacrifice is becoming even more routine nowadays and there are many standard positions in which exchange sacrifices are second nature, for example, ... ♖xc3 in various 'Sicilian Defence' opening schemes, or ... ♖xf3 in similar settings in the 'French Defence'. In both of these cases Black gains the advantage of split and doubled pawns in the enemy camp, as well as the initiative (among others).

Exchange Sacrifice Types

Before we expand on important reasons (compensation) to sacrifice the exchange, we must make an essential differentiation between two main types (there are many more) of exchange sacrifices:

A. *The active exchange sacrifice*: Before the 1930s this was a rare occurrence. First Botvinnik and then Petrosian (as well as other famous Soviet masters) employed the exchange sacrifice as a 'lethal weapon' and exploited its positive sides.

So, there is no doubt that the exchange sacrifice is part and parcel of modern chess, in a way that it never was before the 1930s.

The ex-World Champion Tigran Petrosian gives us a clear 'description' of the exchange sacrifice: 'I have gradually realized that the greatest difficulty presenting itself when sacrificing the exchange is entirely of a psychological nature. When a chess player decides about his move, knowledge of the material connection involuntarily eliminates from his mind moves by which valuable pieces become capturable.'

But nowadays every top player looks for opportunities to benefit from an appropriate exchange sacrifice.

So, the goals pursued by it are (among others):

1. To exploit our better development.
2. To destroy the opponent's pawn structure.
3. To open lines in order to attack.
4. To control important squares (individual ones or complexes).
5. To control important diagonals.
6. To assume the initiative.

Various concepts, such as the *Attack on the King*, the *Strategical*, the *Open File*, the

Doubled Pawns, the *Double Rook Sacrifice* and the *Endgame* will be analysed.

B. *The passive exchange sacrifice*: This type of sacrifice was much more common before the 1930s (and of course is still common today!) and may serve the following aims (among others):

1. To repulse the opponent's attack.
2. To repulse the opponent's initiative (a more general interpretation of '1').
3. To destroy the coordination of the opponent's pieces.
4. To assume the initiative.

Of course, the list of aims for both cases can be wider.

The Right Moment

As with all such advanced strategic and tactical elements, one factor of great significance is the perception of the right moment to carry them out. The ambitious chess player must train himself to realize when a situation requires an exchange sacrifice, after properly evaluating the course of the game and the peculiarities specific to the position.

The correct implementation of the exchange sacrifice requires an open mind and a proper qualitative evaluation of the position.

Starting Out

I hope that by carefully studying this book you will gain pleasure and enjoyment and will, last but not least, be encouraged to sacrifice the exchange more frequently in the future. But never forget: sometimes your opponent too may value a minor piece higher than his rook!

Also, you must keep in mind that the exchange sacrifice is not always successful. Nobody guarantees a victory for the side that executes the exchange sacrifice, so do not start to give your rooks away in order to reserve a place in a future book dedicated to exchange sacrifices!

The examples that follow may offer some proper tuition on our subject, still though, they represent only a very small portion of the various concepts of the exchange sacrifice.

The Attack-on-the-King Concept

The Old Days

As has already been written above, in the opening and the middle game our pieces should be identified as units and, in this specific case, as 'attacking units'. This is a concept we must strongly keep in our minds, as it will help us identify various attacking schemes involving an exchange sacrifice within the confines of this concept.

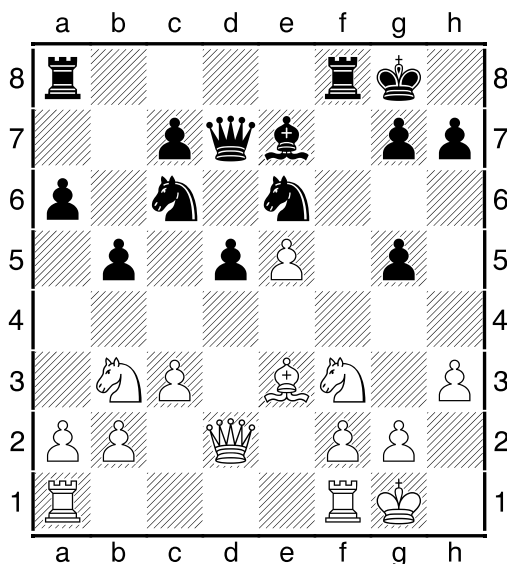
We will start our examination with two old examples; one performed by one of the greatest players that have never been World Champion, the famous Akiba Rubinstein, and the other by the fierce attacker Rudolf Spielmann:

□ Alekhine Alexander

■ Rubinstein Akiba

C83 Vilnius 1912

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6
5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♙b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♙e6
9.c3 ♙e7 10.♘bd2 ♘c5 11.♙c2 ♙g4
12.h3 ♙h5 13.♚e1 ♘e6 14.♘h2 ♙g6
15.♙xg6 fxg6 16.♘b3 g5 17.♙e3 0-0
18.♘f3 ♚d7 19.♚d2 (D)



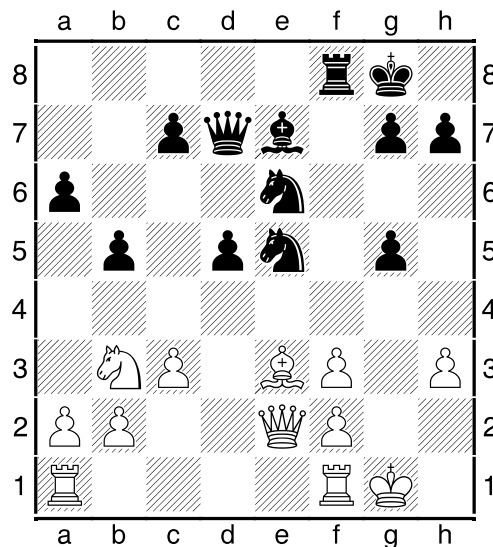
This is a classical game, where White did not handle the opening with accuracy and soon landed in a difficult position. All of Black's pieces are very well placed, controlling important squares, but still nothing seems to be clear...

19...♚xf3!

But here comes the 'solution' with an excellent exchange sacrifice. The white

king's defence is shattered, while at the same time the rest of the black army becomes quite active.

20.gxf3 ♘xe5 21.♚e2 ♚f8 (D)



For the sacrificed exchange Black is compensated by:

1. A pawn.
2. Better placed (active) pieces.
3. A shattered white pawn structure.
4. Attack on the opponent's king.

As White cannot present any counterplay, he seems to be on the verge of losing.

22.♘d2 ♘g6!

The knights are ready to occupy important squares like f4 and h4, strengthening the attack.

23.♚fe1

Not much different is 23.♚fd1 ♘ef4 24.♚f1 ♘xh3+ 25.♚h1 ♘h4.

23...♙d6

Now all of Black's forces have joined the attack. White's rooks are not contributing either in offence or defence; they are useless.

24.f4

A desperate 'liberation' try. Also decisive is 24.♚f1 ♘ef4 25.a4 ♘xh3+ 26.♚h1 ♘h4 27.axb5 axb5 28.♚a6 g4.

24...♘exf4 25.♚f1 ♘xh3+ 26.♚h1 g4 27.♚e2

27.♚g2 ♚f5 28.f3 g3! 29.♘f1 ♘h4 30.♘xg3 ♚d7 0..

27...♚f5

White resigned, as the threat of ...♚h5 cannot be met.

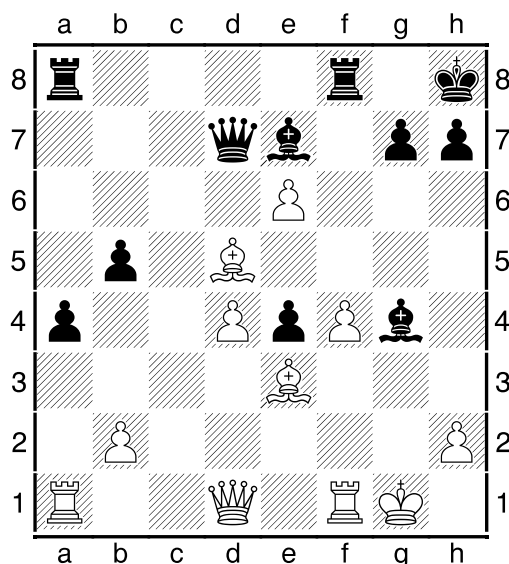
0-1

□ **Treybal Karel**

■ **Spielmann Rudolf**

C83 Teplitz Schoenau 1922

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6
5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♙b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♙e6
9.c3 ♙e7 10.♙e3 0-0 11.♘bd2 f5 12.♘xe4
fxe4 13.♘d4 ♘xd4 14.cxd4 a5 15.a4 c6
16.f4 ♖d7 17.axb5 cxb5 18.g4 a4 19.♙a2
♙xg4 20.♙xd5+ ♔h8 21.e6 (D)



21...♙xe6!?

Black could have simply played 21...♖xd5
22.♖xg4 ♖f5 with an advantage, but he
made an interesting decision to sacrifice the
exchange. His decision is based (compensa-
tion) on the following important compensa-
ting factors:

1. Control of the light squares.
2. The bishop pair.
3. Potential passed pawn on the queenside.
4. Strong attack on the white king.

By combining all of the above, Black should
be considered to be in the driver's' seat.

22.♙xa8

White had to try 22.♙xe4 ♖a6 23.d5 ♙f5 ♢.

22...♖xa8 23.♖c2 ♙c4! 24.♖f2

24.♖xe4? ♙d5 25.♖c2 ♖g4+ 26.♔f2
♙h4 #.

24...♙d3 25.♖d2 b4 26.♔h1 b3

26...a3 27.bxa3 bxa3 is also good.

27.♖g2 ♖b7 28.f5 a3 29.f6 ♙xf6 30.♖xa3
♖xa3 31.bxa3 ♙c2 32.♖g1 ♖c8 33.a4?!

33.♖b4 h6 34.♖b5 ♔h7 ♢ was a must.

33...♖f5 34.a5 ♖f3+ 35.♖g2 h5! 36.♔g1
b2 0-1

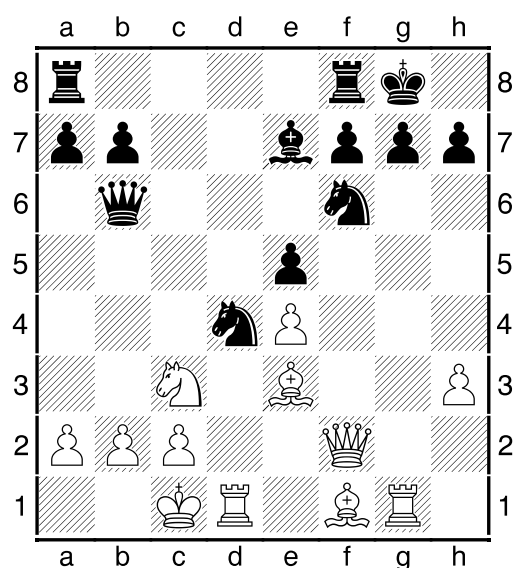
The Soviet masters were the first to
develop a specific feeling for the exchange
sacrifice. They studied it in depth and they
were the first to comprehend its value. Here
follow three excellent games played by three
famous players:

□ **Korchnoi Viktor**

■ **Geller Efim**

B64 Kiev 1954

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6
5.♘c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♖d2 ♙e7 8.0-0-0
0-0 9.f4 e5 10.♘f3 ♙g4 11.h3 ♙xf3
12.gxf3 ♘d4 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.♖g1 ♘xf3
15.♖f2 ♖b6 16.♙e3 ♘d4 (D)



It seems that Black has correctly organized
his defence and is ready to take action on the
queenside. His strongly placed d4-knight in
cooperation with his major pieces will do the
job. But White had a different opinion:

17.♖xd4!

17.♙xd4? exd4 18.♖xd4 ♖xd4 19.♖xd4
♙c5 0..

17...exd4 18.♙xd4

Now White's forces are ready to harass the
black king.

18...♖d8

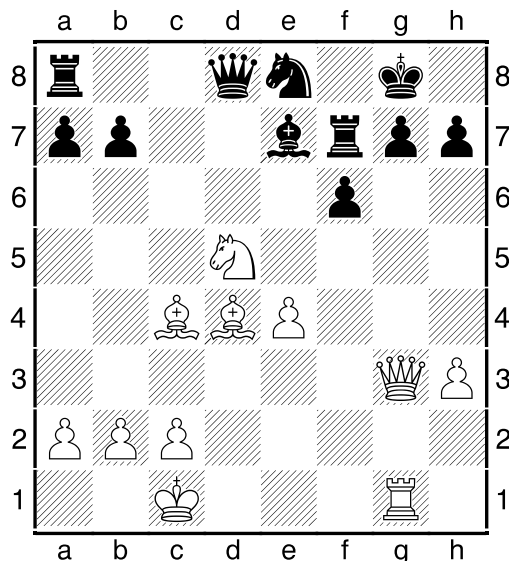
After 18...♖e6 19.♘d5 ♘e8 20.♙c4 ♔h8
21.♔b1 ♖c8 22.♙b3 Black seems to have
ran out of decent continuations.

19.♘d5! ♘e8 20.♖g3 f6?

Black should have tried 20...♙h4 21.♖f4
(21.♖g4 g6 22.♙c5 ♘g7 23.♙xf8 ♔xf8
±) 21...♔h8 22.c3 ♙e7 23.♙d3 ±.

21.♙c4 ♖f7 (D)

The weakness of the diagonal a2-g8 is fatal:
 21...♔h8 22.♘f4! ♚a5 23.♙d5 ♙d6
 24.♘g6+ hxg6 25.♚h4 #.

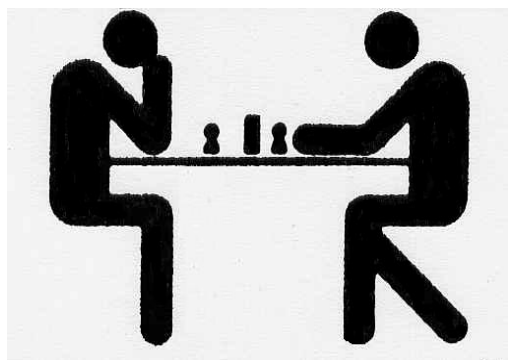


22.♘f4! ♙d6

Another instance of the weak a2-g8 diagonal can be found in 22...♚xd4 23.♙xf7+ ♔xf7 24.♚b3+ ♔f8 25.♘e6+.

23.♙xf7+ ♔xf7 24.♚b3+! ♔e7 25.♙xf6+!
 Black resigned in view of 25...gxf6
 26.♚e6+ ♔f8 27.♚g8 #.

1-0



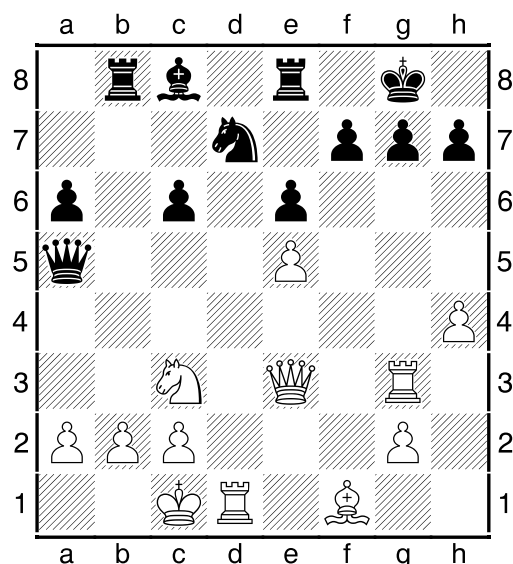
□ Keres Paul

■ Szabo Laszlo

B66 Budapest 1955

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6
 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♚d2 ♙e7 8.0-0-0
 0-0 9.f4 a6 10.e5 dxe5 11.♘xc6 bxc6
 12.fxe5 ♘d7 13.h4 ♚b8 14.♚e3 ♚e8
 15.♚h3 ♚a5 16.♙xe7 ♚xe7 17.♚g3 ♚e8
 (D)

Opposite castled kings always lead to tense and lively play. One of the most important factors that rule the correct handling of the attack is tempi, and time in general.



18.♙xd7!

Black's d7-knight was probably his most active piece, as it was not only applying pressure on White's e5-pawn but could also be easily transferred to the defence (kingside) or to the offence (queenside). A precious piece that was eliminated/exchanged for just a rook!

18...♙xd7 19.♙d3

White had no intention to opt for the draw with 19.♚xg7+ ♔xg7 20.♚g5+ but just to complete his development, 'allowing' yet another force to join the attack.

19...h6

Or 19...g6 20.h5 ♚f8 21.♚f4 and ♘e4 will come with force. In general, I can not find any proper defence for Black, but maybe this should be considered quite natural, as White attacks with queen, rook, bishop, knight and pawn, while Black's defence is entirely based on the poor f8-rook!

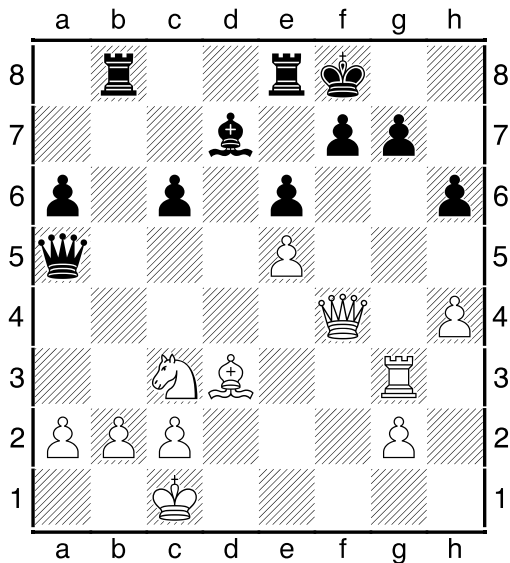
20.♚f4?!

White had a better continuation at his disposal: 20.♚e4! ♔f8 21.♚xg7! ♔e7 (21...♔xg7 22.♚h7+ ♔f8 23.♚xh6+ ♔e7 24.♚f6+ ♔f8 25.♙g6) 22.♚xf7+! ♔d8 (22...♔xf7 23.♚h7+ ♔f8 24.♙g6) 23.♚d4 ♚b7 24.♚d6 +0.

20...♔f8? (D)

Black should have tried 20...♚c5 21.♘e4 (21.♚f6? ♚e3+!) 21...♚g1+ 22.♔d2 ♔f8 23.♚g4 ♔e7 24.♚xg7 ♔d8 25.♚xf7 ♔c7 ±. Now, the great startegical advanatge of White allows him to end the game with the

usual tactical approach...



21. ♖xg7!

A neat and easy combination that leads to mate.

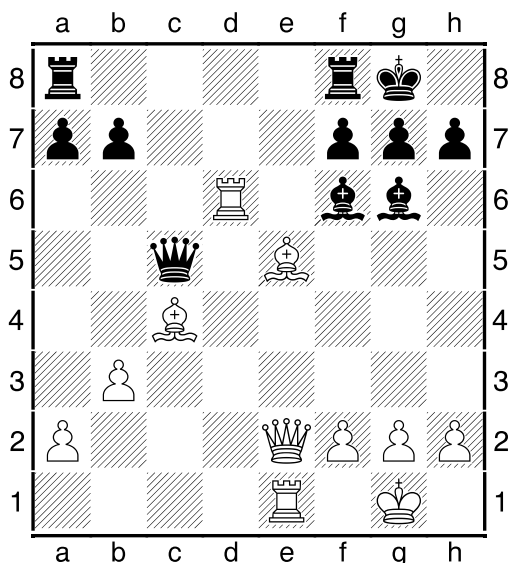
21... ♕xg7 22. ♖f6+ ♔f8 23. ♗g6 1-0

□ Smyslov Vassily

■ Trifunovic Petar

A13 Zagreb 1955

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.e3 ♗e7 5.b3 0-0 6.♗b2 c5 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♘xd5 ♖xd5 9.♗c4 ♖d8 10.♘e5 ♘d7 11.0-0 ♘xe5 12.♗xe5 ♗f6 13.d4 cxd4 14.exd4 ♗d7 15.♖h5 ♗c6 16.♖ad1 ♗e4 17.♖fe1 ♗c2 18.♖d2 ♗g6 19.♖e2 ♗e7 20.♖dd1 ♖b6 21.d5 exd5 22.♖xd5 ♗f6 23.♖d6 ♖c5 (D)



as sooner or later his initiative will evaporate.

24. ♖xf6!

An excellent exchange sacrifice, aiming for the attack.

24... gxf6 25. ♗xf6

Now the black king is rather weak on the dark squares and the continuous threat of the white queen on h6 is annoying...

25... ♖h5?

Not the best. Black should try to defend with 25... ♖c6 26. ♖b2! ♖fe8 27. ♖d1 (27. ♖c1 ♖d6 (27...b5? 28. ♗h8 ♖f8 29. ♗g7+ ♖g8 30. ♗h6 .0) 28. ♖a1 ♖ac8 29. ♖d1 ♖) 27... ♗e4 28.f3 b5 29. ♗h8 ♖c5+ 30. ♗h1 ♖g5 31. ♗f6 ♖h5 32. ♗e2 ±.

26. ♖e3?!

26.g4! ♖h3 27.f3 looks even better! The black rooks cannot really move...

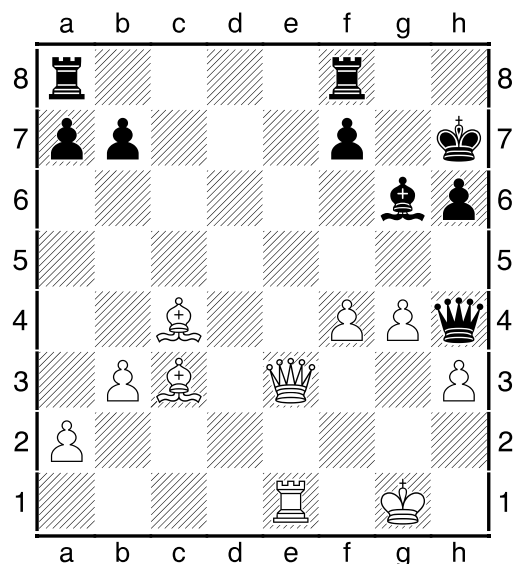
26... h6?

This nearly loses. Black had to opt for 26...b5 27. ♗xb5 ♖f5 28. ♖e5 ♖xe5 29. ♖xe5 ± and hope...

27.h3?!

The text move preserves the advantage, but 27. ♗b2! is killing: 27... ♗h7 28. ♖d4 ♖g8 29. ♖e5 ♖ad8 30. ♗d5 .0.

27... ♖f5 28. ♗c3 ♗h7 29.g4! ♖g5 30.f4 ♖h4 (D)



31. ♗g2!

It is too early for 31.f5? ♖ae8 32. ♖f2 (32.fxg6+ fxg6 33. ♗e5 ♖xe5 34. ♖xe5 ♖f2+ =) 32... ♖xh3 33. ♖xe8 (33.fxg6+ fxg6 34. ♖xe8 ♖xg4+ =) 33... ♖xg4+

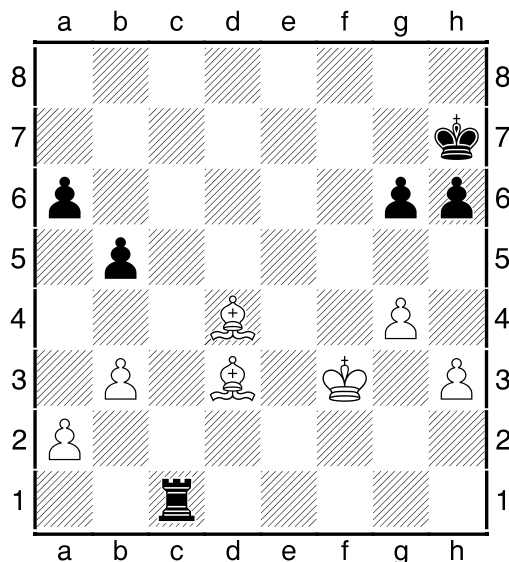
White is active but a solution must be found,

34. ♖f1 ♜h3+ =.

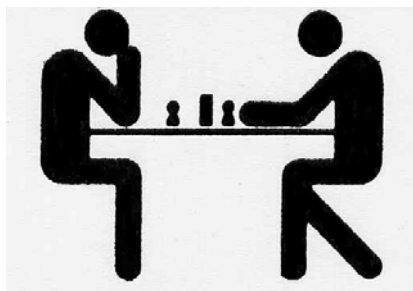
31... ♜g8 32. ♜e7!

Simple and effective. The endgame is winning for White, as Black loses his bishop.

32... ♜xe7 33. ♜xe7 ♜ae8 34. ♜xe8 ♜xe8 35. f5 a6 36. ♖f3 ♜c8 37. ♙d4 b5 38. ♙d3 ♜c1 39. fxg6+ fxg6 (D)



40. h4! ♜d1 41. ♖e2 ♜h1 42. h5 ♜h2+ 43. ♙f2 ♖g7 44. hxg6 h5 45. gxh5 ♜xh5 46. ♙d4+ ♖g8 47. ♙e4 a5 48. ♖f3 1-0



The long-standing leading Hungarian player Lajos Portisch closely followed the developments in the Soviet Union and copied the fruitful discoveries of the country's top players.

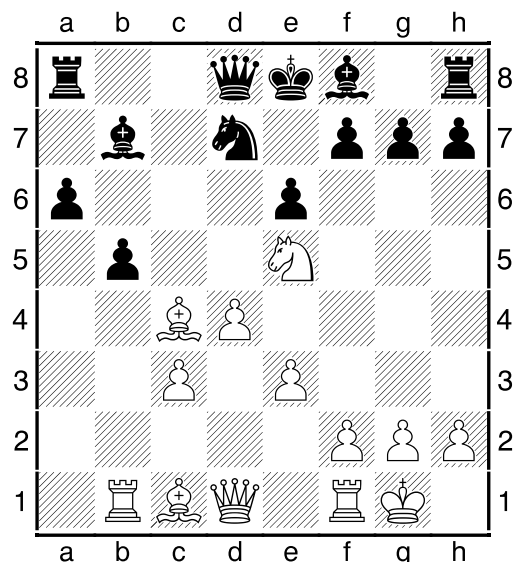
In the next game he made his mark as well:

□ Portisch Lajos

■ Forintos Gyoza

D15 Budapest 1958

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♘f3 ♘f6 4. ♘c3 dxc4 5. e3 b5 6. a4 ♘d5 7. axb5 ♘xc3 8. bxc3 cxb5 9. ♘e5 ♙b7 10. ♜b1 a6 11. ♙xc4 e6 12. 0-0 ♘d7 (D)



13. ♜xb5!

An exchange sacrifice aiming to keep the black king in the centre of the battle.

13... axb5

13... ♜c7 14. ♜xb7! ♜xb7 15. ♘xd7 ♜xd7 16. ♙b3! ♜c7 17. ♙a4+ ♖d8 18. e4 ± is the other option.

14. ♙xb5 ♙d6

14... ♙c8 15. ♜f3 f6 16. ♜xa8 fxe5 17. d5! exd5 18. ♜xd5 leaves Black with no decent reply to ♜d1 and e4, ♙g5.

15. ♙xd7+ ♖e7

The other option is 15... ♖f8, when after 16. c4 ♜c7 17. ♙b5 ♙xe5 (17... g6 18. f4 ♖g7 19. d5! ±) 18. dxe5 ♜xe5 19. ♜d7 ♜b8 20. ♙b2 White's compensation is good.

16. ♘c6+ ♙xc6 17. ♙xc6

It is time to take stock. White's exchange sacrifice gave him compensation based on the following aspects:

1. Two pawns (one might be lost).
2. The bishop pair.
3. Attack on the 'centralized' opposing king.

17... ♜c8?!

Black had to go for 17... ♙xh2+ 18. ♖h1! ♜c8 19. ♙b5 ♙d6 20. c4 ♖f8 21. ♜h5 ♚.

18. d5! exd5

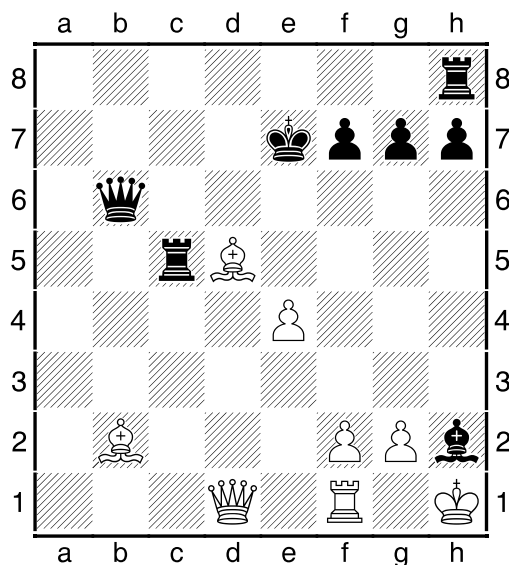
Returning the exchange is not helpful either: 18... ♜xc6 19. dxc6 ♜c7 20. ♜g4 g6 21. ♜h4+ f6 22. c4 ♜xc6 23. ♙b2 e5 24. ♜a1 ±.

19. ♙xd5 ♜xc3 20. ♙b2 ♜c5 21. e4 ♙xh2+ 21... ♜b8 22. ♙d4 ♙xh2+ 23. ♖h1 ♙d6 24. ♜g4! .0.

22.♔h1!

22.♔xh2? ♚b8+ ∞.

22...♚b6 (D)



23.♚d4?

23.♚d2! ♔f4 24.♚xf4 ♚xb2 25.♚xf7+ is the correct way.

23...♚b5?

Losing. Good is 23...♚h6! 24.♚xg7 (24.♚xc5+? ♔d6+) 24...♚xg7 25.♔xg7 ♚g8 26.♔d4 ♔d6 27.♔xc5 ♔xc5 and Black has decent drawing chances. Returning material in order to release the tension is a well-known tool used by strong players!

24.♚xg7 ♚xb2 25.♚xf7+!

Who really cares for a lonely rook on the h8-square? The bishops are more important!

25...♔d8 26.♔xh2?!

White could immediately win with the simple 26.♔e6 ♚d6 (26...♚d2 27.♚c1 .0) 27.♚f6+ .0.

26...♚d6+?!

Black should try to resist with 26...♚h6+ 27.♔g1 ♚f8 28.♚a7 ♚b6 29.♚a8+ ♚b8 30.♚a3 ±.

27.♔g1 ♚e7 28.♚h5! ♚f8 29.♚a1

Now it's all over.

29...♚b8 30.♔c6 ♚f7 31.♚d1+ ♔c7

32.♚e5+!

White handles the final assault with accuracy.

32...♔xc6 33.♚c1+ ♔b7 34.♚b5+ ♔a8

35.♚a1+ ♚a7 36.♚d5+! ♚b7 37.♚xa7+ ♔a7

38.♚c5+ ♔a6 39.♚xf8 1-0

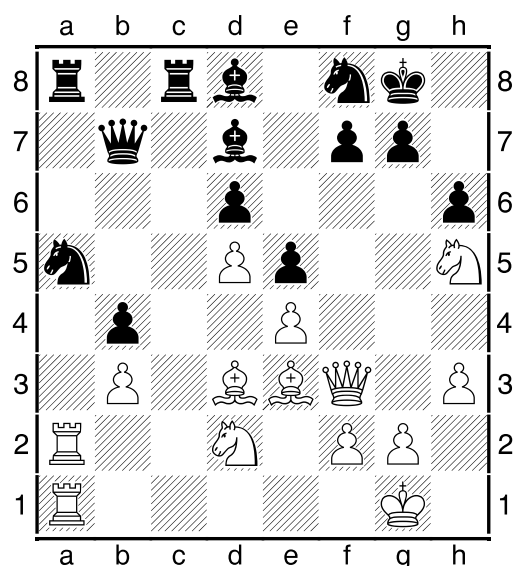
Boris Spassky was another of the top Soviet players that joined the club of the attack-on-the-king concept. The following game made a worldwide sensation:

□ **Spassky Boris**

■ **Arutiunov Albert**

C93 Moscow 1965

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♚e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 h6 10.d4 ♚e8 11.♘bd2 ♙f8 12.♘f1 ♙d7 13.♘g3 a5 14.♙d2 a4 15.♙c2 ♘a5 16.b3 axb3 17.axb3 c6 18.♙e3 ♚c7 19.♘d2 c5 20.d5 b4 21.cxb4 cxb4 22.♙d3 ♚ec8 23.♚e2 ♚b7 24.♚a2 ♙e7 25.♚ea1 ♙d8 26.♘h5 ♘h7 27.♚f3 ♘f8 (D)



A rather 'innocent' position at first sight, where both players seem to have concentrated on the queenside. But this was not the case!

28.♚xa5!

An exchange sacrifice which aims to draw the defending d8-bishop away from the kingside.

28...♙xa5

Black would have no chance to defend after 28...♚xa5 29.♚xa5 ♙xa5 30.♔xh6 ♙d8 31.♘xg7 .0.

29.♚xa5!

Once you give the first, the second comes natural! Well, White just follows his plan: to eliminate the defending d8-bishop for good.

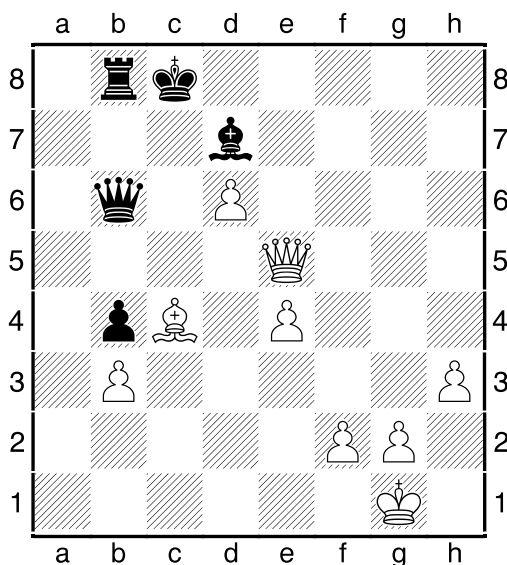
29...♚xa5 30.♔xh6!

That's the point. While the black pieces are hanging around on the queenside, White is

creating a quite dangerous attack on the other side, where his coordinated pieces are bringing Black some hard times. Note how vulnerable are the dark squares (f6, g7) around the black king - the absence of the black dark-squared bishop is instrumental.

30...♖h7?!

Of course not 30...gxh6? 31.♖f6 or 30...♙c1+? 31.♖f1 ♖c8 32.♖f6+ ♖h8 33.♖h5 ♖h7 34.♖xf7 ♙xf1+ 35.♙xf1 ♖f8 36.♖xd7 ♖xf6 37.♙xg7+ ♖xg7 38.♖d8+ but Black could have tried to defend with 30...♙a1+! 31.♖f1 (31.♖h2? ♙cc1 32.♖f6+ gxf6 33.♖xf6 ♙h1+ 34.♖g3 ♙xh3+! 35.gxh3 ♙g1+ 36.♖h2 ♙g6 37.♖h4 ♖a7 ∞) 31...♙b5 (31...♙c3 32.♖f6+! ♖h8 33.♖h5 ♙g4 [33...♖h7 34.♖xf7 .0] 34.hxg4 ♖h7 35.♙xg7+ ♖xg7 36.♖xh7 f6 [36...♙xd3 37.g5! .0] 37.♖xf6! .0) 32.♖f6+! ♖h8 (32...gxf6 33.♖xf6 ♖e6 34.dxe6 fxe6 35.♖g6+ ♖h8 36.♙xb5 .0) 33.♖h5 ♖h7 34.♙g5 gxf6 35.♙xf6+ ♖g8 36.♖g4+ ♖f8 37.♖g7+ ♖e8 38.♖xh7 ♙b8 (38...♙ca8 39.♖g8+ ♖d7 40.♖xf7+ ♖c8 41.♖xb7+ ♖xb7 42.♙xb5 .0) 39.♖g8+ ♖d7 40.♖xf7+ ♖c8 41.♖f8+ ♖c7 42.♖e7+ ♙d7 (42...♖b6 43.♖xd6+ ♖a5 44.♙xe5 ♙xd3 45.♙xa1 .0) 43.♙xe5! ♙xf1+ 44.♙xf1 dxe5 45.♖xe5+ ♖c8 (45...♖b6 46.♖d4+ ♖c7 47.d6+ ♖c6 48.♙c4 ±) 46.d6 ♖b6 47.♙c4 ± (D)



White's five healthy pawns for a rook and Black's exposed king assure the first player

of an advantage, but Black is still alive and in the game.

31.♖xg7 f5

No adequate defence is provided by 31...f6 32.♖g3 ♖g5 (32...♖f7 33.♖f5) 33.♖h5 ♖h7 34.♙xg5 or 31...♙a1+ 32.♖f1 f6 (32...f5 33.exf5 ♖f6 34.♖g3 ♖h8 35.♖g6) 33.♖g3 ♖h8 34.♖h5 ♙e8 35.♙g7+ ♖g8 36.♙xf6+ ♖f8 37.♙g7+ ♖e7 (37...♖f7 38.♙xe5) 38.♙xe5 dxe5 39.♖g7+ ♙f7 40.♖xe5+ ♖d8 41.♖h8+ ♙e8 42.♖g7 .0.

32.exf5 ♖b6

Black also loses after 32...♖f6 33.♖h5! ♖xh5 34.♖xh5 ♙e8 35.♖g5+ ♖h8 36.♖e4 .0 or 32...♖h8 33.♖c4 ♙xc4 34.♙xc4 .0.

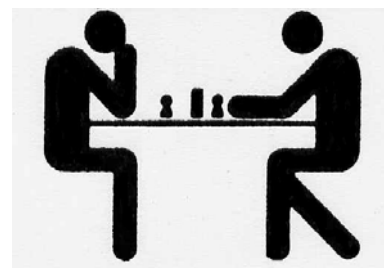
33.f6

Good enough is 33.♖g3 ♖f7 (33...♖h8 34.♖e6) 34.♖g6+ ♖e7 35.♖xh7 .0.

33...♖h8 34.♖h5! ♙g8 35.f7

Instead of the text move, more forceful is 35.♙g7+ ♙xg7 36.fxf7+ ♖g8 37.♙xh7+ ♖xh7 38.g8♖ + ♖xg8 39.♖f6. Anyway, Black resigned even after 35.f7. An excellent attacking example by the 10th World Champion.

1-0



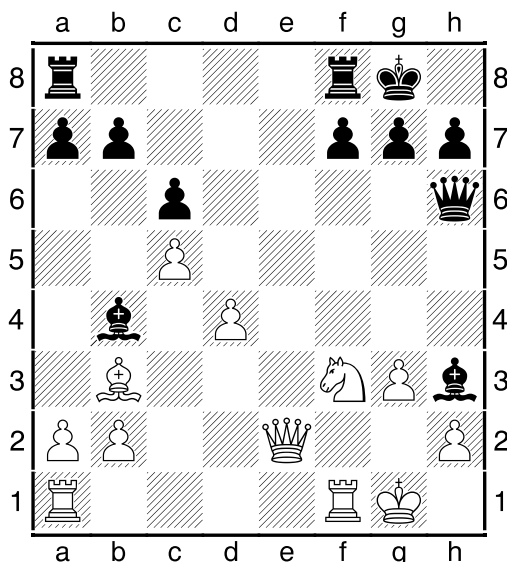
Of course, no collection of examples with an attack on the king could be complete without a game of the extraordinary Robert Fischer:

□ **Fischer Robert**

■ **Minic Dragoljub**

C33 Vinkovci 1968

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♙c4 ♖e7 4.♖c3 c6 5.♖f3 d5 6.♙b3 dxe4 7.♖xe4 ♖d5 8.♖e2 ♙e7 9.c4 ♖c7 10.d4 0-0 11.♙xf4 ♖e6 12.♙e3 ♙b4+ 13.♖f2 ♖d7 14.c5 ♖f6 15.♖xf6+ ♖xf6 16.♙hf1 ♖f4 17.♙xf4 ♖xf4 18.g3 ♖h6 19.♖g1 ♙h3 (D)



20. ♖e5!

A bolt from the blue! But this exchange sacrifice is fully justified, as the f7-square will come under heavy pressure and the b4-bishop seems to be out of play (defence).

20... ♙xf1?!

The lesser of the evils is 20... ♙d2 21. ♙xd2 ♙xd2 22. ♖f3! ♙e6 23. ♙xe6 fxe6 24. ♖b3 ♖fd8 25. ♖f3 ♙h6 26. ♖e1 and, although White will win a pawn, Black keeps practical chances to save the game.

21. ♖xf1 ♙d2

The alternative is 21... ♙d2 22. ♙e4! (22. ♙xd2 ♙xd2 23. ♖xf7 ♖ae8 24. ♖d6+ ♙h8 25. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 26. ♙g2 ±) 22... ♙h8 23. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 24. ♖xf7 ♙xb2 25. ♙c2 ♙c1+ 26. ♙g2 ♙d2+ 27. ♖f2 ♙h6 28. ♙e7 .0.

22. ♖f3!

22. ♖xf7?! would be too naive for Fischer: 22... ♙e3+ 23. ♙xe3 ♙xe3+ 24. ♙g2 ♖xf7 25. ♖xf7 ♙h8 26. ♖xb7 ♙xd4 27. ♙a4 ♙xc5 28. ♙xc6 ♖f8 ±. The queens must be retained on the board, as Black's king is the more vulnerable.

22... ♖ad8?!

Allows a neat combination, but also the relatively best continuation 22... ♙h8 23. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 24. ♙xf7 ♙g5 25. ♙g2 ♖f8 26. d5 cxd5 27. ♙xd5 .0 is curtains.

23. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 24. ♙e7!

The final detail! Black loses too much material, so he resigned (22... ♖b8 23. ♙xf7+ ♙h8 24. ♙f8+ ♖xf8 25. ♖xf8 #).

1-0

The New Era

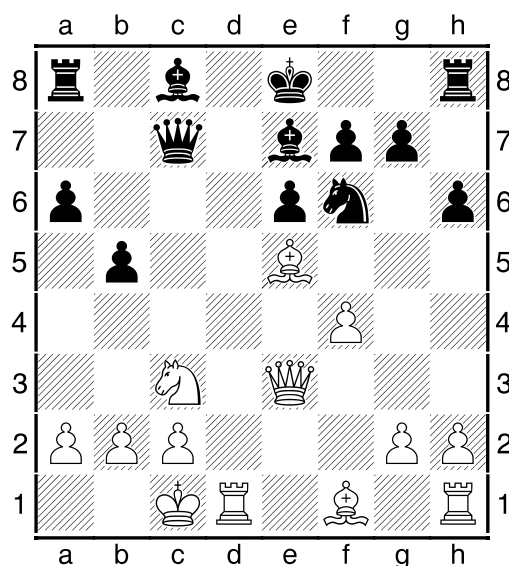
The new generation of players from the ex-Soviet Union countries were taught the subject of the exchange sacrifice in depth by their famous teachers, so it was more than natural for them to use it in many of their games. See the next four examples:

□ Ivanchuk Vassily

■ Kramnik Vladimir

B66 Dos Hermanas 1996

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 d6 6. ♙g5 e6 7. ♙d2 a6 8.0-0 h6 9. ♙e3 ♙e7 10.f4 ♖xd4 11. ♙xd4 b5 12. ♙e3 ♙c7 13.e5 dxe5 14. ♙xe5 (D)



14... ♖g4!?

A very interesting idea. Black sacrifices an exchange in order to obtain a strong initiative, while White will also lose some tempi with his queen. Why did Black decide on the exchange sacrifice? Well, one of the main aspects of the position in question is that there will probably occur opposite flank attacks, in which (as we have already explained) every piece should be counted as a potential attacking unit. With this in mind, Kramnik evaluated (probably not over the board but at home) that his attacking possibilities are greater and that his minor pieces would prove stronger than White's rooks.

15. ♙f3

White must accept the offer, as otherwise he would have to say goodbye to any opening advantage: 15. ♙xc7 ♖xe3 16. ♖d3 ♖f5 =.

15...♖xe5 16.♔xa8

Forced: 16.fxe5?! ♜b7 ♘.

16...♖d7!

16...♖c6? 17.♖xb5! axb5 (17...♔xf4+ 18.♜b1 0-0 19.♔xc6 axb5 20.♔xb5 .0)

18.♜xb5 0-0 19.♔xc6 .0.

17.g3?!

A dubious move. White should prefer 17.♔f3 ♜b7 18.♔g3 b4 19.♖a4 0-0 ♞ or 17.f5 ♖b6 18.♔f3 exf5 19.♜d3 g6 ♞.

17...♖b6!

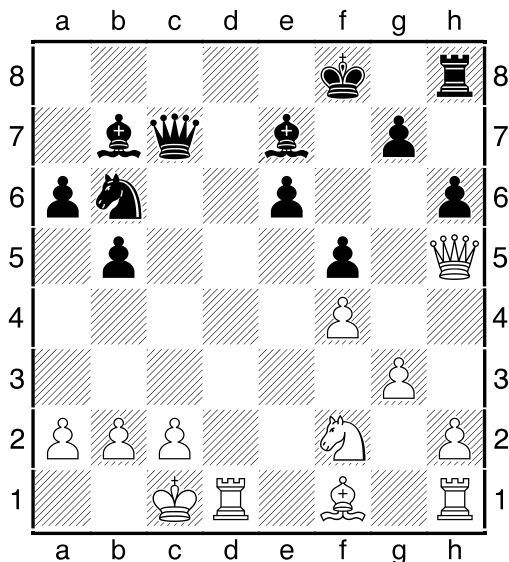
17...0-0? 18.♜g2 and White gains control over the h1-a8 diagonal, when Black's compensation should not be enough.

18.♔f3 ♜b7 19.♖e4 f5! 20.♔h5+

20.♜d3 0-0 21.♔e2 fxe4 22.♜xe4 ♖d5 ♘.

20...♜f8 21.♖f2 (D)

21.♜g2 fxe4 22.♔he1 ♖d7 ♘.



21...♜f6!

A much better try than 21...♜c5?! 22.♖h3 ♜xh1 23.♖g5 hxg5 (23...g6? 24.♔xg6 ♜d5 [24...hxg5? 25.♔f6+ ♜g8 26.♔d8+ .0] 25.♔xd5) 24.♔xh8+ ♜f7 25.♔h5+ = or 21...♜xh1?! 22.♖xh1 ♖d5 23.♔e2 ♜f7 24.♜g2 ♔d8 =.

22.♜d3

The main alternative is 22.♔g1 ♖a4! (22...♔c5 23.♜g2! ♜xb2+ [23...♔xf2? 24.♜xb7 ♖c4 25.♜b1 ♜xb2 26.♔f3 ±] 24.♜xb2 ♖c4+ [24...♖a4+? 25.♜c1 ♔e3+ 26.♔d2 .0] 25.♜a1 ♔xf2 26.♔g6! [26.♜xb7? ♔xc2 27.♔d8+ ♜e7 28.♔d7+ ♜xd7 29.♔f7+ ♜d6 0..] 26...♖e3 27.♔d8+ =)

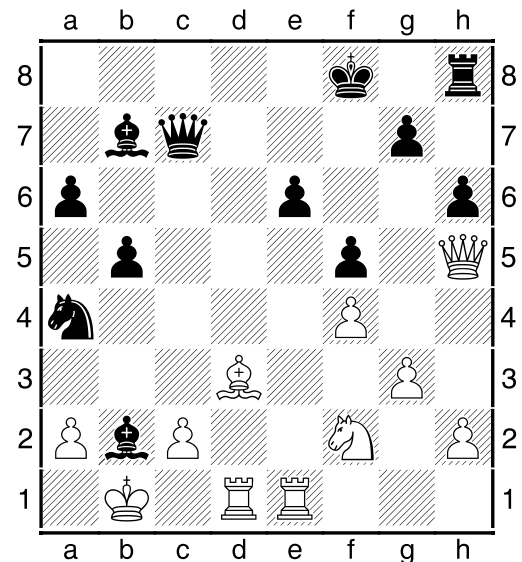
23.♖d3 ♜e4 24.♔g2 ♜xd3 (24...♖xb2 25.♖xb2 ♔c3 26.♖d3 ♔a1+ 27.♜d2 ♔c3+ 28.♜c1 =) 25.♔xd3 ♜xb2+ 26.♜b1 ♜f6 ♘.

22...♖a4 23.♔he1

23.b3 ♜b2+ 24.♜b1 (24.♜d2 ♔a5+ 25.♜e2 ♖c3+ 26.♜e1 ♖xd1+ 27.♜xd1 ♜xh1 28.♖xh1 ♔xa2 0..) 24...♜d4 0..

23...♜xb2+ 24.♜b1 (D)

24.♜d2 ♔a5+ 25.♜e2 ♜g2! 0..

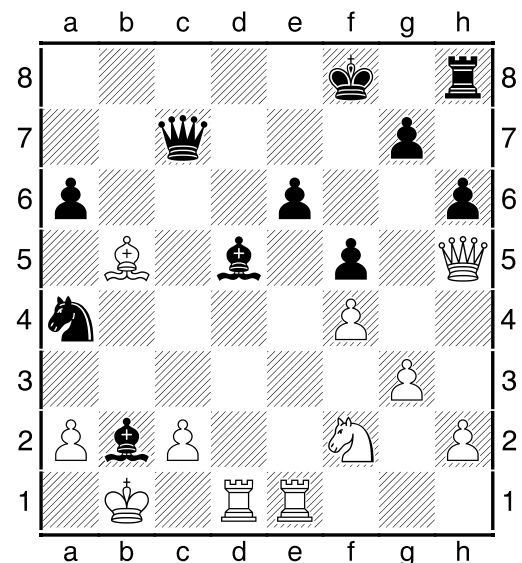


24...♜d5!

A fourth black piece enters the attack. But where are White's defensive pieces?

25.♜xb5 (D)

25.♜xf5 ♜xa2+! 26.♜xa2 ♔c4+ 27.♜b1 ♖c3+ 28.♜xb2 ♔b4+ 29.♜c1 ♖a2 # is nice!



25...♜xa2+!

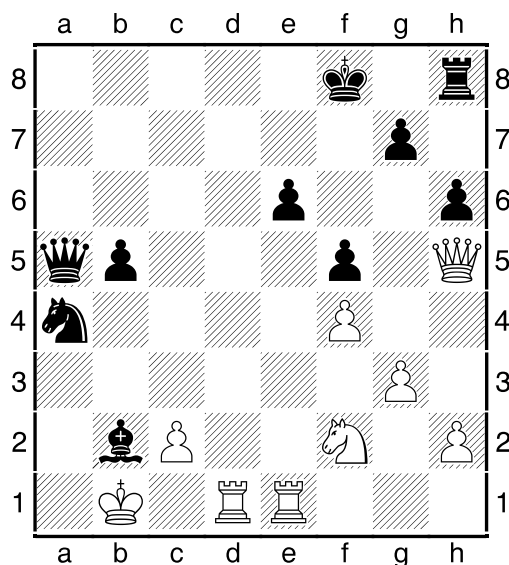
The most accurate, although 25...♘c3+ 26.♔xb2 ♘xd1+ (26...♘xb5? 27.♚d3 ♙b6 28.♘d1 ∞) 27.♘xd1 axb5 28.♘c3 ♙a5 29.♚e3 ♘c4 30.a3 b4 31.axb4 ♙xb4+ 32.♔c1 ♔e7 ♠ is not bad either.

26.♔xa2 axb5 27.♔b1

27.♚xe6? ♙c4+ 28.♔b1 ♘c3+ 29.♔xb2 ♙b4+ 30.♔c1 ♘a2 #.

27...♙a5? (D)

27...♙e7! is a clear win: 28.♚e3 ♘c3+ 29.♚xc3 ♘xc3 30.♚d3 ♙b4+ 31.♔c1 ♔e7 0..



28.♘d3?

White missed the best defence, namely 28.c3!! ♘xc3+ 29.♔xb2 ♘a4+ 30.♔a2 ♙b4 31.♚d8+ ♔e7 32.♚e8+! ♚xe8 33.♚xe6+ ♔xe6 34.♙xe8+, when Black would have to work hard in order to prove his advantage.

28...♘a3

Also good is 28...♘d4 29.♚xe6 ♘c3+ 30.♔c1 g6! 31.♙f3 (31.♙xg6 ♙a1+ 32.♔d2 ♙xd1 #) 31...♘a2+ 32.♔b1 ♘b4 33.♔c1 ♘c3 0..

29.♔a2

Spectacular mates follow after 29.♚xe6 ♘c3+ 30.♔a1 ♘c1 # or after 29.c3 ♙xc3 30.♙e2 ♙b3+ 31.♔a1 ♘c3 32.♚b1 ♙a4.

29...♘c3+ 30.♔b3 ♘d5

30...♘e4 31.♚xe4 fxe4 0..

31.♔a2

Or 31.♚xe6 ♙a4+ 32.♔a2 ♘c3+ 33.♔a1 ♘c1 #. The coordination of Black's queen, bishop and knight is amazing, as we have

already noticed in a lot of variations.

31...♘b4+

And as there is no way to prevent mate after 32.♔b1 ♘c3, White resigned.

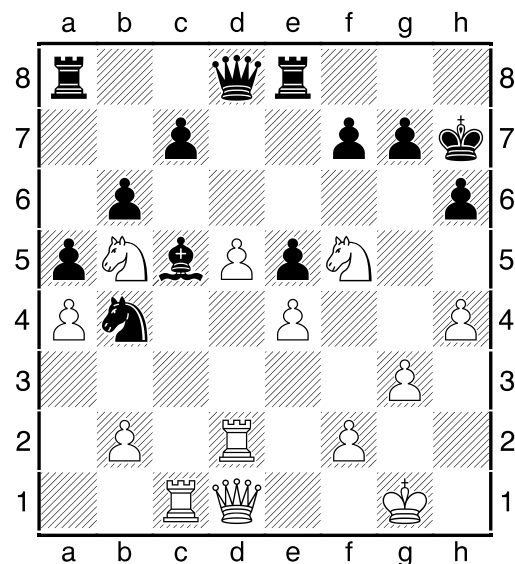
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□ Lputian Smbat

■ Sadler Matthew

E05 Luzern 1997

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♘g2 e6 4.0-0 ♘e7 5.c4 0-0 6.d4 dxc4 7.♙c2 a6 8.a4 ♘d7 9.♙xc4 ♘c6 10.♘g5 a5 11.♘c3 ♘a6 12.♘xf6 ♘xf6 13.e4 ♘b4 14.♚fd1 ♚a6 15.♚ac1 ♚b6 16.h4 h6 17.♙e2 ♚e8 18.♚d2 ♙d7 19.♙d1 ♙d8 20.♘h2 ♘e7 21.♘g4 ♚f8 22.♘e5 ♘e8 23.♘f1 ♚d6 24.♘c4 ♚a6 25.♘e3 ♚a8 26.d5 e5 27.♘f5 ♘c5 28.♘b5 ♔h7 29.♘xe8 ♚xe8 30.♘b5 b6 (D)



31.d6!

As all of White's pieces are well placed, he starts combinative play.

31...cxd6

31...c6 32.♘c7 .0 or 31...♘xd6 32.♘bxd6 cxd6 33.♚xd6 ♙b8 34.♚xh6+! gxh6 35.♙h5 .0 are not advisable.

32.♚xc5!

32.♘bxd6 ♚e6 33.♘xf7 ♙f6 34.♚d7 is good enough for White, but the exchange sacrifice he prefers destroys Black's position for good. And this is quite natural, as the black c5-bishop is the most important defensive black piece, guarding a lot of important squares in Black's camp.

32...bxc5 33.♚xd6 ♙c8

33...♖b8 34.♗xh6+ gxh6 35.♗h5 is a common method to mate in this game!

34.♗h5

Of course not 34.♗xh6+? gxh6 35.♗h5 ♖e6 0.. Now White is attacking with three pieces (♗h5, ♖d6, ♘f5) while Black cannot really defend properly, as his rooks (as well as the distant b4-knight) are only physically present at the board, hardly participating in the battle!

34...♗a6

Alternatives like 34...♗e6 35.♗xf7 .0 or 34...f6 35.♗xf6 gxf6 (35...♗d7 36.♗g6+ ♔h8 37.♗f7 .0) 36.♗f7+ ♔h8 37.♗g7 # or finally 34...♔g8 35.♗xh6! gxh6 36.♗g4+ (36.♗xh6 ♗xf5 37.exf5 .0) 36...♔h8 37.♗g7 # also fail to defend.

35.♗xf7 ♗g8 36.♗g6+ ♔h8 37.♗xa6

Black resigned due to 37...♗xa6 (37...♘xa6 38.♘bd6 .0) 38.♘bd6 ♗a7 39.♘f7+ .0.

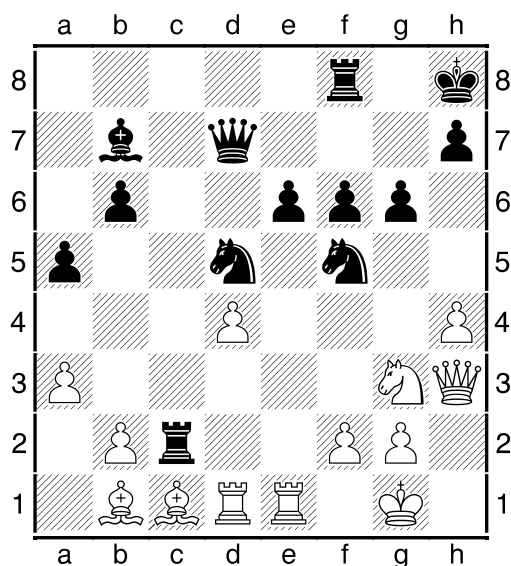
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□ Nikolic Predrag

■ Ribli Zoltan

D41 Ljubljana 1985

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.d4 c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.e3 ♘c6 7.♙c4 cxd4 8.exd4 ♙e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♗e1 ♙f6 11.♘e4 b6 12.a3 ♙b7 13.♗d3 ♗c8 14.♘fg5 ♙xg5 15.♙xg5 f6 16.♙d2 ♗d7 17.♗ad1 ♘ce7 18.♙a2 ♗fe8 19.h4 ♔h8 20.♙b1 g6 21.♗h3 ♘f5 22.♙a2 ♗f8 23.♘g3 ♗c2 24.♙c1 a5 25.♙b1 (D)



There is an obvious disharmony in White's position, as his 1st rank pieces do not

cooperate with the misplaced queen and generally they can't do much on the initiative side. On the other hand, Black's pieces are more or less nicely placed and ready to take over the initiative.

25...♗xc1!

An 'easy' exchange sacrifice. The black knights get nearly all the dark squares on the kingside and they are ready to dance...

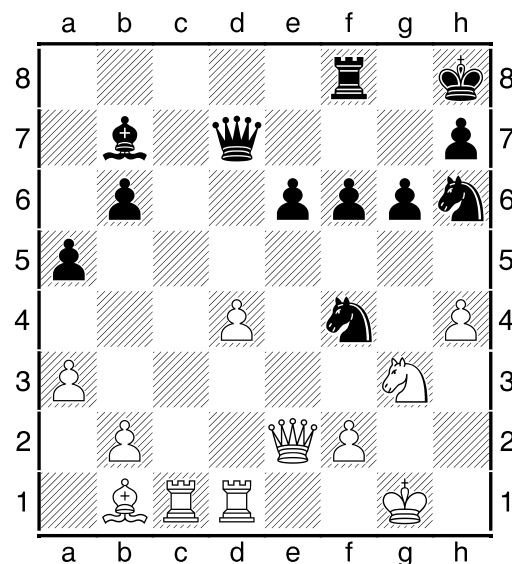
26.♗xc1 ♘f4 27.♗g4 ♘xg2

The white king is stripped of his protection; the win of the g-pawn is of secondary importance.

28.♗ed1 ♘h6!

Good play by Black. The naive 28...♘gxh4? 29.♙e4! would allow White to form a kind of defence.

29.♗e2 ♘f4 (D)



30.♗d2?!

Although his position is lost, White should have tried 30.♗c4 e5 31.♗c7, when Black would have to find the killing blow 31...♘e2+! 32.♘xe2 (32.♔h2 ♘g4+ 33.♔h3 ♘xf2+) 32...♗d5 33.♔f1 ♗h1+ 34.♘g1 ♗g2+ 35.♔e1 (35.♔e2 ♙a6+ 36.♙d3 [36.♗d3 e4 0.] 36...♗e4+ 0.) 35...♗xg1+ 36.♔e2 ♗g4+ 37.♔e1 ♙f3 0.. But it is true that in such hopeless positions only computers continue to pose the most difficult problems to solve...

30...e5!

Allowing the black queen to invade on h3 with lethal threats.

31.d5 ♗h3 32.♙e4 ♘g4

Dancing with the knights...

33. ♖f1 ♜xh4 34. ♔g2 ♔a6!

Eliminating White's best defender - the end is near.

35. ♜e1 ♔xf1

And White resigned due to 36. ♔xf1 ♖h2+ 37. ♔g1 ♜g5, with the triple threat of ... ♜xg2 #, ... ♖f3+ and ... ♖h3+. Too many threats for a lonely king...

0-1

□ **Kramnik Vladimir**

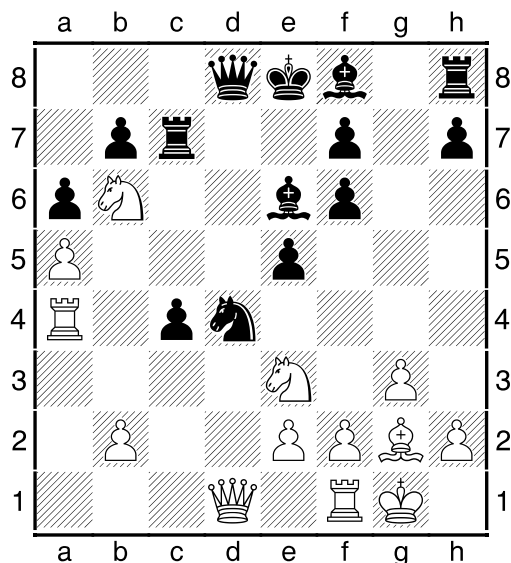
■ **McShane Luke**

D15 London 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. ♖f3 ♖f6 4. ♖c3 a6 5.g3 dxc4 6.a4 e6 7. ♔g2 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9. ♖xd4 ♖bd7 10. ♖c2 ♜c7 11. ♔f4

A quite strong novelty, prepared by the outstanding and efficient 'Kramnik home laboratory'!

11...e5 12. ♔d2 ♖c5 13. ♔g5 ♔e6 14. ♔xf6 gxf6 15. ♖d5 ♜d8 16. ♖ce3 ♖b3 17.a5 ♜c8 18. ♜a4 ♖d4 19. ♖b6 ♜c7 (D)



20. ♜xc4!

This strong move was admittedly underestimated by Black, who was only expecting 20. ♖exc4? ♔g4 ∞. The idea is to dominate on the light squares and also benefit from the bad position of the black king (and what about the doubled f-pawns and the weak black kingside?).

20... ♔xc4

Black is obliged to accept the sac, as after 20... ♔c5 21. ♖bd5 ♜c8 22. ♜d3 he would

be just plain worse.

21. ♖exc4 ♖b5

Probably not the best, although there is no good advice one can give: 21... ♔c5 22.e3 ♔xb6 23. ♖xb6 ± and 21... ♔e7 22.e3 ♖e6 23. ♜a4+ ♔f8 24. ♖d5 ±.

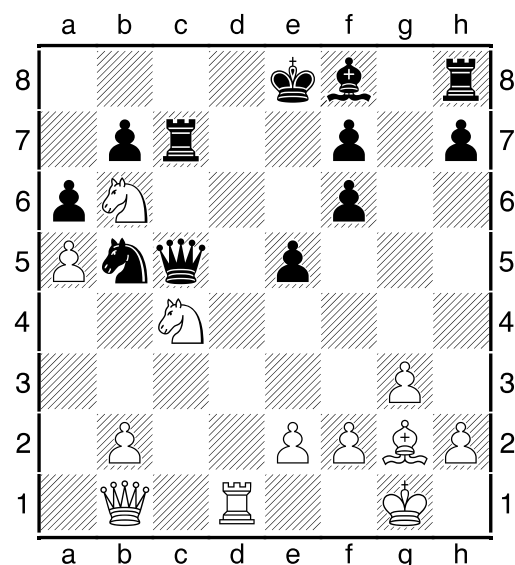
22. ♜b1!

The white queen belongs to f5!

22... ♜d4?!

Probably a bit better was 22... ♔g7 23. ♜d1 ♜b8 24.e3 ±.

23. ♜d1 ♜c5 (D)



24.e3?!

The text move looks very human, just stopping Black's only active idea ... ♖d4 and White slowly starts to improve his position. But the direct 24. ♖e3 ♖d4 25. ♖ed5 ♖xe2+ 26. ♔f1 .0 was just killing!

24... ♔e7

Black has no moves practically, so from now on White just has to choose which of many attractive possibilities to play - V.Kramnik.

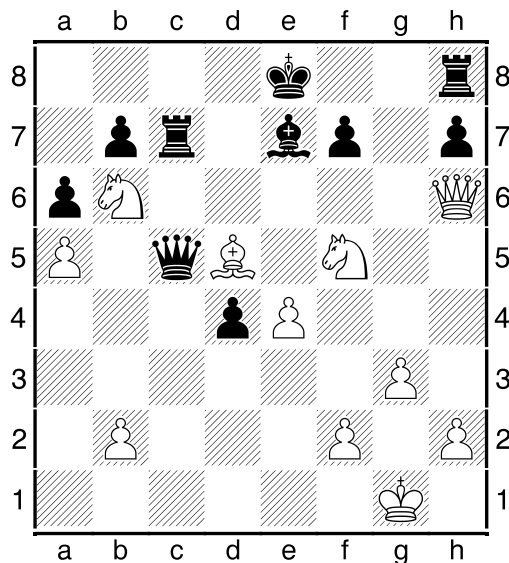
25. ♜f5 ♔f8 26. ♔d5 ♔g7 27. ♜g4+ ♔h6 28.e4

Playing for direct mate, although 28. ♔xf7 was good as well.

28... ♖d4 29. ♖e3

V.Kramnik: 'I was already looking for mate, not paying too much attention to the other side of the board, but in fact our silicon friend (enemy?) discovers a very nice geometrical motif instead: 29.b4! ♜xb4 30. ♜xd4 exd4 31. ♜f4+ ♔g7 32. ♜xc7 winning'.

29...f5 30.♖h3+ ♕g7 31.♗xd4! exd4
32.♘xf5+ ♕f8 33.♗h6+ ♕e8 (D)



Black is under heavy attack and White has an easy task to finish off his opponent...

34.♕xf7+! ♕d8

34...♕xf7 35.♗g7+ .0.

35.♗g7 ♗f8 36.♘d4

36.♘d5 is good enough as well.

36...♗c6

36...♗xf7 37.♗xf7 ♗xd4 38.♗g8+ ♕f8

39.♗xf8 #.

37.♘xc6+ bxc6

37...♗xc6 38.♗xh7 ♕f6 39.♘d5 .0.

38.♗g4! ♕c7

Otherwise White mates on d7 or c8.

39.♗d7+ ♕b8 40.♗d2?!

A wrong attitude, based on Black's time trouble. Correct was 40.♗e6 ♗d8 41.♘d7+ ♗xd7 42.♗xd7 .0 or simply; 40.♕g2.

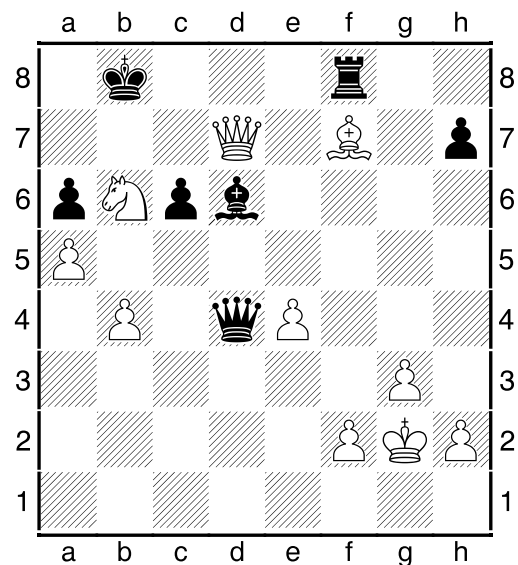
40...♕c7

40...♕g5!? was an incredibly tricky move, which would not save the game, but at least prolong it. White wins with 41.♘d7+ ♕c8! 42.♗d1! ♗d8 43.♗g4! ♗e7 (43...♗xd7 44.♕e6 .0) 44.♘f6+ ♕b7 45.♗xg5 ♗xf7 46.e5.

41.♗d7+ ♕b8 42.♕g2 ♕d6

There was no defence any more for Black. Alternatives like 42...♗d8 43.♗xd8+ ♕xd8 44.♘d7+ ♕a7 45.♘xc5 .0 or 42...♗xf7 43.♗c8+ ♕a7 44.♗c7 #, were just plain losing as well.

43.b4 ♗d4 (D)



44.♗xc6

V.Kramnik: 'White has a number of wins on every next move. Usually I am quite strong when I am five pawns up :)'.

44...♕a7 45.♕h3 ♗d1 46.♘c8+ ♗xc8

47.♗xc8 ♗f1+ 48.♕g4 h5+ 49.♕xh5

1-0

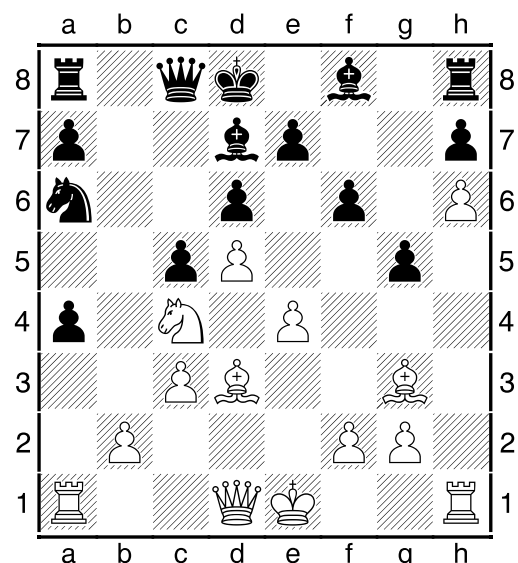
We will finish the examination of this concept with two nice games, focusing on the Greek-Turkish friendship!

□ Vragoteris Antonios

■ Mourelatos Ilias

A43 Thessaloniki 2011

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.♕g5 ♘e4
5.♕f4 ♗a5+ 6.♘bd2 d6 7.a4 bxa4 8.c3
♘xd2 9.♘xd2 ♕d7 10.e4 ♗c7 11.♘c4 f6
12.♕d3 g6 13.h4 ♗c8 14.♕g3 ♘a6 15.h5
g5 16.h6 ♕d8 (D)



Obviously something had gone wrong for Black, as his king is stuck in the middle of the board and generally his pieces are quite passive.

17. ♖xa4!?

An easy exchange sacrifice, aiming for full domination of the light squares, but nonetheless 17.e5! was quite effective: 17...fxe5 18. ♖xe5 ♙e8 (18...dxe5 19. ♙xe5 ♖g8 20. ♙xh7 .0) 19. ♖c6+ ♙xc6 20.dxc6 ±.

17... ♙xa4 18. ♗xa4 ♖b8 19.e5

Opening lines and diagonals around the black king. Also good was 19. ♙e2!.

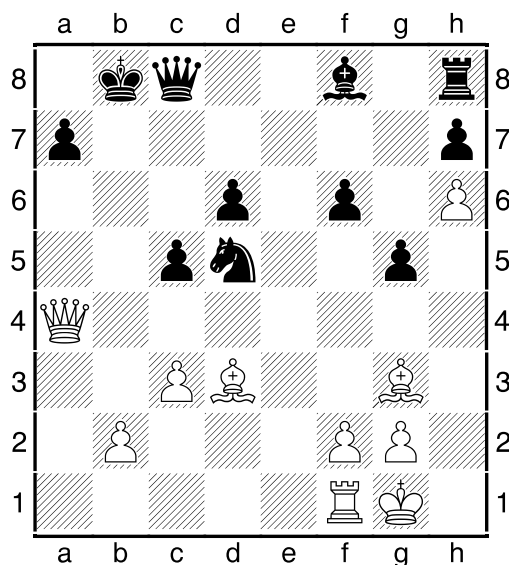
19... ♖c7

After 19...fxe5 White wins with 20. ♙xe5! (20. ♖xe5?! dxe5 21. ♙xe5 c4! 22. ♗a5+ ♖b6 [22... ♙e8 23. ♙e2 ♙f7 24. ♙xh8 ±] 23. ♙c2 ♖g8 24. ♙xh7 ±) 20...dxe5 21. ♖xe5 ♖xb2 22. ♖f7+ ♙c7 23. ♙xa6 or 23. ♖xh8.

20.exd6 exd6 21. ♖a5! ♖xd5

The alternative was 21... ♗d7 22. ♖c6+ ♙e8 (22... ♙c8 23. ♖xa7+ ♙d8 24. ♖c6+ ♙c8 25. ♗c2 ♗e8+ 26. ♙d2 .0) 23. ♙e2! ♙e7 (23... ♙f7 24. ♖e5+ [24. ♙h5+ ♙g8 25. ♖e5! ♗xa4 26. ♙f7 #] 24...fxe5 25. ♗xd7+ .0) 24. ♗e4 f5 25. ♙h5+ ♙f8 26. ♖xb8 .0.

22. ♖c6+ ♙c7 23. ♖xb8 ♙xb8 24.0-0 (D)



Now the material is nearly even, but the kings aren't! The game should end soon.

24... f5

24... ♖b6 25. ♗b5 f5 26. ♖e1 .0.

25. ♖a1 ♗c7 26. ♗e8+

Effective was 26. ♙e5!! dxe5 27. ♗e8+ ♗c8 28. ♗xe5+ ♗c7 29. ♗xh8 .0.

26... ♗c8

26... ♙b7 27. ♙a6+ ♙b6 28. ♗b5 #.

27. ♗xc8+?

In such positions you shouldn't exchange queens, unless you win something really tasty! Easier was 27. ♗f7! ♗b7 28. ♗xf5 .0.

27... ♙xc8 28. ♙xf5+ ♙b8 29. ♖e1! ♖f4

29... ♙xh6 30. ♙xd6+ ♙b7 31. ♖e6 ♙g7 32. ♙e4 ♙c6 33. ♙e5+ ♙d7 34. ♖d6+ .0.

30. ♖e8+ ♙c7 31. ♙f1

And as Black cannot move his pieces, he decided to call it a day...

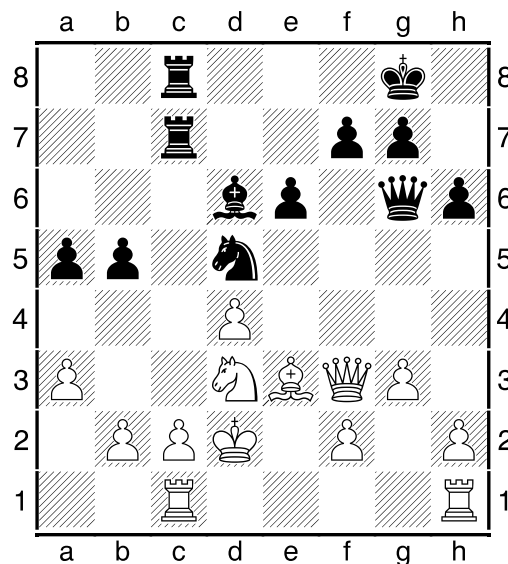
1-0

□ **Erdogdu Mert**

■ **Gurevich Mikhail**

C10 Antalya 2009

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♖f6 4. ♙g5 dxe4 5. ♖xe4 ♖bd7 6. ♖f3 h6 7. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 8. ♙e3 ♙d6 9. ♙d3 b6 10. ♗e2 ♙b7 11.0-0 ♖d5 12. ♖e5 ♗f6 13. ♙b5+ c6 14. ♙xc6+ ♙xc6 15. ♖xc6 0-0 16. ♖e5 ♖fc8 17. ♖d3 a5 18. ♗f3 ♗g6 19.a3 ♖a7 20. ♙d2 ♖ac7 21. ♖c1 b5 22.g3 (D)



Black sacrificed a pawn in order to grab the initiative. All his pieces are well placed and are pressurizing White's queenside, so his compensation must be satisfactory.

22...b4! 23.axb4

23.a4 ♖b6 24.b3 ♖d5 ±.

23... ♖xc2+!

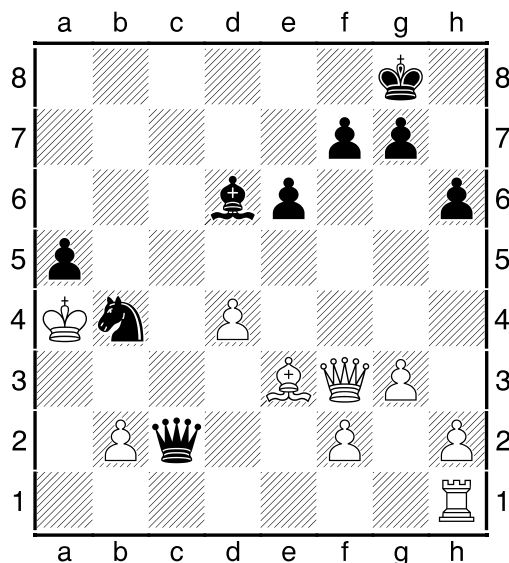
Although Black retains the advantage after both 23...axb4 24. ♖hd1 ♖c4 and 23... ♖xb4 24. ♖xb4 axb4 25.c3 (25. ♖d1 e5 ♢) 25...e5, his exchange sacrifice is to the point and meets the needs of the position. And of course, it is principally aimed against the white king.

24. ♖xc2 ♖xc2+ 25. ♔xc2 ♖xb4+ 26. ♔b3?! White felt 'uncomfortable' to play his best chance with 26. ♔b1. It is true that Black retains an advantage after 26... ♖xd3+ 27. ♔a1 e5! 28. ♖a8+ (28.dxe5 ♖c4 29. ♖a8+ ♖f8 30. ♖xa5 ♖c2+ 31. ♔b1 ♖xe3 32. ♖c1 [32.fxe3? ♖e4+] 32... ♖d3+ 33. ♔a2 ♖c2 ♢) 28... ♖f8 29. ♖xa5 exd4 30. ♖f4 ♖f3, but he could then fight with more chances than in the game.

26... ♖xd3+ 27. ♔a4

Now it is a fight of the white king versus three of the opponent's pieces, and this is too much for a lonely king.

27... ♖c2+! (D)



28. ♔b5

28. ♔xa5 ♖d5! 29. ♖f4 ♖c7+ 30. ♔b5 ♖b7+ 31. ♔c4 ♖b6+ 0. or 28.b3 ♖d5 29. ♖c1 ♖a2+ 30. ♔b5 ♖xb3+ 31. ♔c6 ♖a3 0..

28... ♖d5 29. ♖c1 ♖c8 30. ♖d1 ♖b4 31. ♖f3

31. ♔a4 ♖c6+ 32. ♔a3 ♖d3+ 33. ♔a2 ♖d5+ 34. ♔a1 ♖xf2 0..

31... ♖a6+ 32. ♔a4 ♖d5 33. ♖b3 ♖b6+ 0-1

The Strategic Concept

In this concept there are no fierce attacks but just a pure strategical (positional) handling of the exchange sacrifice, which includes long-term manoeuvres and domination by pieces.

The Old Days

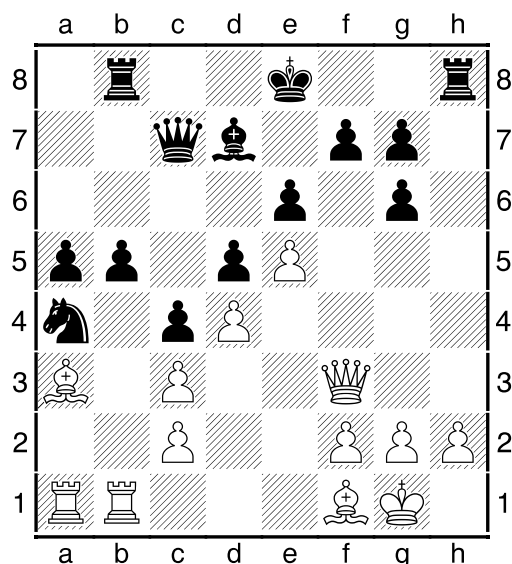
The old masters are once more the teachers:

□ **Tolush Alexander**

■ **Botvinnik Mikhail**

C19 Moscow 1945

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♖b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♖xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♖e7 7. ♖f3 ♖a5 8. ♖d2 c4 9.a4 ♖d7 10. ♖e2 ♖b6 11.0-0 ♖xa4 12. ♖h4 ♖g6 13. ♖xg6 hxg6 14. ♖e1 ♖d7 15. ♖f1 b5 16. ♖f3 ♖b8 17. ♖eb1 ♖c7 18. ♖c1 a5 19. ♖a3 (D)



19... ♖b6!

Black prepares to exchange the b6-rook for White's dark-squared bishop. 'Without his good bishop, White cannot prevent the exploitation of Black's pawn superiority on the queenside' (Mikhail Botvinnik).

20. ♖g3 ♖d8 21. ♖d6?!

And White falls for it! He should have waited with 21.h3 ♖h4 22. ♖e3.

21... ♖xd6! 22.exd6 ♖c6

White is finally deprived of all counterplay (at least for the moment) and his rooks are passively moving on his first rank, unable to participate in the battle.

23.h3 ♖d7

Black will need the assistance of his king,

but possible is the immediate 23...♔h4 24.♔e5 ♕f6 25.♔e3 (25.♔xf6 gxf6 26.♖xa4? bxa4 27.♖b8+ ♔d7 28.♖xh8 a3 0.) 25...♔d7.

24.♖e1 ♕h4!

Black must win the d6-pawn, but must also eliminate any dangerous counterplay his opponent might drum up. That's the reason why he should try to exchange the queens.

25.♔e5 ♕f6 26.♔g3 ♖h4!

‘With this manoeuvre Black parries the transfer of the white rook to f3 and, in addition, prepares to advance his pawn to b4, which, in conjunction with the attack on the d-pawn, becomes decisive’ (Mikhail Botvinnik).

27.♖e3 ♖f4

27...♔f4?! 28.♖f3 ♕xg3 29.♖xf7+ ♔xd6 30.fxg3 ♖e4 ∞.

28.♕e2 ♕h4 29.♕f3 b4!

Now the black queenside pawns can roll.

30.♕xh4

Alternatives like 30.♕xd5 exd5 31.♖e7+ ♔xd6 0. or 30.♕h2 ♕f6 31.cxb4 axb4 32.♖b1 ♕xd4 ♢ or, finally, 30.cxb4 axb4 31.♖b1 ♕xg3 32.fxg3 ♖xd4 33.♖xb4 ♔xd6 ♢ fail to impress.

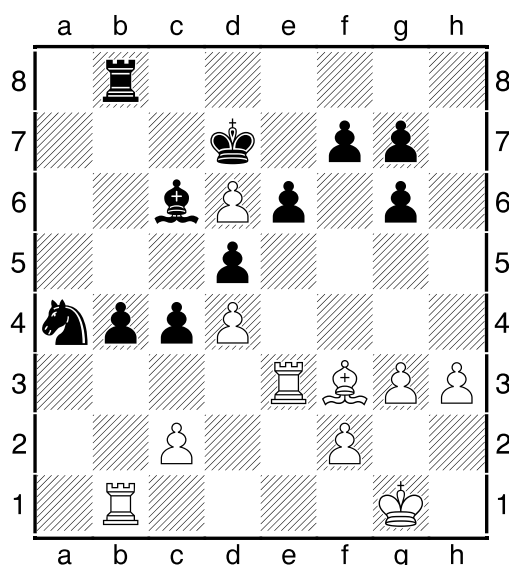
30...♖xh4 31.g3?!

A better try is 31.cxb4 axb4 32.♖b1 ♖xd4 33.♖xb4 ♢.

31...♖h8!

Black wisely avoided the decoy: 31...♖xh3? 32.cxb4 axb4 33.♖b1 ∞.

32.cxb4 axb4 33.♖b1 ♖b8 (D)



In this specific pawn-structure Black's a4-knight is worth at least as much as a white rook. White's rooks stand miserably and wait for the end.

34.h4 ♖b7 35.♔h2 ♔xd6 36.g4 ♘c3 37.♖a1

37.♖b2 f6 38.♔g3 e5 0..

37...♘b5! 38.♖d1 ♖a7 39.h5 g5 40.♔g2 ♖a2 41.♕e2

The sealed move, but Tolush resigned without resuming play, as more material will be lost.

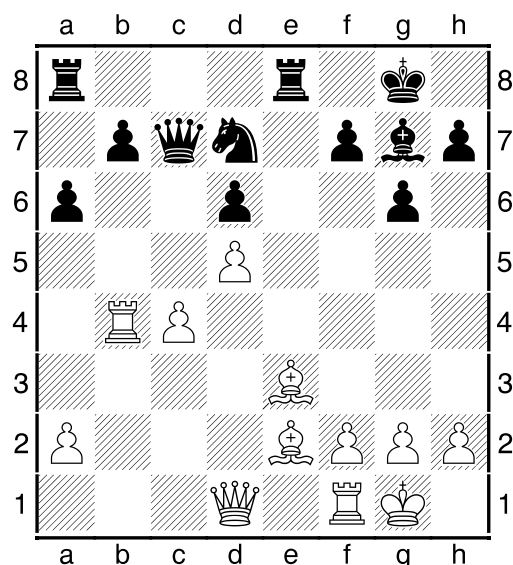
0-1

□ **Polugaevsky Lev**

■ **Petrosian Tigran**

A42 Moscow 1983

1.♘f3 g6 2.d4 ♕g7 3.c4 d6 4.♘c3 e5 5.e4 ♘c6 6.dxe5 ♘xe5 7.♘d4 a6 8.♕e2 c5 9.♘c2 ♕e6 10.♘d5 ♕xd5 11.exd5 ♘e7 12.0-0 0-0 13.♖b1 ♘f5 14.b4 cxb4 15.♖xb4 ♕c7 16.♕b2 ♖fe8 17.♘d4 ♘xd4 18.♕xd4 ♘d7 19.♕e3 (D)



Black seemed to have gained a nice position, but White can pose some pressure on the b-file and his bishop pair cannot be that bad...

19...♖xe3!

It seems that Petrosian didn't really like his rooks! But this exchange sacrifice is fully justified.

20.fxe3 ♘c5

Black has gained quite a lot of compensation factors:

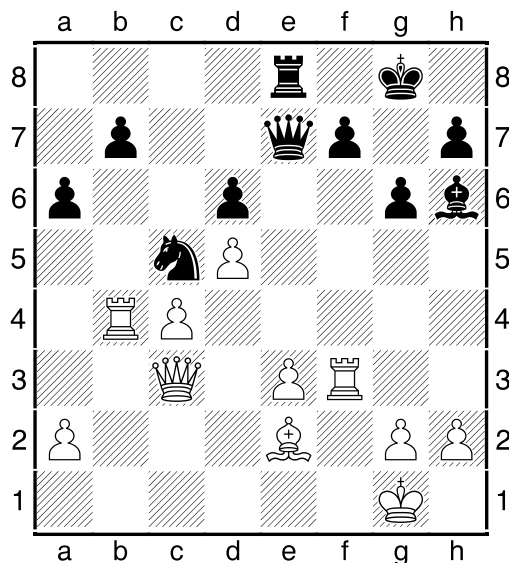
1. A strong knight on c5.
2. Weak pawns on e3 & c4.

3. Full domination on the dark squares.

4. Absence of a real white plan.

But of course he is not winning!

21. ♖c2 ♜e8 22. ♜f3 ♙h6 23. ♖c3 ♜e7
(D)



24. ♜b6?

A blunder in a difficult position. White should have opted for 24.g3 ♙xe3+ 25. ♖g2 ♙h6 ♞.

24... ♞a4

And White resigned. After 25. ♖d4 ♞xb6 26. ♖xb6 ♙xe3+ he enters an endgame an exchange down!

0-1



The New Era

As is natural, every new generation is learning from the old. Every time knowledge is passed on, better and more effective; this is the meaning of education.

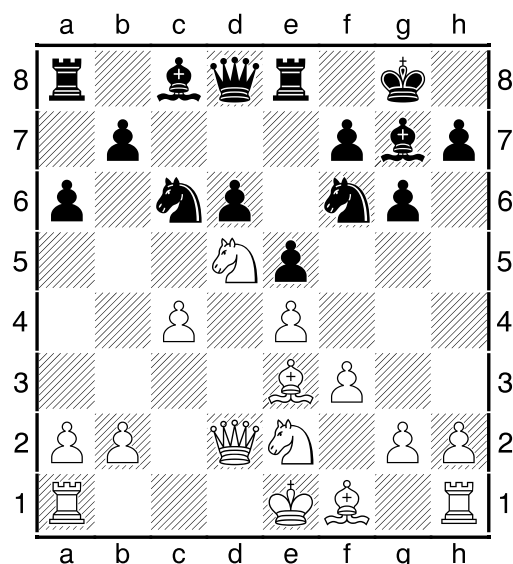
The (probably) greatest player of all times was fully aware of the nice possibilities and chances offered by an exchange sacrifice:

□ Beliaevsky Alexander

■ Kasparov Garry

E83 Moscow 1981

1.d4 ♞f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♞c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6. ♙e3 ♞c6 7. ♖d2 a6 8. ♞ge2 ♜e8 9. ♞c1 e5 10.d5 ♞d4 11. ♞1e2 c5 12.dxc6 ♞xc6 13. ♞d5 (D)



13...b5!

An almost forced exchange sacrifice, as after 13... ♞xd5?! 14.cxd5 ♞e7 15. ♞c3 White enjoys a pleasant advantage. Black is obliged to take such decisions (from time to time at least!) in order not to fall into passivity.

14. ♙b6

White is in no position to choose: 14. ♞ec3 ♞d4 15. ♙d3 (15. ♞xf6+ ♙xf6 16.cxb5 axb5 17. ♙xb5 ♙h4+! ♞) 15... ♙e6 =.

14... ♖d7 15. ♞c7 ♜b8 16. ♞xe8 ♖xe8

So, what has Black achieved with his decision?

1. Better development.

2. Active play for his pieces.

These two facts do not seem worth much, but White is facing some other problems:

3. He will need time to complete his development.

4. He will lose some tempi to protect his pieces in the meantime.

Actually, what Black 'bought' is time and initiative.

17. ♙e3?!

There is no point for White to give up a pawn. Bad is 17. ♙c7? ♜b7 18. ♙xd6 bxc4 19. ♙a3 ♙e6 20. ♞c3 ♜d7 21. ♖f2 ♙h6 22. ♜d1 ♞d4 ♞ but he should make his decision among 17.c5 dxc5 18. ♙xc5 ♙e6 ♞ or 17.cxb5 ♜xb6 18.bxc6 d5! ♞.

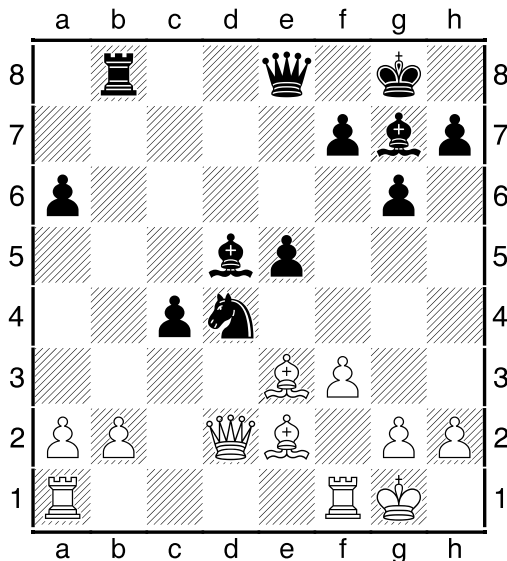
17...bxc4

Now Black has got a pawn and pressure along the b-file added to his compensation.

18. ♖c3 ♗e6 19. ♗e2?!

Too passive. White should go for 19. ♖d5!? ♗xd5 20. exd5 ♖d4 (20...c3!? 21. bxc3 ♗e7 22. ♗c4 ♗c8 23. ♗b3 a5! [23...♖fxd5 24. ♗xd5 ♖xd5 25. ♗xd5 ♗xc3+ 26. ♖e2 ♗b2+ 27. ♗d2 ♗h6 28. ♗ad1 ♗e3+ 29. ♖f1 ♗xd2 30. ♗xd2 ♗xd2 31. ♗xd2 ♗xd2 32. ♖e2 ♗b4 33. ♗b1 ±] 24. 0-0 a4 ☞) 21. ♗xc4 ♖f5 22. 0-0 e4 ☞.

19... ♖d4 20. 0-0 d5! 21. exd5 ♖xd5 22. ♖xd5 ♗xd5 ♖ (D)



Black has achieved an excellent, most likely better position, as his pieces are certainly much better placed than White's. White's rooks are still 'out of play'.

23. ♗f2

Not 23. f4? ♖xe2+ 24. ♗xe2 exf4 25. ♗xf4 ♗xb2 0..

23...h5 24. ♗c1 ♗e6 25. ♗f1 h4?!

Preferable is 25... ♖f5.

26. ♗e1 ♗c6 27. ♗h6?!

White should grab his chance and become active with 27. f4! ♖f5 28. fxe5 ♖xe3 29. ♗xe3 ♗h6 30. ♗d4 (30. e6!? ♗c5 31. exf7+ ♗xf7 32. ♗e8+ ♗xe8 33. ♗xh6 ♗e4 34. ♗d2 =) 30... ♗xe3 31. ♗xe3 =.

27... ♗h8 28. f4?

Wrong timing! Instead, White should play 28. h3 ♖f5 29. ♗g5 ♗c5 ♖.

28...e4 ♖ 29. ♗d1 ♗e6 30. f5?!

Trying for some activity, but it is too late. The other option was 30. ♗g5 ♗e8 31. ♖h1 ♖f5 ♖.

30... ♖xf5 31. ♗f4 ♗e8 32. ♗fd2 ♗c5+!

33. ♖h1 ♗e5

Black's pieces are dominating the board.

34. ♗g5 ♖h7 0. 35. ♗d8 ♗xd8 36. ♗xd8 ♗f2

36... ♖xh6 37. ♗xh4 ♗xb2 0..

37. ♗d1 ♖xh6 38. ♗xe5 e3 39. ♗c3 h3 40. ♗e1 ♖g4

40...e2! 41. ♗c1 exf1 ♗+ 42. ♗xf1 hxe2+ 43. ♗xg2 ♗d4 would have been a nice touch. Anyway, after the text move White has nothing left to play for either, so he resigned.

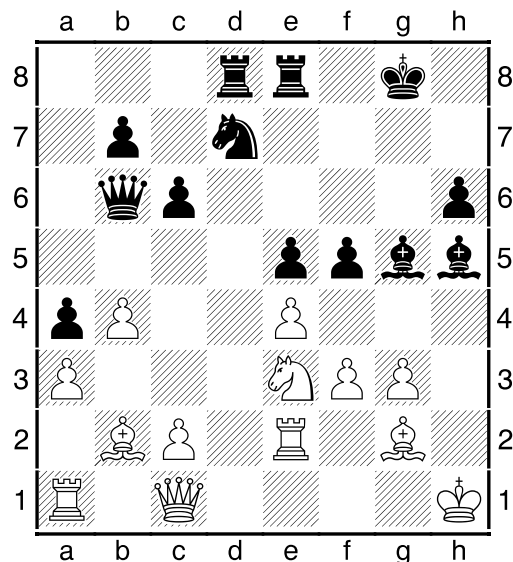
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□ Kasparov Garry

■ Computer Deep Blue

A07 New York 1997

1. ♖f3 d5 2. g3 ♗g4 3. b3 ♖d7 4. ♗b2 e6 5. ♗g2 ♖gf6 6. 0-0 c6 7. d3 ♗d6 8. ♖bd2 0-0 9. h3 ♗h5 10. e3 h6 11. ♗e1 ♗a5 12. a3 ♗c7 13. ♖h4 g5 14. ♖hf3 e5 15. e4 ♗fe8 16. ♖h2 ♗b6 17. ♗c1 a5 18. ♗e1 ♗d6 19. ♖df1 dxe4 20. dxe4 ♗c5 21. ♖e3 ♗ad8 22. ♖hf1 g4 23. hxe4 ♖xg4 24. f3 ♖xe3 25. ♖xe3 ♗e7 26. ♖h1 ♗g5 27. ♗e2 a4 28. b4 f5 (D)



29. exf5!

The introduction to an exchange sacrifice.

29...e4 30. f4 ♗xe2

Black has no choice: 30... ♗xf4? 31. gxf4 ♗xe2 32. ♗d2 ♗h5 33. ♗c3 ♗e7 34. ♖c4 ♗c7 35. ♗h8+ ♖f7 36. ♗xh6 .0.

31. fxe5 ♖e5

Black is forced to block the long diagonal:

31...hgx5? 32.♘d5 .0.

32.g6!

32.gxh6? is a plain blunder: 32...♘f3! (32...♖d6? 33.♘c4! or 32...♙h7? 33.♙xe5 ♖xe5 34.g4 ♙d4 ∞) 33.♘g4 ♖d1+ 34.♙xd1 ♙xd1 35.♖xd1 ♖d8 ♢.

But now it is time to evaluate the exchange sacrifice. White's compensation for the sacrificed exchange can be found in:

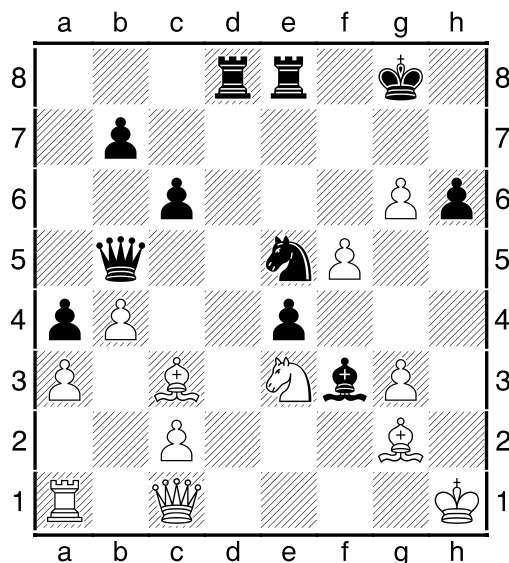
1. A pawn.
2. A dangerous pawn phalanx on the kingside (f5, g6, g3).
3. Potential attack on the black king.
4. Initiative.

So, it seems that White struck a good deal!

32...♙f3 33.♙c3

A good prophylactic move. In many lines the queens are exchanged, or White would like to send his queen away to the kingside. In these cases it is important not to allow ...♖d2.

33...♙b5?! (D)



Deep Blue estimated that this will probably lead to the exchange of queens, and had no objection to this in view of Black's 'material advantage'. However, in the ending White's advanced pawns and general grip on the position will count for more than the small material plus of rook for bishop and pawn. As 33...h5?! 34.♙e1 ♙b5 35.♙g1! (35.♙f1? ♘g4 36.♘xg4 [36.♙xb5 cxb5 37.f6 ♘xe3 38.f7+ ♙f8 39.fxe8 ♙+ ♖xe8 40.♙xf3 exf3 41.♙g1 ♘g4 ♢] 36...hgx4 37.♙xb5 cxb5 38.f6 ♖e6 ♢) 35...♙xg2

36.♙xg2 ♖f8 37.♙f1! ± is not satisfactory, Deep Blue should have tried 33...♖d7! 34.♙e1 ♙d8! 35.♙f2 ♙g5 36.♖e1 ∞.

34.♙f1! ♙xf1+

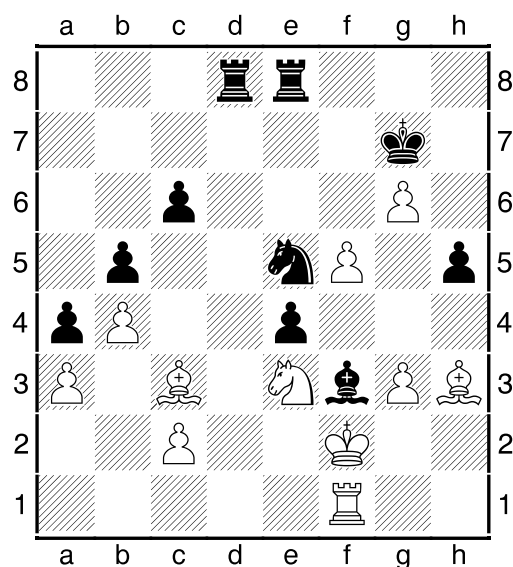
Now 34...♘g4 is impossible because of 35.♙xb5 cxb5 36.♘xg4 ♙xg4 37.f6 ♙f8 38.♖f1 ±.

35.♖xf1 h5 36.♙g1!

White begins his preparations in order to coordinate his pieces and take advantage of his pawn phalanx.

36...♙f8 37.♙h3 b5 38.♙f2 ♙g7 (D)

White wins impressively after 38...♙g8 39.♙g2 ♘g4+ 40.♘xg4 hxg4 41.♙e3! ♙xg2 42.♖f2 ±.



39.g4!

It is time...

39...♙h6

39...h4 40.g5 ♖d6 41.♘g2! ±.

40.♖g1

40.gxh5! ♙xh5 41.♙g3 ♙g5 42.g7 .0 is even better.

40...hgx4 41.♙xg4 ♙xg4 42.♘xg4+ ♘xg4+ 43.♖xg4

Now the white pawn phalanx is unstoppable.

43...♖d5 44.f6 ♖d1?!

The main alternative is 44...♖f5+ 45.♙e3! (also good is 45.♙e2 ♖g8 46.g7 ♙h5 47.♖g2 ♖f3 48.♙d4 ♙h6 49.c3 ♙h5 50.♖g1 ♙h6 51.♖g4 ♙h5 52.♖xe4 ♖f5 53.♖e6 ♙g6 54.♖xc6 ♖e8+ 55.♙d2 ♖h5 56.♖e6 ♖h2+ 57.♙d3 ♖h3+ 58.♙e3 ♖d8+ 59.♙e4 ♙f7 60.♖c6 .0 but not 45.♙g3? ♖f3+ 46.♙h4 ♖d8 47.f7 ♖d5

48.f8♖+ ♜xf8 49.g7 ♜g8 50.♜xe4 =)
 45... ♜f3+ 46.♔e2 ♜xc3 47.f7 ♜d8 48.g7
 ♜xc2+ 49.♔e1 ♜c1+ 50.♔f2 ♜c2+ (50...
 e3+ 51.♔g2 e2 52.g8♖ ♜xg8 53.fxg8♖
 ♜g1+ 54.♔f3 ♜xg4 55.♖h8+ ♔g6
 56.♖e8+ ♔f5 57.♖f7+ ♔e5 58.♔xg4)
 51.♔g3 ♜c3+ 52.♔h4 ♜c1 (52... ♜d1
 53.g8♗+) 53.g8♖ ♜h1+ 54.♔g3 ♜g1+
 55.♔f4 .0. Although Deep Blue is lost
 anyway, this line should have been tried.

45.g7

1-0

Of course, it is not possible that a player like Vishy Anand will not have used the strategical exchange sacrifice. When given the chance, it will be used!

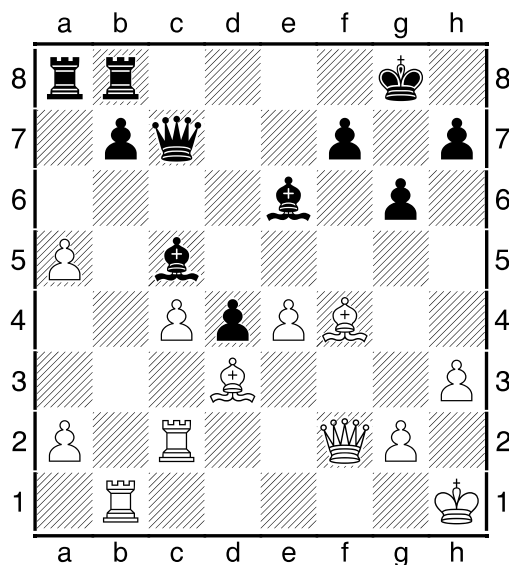
The following games are very nice examples of keeping winning chances alive by sacrificing the exchange (although by concrete play the balance would not be disturbed):

□ **Almasi Zoltan**

■ **Anand Viswanathan**

B42 Groningen 1997

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6
 5.♗d3 ♗f6 6.0-0 ♖c7 7.♖e2 d6 8.c4 g6
 9.♗c3 ♗g7 10.♜d1 0-0 11.♗f3 ♗c6
 12.h3 ♗d7 13.♗e3 ♗de5 14.♜ac1 ♗d7
 15.♗xe5 dxe5 16.f3 ♗d4 17.♖f2 ♜fd8
 18.♗e2 ♗c6 19.♗xd4 exd4 20.♗d2 e5
 21.b4 ♗d7 22.♖e2 a5 23.bxa5 ♗e6
 24.♔h1 ♜dc8 25.♜c2 ♗f8 26.♜b1 ♗c5
 27.♖f2 ♜cb8 28.f4 exf4 29.♗xf4 (D)



29...♖xa5!?

An interesting exchange sacrifice. Of course Black could play 29...♗d6 30.♗xd6 ♖xd6 31.♜cb2 (31.c5 ♖c7 [31...♖e5 32.♜b5] 32.♜b6 ♜xa5 33.♖xd4 ♜xa2 34.♜xa2 ♗xa2 35.♖d6 ♜c8 =) 31... ♜xa5 32.♜xb7 ♜xb7 33.♜xb7 ♜a4 =, but he was looking for more than a draw.

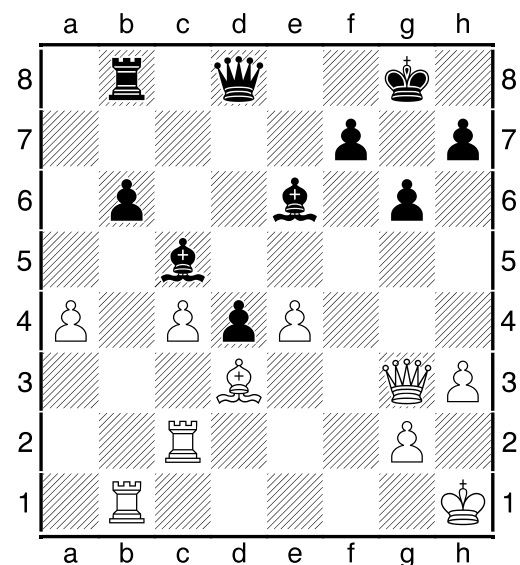
30.♗xb8 ♜xb8

But how is Black's decision to sacrifice the exchange justified? Well, Black got the following as compensation:

1. The bishop pair.
2. Weak white pawn structure (a2, c4 and e4 pawns).
3. Control of the dark squares.
4. Lack of a concrete plan for White (the b7-pawn can be easily protected by moving to b6) and open files for his rooks.

Of course, nothing concrete exists and by mutually correct play the balance should be retained.

31.♖g3 ♖d8 32.a4! b6 (D)



33.e5

Interesting complications occur after 33.a5!? ♗d6 34.e5 bxa5 35.exd6! ♜xb1+ 36.♔h2 ♜b3 (36...a4? 37.c5 a3 38.c6 a2 39.♜xa2 ♗xa2 40.♗f5!! .0) 37.c5 h5! (37... ♗f5? 38.c6 ♜xd3 39.c7 ♖d7 [39...♖c8 40.d7 .0] 40.c8♖+ ♖xc8 41.♜xc8+ ♗xc8 42.♖xd3 .0) 38.c6 h4 39.♖e5 ♜xd3 40.♜b2 (40.c7 ♖c8 41.♜b2 ♜b3) 40... ♜e3 41.♖xd4 (41.c7 ♖xc7 42.♖xd4 ♖d8 43.♖xe3 ♖xd6+ 44.♔h1 a4 =)

41... ♖b3 42.c7 ♔d7! (42... ♔c8? 43. ♖e2! .0) 43. ♖c2 ♔e8! 44. ♗xh4 ♕d7 (44... ♖e3? 45. ♖b2 .0) 45. ♗d8 (45. ♗f6 a4 46. ♖c4 ♖e3 47. ♖h4 ♔e5+ 48. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 49. ♖xa4 f6 50. ♖a8+ ♔f7 51.c8 ♗xc8 52. ♖xc8 ♖d5 =) 45... ♖e3 46.c8 ♗xc8 47. ♗xc8 ♔g7 =. Probably White should have tried 33.a5!?, as it is then more difficult for Black to find the proper defence, but on the other hand it is not that easy for him either!

33... ♖a8 34. ♖a2 ♔d7! 35.a5?!

Too optimistic. Unclear and about equal is 35. ♖b5 ♔c7 36. ♗f4 ♕d7.

35... bxa5 36. ♗f3

White could not play 36. ♖b5? ♔c7! (36... ♗xb5?! 37.cxb5 ♕xa2 38. ♗f3 ♖e8 39. ♗c6 ♖xe5 40.b6 ±) 37. ♗f3 ♖a7 ±.

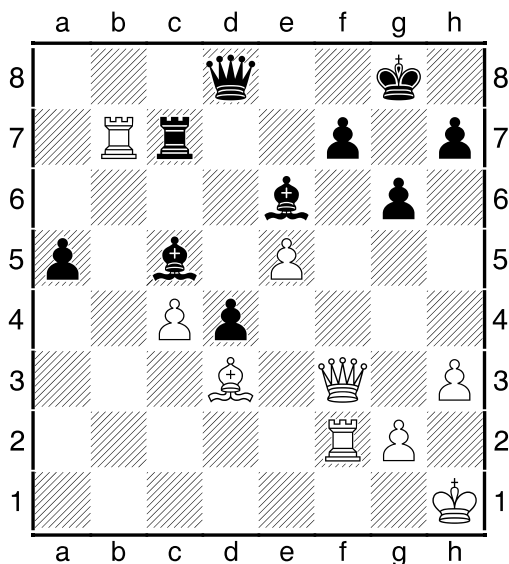
36... ♔d8! ± 37. ♖b7 ♖c8?!

37...a4! 38. ♗c6 ♔a5 would preserve Black's advantage.

38. ♖f2?!

Essential was 38. ♗f6! ♗xf6 39.exf6 ♕b4 40. ♖a7 h5 =.

38... ♖c7 (D)



39. ♖b5?!

White could play 39. ♖xc7 ♗xc7 40. ♗a8+ ♔g7 41. ♗a6 ♗xe5 42. ♗xa5 ♕d7! ± and suffer! Black's bishop pair and pawn, as well as his control of the dark squares (compensation for the sacrificed exchange), are hard to fight against in the long run. Nevertheless, this was his objective chance to continue fighting.

39...a4 40. ♖a5 a3 41. ♖f1

41. ♖a8 ♖c8 42. ♖xc8 ♗xc8 ±.

41... ♖c8 42. ♖a6 ♗e8 43. ♗e4 ♖b8 44. ♖a5 ♗e7 ± 45. ♗f3?!

45. ♖a8 ♖xa8 46. ♗xa8+ ♔g7 47. ♗a5 ♕d7 ±.

45... ♗c7! 46. ♖b5 ♗xe5 0. 47. ♗f6 ♗c7

47... ♗xf6 48. ♖xb8+ ♔g7 49. ♖xf6 ♔xf6 0..

48. ♖a1 ♖c8 49. ♗f2 ♕f8 50. ♖c1 ♗c6!

White resigned due to 51. ♗xd4 (51. ♖c2 ♕xh3 52. ♗xd4 ♕e6 53. ♖a5 ♗c7 54. ♖a7 ♗g3 55.c5 a2 56. ♖c1 ♕d6 57. ♗xd6 ♗xd6 58.cxd6 ♖xc1+ 59. ♔h2 a1 ♗ 0.) 51... ♗xb5 52.cxb5 ♖xc1+ 53. ♔h2 a2 0..

0-1

□ **Lutz Christopher**

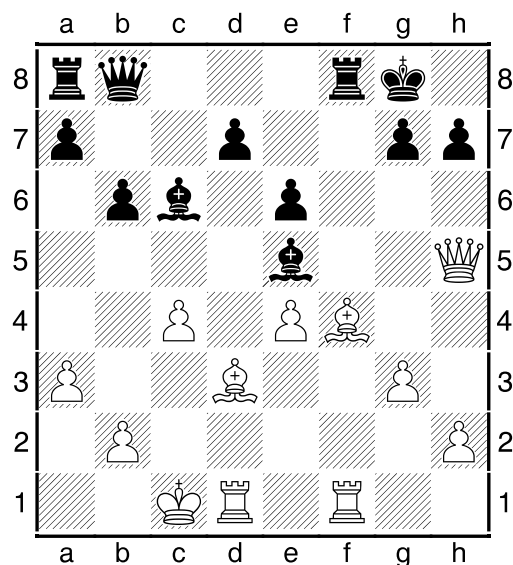
■ **Karpov Anatoly**

E12 Dortmund 1993

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 b6 4.a3 ♕a6 5. ♗c2 ♕b7 6. ♘c3 c5 7.e4 cxd4 8. ♘xd4 ♘c6 9. ♘xc6 ♕xc6 10. ♕f4 ♘h5 11. ♕e3 ♗b8

Here A.Karpov had a bitter experience when he played 11... ♕d6?? and resigned after the double attack 12. ♗d1 1-0 Christiansen, L-Karpov, A Wijk aan Zee 1993.

12.g3 f5 13.0-0-0 ♘f6 14. ♕d3 ♗b7 15.f3 fxe4 16. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 17.fxe4 ♕d6 18. ♖hf1 ♕e5 19. ♕f4 ♗b8 20. ♗e2 0-0 21. ♗h5 (D)



21... ♖xf4!

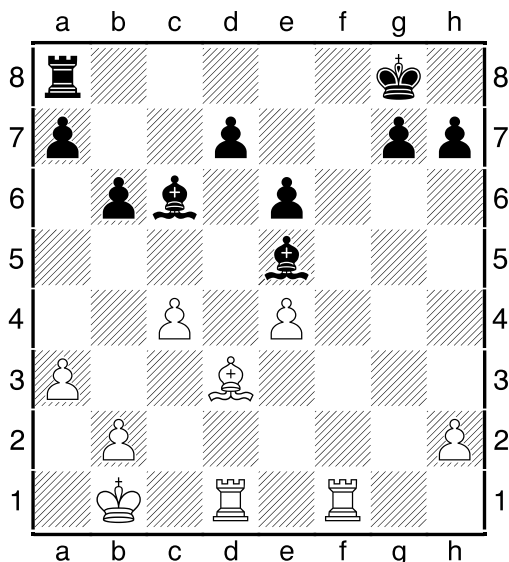
An excellent (and forced) exchange sacrifice. Bad was 21... ♕xf4+? 22.gxf4 g6

(22... ♖xf4? 23.e5 .o) 23. ♖g4 and White is on the attack.

22.gxf4 ♙xf4+ 23.♙b1 ♖e5!

Karpov is not even afraid of exchanging queens!

24.♖xe5 ♙xe5 (D)



Time to take stock. Black has sacrificed the exchange and has in return:

1. The bishop pair.
2. A pawn.
3. Full domination on the dark squares.
4. Better pawn structure.
5. No targets for the white rooks.

25.h3 a5

Not bad, but 25...d6! with the idea ...♙e8-g6 looks fine.

26.b3?!

As nearly always, White should consider returning the material with 26. ♖f3 a4 27. ♖df1 ♙f6 28. ♖xf6 gxf6 29. ♖xf6 =.

26...d6! 27. ♖d2?!

White is playing without any plan. Not best was 27. ♖de1 ♙e8 28. ♙e2 ♙g6 29. ♙g4 ♖e8 30. ♙a2 (30.h4 h5 31. ♙h3 ♙f6) 30... h5 31. ♙e2 ♙h7 ♖ but 27. ♙c2 ♙e8 28. ♖b1 ♙g6 29. ♙d2 ♙d4 30.e5 ♙xd3 31. ♙xd3 ♙xe5 32. ♖be1 ∞ looked OK.

27...♙e8 28.♙c2 ♙g6 29. ♖df2 ♖c8!

The black rook will get its activity via the 5th rank.

30.♙d1 ♙d4 31. ♖a2?!

Obviously better was 31. ♖g2 ♙c5 32. ♖a2 ♖.

31... ♖c5

Now the black rook is ready to pose threats.

32. ♖g2

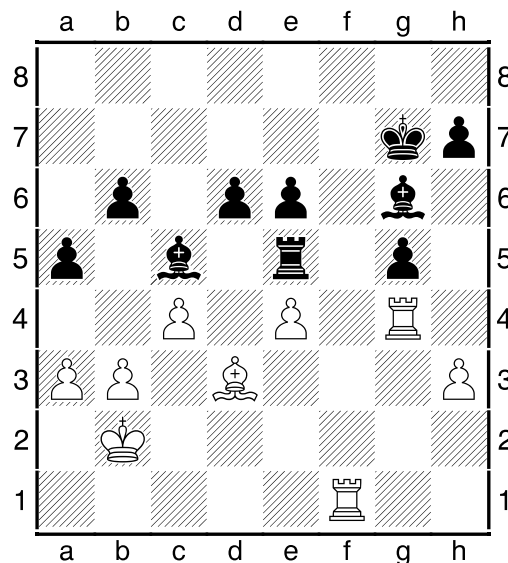
32.b4 ♖g5 ♖.

32... ♖h5 33. ♖f3 ♙e8 34.♙c2 g6 35. ♙e2 ♖e5 36. ♙d3 ♙g7 37. ♖g4 g5! 38. ♖f1

On 38.h4 Black would have opted for 38... ♙h5! 39. ♖fg3 ♙xg4 40. ♖xg4 h5 (40... ♙e3 41.hxg5 ♙xg5 ♖) 41. ♖xg5+ ♖xg5 42.hxg5 h4 ♖.

38... ♙c5 39.♙b2 ♙g6 (D)

39... ♙h5 40. ♖g2 ♙g6 41. ♖e2.



40.h4?!

White got tired of a wait and see policy. But that was the only option and here 40. ♖g3 ♖ was a must - there was no need to give Black a passed pawn...

40...gxf4 41. ♖xh4 ♖g5?!

41...d5! was quite good: 42.cxd5 exd5 43. ♖ff4 h5 44. ♙c2 ♙e7 ♖.

42. ♖h2 ♖g3 43. ♙c2 ♙d4+ 44.♙c1 a4

44...h5 with the idea ...♙h6-g5, was quite joyful. It seems that Karpov is not in a hurry...

45.bxa4 ♖xa3 46.♙d2 ♖g3 47. ♙d3 ♖g5 48. ♖fh1 ♙e5

Black doesn't want to allow anything like 48... ♙f6 49. ♖xh7! ♙xh7 50. ♖xh7, although he would still stand much better: 50... ♖g2+ 51. ♙e2 ♙e5 52. ♖e7 ♙c5.

49. ♖h3 ♙d4

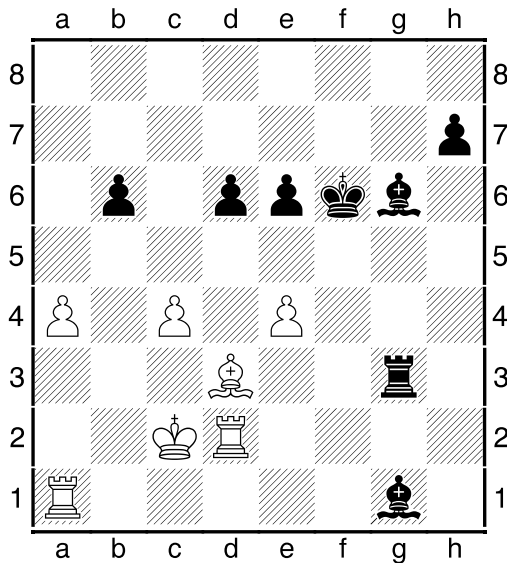
49... ♖g2+ 50. ♙d1 ♖a2 51. ♙c2 ♖.

50. ♖3h2 ♖g3 51. ♖f1 ♙f6 52. ♖b1 ♙g5+ 53.♙c2 ♙e3 54. ♖a1 ♙g1?!

Black missed the accurate 54...d5! 55.cxd5

exd5 56.a5 dxe4 57.♔f1 ♕d4 58.♖a4 ♕e5
59.♖h1 ♖c3+ 60.♔d1 bxa5 61.♖xa5 ♕f4
⚡.

55.♖d2 ♕f6 (D)



56.a5

Here White had his chance: 56.e5+! ♕xe5 (56...dxe5 57.♔xg6 hxg6 58.a5 bxa5 59.♖xa5 g5 60.c5 ♕d4 61.♖d3 ♖g2+ 62.♖d2 ♖g3 =) 57.♖e1+ ♕e3 58.♔xg6 hxg6 59.♖d3 ♕f4 60.♖xd6 e5 61.♖f6+ ♕g5 62.♖xe3 ♖xe3 63.♖xb6 ♖a3 64.♖b5 ♕f4 65.a5 e4 66.c5 e3 67.c6 e2 68.♕d2 ♕f3 69.♖e5 ♖a2+ 70.♕d3 ♖xa5 71.♖e3+ ♕f4 72.♖xe2 =.

56...bxa5 57.♖xa5?

A bad mistake. White should have opted for the above drawing continuation with 57.e5+!.

57...♕c5 58.♖a1?!

Passive. Again the active 58.e5+ should have been tried: 58...♕xe5 59.♔xg6 hxg6 60.♖e2+ ♕f6 61.♖a8 g5 62.♖f8+ ♕e7 63.♖g8 g4 (63...e5! ⚡) 64.♖e4 ♖g2+ 65.♕d3 g3 66.♖eg4 ♕f2 67.♖4g7+ ♕f6 68.♖g6+ =.

58...♕e5!

Now the white pieces will remain passive, while the black king will join the battle, helping his pieces to finish the job.

59.♖f1 ♕g1

With the lethal threat ...h5-h4-h3.

60.♖dd1 ♕e3 61.♖f8 ♖g2+ 62.♕b3 ♖h2! 63.♕b1 ♕h5 64.♖e1 ♕f2 65.♖f1 ♕c5 66.♖e1 ♕e2 67.♕a2 ♖h3+ 68.♕b2

♕a3+ 69.♕a1 ♕d3 70.♕b1 ♕b4! 71.♖c1 ♕d2 72.♖d1 ♕c3+ 73.♕a2 ♕xc4+ 74.♕a3 ♕e2

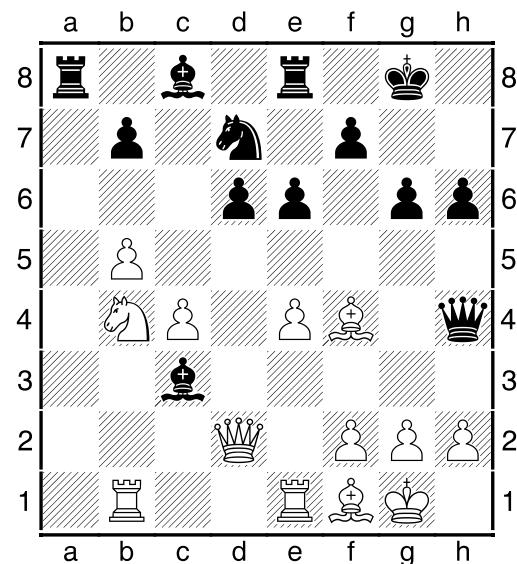
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□ Suba Mihai

■ Okhotnik Vladimir

B37 Courmayeur 2011

1.♕f3 c5 2.c4 ♕f6 3.♕c3 ♕c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♕xd4 g6 6.♕c2 ♕g7 7.e4 d6 8.♕e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♕d7 10.♖e1 ♕c5 11.♕f1 ♖e8 12.♕g5 ♖a5 13.♕d2 ♖d8 14.b4 ♕e6 15.♖b1 a5 16.a3 axb4 17.axb4 ♕ed4 18.b5 ♕b8 19.♕xd4 ♕xd4 20.♕d5 ♕g7 21.♕g5 h6 22.♕e3 ♕d7 23.♖d2 e6 24.♕b4 ♖h4 25.♕f4 ♕c3 (D)



26.♖xd6!

A very nice and 'trivial' sacrifice. M.Suba commented: 'I'll hold the exclamation mark, against any engine. There was a demand from the organiser to present the best games, for a brilliancy prize or so. At the end none won it. The reason was, weaker players looked at the games with stronger programs, which found the play less then perfect! It's true, there is a simple solution, 26.♖xc3 ♖xf4 27.♖bd1 ♖a4 28.♕d3 ♖f6 29.♖c2 ♖a8 30.♖d2 and Black will lose a pawn very soon. This is the program reason for my move to score worse. In this endgame, Black might establish a knight on c5 and bring his king to e7. How is White going to win? Anyway, the reader might appreciate that White's dark squared bishop is better than any black rook'.

By the way, here M.Suba touches the subject of the 'Best Game Prize', something that in my opinion shouldn't exist - judges are so unobjective and usually do not understand chess at all!

26...♙xe1 27.♖xe1 ♔f6?

A bad mistake in a difficult position. 27... ♖a4! 28.♙d2 ♔e7 29.♔g3 ♘ was the only way to continue the fight.

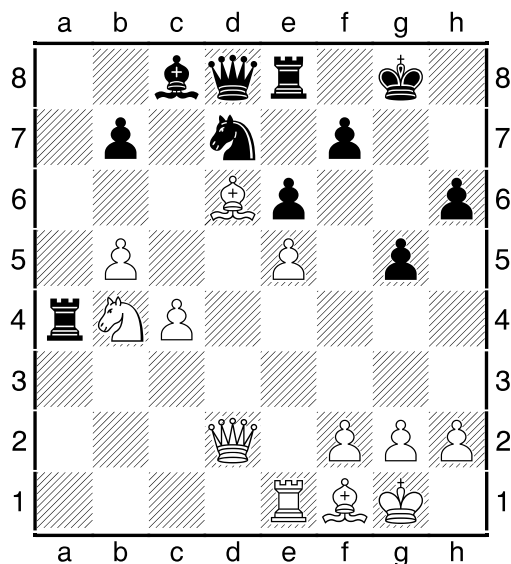
28.♔d2

28.c5 ♔c3 29.♘d3 also looks also rather strong.

28...♖a4 29.♙d6!

Avoiding a trap with 29.♙xh6? ♖xb4 30.♔xb4 g5 and Black survives.

29...g5 30.e5 ♔d8 (D)



31.h4!

And the black king will suffer as well!

31...♘f8 32.hxg5 hxg5 33.c5

'This move looks nice, but 33.♘a2 ♔a5 34.♘c3 wins immediately. Is the fact that I played a "less winning" move a serious reason to reject it?' (M.Suba).

33...♘g6 34.b6 ♙d7 35.♖b1 g4

Black has nothing to lose any more.

36.c6

36.♔h6 ♔h4 37.♔xh4 ♘xh4 38.c6 ♙xc6 39.♘xc6 ♖ea8 40.♙c7 is just as won as in the game.

36...♖xb4 37.♖xb4 ♙xc6 38.♖xg4 ♔g7

After 38...♔xb6 39.♙d3 Black is mated quickly.

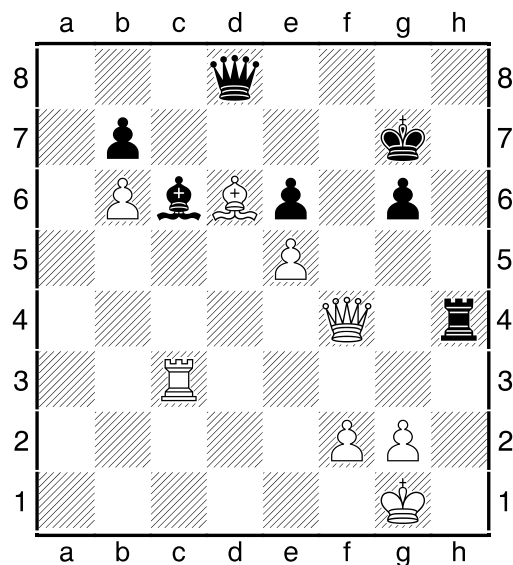
39.♙d3 ♖h8 40.♙xg6?!

Accurate was 40.♔f4 ♖h6 41.♙c2 .0.

40...fxg6 41.♔f4 ♖h6 42.♖g3 ♖h8?!

Best is 42... ♖h4 43.♙f8+ ♔h8 44.♔f6+ ♔xf6 45.exf6 ♔g8 46.♙d6 ♖h5 47.f4 ♖b5 48.♖h3 ♙e4 49.♙e5 ♖xb6 50.♔f2 ♖a6 51.♖h8+ ♔f7 52.♖h7+ ♔e8 53.g4 where winning is a question of time. Black is sort of zugzwang, 42... ♖h7 43.♔g4 .0.

43.♖c3! ♖h4 (D)



Black doesn't have any defence against ♖xc6, so he attacks the queen - who knows? Now two identical sacrifices decide the game.

44.♔f6+! ♔xf6 45.exf6+ ♔xf6 46.♖xc6! ♖d4 47.♙c7 ♖d1+ 48.♔h2 bxc6 49.b7 ♖b1 50.b8♔ ♖xb8 51.♙xb8 c5 52.♔g3 1-0

One of the most recent World Champions is the Bulgarian Veselin Topalov. A well-known fierce fighter, who has included the exchange sacrifice in his repertoire, the same way as his opening variations!

True, he must be the best known player that employs this subject so frequently and a lot can be learned from the next three (and many more) of his games:

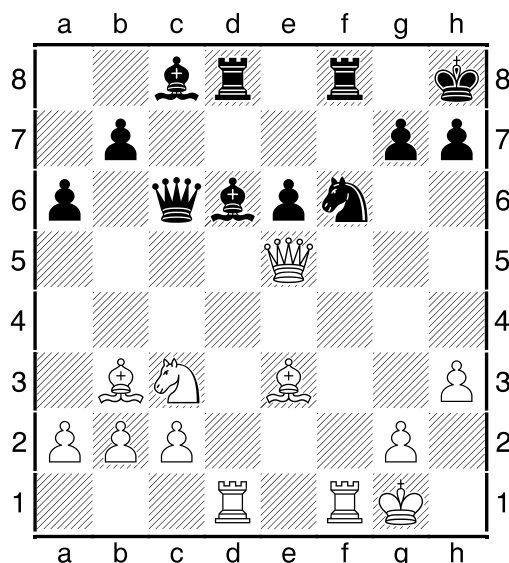
□ **Topalov Veselin**

■ **Salov Valery**

B96 Wijk aan Zee 1998

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♙d7 8.f5 ♙e7 9.fxe6 fxe6 10.♙c4 ♔c8 11.♙b3 ♘c6 12.♘xc6 ♔xc6 13.♔d3 ♔c5 14.♙e3 ♔h5 15.♙f4 ♖d8 16.0-0 0-0 17.h3 ♔h8

18. ♖ad1 ♜c8 19. ♔g3 ♔c5+ 20. ♜e3 ♔c6
21. e5 dxe5 22. ♔xe5 ♜d6 (D)



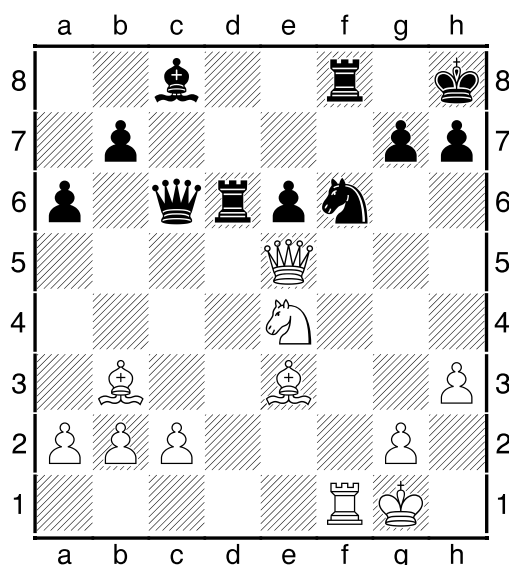
23. ♖xd6!

A neat combination/sacrifice that combines several motifs, among them the vulnerability of the 8th rank.

23... ♖xd6

Black must return the exchange anyway, and he could do it by 23... ♔xd6 24. ♔xd6 ♖xd6 25. ♜c5 ♖dd8 (25... ♖fd8?! 26. ♜xd6 ♖xd6 27. ♜e4 .0) 26. ♜xf8 ♖xf8 27. ♜e4! ±, intending ♜g5, ♜c5 or ♜d6.

24. ♜e4 (D)



24... ♖d5

Other moves are simply not helping:

a) 24... ♖d7? 25. ♜xf6 (25. ♖xf6? ♖d1+ 26. ♜h2 gxf6 27. ♜xf6 ♔d6 28. ♜f4 ♔xe5 29. ♜xe5 ♖f7 30. ♜e8+ ♔g8 31. ♜d6 ♜d7

32. ♜xf7 ♜xf7 ♖ or 25. ♜d4?! ♔c7 26. c3 ♔xe5 27. ♜xe5 ±) 25... ♖df7 (25... gxf6 26. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 27. ♔xf6+ ♔g8 28. ♜xe6+ .0) 26. ♜c5 (26. ♜g5? ♔b5) 26... gxf6 27. ♖xf6 ♔xc5+ (27... ♖xf6 28. ♜xf8 ♔b6+ 29. ♜c5 ♔d8 30. ♜d4 .0) 28. ♔xc5 ♖xf6 29. ♔e5 ±.

b) 24... ♖dd8? 25. ♜xf6 gxf6 26. ♖xf6 ♔g8 27. ♔g5+ with mate to follow.

25. ♜xd5 ♔xd5

A bit better than 25... exd5?! 26. ♜xf6 (26. ♜d6 ♔g8 27. ♜g5 .0) 26... gxf6 (26... ♖xf6 27. ♖xf6 gxf6 28. ♔e7 .0) 27. ♔f4 ♔xc2 28. ♔d6 ♔g8 29. ♜h6 .0.

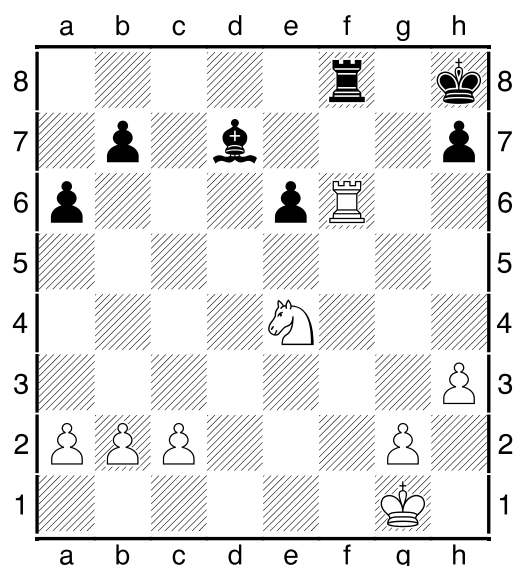
26. ♜d4! ♔xe5

Not much different is 26... ♜d7 27. c4 (27. ♜xf6 ♔xe5 28. ♜xe5 gxf6 29. ♜xf6+ ♔g8 ±) 27... ♔xe5 28. ♜xe5 ♜c6 29. ♜c5 ♜d7 30. ♖xf8+ ♜xf8 31. ♜d6 ±.

27. ♜xe5 ♜d7

Black hoped to save himself in an endgame with an active bishop. 27... ♜d7?! 28. ♖xf8+ ♜xf8 29. ♜d6 ♜d7 (29... ♜g6 30. ♜xg7+ ♔xg7 31. ♜xc8 .0) 30. ♜xb7 ♜c6 31. ♜c5 .0.

28. ♜xf6 gxf6 29. ♖xf6! ± (D)



And White went on to win this ending.

29... ♖xf6 30. ♜xf6 ♜c6 31. ♜f2 ♔g7 32. ♜g4 ♜e4 33. c3 h5 34. ♜e5 ♜f6 35. ♜d7+ ♜f5 36. b4 ♜c6 37. ♜c5 ♜e5 38. g3 ♜d5 39. ♜e3 ♜c4 40. ♜e4 e5 41. g4 h4 42. g5 ♜d7 43. g6 ♜xh3 44. ♜g5 ♜g2 45. ♜f3 ♜h3 46. ♜d2 ♜e6 47. ♜xh4 ♜b5

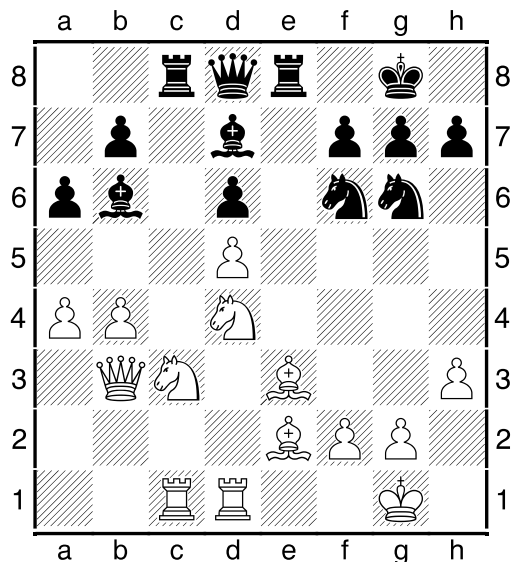
48. ♖f3 ♙xa2 49. ♖xe5 ♙e6 50. ♖c2 a5
 51. bxa5 ♖xa5 52. g7 ♖b5 53. ♖d3 ♖a5
 54. ♖d4 b6 55. ♖c6+ ♖a4 56. ♖e7 b5
 57. g8 ♖
 57... ♙xg8 58. ♖xg8 b4 59. c4 b3 60. ♖f6 b2
 61. ♖e4 b1 ♖ 62. ♖c3+ ♖xc3 63. ♖xc3
 ♖a5 64. ♖d4 ♖b6 65. ♖d5 ♖c7 66. ♖c5
 . 0.
 1-0

□ Lautier Joel

■ Topalov Veselin

E42 Elista 1998

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♖c3 ♙b4 4. e3 c5
 5. ♖ge2 cxd4 6. exd4 0-0 7. a3 ♙e7 8. d5
 exd5 9. cxd5 ♙c5 10. ♖d4 d6 11. ♙e2 a6
 12. 0-0 ♖bd7 13. ♙e3 ♖e5 14. h3 ♖e8
 15. b4 ♙b6 16. ♖b3 ♙d7 17. a4 ♖c8
 18. ♖ac1 ♖g6 19. ♖fd1 (D)



19... ♖xe3!

A beautiful resolution of the tension, by which Black shows that his superiority on the dark squares is not so latent after all. The very concrete tactical follow-up, however, could put this game also into the category of combination, rather than intuitive sacrifice. Of course, we must also take stock of where Black's compensation lies:

1. The bishop pair.
2. Full control of the dark squares.
3. Initiative.

20. fxe3 ♖e7

20... ♖e8!? is also possible, eyeing a4 and thus preventing the defence in the game. However, White can still struggle on with

21. ♖f2!? ♖xc3!? 22. ♖xc3 ♙xa4 23. ♖c8!
 ♖xc8 24. ♖xa4 ♖xd5 25. ♙g4 ♖d8 ∞.

21. ♖a2 ♖xc1 22. ♖xc1 ♙xa4! 23. ♖xa4
 ♖xe3+ 24. ♖h1 ♖e4?!

Unnecessary sophistication! The simple 24...
 ♙xd4! 25. b5 ♙a7 26. ♙f3 (26. bxa6 ♖e4
 27. axb7 ♖c3 28. ♖c2 ♖xd1 29. ♖xd1 ♖b6
 ♠) 26... axb5 27. ♖xb5 ♖e5 would have
 been good for Black.

25. ♖f5?

White could have taken advantage of Black's
 optimism with 25. ♖e8+! ♖f8 26. ♖e6! fxe6
 27. dxe6 ♖f2+ 28. ♖h2 ♖xe6 29. ♖xe6+
 ♖xe6 30. ♖e1 ∞. With the text move White
 is even losing!

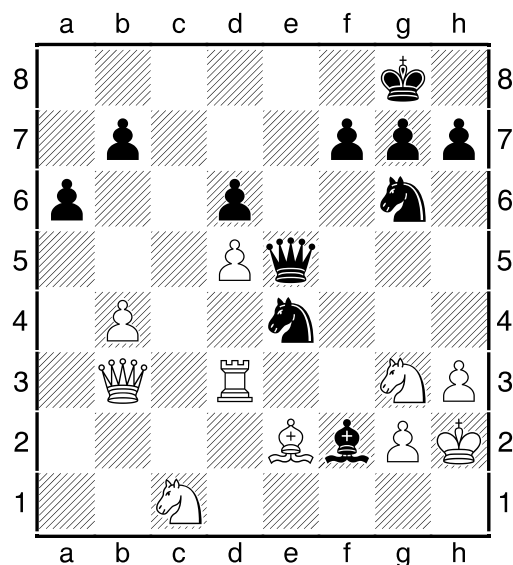
25... ♖f2+ 26. ♖h2 ♖e5+ 27. ♖g3

27. g3 ♖xd1 0..

27... ♖e4!

27... ♖xd1? 28. ♙xd1 ♙f2 29. ♖b3.

28. ♖b3 ♙f2 29. ♖d3 (D)



29... h5

Black can also win with the 'simple'
 manoeuvre 29... ♖e7! 30. ♙g4 h5 31. ♙xh5
 ♖xg3 32. ♖xg3 ♖xh5 0..

30. ♙xh5 ♖xg3 31. ♖xg3 ♖xh5!

31... ♙xg3+? 32. ♖xg3 ♖xh5 33. ♖xd6 ∞.

32. ♖xg6

Forced, as the rook cannot run away, since,
 thematically enough, Black would then
 penetrate on the dark squares: 32. ♖f3 ♖e5+
 33. g3 ♖e1.

32... ♖xg6

The smoke has cleared and Black has
 emerged with a sound extra pawn and an

excellent minor piece.

33. ♖f3 ♘d4 34. ♘d3 ♗g5 35. ♗e4 ♗e3!
36. ♗xe3 ♘xe3 37. ♖g3 g6 38. ♖f3 ♘d4
39. ♖e2

39. ♖e4 ♘c3 40. g4 ♖g7 41. h4 ♘f6 42. g5
♘c3 43. ♖f3 b6 0..

39... ♖g7 40. ♘e1 ♖f6 41. ♖d3 ♘f2
42. ♘f3 ♖f5 43. ♖e2 ♘a7

And White resigned, as there is no hope any more, not only to save but also to pose some kind of trap...

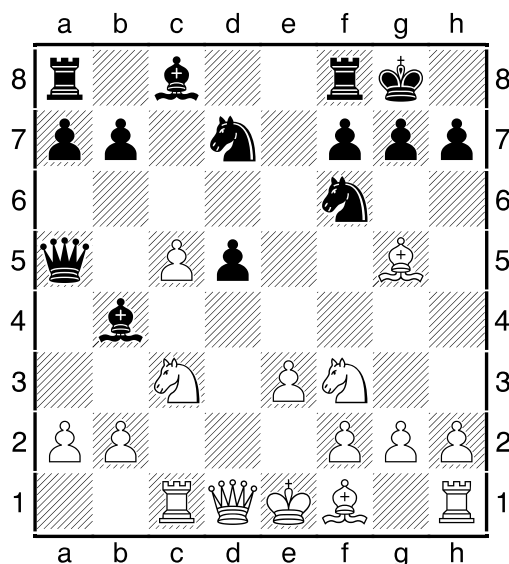
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□ Topalov Veselin

■ Carlsen Magnus

D38 Wijk aan Zee 2007

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 ♘b4
5. cxd5 exd5 6. ♘g5 0-0 7. e3 c5 8. dxc5
♘bd7 9. ♖c1 ♗a5 (D)



10. a3!?

The prelude to an exchange sacrifice.
10. ♘d2 has been the 'natural' move for ages.

10... ♘xc3+ 11. ♖xc3 ♘e4 12. b4! ♘xc3
13. ♗a1 ♗a4

The alternative is 13... ♗c7?! 14. ♗xc3 a5
15. ♘b5 axb4 16. axb4 b6 17. c6 ♘a6
18. ♘xa6 ♖xa6 19. 0-0 ±.

14. ♗xc3

For the sacrificed exchange, White's compensation is based on:

1. A central pawn.
2. The bishop pair.
3. Weak black d-pawn.
4. Control of the dark squares.

5. Initiative.

Black must find active counterplay.

14... a5! 15. b5 ♘xc5?!

An active but mistaken continuation. At the cost of a piece, Black opens files for his rooks, but he should have tried 15... b6 16. c6 ♘c5 or 15... ♖e8 16. ♘e2 ♘f8 17. ♘d4 ♘e6 18. ♘xe6 ♖xe6 19. 0-0 ♘d7 20. ♗b2. In both cases White keeps ample compensation for the sacrificed exchange, but Black may fight!

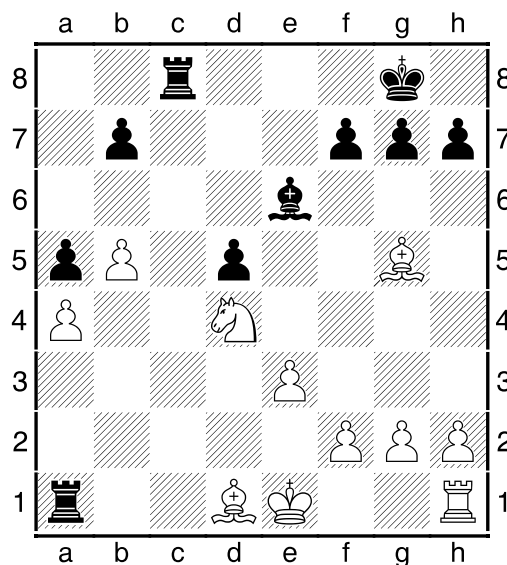
16. ♗xc5 ♘e6

Probably best, as the alternatives 16... ♘d7 17. ♘e2 ♖fc8 18. ♗xd5 ♖c1+ 19. ♘d1 ♗xb5 20. ♗xb5 ♘xb5 21. ♘d4 ♘d7 22. 0-0 ± or 16... ♘f5 17. ♗c3 ♖ac8 18. ♗a1 ♘b1 19. ♗xb1 ♗xa3 20. ♖d2 .0 are not advisable.

17. ♗c1! ♖fc8 18. ♗a1 ♗c2 19. ♘e2?!

White should have chosen 19. ♘d4 ♗c1+ 20. ♗xc1 ♖xc1+ 21. ♖d2 ♖a1 22. ♘c2 ±.

19... ♗c1+ 20. ♗xc1 ♖xc1+ 21. ♘d1 ♖a1
22. a4 ♖c8 23. ♘d4 (D)



23... ♖c4?

A decisive mistake. Black's chances to save the game would increase after 23... ♖cc1! 24. ♖d2 ♖c4 25. ♘d8 ♖cxa4 (25... ♖a2+ 26. ♖d3 ♖a3+ [26... ♖xf2 27. ♘b3] 27. ♘b3 ♖xd4+ [27... ♖cxa4 28. ♖b1] 28. ♖xd4 ♖xb3 29. ♖a1 ±) 26. ♘xa4 ♖xh1.

24. 0-0 f6

Not helpful was 24... ♖cc1 25. ♘b3 ♖xd1 26. ♘xa1 .0 or 24... ♖b1 25. ♘d8 ♖cc1 26. ♘e2 ♖xf1+ 27. ♘xf1 ♖a1 28. ♘xa5

♖xa4 29. ♗c7 .0.

25. ♗f4 ♗f7 26.h4

Black resigned, as White's pieces are about to win more material. And Black cannot pose any threats at all...

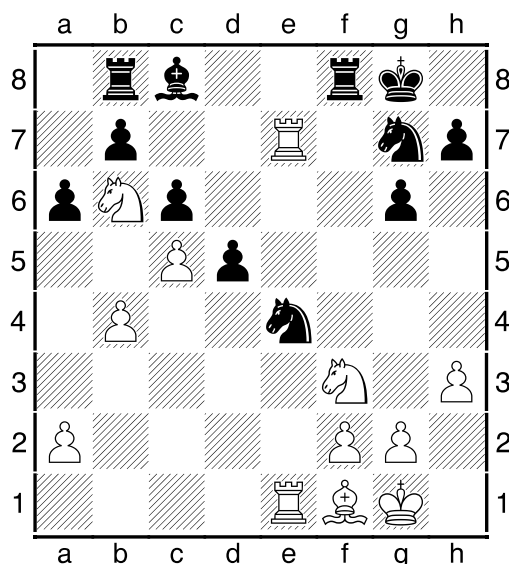
1-0

□ **Ding Liren**

■ **Wang Hao**

D45 Xinghua Jiangsu 2009

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.♘c3 c6 5.e3 a6 6.c5 ♘bd7 7.b4 g6 8.♗d3 ♗g7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♘a4 ♖e8 11.♗b2 e5 12.dxe5 ♘g4 13.e6 fxe6 14.♗xg7 ♗xg7 15.e4 ♖f8 16.h3 ♘gf6 17.♖e1 ♘h5 18.♗f1 ♗f6 19.exd5 exd5 20.♗d4 ♗g8 21.♗xf6 ♘dxf6 22.♘b6 ♖b8 23.♖e7 ♘g7 24.♖ae1 ♘e4 (D)



White's pieces look well placed; especially the knight on b6 and the rook on the 7th rank. But what if he could also involve in the initiative his other minor pieces?

25. ♖1xe4!

Well, that's the deal! Now the white f3-knight and the bishop will become rather active.

25...dxe4 26.♘g5

And suddenly Black is in trouble, as his pieces are not cooperating and therefore are not in a position to parry the white threats.

26... ♖f5 27. ♗c4+

27.♘xe4 looks good as well, threatening ♘d6.

27...♗f8 28. ♖c7 ♖xg5 29.♘xc8 ♖f5 30.♘d6 ♖f4

The alternative was 30... ♖f6 and after 31.♘xe4 ♖f4 32.♘d6 to return the exchange with 32... ♖d8 33.g3 ♖xd6 34.gxf4 ♖d1+ 35.♗g2 ♖d4, but White should win either with 36.♖f7+ ♗e8 37.♖xg7 ♖xc4 38.♖xb7 ± or simply with 36.♗b3 ±.

31.g3 ♖f3 32.♘xe4 h6 33.♗g2 ♖f5 34.h4

White has got a pawn as well and his initiative remains strong.

34... ♖d8

34...♘e8 was perhaps better, but in the long run Black is doomed: 35.♖d7 b6 36.cxb6 ♖xb6 37.a3 ±.

35. ♖xb7 ♖d4 36.♘d6 ♖f6 37. ♖b8+ ♗e7 38.♘c8+

38.♗xa6 ♘f5 39.♖e8+ ♗d7 40.♗c8+ ♗c7 41.♗xf5 gxf5 42.a3 was a lost cause for Black.

38...♗d7 39.♘b6+ ♗c7

39...♗e7 40.♖b7+ ♗f8 41.♘d7+ wins the exchange back.

40. ♖a8 ♘e6 41. ♗xa6?!

After the more accurate 41.♖e8 ♖d2 42.♖e7+ ♗d8 43.♖xe6 ♖fxf2+ 44.♗h3 was curtains.

41... ♖f8 42. ♗c8 ♘d8?!

Black should try his last chance: 42... ♖f6 43.a3 ♖d2 44.♗h3 ± and hope. And he surely should avoid now 44... ♖fxf2? 45.♖a7+! (45.♗xe6? h5 46.♖a7+ ♗b8 47.♖a8+ ♗c7 =) 45...♗d8 46.♗xe6 h5 47.♖d7+ .0.

43. ♗d7 ♗b7

43... ♖xb4 was losing to 44.♖c8+ ♗b7 45.♗xc6+ ♘xc6 46.♖xf8.

44. ♖c8 ♖xd7 45.♘xd7 ♖e8 46.♘b6 g5 47.hxg5 hxg5 48.a4 g4 49. ♖a8

And Black resigned, as a5-a6+ and ♖c8 mate will follow.

1-0

The Open File Concept

This type of exchange sacrifice is (also) quite interesting. The attacker places his rook on a strong outpost on an open file, in order to avoid exchanging rook(s) or to gain other important compensating factors, or, finally, to interfere with the opponent's plans.

The Old Days

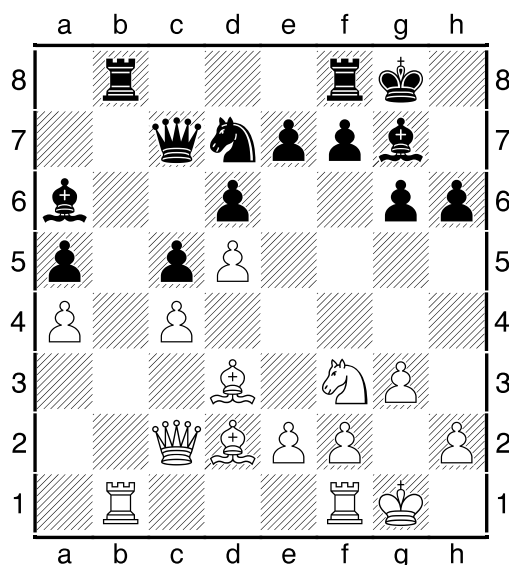
We will start with two examples from the old era:

□ Selezniev Alexey

■ Alekhine Alexander

A47 Triberg 1921

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 b6 3.g3 ♙b7 4.♙g2 d6
5.0-0 ♘bd7 6.♙f4 h6 7.♘c3 c5 8.d5 b5
9.♘e1 a6 10.a4 b4 11.♘e4 ♘xe4 12.♙xe4
g6 13.c4 bxc3 14.bxc3 ♙g7 15.♖b1 ♖b8
16.c4 0-0 17.♗c2 a5 18.♘f3 ♗c7 19.♙d2
♙a6 20.♙d3 (D)



As a series of rook exchanges along the b-file is expected, it seems that there is not much to think about.

20... ♖b4!

Alekhine shared so many characteristics with the modern players that we must not be surprised by his offer of the exchange.

21. ♙xb4

White is forced to accept the sacrifice, as the coming 21... ♖fb8 and 22... ♖b2 is hard to meet otherwise.

21... cxb4

Now White is an exchange up, with even pawns. But, as compensation, Black has gained important positional advantages:

1. A strong passed and protected b4-pawn.
2. The bishop pair.
3. An excellent c5-outpost for his knight.
4. Bad white pieces (♙d3) and pawns (a4 and c4).

22. ♘d2 ♘c5?!

Best is 22... ♖c8 with ... ♘b6 or ... ♙c3 to

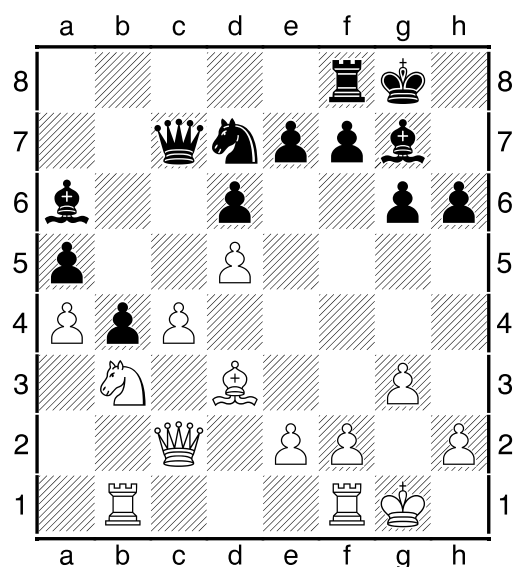
follow.

23. ♘b3!

A good reaction, 'forcing' Black to lose an important tempo.

23... ♘d7 (D)

Black had missed that after 23... ♘xa4 24. ♖a1 ♘c5 25. ♘xa5 ♙xa1 26. ♖xa1 ♖b8 27. ♙xg6 b3 28. ♗b1 fxg6 29. ♗xg6+ = or 23... ♖c8 24. ♘xc5 ♗xc5 25. ♖fc1 ♙c3 26. ♗b3 (26. ♖b3 ♙xc4 27. ♖xc3 bxc3 28. ♙xg6 ♙xd5 ♢) 26... ♙xc4 (26... ♗d4 27. ♖xc3 bxc3 28. ♖c1 ♙xc4 29. ♗xc3 ♗xc3 30. ♖xc3 ♙a6 31. ♖xc8+ ♙xc8 =) 27. ♗xc4 ♗xc4 28. ♙xc4 ♖xc4 29. ♙g2 the game would end in a draw.



24. c5!

Well played. White frees his bishop and his game with a slight material sacrifice. Remember: rooks are desperately in love with open files and targets on them!

24... ♙xd3 25. exd3!?

White could have achieved his aim with 25. ♗xd3 ♘xc5 26. ♘xc5 ♗xc5 27. ♖fc1 ♙c3 =.

25... dxc5 26. ♖fe1

After 26. ♗c4 ♗d6! 27. ♘xa5 ♘e5 Black would be quite active.

26... ♘e5 27. ♖e3

27. ♗xc5?! ♘f3+ 28. ♙g2 (28. ♙f1 ♗xc5 29. ♘xc5 ♘d2+ 30. ♙e2 ♘xb1 31. ♖xb1 ♖d8 32. ♘b7 ♖xd5 0.) 28... ♘xe1+ 29. ♖xe1 ♗xc5 30. ♘xc5 ♖d8 ♢. Such lines reinforce the impression that Black has adequate compensation and that White has

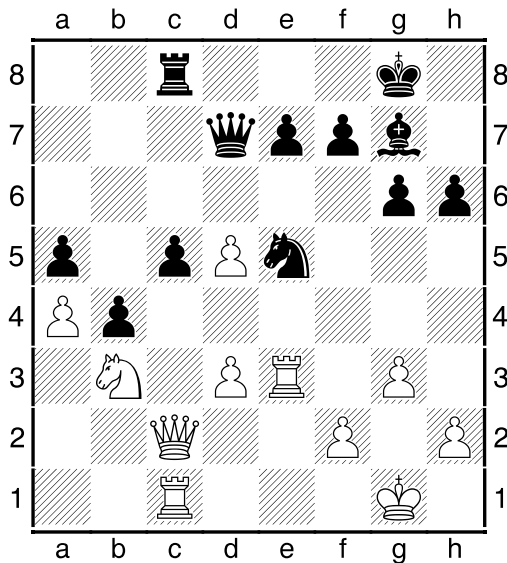
to react properly in order to keep his chances alive.

27... ♖c8?!

An equal position arises after 27... ♖d8 28. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 29. ♘xc5 ♗xd5 30. ♖c1 ♘c6 31. ♘a6 ♘d4 32. ♖xe7 b3 33. ♖c8+ ♔h7 34. ♖b7 b2 35. ♖cb8 ♘c6 36. ♖xb2 ♘xb8 37. ♖xb8 ♖xd3 38. ♖b7 ♖d4 39. ♖xf7 ♖xa4 40. ♘c5.

28. ♖c1 ♖d7 (D)

28... ♖d8 29. ♖e2 (29.d4? ♘g4 30. ♖e4 ♘f6 31.dxc5 ♘xd5! 32. ♖d1 e6! ☹) 29... ♖xd5 30.d4 transposes.



29.d4?

White missed a good chance with 29. ♖e2! ♖xd5 30.d4 ♘d7 31.dxc5 ♘c3 32. ♘xa5 ♘xc5 33. ♖xe7 ∞.

29... ♘g4 30. ♖e4

30.dxc5? ♘xe3 31.fxe3 ♖xa4 0..

30...c4?

30... ♘f6 31. ♘xc5 ♘xe4 32. ♘xd7 ♖xc2 33. ♖xc2 ♘xd4 34. ♖c8+ ♔g7 35. ♔f1 b3 36. ♖b8 ♘c3! 37. ♔e2 ♘b4 38. ♔d1 ♘xf2+ 39. ♔c1 ♘a3+ 40. ♔b1 ♘e4 ☹ is the safe and correct way for Black.

31. ♘c5!

31. ♘xa5 ♖xd5 32. ♖xg4 ♖xa5 ☹.

31... ♖f5 32. ♖e2?

White should have gone for 32. ♖xe7 ♖xc2 33. ♖xc2 ♘xd4 34.d6 ♘xc5 (34... ♖xc5 35.d7 ♖d5 36. ♖e8+ ♔g7 37.d8 ♖xd8 38. ♖xd8 ♘f6 39. ♖b8 ∞) 35. ♖c7 ♘xf2+ 36. ♖xf2 ♖d8 37. ♖xf7 ♖xd6 38. ♖g7+ ♔f8 39. ♖cf7+ ♔e8 40. ♖c7 ♔f8 =.

32...b3?!

Too optimistic. Correct is 32... ♘xf2 33. ♖xf2 (33. ♖f1 ♘xe4 34. ♖xf5 gxf5 35. ♘xe4 fxe4 0..) 33... ♖xd5 (33... ♖xf2+? 34. ♔xf2 f5 35. ♖e3 ♘xd4 36. ♘b3!) and, although Black is a rook down, his multiple threats (...f5, ... ♖d8) will win material back with interest.

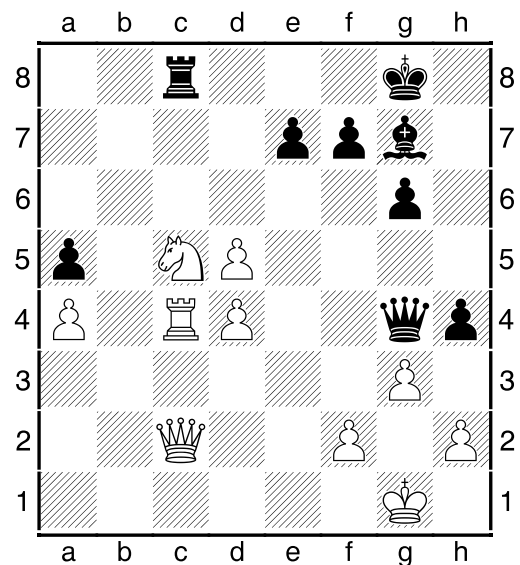
33. ♖xg4

33. ♖xg4 b2 34. ♖b1 ♖xg4 35. ♖xg4 c3 36. ♘d3 ♖c4 37. ♘xb2 ♖b4 38. ♖e4 cxb2 39. ♔f1 ♔f8 40. ♔e2 =.

33...b2 34. ♖xb2 ♖xg4 35. ♖xc4 h5

36. ♖c2 h4 (D)

36... ♘xd4 37. ♔g2 ♖xc5 38. ♖xc5 ♘xc5 39. ♖xc5 =.



Material equality has been almost restored, but Black keeps a rather annoying attack against the white king and finally won the game. The rest of the game is presented with light notes:

37. ♖d3 ♖d8

37...h3 38.f3 ♖h5 39. ♖e4 ♖h6 40. ♖c2 =.

38.f3 ♖h5

38... ♖h3 39.g4 ♖b8 40. ♘e4 ♖b2 41. ♖c8+ ♘f8 42. ♘f2 ♖xf2 43. ♔xf2 ♖xh2+ 44. ♔e3 ∞.

39. ♖e4 hxg3 40.hxg3 ♖g5 41. ♔g2 ♖d2+

41... ♖xd5 42.f4 ♖h5 43. ♘d3 =.

42. ♔h3 ♘f6 43. ♖c2?!

43. ♖d3!? ♖xd3 44. ♘xd3 ♖xd5 45. ♘e5 ♘xe5 46.dxe5 ♖xe5 ☹.

43... ♖h6+!?

43... ♖xd4 44. ♖xd4 ♘xd4 45. ♘b3 ♖xd5 ☹.

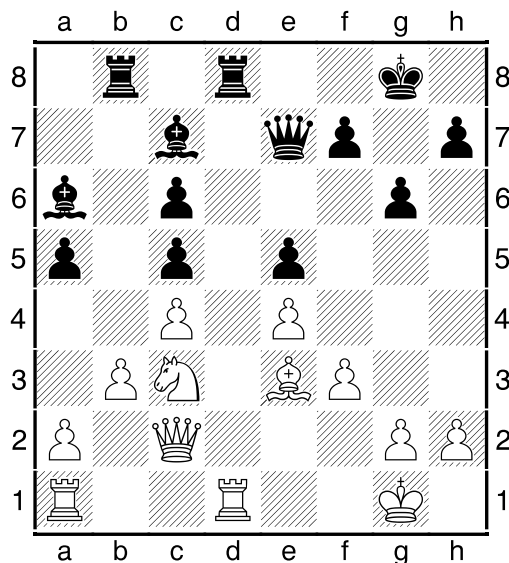
44.♔g2 ♕g7 ♠ 45.g4
 45.f4 ♜h8 46.♜c1 ♜h2+ 47.♔f3 ♜h3
 48.♜e1 ♜a2 ♠.
 45...♜h8 46.♔f2 ♜b8 47.♔e2 ♜b4
 48.♜d2 ♜h2+ 49.♔e3
 49.♔d3 ♜g1 50.♔e2 ♜g2+ 51.♔e3 ♜f1
 0..
 49...♜g1+ 50.♔e2 ♜xd4 0. 51.♞d3 ♜b1
 51...♜c3 52.♞xb4 ♜g2+ 53.♔d3 ♜xd2+
 54.♔c4 axb4 0..
 52.♞c1 ♜c3 53.♜xb1 ♜g2+ 54.♔d3
 ♜xd2+ 55.♔c4 ♜d4+ 56.♔b3 ♜a1
 57.♔a3
 57.♞d3 ♜xd5+ 58.♔a3 ♜f6 59.♜d1 g5
 60.♜e2 ♜c4 61.♜d1 ♜c3+ 62.♔a2 e6 0..
 57...♜c5+ 58.♔a2 ♜f6 59.g5 ♜xd5+
 60.♞b3 ♜xg5 61.♜e1 ♜g2+ 62.♜d2
 ♜xf3 63.♜xa5 g5 64.♜e1 ♜c3 65.♜xc3
 ♜xc3 66.a5 ♜xa5 67.♞xa5 g4 68.♞c4 g3
 69.♞d2 ♔g6 70.♔b2 ♔f5 71.♞f3 ♔f4
 72.♞g1 ♔e3 73.♔c2 ♔f2 74.♞h3+ ♔f1
 0-1

□ Liublinsky Victor

■ Botvinnik Mikhail

C77 Moscow 1943

1.e4 e5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.♜b5 a6 4.♜a4 ♞f6
 5.♜xc6 bxc6 6.♞c3 d6 7.d4 ♞d7 8.dxe5
 dxe5 9.0-0 ♜d6 10.♞e2 0-0 11.♞g3 ♜b8
 12.b3 ♜e8 13.♜e3 g6 14.c3 a5 15.♜c2
 ♜e7 16.♜fd1 ♞c5 17.♞e1 ♞e6 18.♞d3
 ♞f4 19.f3 ♜a6 20.c4 c5 21.♜d2 ♞xd3
 22.♜xd3 ♜ed8 23.♞e2 c6 24.♞c3 ♜c7
 25.♜c2 (D)



As in the previous example, exchanges along the d-file are on the cards, leaving White with pressure against the weak black queenside pawns (♞a4, ♜f2).

25...♜d4!

A strong and forced exchange sacrifice; as already said, it is hard for Black to survive with his weak queenside pawns in a simplified position.

26.♞e2

In such positions it is nearly always better to retain a knight than a bishop, as the knight can offer blockading opportunities against the opponent's future passed pawn and cooperates harmoniously with the rest of its army. Thus, White had to go for 26.♜xd4 cxd4 27.♞a4 c5 28.♞b2 ♜b7 29.♞d3 f5 30.♜e1 ♜f8 with an unclear game.

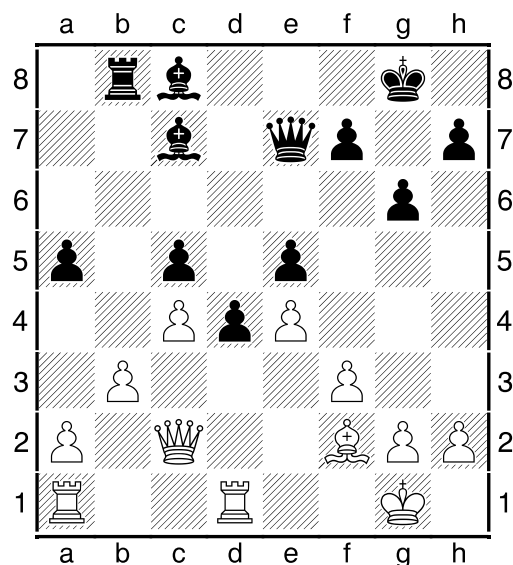
26...♜c8 27.♞xd4?!

Still, White should transpose to the previous note with 27.♜xd4 cxd4 28.♞c1.

27...cxd4 28.♜f2?

A passive move. Rooks need open files, so White should have tried to be active with 28.♜d2!, planning to open files with an eventual b4-advance: 28...c5 29.a3 f5 30.♜db1 ♔h8 (30...f4 31.b4! axb4 32.axb4 cxb4 33.♜b3 ∞) 31.♜b2, retaining possibilities for his own share of success in an unclear position.

28...c5 (D)



Black's compensation for the exchange sacrifice lies in:

1. Passed and protected d-pawn.

2. The bishop pair.
3. Lack of open files for the white rooks.
4. Possibilities of attack against the white king.

29. ♖f1 f5! 30. ♔g3 ♕d7 31. ♖ad1?!

White's last chance to fight could be found in 31.exf5 gxf5 32. ♖fe1 ♖f6 33. ♖ad1. Although his position seems to be rather passive, it is not easy for Black to release the force of his pawn phalanx successfully with an eventual ...e4.

31...f4!

Now Black's attack with ...g5-g4 would be quite strong.

32. ♔f2 g5 33.g4?!

Maybe White should have stayed passive, moving his king away from the battlefield with 33. ♖fe1 and ♔f1-e2.

33...fxg3! 34. ♔xg3

34.hxg3 ♔h3 35. ♖fe1 g4 36. ♖d3 ♖f8 37.fxg4 ♔xg4 38. ♖d2 ♖g7 ♖.

34...♔h3 35. ♖f2 h5 36. ♖fd2 h4 37. ♔f2 ♖f8 ♖

Black's attack is getting stronger and, on the other hand, White can only wait.

38. ♖d3 ♖f4

Good enough was 38...g4 39.fxg4 ♔xg4 40. ♔h1 ♔xd1 ♖, but Black has the luxury of not being in a hurry, due to White's lack of counterplay.

39. ♔h1 ♔h7 40. ♖g1 ♕d8 41. ♖e2 ♖f7 42. ♖d1

White cannot be saved any more: 42. ♔e1 g4! 43.fxg4 ♔xg4 44. ♖xg4 (44. ♖g2 ♔h5 45.h3 ♔g6 0..) 44... ♖xg4 45. ♖xg4 ♖f1+ 46. ♖g1 ♖xd3 47. ♖g4 ♖f1+ 48. ♖g1 ♖e2 or 42. ♔e3 dxe3 43. ♖xd8 ♖xf3 44. ♖xg5 ♖f1+ 45. ♖g1 ♖xg1+ 46. ♔xg1 ♖g6+ 47. ♔h1 ♖xe4+ 48. ♔g1 ♖g6+ 49. ♔h1 ♔f5 0..

42...♖h5 43. ♔e3 ♖xf3+

43...dxe3 44. ♖xd8 ♖xf3+ 45. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 46. ♖dd1 g4 0..

44. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 45. ♔xg5 ♖xd3 46. ♔xd8 ♖e3

More accurate is 46... ♖d2 47. ♔f6 ♖xa2 48. ♔xe5 d3 0..

47. ♔b6

47. ♔xa5 ♖xe4 48. ♖e1 ♖f4! 0..

47...♖xe4 48. ♔xc5 ♖e2 49. ♖d1 ♔g4!

50.h3 ♔xh3 51.b4 ♔f5 52. ♔d6 d3 53.bxa5 h3 0-1

The New Era

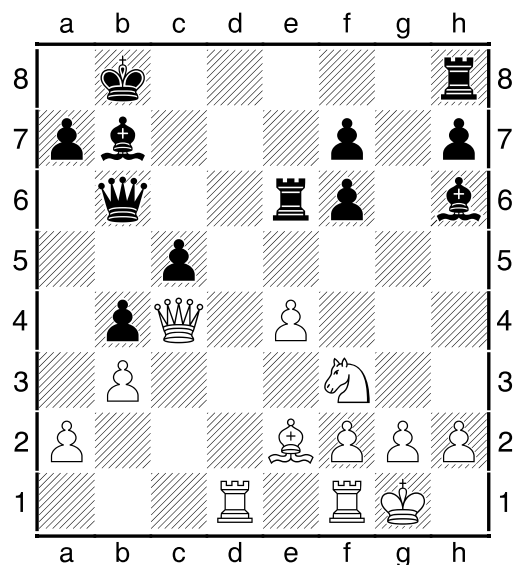
The 12th World Champion used the exchange sacrifice quite a lot in his games. As his positional understanding is beyond doubt, it is not that strange that he could produce masterpieces by 'using' his rooks impressively:

□ **Karpov Anatoly**

■ **Gelfand Boris**

D43 Linares 1993

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 dxc4 5. ♖a4+ c6 6. ♖xc4 b5 7. ♖d3 ♔b7 8.e4 b4 9. ♘a4 ♘bd7 10. ♔g5 ♖a5 11.b3 c5 12. ♔xf6 gxf6 13. ♔e2 0-0-0 14.0-0 ♔b8 15.d5 ♘b6 16. ♘xb6 ♖xb6 17. ♖ad1 ♔h6 18. ♖c4 ♖d6 19.dxe6 ♖xe6 (D)



20. ♖d5!

A nice concept. Black's pawn structure is wrecked on the kingside, but the possession of the bishop pair, the pressure on the e4-pawn and the activity down the g-file offers Black ample compensation. With the text move White offers the exchange, as 20. ♔d3 ♖g8! with the idea ...f5 is nice for Black.

20... ♖he8

After 20... ♔xd5 21.exd5 ♖e7 22. ♖d1 White's compensation will be based on:

1. Stopping Black's activity.
2. Control of the light squares.

3. Bad h6-bishop.
 4. Passed d-pawn.
 5. Wrecked black kingside pawn structure (the c4-queen can come to the h4-square).
 And White gave just an exchange for all of these benefits!

21. ♖d3!

Please, take it!

21... ♜d8!? 22. ♜d1

After 22. ♜d8+?! ♜xd8 23. ♜c2 f5 Black should feel OK.

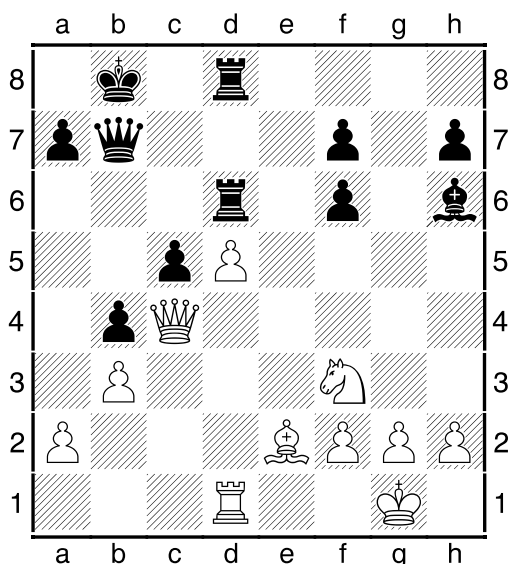
22... ♜ed6 23. ♖e2!

Forcing Black to finally accept the offer. Note that Black was trying to avoid being an exchange up, as he fully understood the resulting problems.

23... ♖xd5

23... ♖f8? 24. ♜xd6 ♜xd6 25. ♜xd6 ♜xd6 26. ♜xf7 ♜e7 27. ♜xe7 ♖xe7 28. ♖d2 ±.

24.exd5 ♜b7 (D)



25. ♜h4!

A tactical way to protect the important d5-pawn.

25... ♖f8

The alternatives were 25... ♜xd5? 26. ♜xd5 ♜xd5 27. ♜xh6 ♜d1+ 28. ♖f1 .0 or 25... ♖g5 26. ♜g3! ♜c7 27. ♖c4 ±.

26. ♖c4 ♜xd5?!

Black decides to return the exchange in order to create some counterplay and temporarily win a pawn. After 26...h6 27. ♜e4 ♜d7 28. ♖h4, with ♖f5 to come, he would be tied up for good, but at least he would have some extra material to

compensate for his suffering.

27. ♖xd5 ♜xd5 28. ♜e1!

But now Black has no pressure on anything, while he also no longer possesses the bishop pair. On the other hand, his disadvantage of his inferior kingside pawn structure remains.

28... ♜d8 29. ♜xf6

The material is now equal, but only on the quantity scale and not the quality one.

29... ♜c7 30.g3!

30. ♖g5?! would have reduced White's advantage: 30... ♖e7! 31. ♜f5 ♖xg5 32. ♜xg5 ♜d6 ±.

30... ♖d6

30...h6 31. ♖e5 ±.

31. ♖g5 ♜d7 32. ♜e8+

Or 32. ♖xh7 c4 33. ♜g5 ♜c6 34.bxc4 ♜xc4 35. ♜c1 .0.

32... ♖b7 33. ♖e4 ♖e7 34. ♜f5

34. ♜xf7! was possible and good.

34... ♜c6 35. ♖g2

The way White controls and uses the light squares throughout the game is impressive.

35... ♜c7 36. ♜h8

Time for the harvest. The rest is not difficult.

36... ♜g6

36...c4 37.bxc4 ♜xc4 38. ♜xh7 .0.

37. ♜d5+ ♜c6 38. ♜xc6+ ♖xc6 39. ♜xh7 ♖d5 40. ♖d2! ♖f6 41. ♖c4 ♖d4 42. ♜h6 ♜c6 43.g4 ♜e6 44.h4 ♖d5 45.g5 1-0

<http://trainers.fide.com>

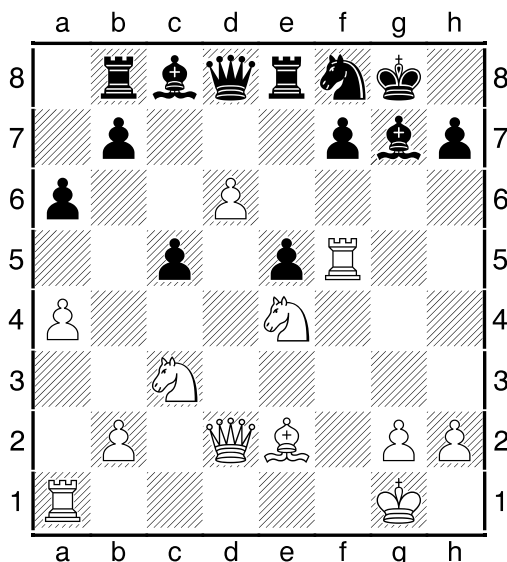
Two more examples of sacrificing the exchange on semi-open files will conclude this section. They were played by the respectable GM Utut Adianto and by a well-known advocate of the exchange sacrifice, GM Veselin Topalov.

□ **Adianto Utut**

■ **Gunawan Ruben**

A65 Jakarta 1996

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♖c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6. ♖g5 c5 7.d5 e6 8. ♜d2 exd5 9.cxd5 a6 10.a4 ♖bd7 11. ♖h3 ♜e8 12. ♖e2 ♖e5 13. ♖f2 ♜c7 14.0-0 ♜b8 15. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 16.f4 ♖d7 17.e5 dxe5 18.d6 ♜d8 19. ♖fe4 ♖g7 20.f5 gxf5 21. ♜xf5 ♖f8 (D)



22. ♖af1!

A nice positional exchange sacrifice, aiming mostly to stop an eventual ...f5. Also, without the light-squared bishop, it will be very difficult for Black to defend his king. Keep in mind that there exists a passed d-pawn, which is ready to advance. All these advantages are surely more than adequate compensation for the small deficit of an exchange.

22... ♙xf5 23. ♖xf5

White is dominating the light square complexes in the centre and on the kingside, and his pieces generally control important squares. Take a look at the black rooks; don't they look miserable?

23... ♘e6?!

23...f6 24. ♘d5 ♘d7 25. ♖h5 with the idea ♙g4-f5 .0 is not ideal, but 23...♙d7 24. ♖g5 ♙h8 25. ♙g4 ♘e6 26. ♖h5 is an unpleasant, but probably compulsory option for Black.

24. ♘d5!

The white pieces are dancing on the light squares!

24... ♘d4

The text move does not help. Neither do the other options: 24... ♖f8 25. ♘df6+ ♙xf6 26. ♘xf6+ ♙g7 27. ♙e3! ♙xf6 28. ♖xf6 ♙xf6 29. ♙h6+ ♙f5 30. ♙xh7+ ♙f6 31. ♙g4 .0 or 24... ♘f4 25. ♙c4 ♖f8 (25... ♘xd5 26. ♙xd5 ♙h4 27. g3 ♙g4 28. ♖xf7 ♙h8 29. d7 .0) 26. ♘e7+ ♙h8 27. ♙xf7 ±.

25. ♘df6+ ♙h8

25... ♙xf6 26. ♘xf6+ ♙g7 27. ♙g5+ ♙h8 28. ♙h6! .0 or 25... ♙f8 26. ♘xh7+ ♙g8 27. ♘ef6+ ♙h8 28. ♖h5 ♘xe2+ 29. ♙xe2 .0.

26. ♖h5 ♘xe2+ 27. ♙f1! ♙xf6

Black is mated after 27... ♙xf6+ 28. ♘xf6 ♙xf6 29. ♙h6 ♙g8 30. ♙xh7+ ♙f8 31. ♖g5! or 27...h6 28. ♖xh6+.

28. ♙h6

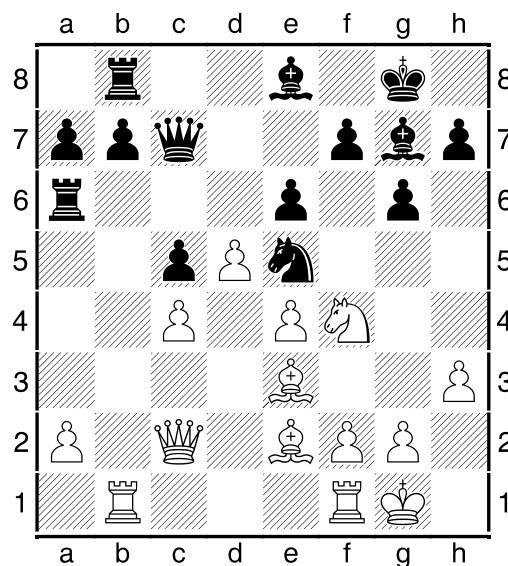
Black resigned due to 28... ♙g8 29. ♙xh7+ (29. ♘xf6+ ♙xf6+ 30. ♙xf6 ♘f4 31. ♖f5 .0) 29... ♙f8 30. ♖g5! ♙xd6 31. ♘xd6 .0. 1-0

□ Topalov Veselin

■ Svidler Peter

D87 Nanjing 2008

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7. ♙c4 c5 8. ♘e2 ♘c6 9. ♙e3 0-0 10.0-0 ♙d7 11. ♖b1 ♙c7 12. ♙d3 ♖fd8 13.h3 ♙e8 14.d5 ♘e5 15.c4 e6 16. ♘f4 ♖ab8 17. ♙e2 ♖d6 18. ♙c2 ♖a6 (D)



19. ♖b5!?

An invitation to an exchange sacrifice.

19... ♙f8!

Correctly declining the offer. After 19... ♙xb5 20.cxb5 ♖d6 (if 20... ♖a3 21.dxe6) 21. ♙xc5 ♙xc5 22. ♙xc5 ♖d7 23.dxe6 fxe6 24. ♘xe6 White has more than enough (compensation) for the exchange:

1. Two central pawns.
2. Active minor pieces.
3. Initiative.

20.a4!?

Unclear is 20. ♖fb1 ♙xb5 21.cxb5 ♖b6 ∞, so White prepares the possibility of a5.

20...♙xb5?

Black could not resist the temptation! Correct was 20... ♖c8! 21. ♖c1 ∞.

21.cxb5! ♖d6

There is hardly any sense for Black to insert 21... ♖b6 22.a5.

22.♙c3!

Indeed, not 22. ♙xc5? ♘d7 or 22. ♙xc5?! ♙xc5 23. ♙xc5 ♖dd8 24. ♙e3 ±.

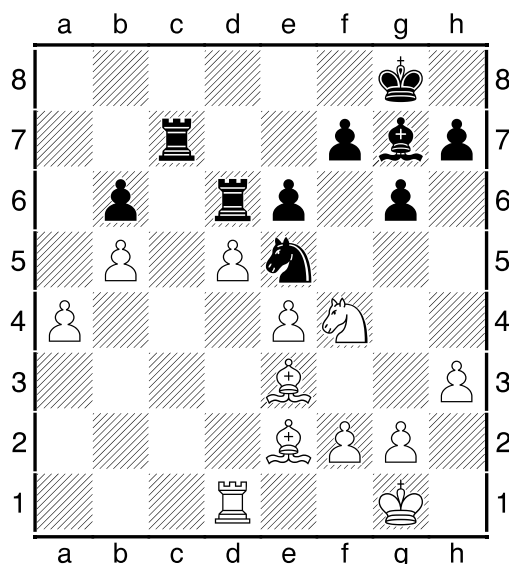
22...♙g7

Forced: 22... ♖dd8 23.dxe6 ±.

23.♙xc5 ♖c8

Maybe a lesser evil was 23... ♙xc5! 24. ♙xc5 ♖d7 25.dxe6 fxe6 26. ♘xe6 b6. A spectacular queen sacrifice occurs after 23... ♙d8 24.dxe6 fxe6 25. ♙xa7 b6 26.a5! (26. ♖c1?! ♖a8 27. ♙b7 ♖b8) 26... ♖a8 (26... bxa5 27. ♖c1 ♖a8 28. ♙c5 ±) 27.axb6!! ♖xa7 28.bxa7 ±, putting Black in deep trouble, as analysis shows (28... ♙a8 29.b6!).

24. ♙xa7 b6 25. ♙xc7 ♖xc7 26. ♖d1! ± (D)



White's two central pawns and the activity of his pieces give him more than enough compensation for the sacrificed exchange; they give him a clear advantage!

26...♙f6?

An error in an already difficult position. Even worse was 26... ♘c4? 27. ♖c1 .0 but Black could have tried 26...g5!? 27. ♘h5 h6

28.g3 ±.

27.dxe6 ♖xd1+ 28.♙xd1 fxe6 29.♙b3!

White's advantage is obviously decisive as he wins a third pawn, so Black resigned. An impressive performance!

1-0

The Doubled Pawns Concept

This is the case where the attacker obtains somewhat more 'concrete' compensation, compared to the previous cases.

He destroys the opponent's pawn structure by doubling his pawns (usually on a semi-open file), aiming (among other compensating factors) simply to win these weak pawns in the future.

Of course, the attacker is not 'satisfied' just with winning the pawns, but he also tries to find good compensation in other important positional factors, such as weak squares, the bishop pair, attack on the king, etc.

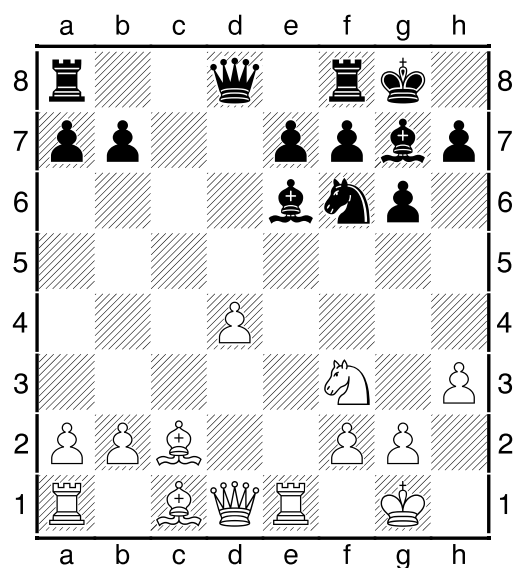
The first three examples present a common structural theme:

□ Mariotti Sergio

■ Tseshkovsky Vitaly

B15 Manila 1976

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♙g7 3. ♘c3 c6 4. ♘f3 d5 5.h3 ♘f6 6. ♙d3 dxe4 7. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 8. ♙xe4 ♘d7 9.0-0 0-0 10. ♖e1 c5 11.c3 cxd4 12.cxd4 ♘f6 13. ♙c2 ♙e6 (D)



14. ♖xe6!?

An interesting exchange sacrifice with multiple aims:

1. To destroy Black's pawn structure.
2. To create a strong outpost on e5.
3. To obtain the bishop pair.
4. To take over the initiative.

14...fxe6 15.♘g5!

After 15.♞e2?! ♞d5 16.♙b3 ♞e4 17.♙xe6+ ♙h8 Black succeeds at least in exchanging queens.

15...♞d6?!

Bad was 15...♞d5? 16.♙b3 but Black should have played 15...♞b6 16.♞e2 ♘h5! (16...♙h6?! 17.♘xe6 ♙xc1 18.♘xf8 ♙xb2 19.♘d7! ♘xd7 20.♙b3+ ♙f8 21.♞xb2 ±) 17.♘xe6 ♙xd4 18.♘xf8 ♙xf8 19.♙b3+ ♙h8 20.♙e3 ♙xe3 21.♞xe3 ♞xe3 22.fxe3 ±.

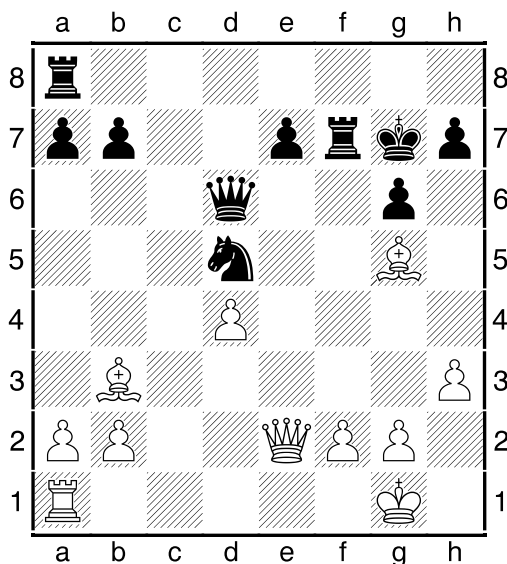
16.♞e2 ♘d5

16...♙h6?! fails to 17.♘e4! ♘xe4 18.♙xh6 ♘f6 (18...♘xf2 19.♙xf8 ♙xf8 20.♙f1 ±) 19.♙xf8 ♙xf8 20.♙e1 ±.

17.♘xe6?!

White can get an advantage with the simple 17.♞xe6+ ♞xe6 18.♘xe6 ♙f6 19.♙b3!, as Black faces grave problems on the a2-g8 diagonal.

17...♙f6 18.♘xg7 ♙xg7 19.♙g5 ♙f7 20.♙b3 (D)



Still, White can preserve the initiative and the more pleasant position (add to his aforementioned compensation also a pawn).

20...♘f4 21.♞e3 e6 22.♙e1 ♙f5 23.♙h4 23.♙xf4?! ♞xf4 24.♙xe6 ♞xe3 and Black is in no danger any more.

23...♞c6 24.d5?!

White should play the simple 24.f3 ♞c7 25.♙h1! ♞ with ♙g3 to come.

24...♘d5

24...exd5! is best: 25.g4 ♙f7 26.♙g5 ♞c7 (26...♙af8? 27.♞e5+ ♙g8 28.♙xf4 ♙xf4 29.♙xd5+ .0) 27.♞d4+ ♙g8 ♞.

25.♞d4+

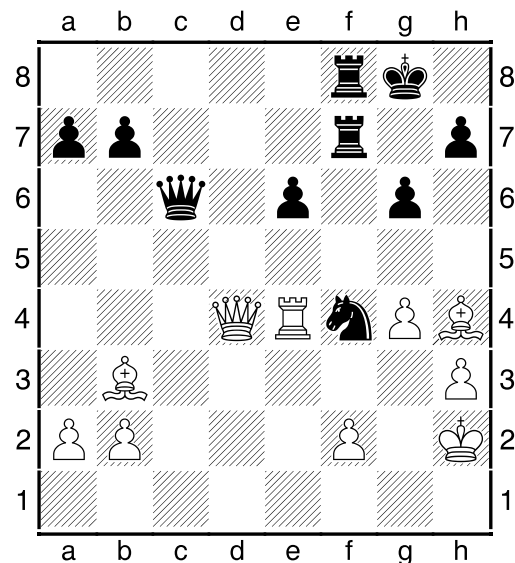
25.♞xe6 ♞xe6 26.♙xe6 g5 27.♙g3 ♞ is also possible but White wanted to retain the queens on the board, in order to create threats against the black king.

25...♙g8 26.g4!? ♘f4 27.♙e4! ♙f7 28.♙h2

28.♙xf4? ♞c1+ 29.♙g2 ♞xf4 0. is too naive.

28...♙af8 (D)

After 28...♘d5 29.♙xe6!? ♞xe6 30.♙xd5 ♞d7 31.♙g2 ♙e8 32.♙f6 a quite interesting position would arise. I think White is not worse, but can he prove an advantage?



29.♞e5

White could also think about 29.♙g3 ♘d5 30.♞xa7 ♞.

29...h6

Exchanging queens does not help Black to release the tension: 29...♞c7 30.♞xc7 ♙xc7 31.♙g5 ♘d3 32.♙xe6 ♙g7 33.♙e3 ♞.

30.♙g3 ♞b6

30...g5 31.♙xf4 ♙xf4 32.♙xe6+ ♙h7 33.♙xf4 ♙xf4 34.♙g1! ♞.

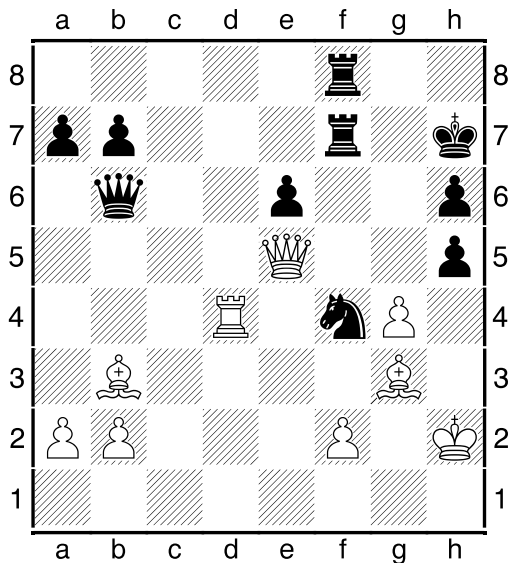
31.h4?

Too optimistic. White should play 31.♙h1!

∞, as it is important to avoid Black capturing the f2-pawn with check.

31...♖h7 32.h5 gxh5 33.♙d4 (D)

33.♙xf4? ♜xf4 34.♙xf4 ♚xf2+ 0..



33...h4?

A blunder. Black could emerge on top after 33...♜g6 34.♙c2 hxg4 ♜, but of course, with so many pieces on the board and the lethal white bishop pair operating, anything could happen.

34.♙xf4! . 0

Black forgot that his queen's route to the f2-square has been blocked!

34...♚c6 35.♙d1

35.♙xe6 ♜xf4 36.♙d7+ was easier.

35...h3 36.f3 ♚b6 37.♙c2+ ♚g8 38.♙xh6 ♚xb2 39.♚e4! ♜c8 40.♚g6+ ♚h8 41.♙d2

41.♙g7+ ♜xg7 42.♚h6+ ♚g8 43.♚xe6+ . 0.

41...♚e5+ 42.f4 ♚e3

1-0



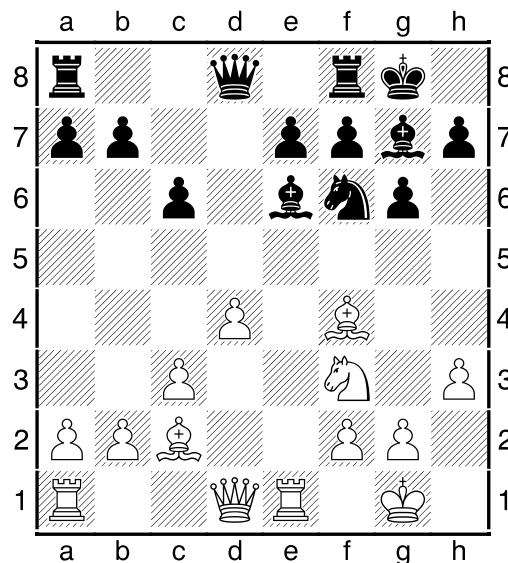
□ Bareev Evgeny

■ Giorgadze Giorgi

B15 Moscow 1994

1.d4 g6 2.e4 c6 3.h3 ♙g7 4.♜c3 d5 5.♜f3

♜h6 6.♙f4 dxe4 7.♜xe4 ♜f5 8.c3 0-0 9.♙d3 ♜d6 10.0-0 ♜xe4 11.♙xe4 ♜d7 12.♙e1 ♜f6 13.♙c2 ♙e6 (D)



14.♙xe6!?

Here we have the same concept as in the previous game.

14...fxe6

So, here's what White has achieved as compensation for his exchange sacrifice:

1. Destroyed Black's pawn structure.
2. The bishop pair.
3. Better placed and more active pieces.
4. Potential pressure along the e-file and the a2-g8 diagonal.

15.♜g5

I would prefer the positional 15.♚e2 ♚d7 16.♜e5 ♚c8 17.♜d3 ∞.

15...♜d5?!

15...♚d7 is not helpful: 16.♚e2 ♜d5 17.♙h2 ♙h6 18.♜xe6 ♜f7 (18...♜xf2 19.♚xf2 ♙e3+ 20.♚e1 ♚xe6 21.c4 ♜b4 22.♙b1 ±) 19.♜c5 ♚c8 20.♜d3 ± but Black should consider 15...♚c8 16.♚e2 ♜d5 17.♙g3 ♙h6 18.♜xe6 ♜f6 19.♜c5 ∞.

16.♙g3!

Better than 16.♜xe6?! ♚c8 17.♜xf8 ♜xf4!.

16...♚d7

16...♜f6 17.♚e2 ♚d7 18.♜e1 ±.

17.♚g4!

17.♚e2 e5! 18.dxe5 ♚c8 is only helping Black.

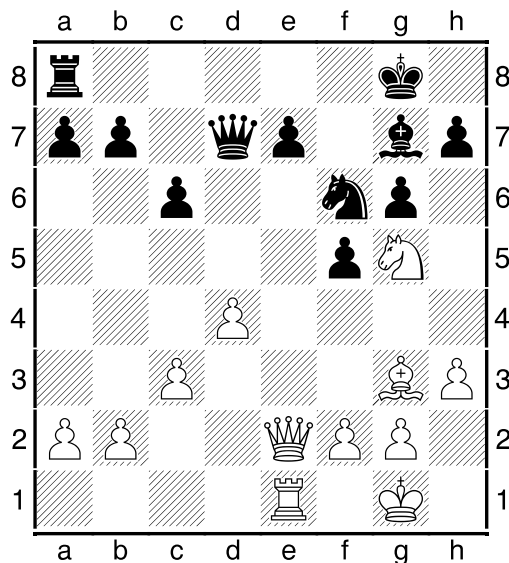
17...♜f5!?

Black already faces too many problems, as alternatives prove: 17...♖f6 18.♖e1 ♕h6 19.♘e4 ♗f7 20.♘c5 ± or 17...♘f6 18.♗e2 ♗fe8 19.♘xe6 ♕h8 20.♕b3 ♘d5 21.c4 .0. His decision to return the exchange is probably best.

18.♖e1 ♘f6 19.♕xf5! exf5

19...♘xg4 20.♕xe6+ ♗xe6 21.♘xe6 ♘f6 (21...♘h6 22.♘xg7 ♔xg7 23.♖xe7+ .0) 22.♘xg7 .0 ♔xg7 23.♖xe7+ .0.

20.♗e2 ± (D)



Material has been restored but Black's weaknesses along the e-file are serious.

20...♖e8 21.♘e6!

21.♕e5?! e6 22.♗c4 ♘d5 is only slightly better for White.

21...♘e4

21...♕h8 22.♘c7 ♗d8 23.♗xe7 .0.

22.♘xg7 ♘xg3?

A blunder in a difficult position. Black should have complied with 22...♔xg7 23.♕e5+ ♔f7 24.f3 ♘f6 25.c4 ±.

23.♗e5!

And Black resigned as 23...♘e4 24.♘xe8 ♗xe8 25.f3 is curtains.

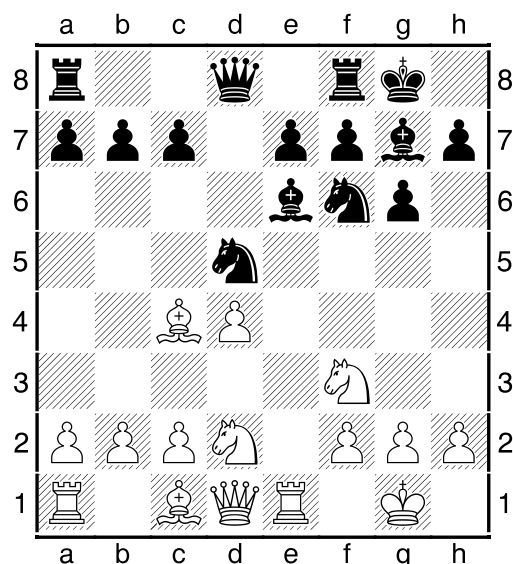
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□ **Grischuk Alexander**

■ **Riazantsev Alexander**

B04 Moscow 2009

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 dxex5 5.♘xe5 g6 6.♕c4 ♕e6 7.0-0 ♕g7 8.♖e1 0-0 9.♘d2 ♘d7 10.♘ef3 ♘7f6 (D)



11.♖xe6!

White doesn't hesitate. While in this concrete position the exchange sacrifice is (perhaps surprisingly) new, Grischuk could draw upon similar examples from the past.

11...fxe6 12.♘g5 ♗d6 13.♗e1 b5?!

Also wrong was 13...♘g4? 14.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 15.♘xe6 ± but Black had better tries, than the text move, although White in any case has excellent compensation: 13...♘f4 14.♘df3 (14.♘b3!? ± ; 14.g3 h6 15.♘xe6 [15.♘gf3!? ♘d4d5 16.♕d3] 15...♘xe6 16.♕xe6+ ♔h8 17.c3 ∞) 14...♘6d5 15.♕xf4! ♘xf4 16.♗e4, with the idea ♖e1 and g3 or 13...c6!? 14.♘df3!? (14.♘xe6? ♘g4 ; 14.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 15.♘xe6 ∞) 14...♕h6 15.♘xe6 (15.♘e4 ♘xe4 16.♕xh6 ♖xf3 17.gxf3 ♘ef6 18.♗e2 ♔f7 ∞) 15...♕xc1 16.♖xc1 ∞.

14.♕b3

White could grab the pawn as well: 14.♕xb5!? ♘b4 15.♕a4 ±.

14...a5 15.a4!?

White is in no hurry take the poor e6-pawn with 15.♗xe6+ ♔h8! (15...♗xe6?! 16.♘xe6 ♗fc8 [16...♖f7 17.a4 bxa4 18.♖xa4 ±] 17.a4! c6 18.♘f3 ±) 16.♘de4 (16.♘f7+?? ♖xf7 17.♗xf7 ♖f8 0.) 16...♗xe6 (16...♘xe4 17.♗xe4 c6 ±) 17.♘xe6 ♘b4! 18.♘xf8 ♘xe4 19.♘xg6+ hxg6 20.a3 c5 ∞ and creates other targets first. 15.♘xe6 ♘g4 (15...a4 16.♕xd5 ♘xd5 17.♘xf8 ♖xf8 18.♘f3 ♖xf3 19.gxf3 ♕xd4 20.♗e4 ♕e5

21.f4 ±) 16.♘xf8 ♖xf8 17.♘f3 ♕xd4 18.♖e4 ♕xf2+ 19.♔f1 ± is also promising, but White quite rightly feels he doesn't need to allow any complications at all.

15...bxa4

If instead 15...c6 then simply 16.♘df3! ± and ♘xe6.

16.♘c4

16.♖xa4 ♘b6 17.♘c4! ± was OK as well.

16...♖c6 17.♖xa4 ♖a6

Black must stop ♘xe6. The alternative was 17...♘g4 18.♘xa5 ♖d6 19.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 20.♘xe6 ♖xf2 21.h3!? .0.

18.♖xa5

18.♘xa5!? ♖d7 (18...♖b6 19.♘c4 .0) 19.c4 ♘b6 20.♖a3 ♖fa8 21.c5 ♘bd5 22.♕c4 ♖6a7 23.♕b5 ♖c8 24.♕d2! ± (24.♕c6 ♖b8 25.♘xe6 ♘b4), planning ♘xe6, b4 and ♕c6 and Black is almost paralysed.

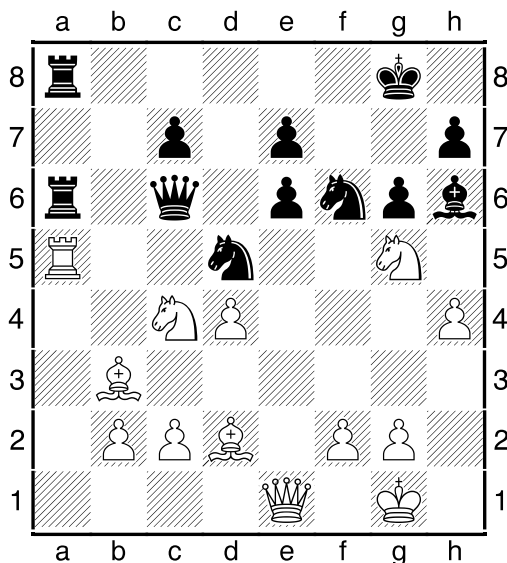
18...♖fa8

18...♘g4 19.♖xa6 ♖xa6 20.♘xe6 ♖xf2 21.♘xg7 ♔xg7 22.h3 .0 or 18...♖xa5 19.♘xa5 and ♘xe6 also weren't helpful to Black's cause.

19.♕d2?!

Good was 19.♖c5! ♖d7 20.♘e5 ♖d8 21.♕c4 ♖b6 (21...♖d6 22.♘ef7) 22.♘xg6!? hxg6 23.♘xe6 .0.

19...♕h6 20.h4 (D)



20...♕xg5?

Exchanging the bishop is a positional mistake, which seriously weakens the dark squares. Maybe better was 20...♖b7 21.g3

±.

21.hxg5 ♘d7 22.♖xa6?!

Here White had a pretty immediate win 22.♕a4! ♖xc4 23.♕xd7 ♖xa5 (23...♔f7 24.♕b5! ♖xa5 25.♕xc4 ♖a1 26.♕c1 ♖b1 27.♔h2 ♖aa1 28.♖e4 ♖xc1 29.♕b5! .0, with the threat ♖f3+ and ♕e8) 24.♕xe6+ ♔f8 (24...♔h8 25.♖e5+ ♘f6 26.♕xa5 ♖xa5 27.♕xc4 ♖xe5 28.dxe5 .0) 25.♖e5!! with a mating attack.

22...♖xa6?!

Black should try to defend with 22...♖xa6 23.♘a5 ♖d6 (23...♖b6 24.c4 ♖xa5 25.♕xa5 ♖xb3 26.♖xe6+ .0) 24.♕a4!? (24.c4 ♘f4 25.c5 ♖xd4 26.♕xf4 ♘xc5 [26...♖xf4 27.♕xe6+ .0] 27.♕e5 ± or 27.♕e3 ±) 24...♘f8 25.♕b5 ♖a8 26.♘c6 ±.

23.♘a5!

Not only planning c4 and ♕a4 but also stops any counterplay on the a-file and enhances his threats.

23...c5?!

Desperation. More resilient was 23...♘f8 24.c4 ♖b6 (24...♘b6 25.♕c3) 25.♕d1! (25.cxd5 ♖xa5 26.♕xa5 ♖xb3 27.♕xc7 ♖xb2 ±) 25...♘f4 26.♘b3 ♘h5 27.♕c3 ±. Other tries were 23...♖d6 24.c4 ♘f4 25.g3 .0 and 23...♖b6 24.♖e4 .0.

24.♕a4 ♖a7

24...♘f8 25.dxc5 .0 and 24...♖d6 25.♘b7 .0.

25.♕xd7 ♖xd7 26.dxc5

With the extra pawns on the queenside, combined with the weak dark squares on the a1-h8 diagonal, Black's position is beyond hope.

26...♘c7

26...♔f7 27.c4 ♘c7 28.b4 .0 or 28.♕c3 .0.

27.c4 ♖a8

27...e5 28.c6 ♖d3 (28...♖d6 29.♕c3 .0) 29.b4 (29.♖xe5!? ♖xd2 30.♖xc7 ♖a8 31.♖xe7 [planning b4] 31...♖xa5 32.c7 ♖f5 33.♖d8+! .0) 29...♖c8 30.b5 .0.

28.c6

Here White already has a wide and pleasant choice, for example 28.♕c3 .0.

28...♖d3 29.♕c3 ♖f8

29...♔f7 30.♖e5 ♘e8 31.♗h8 .0.

30.♖e5 ♜d1+ 31.♔h2

And Black resigned, as 31...♘a6 32.♗h8+ ♔f7 33.♗xh7+ ♔e8 34.♗xg6+ ♗f7 (34...♔d8 35.♙e5 .0) 35.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 36.b4 .0 was too much for him.

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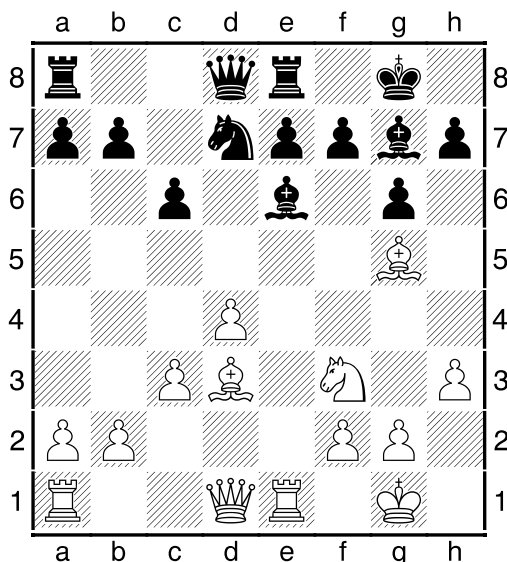
The 'Magician from Riga', Mihail Tal, couldn't be absent from this sacrificial theme. Here are two of his wonderful achievements:

□ **Tal Mihail**

■ **Kolarov Atanas**

B15 Kapfenberg 1970

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 g6 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.h3 dxe4 6.♘xe4 ♘d7 7.♙c4 ♘gf6 8.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♞e1 ♙f5 11.♘e5 ♙e4 12.♙g5 ♙d5 13.♙d3 ♙e6 14.c3 ♘d7 15.♘f3 ♞e8 (D)



A well-known position already...

16.♞xe6!

As you have already understood, this is not a real sacrifice, but mainly a matter of chess culture...

16...fxe6 17.♗e2

17.♙c4 ♘f8 18.♗e2 ♗a5 19.♗e3 ♞ was also strong and probably preferable.

17...e5!

Black should try to be active and this justifies this concept.

18.♙c4+ ♔h8 19.dxe5

Now White has won a pawn for the exchange. Adding to that the bishop pair and

the initiative and you can easily understand why his position is preferable.

19...♗c7 20.♙f7! ♞f8

The 'defender' should always think about returning the extra material to ease his position. Here Black should have tried 20...♘e5. White still stands better after 21.♙xe8 ♞xe8 22.♞d1 ♘xf3+ 23.♗xf3, but Black would have more chances to survive.

21.e6! ♘f6

21...♘e5 doesn't solve Black's problems: 22.♘xe5 ♙xe5 (22...♗xe5 23.♗xe5 ♙xe5 24.♙xe7 .0) 23.♗e3 ±.

22.♗c4!

The queen is transferred to the kingside, ready to launch an attack! In the meantime the black rooks are staring from their back rank...

22...♗a5 23.♞e1 ♗d5 24.♗h4

Threatening ♙xg6 or ♘e5, winning.

24...♞xf7

Too late...

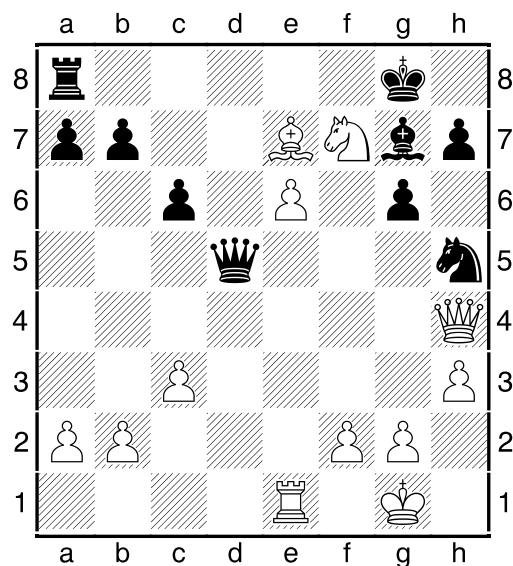
25.♘e5!

25.exf7 ♗xf7 26.♗b4 was winning as well, but the text move is stronger.

25...♘h5

What else? If 25...♞ff8 26.♘xg6+ ♔g8 27.♘xe7+.

26.♘xf7+ ♔g8 27.♙xe7 (D)



White has 'won' the exchange back and remains two pawns up. The rest is easy...

27...♞e8 28.♘d6

28.♗b4! b5 29.♗d6 seemed much easier.

28...♙f6! 29.♙xf6 ♖xd6 30.♙g5
 30.♙d4 c5 31.♙e3 ♖xe6 32.♖c4 .0.
 30...♖xe6 31.♖c4 ♘g7 32.♖b3 ♙f8
 33.♖d1 ♖e5 34.♙h6 ♖d6 35.♖xd6
 Black resigned due to 35...♖xd6 36.♖xb7.
 1-0

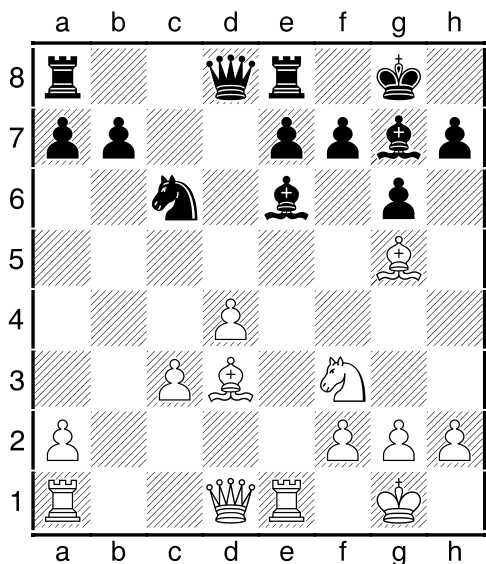
Impressive was his win against A.Karpov:

□ Tal Mihail

■ Karpov Anatoly

B10 Brussels 1987

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 ♘f6
 5.♘c3 ♘xd5 6.♘f3 ♘xc3 7.bxc3 g6 8.d4
 ♙g7 9.♙d3 0-0 10.0-0 ♘c6 11.♖e1 ♖e8
 12.♙g5 ♙e6 (D)



A natural move. Black intends to play ...♖c8, ...♘a5 and hit the c3-pawn as well as gain an outpost on c4...

13.♖xe6!

So, here it comes again! What does White gain out of this exchange sacrifice? Black has a weakened king position and some bad pawns, and, finally, he will be put on the defensive.

13...fxe6 14.♙c4 ♖d6 15.♖e2 ♘d8
 16.♖e1

Natural attacking moves give White the initiative.

16...♖c8 17.♘d2

A good way to continue the attack. Getting greedy with the naive 17.♙xe6+? ♘xe6 18.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 19.♖xe6 ♖xc3 is just plain bad for White - he didn't even win a pawn...

17...♙h8 18.♘e4 ♖c7 19.♙b3 e5

How should White now continue his attack? Obviously he needs a break on the kingside, so the next move comes naturally...

20.h4! exd4 21.h5 gxh5?

Hard to criticize, but allowing the white queen in spells danger, especially against Tal. Instead, after 21...dxc3? 22.hxg6 hxg6 (22...♖b6 23.♘f6!! ♙xf6 24.♖h5 .0) 23.♖g4 mate is coming with ♖h4: 23...e6 24.♘f6 ♙xf6 25.♙xf6+ ♙g8 26.♖xg6+. Thus 21...♖b6! was the last chance to defend, but, of course, this would not be easy to work out even in a slowplay game, which this most certainly was not: 22.♖g4 ♖c7 23.♖h4 d3 (23...dxc3 24.♘f6!! .0) 24.♖d1 gxh5 25.♖xd3 ±.

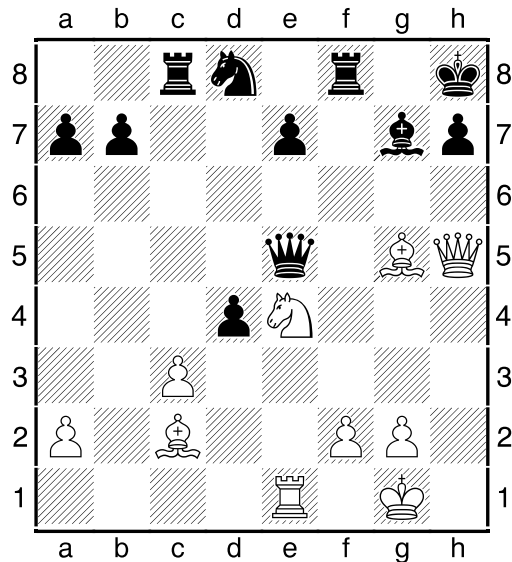
22.♖xh5?

Natural for a blitz game, but 22.♘f6! was winning on the spot: 22...♘f7 23.♘xe8 ♖xe8 24.♙xf7.

22...♖f8 23.♙c2

Changing direction to hit the new target on h7. This is surprisingly hard to defend.

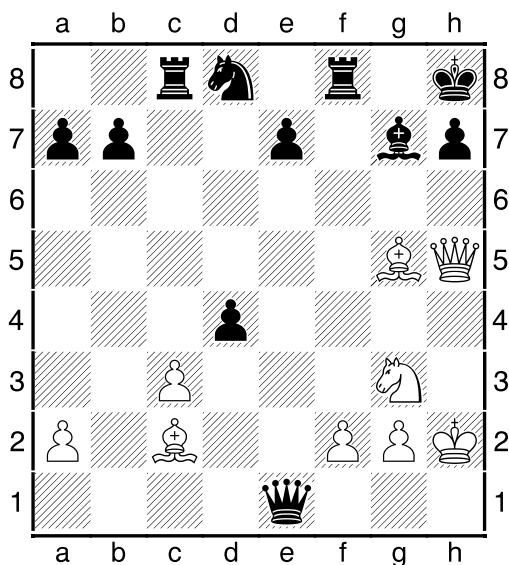
23...♖e5! (D)



24.♘g3!!

A fantastic idea, sacrificing the other rook as well (with check!). The alternative was 24.♘f6 but after 24...♖xe1+ 25.♙h2 ♙h6!! (25...h6? 26.♖g6 .0) 26.♖xh6 ♖f7, White doesn't have more than a draw: 27.♙xh7 (27.♘xh7? ♖e5+ 28.f4 ♖g7 29.♖h5 ♖xh7! 30.♙xh7 ♖xh7 31.♙h6 ♘f7 32.♙g1 ♘xh6 0.) 27...exf6 28.♙xf6+

♖xf6 29.♗xf6+ (29.♙g6+? ♔g8 30.♗h7+ ♕f8 0.) 29...♔xh7 =.
24...♗xe1+ 25.♔h2 (D)



25...h6?

How to parry the attack? Amazingly there was a saving continuation for Black, but so hard to find it: 25...♙h6! 26.♙xh6 ♖f7 27.♙xh7 ♖c6! and despite the apparent danger, amazingly Black is just about OK here. Indeed, after (27...♖c5? 28.♙g7+ ♖xg7 29.♙f5+ ♔g8 30.♗e8 #) 28.♙c2 ♖xh6 29.♗xh6+ ♔g8 30.♗g6+ ♔f8 there is nothing better than a draw by repetition: 31.♗h6+ ♔g8 (31...♔e8 32.♙a4+ ♖c6 33.♙xc6+ bxc6 34.♗xc6+ ♔f8 35.♗c8+ ♔g7 36.♗g4+ =) 32.♗g6+ ♔f8 33.♗h6+.
26.♙xh6 ♔g8 27.♙xg7 ♖xf2
 Or 27...♔xg7 28.♗g6+ ♔h8 29.♗h7 #.
28.♗h7+ ♔f7 29.♗g6+ ♔g8 30.♙h6+ 1-0

In the 'Sicilian Defence' we quite often meet the ... ♖xc3 motif. Of course, this motif can either provide positional compensating factors or help to reinforce attacking schemes.

In both cases (individual or combined) it should offer plenty of joy to the attacker, but keep in mind that it is a sac not a win.

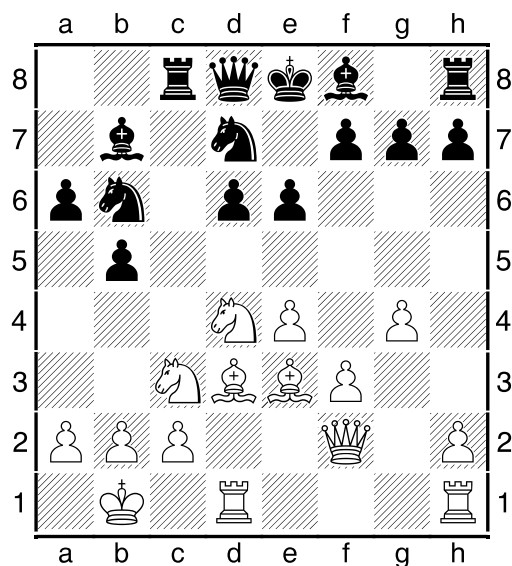
□ Movsesian Sergei

■ Kasparov Garry

B80 Sarajevo 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.♗d2 ♘bd7

9.0-0-0 ♙b7 10.g4 ♘b6 11.♗f2 ♘fd7 12.♔b1 ♖c8 13.♙d3 (D)



13...♖xc3!?

The idea is simple: destroy the opponent's pawn structure and prepare for a complicated middle game. But I feel that White's compromised queenside pawn structure offers great attacking chances to Black.

14.bxc3 ♗c7 15.♘e2 ♙e7 16.g5 0-0

Black completed his development and looks to transfer his pieces to the attack.

17.h4 ♘a4!

A much better move than 17...d5? 18.h5 dxe4 19.♙xe4 ♙xe4 20.fxe4 ±.

18.♙c1

18.h5 ♘e5 19.h6 g6 ∞ is more in the spirit of the position's needs.

18...♘e5 19.h5 d5!

Only now is this advance good.

20.♗h2?

Losing a crucial tempo. Obligatory is 20.h6 g6 21.♖hf1 f6 ∞.

20...♙d6 21.♗h3 ♘xd3! 22.cxd3

22.♖xd3? dxe4 23.♖xd6 (23.fxe4 ♙xe4 0.) 23...♗xd6 24.h6 g6 0..

22...b4!

Kasparov handles the position in an excellent way: 22...♘xc3+ 23.♘xc3 ♗xc3 24.♙b2 ♗b4 25.g6 ♙e5 (25...dxe4? 26.h6! ♙e5 27.d4 .0) 26.d4 ♙f4 27.gxf7+ ♔xf7 28.♗g4 ♙h6 ∞.

23.cxb4

23.c4 dxc4 24.h6 g6 25.dxc4 ♙e5 0..

23...♖c8 24.♔a1

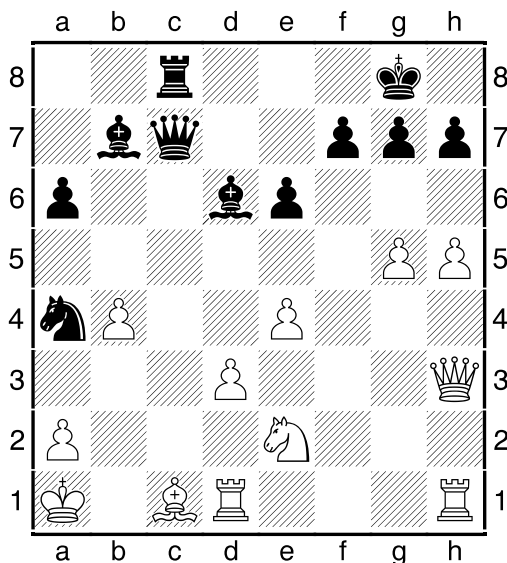
24. ♖f1 dxe4 25. fxe4 ♖c2+ 26. ♔a1 ♕e5+ 27. d4 ♕xe4 28. ♕a3 ♕d5 0..

24...dxe4

Not good is 24... ♖c2 25. ♖d2 ♕e5+ 26. d4 ♕xd4+ 27. ♖xd4 (27. ♖xd4? ♖xc1+ 28. ♖xc1 ♖xc1 #) 27... ♖xe2 28. ♖f1 ♖c2 ∞ but Black can play 24... ♕xb4! 25. ♖h2 ♖c2 26. ♖de1 (26. g6 ♖c3 0..) 26... ♕xe1 27. ♖xe1 ♖xd3 0..

25.fxe4 (D)

25.dxe4? ♕e5+ 26. ♖d4 ♕xd4+ 27. ♖xd4 ♖xc1+ 28. ♖xc1 ♖xc1 #.



25...♕xe4!

Even to an untrained eye it becomes clear that Black is achieving success in his attack much faster than his opponent.

26.g6

26.dxe4 ♕e5+ 0. or 26. ♖hg1 ♖c2 27. ♖d4 ♕e5 28. ♖e3 ♕d5 0..

26...♕xb4 27. ♖xb4 ♕xb4 28. gxf7+ ♔f8

28... ♖xf7 29. ♕d2 ♕xd2 30. ♖xd2 ♖b6 0..

29. ♖g2 ♖b8!

Game over. Black handled the attack in a superb way.

30. ♕b2

30. ♕d2 ♕a3 31. ♕c1 ♕xc1 32. ♖xc1 ♖b6 33. ♖c3 ♖xc3 0..

30...♖xb2 31. ♖d4

31. ♖xb2 ♕d2+ 32. ♖a1 ♕c3+ 0..

31...♖xd1!

The final combination is simple, but aesthetically very pleasing.

32. ♖xe6+ ♔xf7

And as White saw the winning continuation after 33. ♖xg7+ (33. ♖xc7 ♕c3+) 33... ♕xe6 34. ♖xc7 (34. ♖h6+ ♔f5) 34... ♕c3+ 0., he resigned.

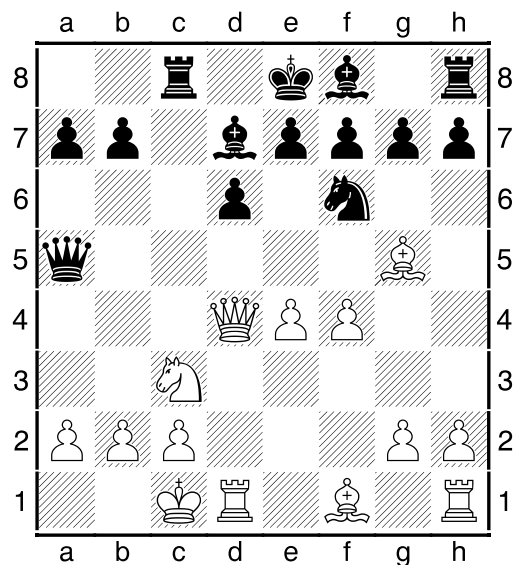
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□ **Kosteniuk Alexandra**

■ **Chiburdanidze Maia**

B61 Dresden 2008

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 ♖c6 6. ♕g5 ♕d7 7. ♖d2 ♖c8 8. f4 ♖xd4 9. ♖xd4 ♖a5 10. 0-0-0 (D)



10...♖xc3

A typical exchange sacrifice in the 'Sicilian Defence'. Black destroys White's pawn structure and, in general, can employ some nice attacking motifs. Of course, we must keep in mind that White has the material advantage!

11. ♖xc3?!

White seemed frightened to play a middle game with her king exposed and the queens on the board. But her decision was forced: 11.bxc3 e5 12. ♖c4 ∞.

11...♖xc3 12. bxc3 ♖xe4

Now Black has added a healthy central pawn to her compensation, which now consists of:

1. A pawn.
2. Superior pawn structure.
3. Active pieces.

13. ♕h4?!

Giving up a second pawn cannot be the right policy. 13. ♖e1 ♖xg5 14. fxc3 ♕c6 15. ♖g1 e6 ∞ and 13. ♖d4 ♖xc3 14. ♖d2 ♖a4

15. ♖b4 ♘c5 16. ♙b5 e6 ♞ are evaluated as unclear but I prefer Black anyway.

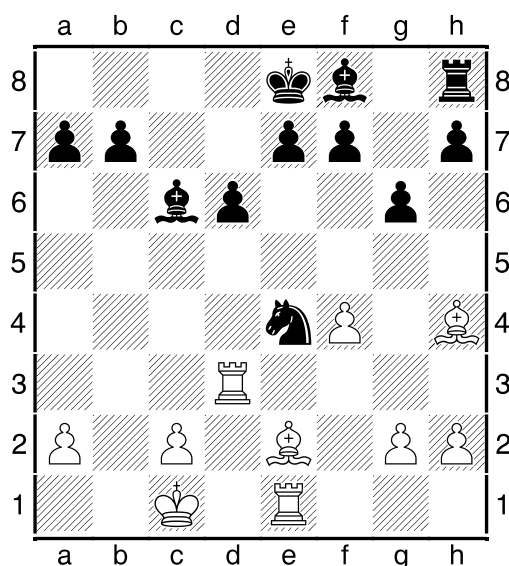
13... ♘xc3 14. ♚d3 ♘e4!

14... ♘xa2+ 15. ♙b2 ♘b4 16. ♚b3 a5 17. c3 might allow White to become unnecessarily active.

15. ♙e2

15. ♚b3 ♘c5 16. ♚b1 g6 17. ♙f2 b6 ♚ and 15. ♚e3 ♘c5 16. ♙c4 e6 17. ♙d5 ♙e7 18. ♙xe7 ♙xe7 ♚ are other options for Black.

15...g6 16. ♚e1 ♙c6 (D)



The material is arithmetically equal, but Black's pieces are much better placed than White's and can coordinate in order to help her advance her pawns. On the other hand, White's rooks are not doing much and they are still looking for potential targets.

17. ♚b3 a6

There is no need to allow an exchange with ♙b5.

18. ♙f3 f5 19. ♙xe4?!

Although Black's e4-knight was rather strong, now Black also gets the bishop pair advantage. Something like 19.g4, trying to open files, was a much more logical try.

19...fxe4!

After the light-hearted 19... ♙xe4? 20. ♚xe4 fxe4 21. ♚xb7 White's activity is compensation for her small material disadvantage.

20. ♚h3 h5 21. ♚c3 d5

White's rook is hanging around, while Black prepares an effective plan: the advance of her pawns.

22. ♙f2 ♙h6 23. ♙e3 ♚f8

23...0-0 looks like a natural move but, as the endgame approaches, Black will need her king to be centralized.

24.g3 ♙g7 25. ♚a3 d4 26. ♙d2 ♚f5!

Activating her last piece!

27. ♚a5 ♙d7 28. ♙b4

28. ♚xf5 gxf5 29. ♚d1 ♙e6 30. ♙a5 ♙d5 ♚.

28...e5!

The last detail. But anyway, this is a one-sided game, as White could not present a single threat throughout the game!

29. ♙b1

29.fxe5 ♙e6 30. ♚d1 ♙xe5 31. ♚xe5+ ♙xe5 32. ♙c5 e3 33. ♙xd4+ ♙e4 0..

29...♙e6 30.fxe5 ♙xe5 31. ♚d1 e3 32. ♚e1 ♚f2

Do you also share the feeling that the white a5-rook is worse than any of the black bishops?

33.c3 ♙e4+ 34. ♙c1 ♚xh2 35.cxd4 ♙xd4 36. ♚g1 ♚c2+

An important game of the 38th Olympiad.
0-1

The Double-Rook-Sacrifice Concept

An interesting, 'extremely attractive' and somewhat rare concept is the double exchange sacrifice. But why would somebody think to sacrifice both his rooks? Well, the most usual reason is the attack against the king, but many other arguments can be found in controlling important squares, releasing a pawn phalanx, taking over the initiative, etc. But of course, this is a quite difficult subject, as much material is given away by the attacker.

The Old Days

We will start with two games of the 'old era' with a common thread: both of them were played and won by Tigran Petrosian, whose contribution to the exchange sacrifice subject is simply enormous.

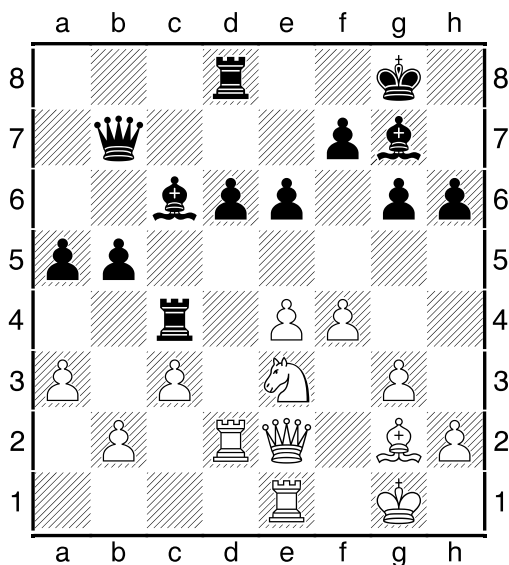
□ Troianescu Octavio

■ Petrosian Tigran

A04 Bucharest 1953

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3.d3 ♘c6 4. ♘bd2 g6 5.g3 ♙g7 6. ♙g2 e6 7.0-0 ♘ge7 8. ♚e1 0-0 9.c3 b6 10. ♘f1 ♙a6 11.d4 cxd4 12. ♘xd4

♖e5 13. ♗g5 h6 14. ♖a4 ♙b7 15. ♗xe7
 ♖xe7 16. ♖ad1 ♖fc8 17. ♖e3 ♖c5 18. f4
 ♖c6 19. ♖xc6 ♗xc6 20. ♖c2 ♖d8 21. ♖e2
 ♖b7 22. ♖c2 b5 23. ♖d2 ♖c4 24. a3 a5
 25. ♖e3 (D)



25... ♖xe4!

An 'obvious' exchange sacrifice. Black's compensation is based on:

1. A central pawn.
2. The bishop pair.
3. Weak light squares around the opponent's king.

26. ♗xe4 ♗xe4

27. ♖c2 d5 28. ♖d4

28.h3 would just weaken the white king further: 28...e5 29. ♖e3 exf4 30. gxf4 ♖d6.

28...b4! 29.cxb4 axb4 30.a4?!

White should have tried 30.axb4 ♖xb4 31. ♖c6 ♖b6+ 32. ♖f2 ♖xc6 33. ♖xe4 ♗xb2 ♢.

30... ♖a7 31. ♖f2 ♖c8!

31... ♖xa4? 32. ♖xe6! fxe6 33. ♖xe4! ±.

32.b3 ♗f8 33. ♖b5 ♖a6 34. ♖e2 ♖b6+ 35. ♗f1 ♖c3!

Here comes the second one!

36. ♖xc3

White is forced to accept the second sacrifice, as alternatives fail to satisfy: 36. ♖d4 ♗c5 37. ♖ed1 ♗xd4 38. ♖xd4 ♗f3 39. ♖b5 ♖xb5+ 40. axb5 ♗xd1 41. ♖xd1 ♖c5 or 36.a5 ♖xa5 37. ♖xc3 bxc3 38. ♖d4 ♗c5 39. ♖a4 ♖b6 ♢.

36...bxc3 37. ♖c2

37. ♖a2 ♖xb3 38. ♖aa1 c2 0..

37... ♖xb3

The black bishop pair and the passed c-pawn dominate the position. White's rooks are passive and not of much help.

38. ♖ec1 ♗b4!

Black is not in a hurry to win back some material, as White is lacking any sufficient counterplay.

39.g4 ♗xc2

39...f5 40.gxf5 ♗xf5 41.a5 d4 42.a6 d3 looks like even better!

40. ♖xc2

40. ♖xc2 ♖c4+ 41. ♗g2 ♖xf4 0..

40... ♖xa4

Black has won back some material and now is 'just' an exchange down for three healthy pawns. The end is near...

41.f5 exf5! 42.gxf5 g5 43.h4

43. ♖a2 ♖c6 44. ♖a6 ♖c8! 45. ♖xh6 c2 0..

43... ♗c5! 44.hxg5

44. ♖xc3?! ♖a1+ 45. ♖e1 ♖xe1+ 46. ♗xe1 ♗b4 0..

44... ♖f4+ 45. ♗e1

45. ♗g2 ♖xg5+ 46. ♗h2 ♗d6+ 47. ♗h1 ♖h4+ 48. ♗g1 ♖g3+ 49. ♗f1 (49. ♖g2 d4!) 49... ♖h3+ 50. ♖g2+ ♖xg2+ 51. ♗xg2 ♗e5 0..

45... ♖g3+ 46. ♗d1 ♖g1+ 47. ♖e1 ♖xe1+ 48. ♗xe1 hxg5 49. ♗e2 ♗d4 50. ♖a2 ♗g7! 50... ♗f6? 51. ♗d3 ♗g7 52. ♖g2 ♢.

51. ♗d3

51. ♖a5 c2 52. ♗d2 ♗c3+.

51... ♗e5! 52. ♖a5 ♗f6 53. ♖xd5 ♗xf5 54. ♗e3 f6 55. ♖c5 ♗g4 56. ♖c4+ ♗g3 57. ♗e4 g4

58. ♗f5 ♗f3 59. ♖xg4 ♗e3 0..

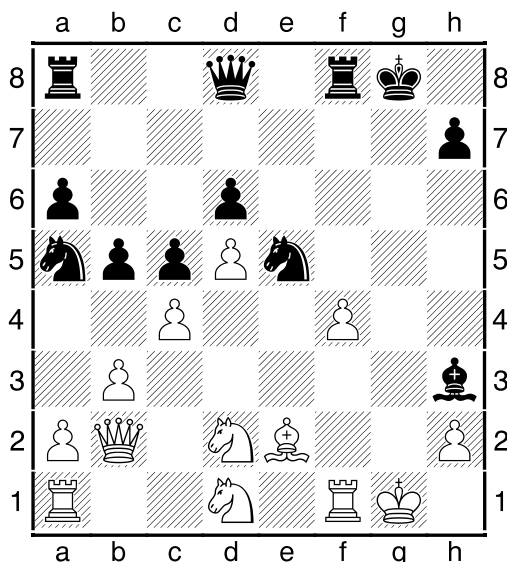
0-1

□ **Petrosian Tigran**

■ **Spassky Boris**

E66 Moscow 1966

1. ♖f3 ♖f6 2.g3 g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4. ♗g2 0-0
 5.0-0 ♖c6 6. ♖c3 d6 7.d4 a6 8.d5 ♖a5
 9. ♖d2 c5 10. ♖c2 e5 11.b3 ♖g4 12.e4 f5
 13.exf5 gxf5 14. ♖d1 b5 15.f3 e4 16. ♗b2
 exf3 17. ♗xf3 ♗xb2 18. ♖xb2 ♖e5
 19. ♗e2 f4 20.gxf4 ♗h3 (D)



21. ♖e3! ♕xf1

If Black does not feel like accepting the exchange sacrifice, he could go for 21... ♖xf4 22. ♖xf4 ♕g5+ 23. ♖g4! (23. ♖h1? ♕xf4 24. ♖g1+ ♖h8 ∞) 23... ♖xg4 24. ♖xg4 ♕xg4 25. ♕xg4 ♕xg4+ 26. ♖h1 ♕d4! 27. ♖g1+ ♖h8 28. ♕xd4+ cxd4 29. ♖g4 ±.

22. ♖xf1

For the exchange sacrifice White has got:

1. A pawn.
2. Better placed pieces (the a5-knight is awfully placed).
3. Light square control.
4. Potential attack on the black king.

22... ♖g6

22... ♖d7 23. ♖e4 ♕e7 24. ♕d3 ±.

23. ♕g4 ♖xf4

23... ♖xf4? 24. ♕e6+ ♖f8 25. ♖xf4+ ♖xf4 26. ♕h8+ .0 is also bad, but Black should go for 23... ♕f6! 24. ♕e6+ ♖h8 25. ♕xf6+ ♖xf6 26. f5 ♖e5 27. ♖e4! ±.

24. ♖xf4!

The second rook, on the same file! The f4-knight was guarding many important squares and so had to be eliminated! The compact force of the white queen and the remaining minor pieces cannot be contained any more.

24... ♖xf4 25. ♕e6+ ♖f7

The alternative 25... ♖f8 fails to impress: 26. ♕h8+ ♖e7 27. ♕xh7+ ♖e8 (27... ♖f6 28. ♕f7+ ♖e5 29. ♕g7+ ♕f6 30. ♕g3 ♕f8 31. ♖g4+ ♖d4 32. ♕e3 #) 28. ♕h5+ ♖f8 29. ♕h6+.

26. ♖e4 ♕h4

26... ♖aa7 27. ♖f5 ♕f8 28. ♕f6 .0 as the coming ♖h6+ is hard to meet.

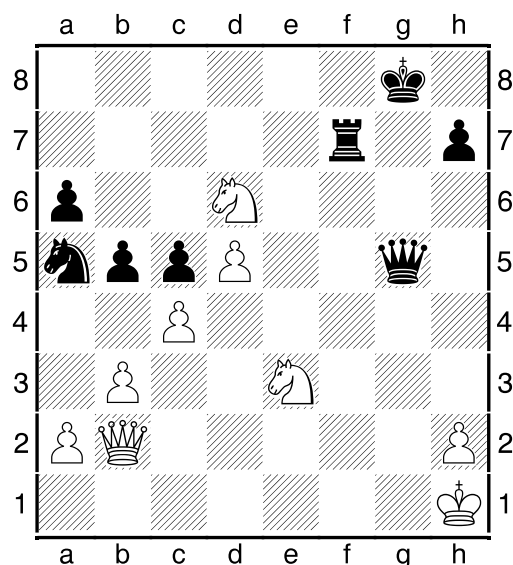
27. ♖xd6 ♕g5+

27... ♕e1+ 28. ♖g2 ♕xe3 29. ♕xf7+ ♖f8 30. ♕h8+ ♖e7 31. ♖f5+ ♖xf7 32. ♕g7+ and 33. ♖xe3 .0 or 27... ♖aa7 28. ♖ef5 ♕g4+ 29. ♖f2 ♕h4+ 30. ♖f1 ♕d4 31. ♕xd4 cxd4 32. c5 is a lost cause anyway.

28. ♖h1 ♖aa7

28... ♕xe3 29. ♕xf7+ ♖f8 30. ♕h8+ ♖e7 31. ♖f5+ ♖xf7 32. ♕g7+ and 33. ♖xe3.

29. ♕xf7+ ♖xf7 (D)



30. ♕h8+!

A famous combination! Black resigned as 30... ♖xh8 31. ♖xf7+ ♖g7 32. ♖xg5 is too much for him to handle!

1-0

<http://trainers.fide.com>

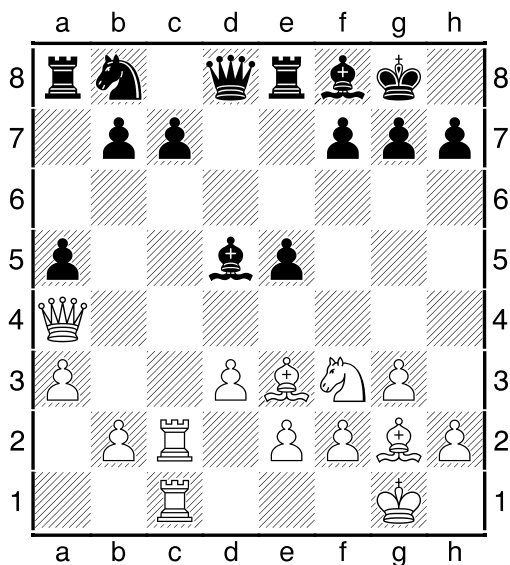
The Patriarch of Soviet Chess was another faithful adherent of the exchange sacrifice, as we have already noted. Here he offers an extremely beautiful example:

□ Botvinnik Mikhail

■ Portisch Lajos

A29 Monte Carlo 1968

1.c4 e5 2. ♖c3 ♖f6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 ♖xd5 5. ♕g2 ♕e6 6. ♖f3 ♖c6 7.0-0 ♖b6 8.d3 ♕e7 9.a3 a5 10. ♕e3 0-0 11. ♖a4 ♖xa4 12. ♕xa4 ♕d5 13. ♖fc1 ♖e8 14. ♖c2 ♕f8 15. ♖ac1 ♖b8 (D)

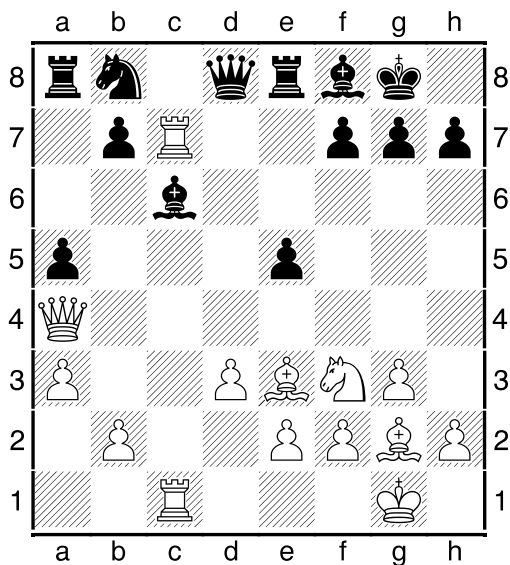


Black is ready to ease the pressure down the c-file by playing ...c6. But White's forces are well placed and ready to act.

16. ♖xc7!

White voluntarily traps his rook, but he does not really care, as he wants to sacrifice it anyway!

16... ♜c6 (D)



17. ♜1xc6! bxc6

There is not much difference after 17... ♜xc6: 18. ♜xf7! still is possible.

18. ♜xf7!

Here comes the second sacrifice again! White's play on the light squares in this game is impressive.

18... h6

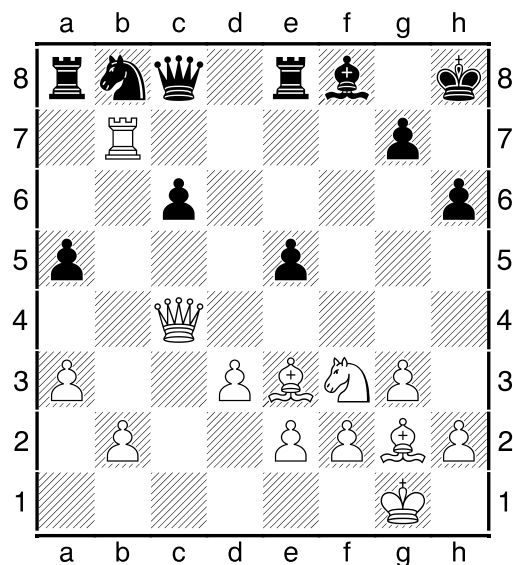
Accepting the second sacrifice leads to disaster anyway: 18... ♜xf7 19. ♜c4+ ♜g6 20. ♜g4+ ♜f7 21. ♜g5+ .0. With his last

move Black tried to prevent an eventual ♜g5, but at the same time created more weaknesses on the light squares around his king.

19. ♜b7 ♜c8

Black decided to fall like a brave man! The other option with 19... ♜f6 20. ♜c4+ ♜e6 21. ♜xe5 ♜xc4 22. ♜xc4 .0 promised him a slow and painful death!

20. ♜c4+ ♜h8 (D)



21. ♜h4!

The b7-rook is irrelevant. The coordination of White's queen and three minor pieces is impressive, especially on the light squares around the black king.

21... ♜xb7 22. ♜g6+ ♜h7 23. ♜e4! ♜d6

There is no defence for Black any more.

24. ♜xe5+ g6

24... ♜h8 25. ♜f7+ ♜g8 26. ♜xd6+.

25. ♜xg6+ ♜g7 26. ♜xh6+!

The last detail! Black resigned due to 26... ♜xh6 27. ♜h4+ ♜g7 28. ♜h7+.

1-0

The New Era

The games of the old days were noted by trainers and were taught to youngsters. The latter grew up and were able to use them!

We are 'used' to see Veselin Topalov on the winning side in this chapter, but we will commence the 'new era' with two of his famous losses.

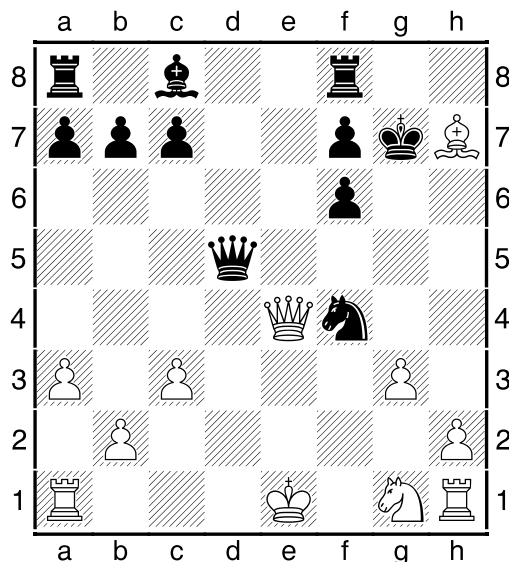
What happened to him? Well, probably he was too relaxed and did not pay too much attention to his opponent's possibilities!

□ Topalov Veselin

■ Bareev Evgeny

C13 Linares 1994

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 dxe4
5.♘xe4 ♙e7 6.♙xf6 ♙xf6 7.c3 ♘d7
8.♚c2 e5 9.dxe5 ♘xe5 10.f4 ♘g6 11.g3
0-0 12.♙d3 ♚d5 13.a3 ♘xf4 14.♘xf6+
gxf6 15.♙xh7+ ♙g7 16.♚e4 (D)



A rather complicated position has arisen. White's king is still in the centre and some sacrifice is on demand, in order to exploit the above-mentioned fact!

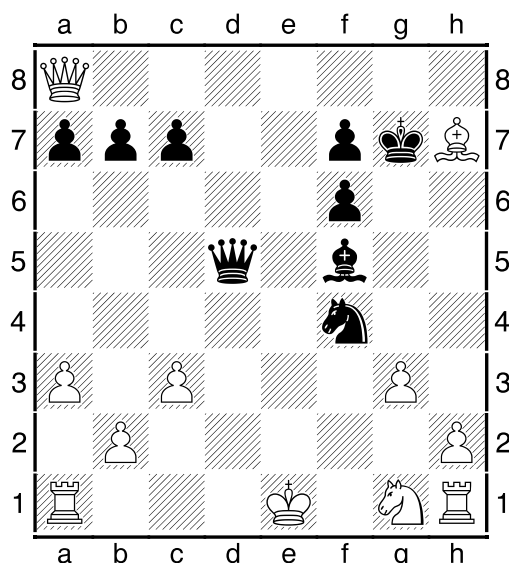
16...♙e8!

The introduction!

17.♚xe8 ♙f5!

And the second one comes, like in the romantic games of the past centuries.

18.♚xa8 (D)



White's alternatives are also of no help:

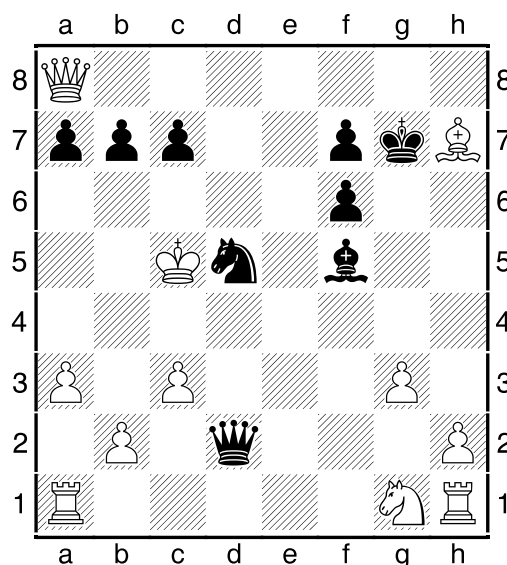
18.♚e7 ♘d3+ 19.♙f1 ♙xh7 0. or 18.♚a4
♘d3+ 19.♙f1 (19.♙e2 ♚g2+) 19...♙xh7
20.♚d1 ♙e4 0..

18...♚e4+ 19.♙f2

Any move by the white king leads to the same result: 19.♙d2 ♚g2+! 20.♙e3 (20.♙e1 ♘d3+ 21.♙d1 ♙g4+ 22.♘f3 ♙xf3 #) 20...♘d5+ 21.♙d4 ♚d2+ or 19.♙d1 ♚c2+ 20.♙e1 ♘d3+ 21.♙f1 ♚f2 # or, finally, 19.♙f1 ♙h3+ 20.♘xh3 ♚g2+ 21.♙e1 ♚e2 #. Black again uses the 'attacking units' concept. Here he is attacking with three coordinated pieces, while White is defending with none!

19...♚g2+ 20.♙e3 ♘d5+ 21.♙d4 ♚d2+ 22.♙c5 (D)

22.♙c4 ♘e3+ 23.♙b3 ♚d5+ 24.♙b4 ♘c2+ 25.♙a4 ♙d7 #.



22...♚e3+!

It was still possible to go wrong: 22...b6+? 23.♙c6 ♘e7+ 24.♙b7 ♙xh7 25.♙xa7 ∞.

23.♙c4

23.♙xd5 ♙e6 # or 23.♙b5 ♚b6+ 24.♙c4 ♘e3 #.

23...♘b6+

White resigned, as he will be mated: 24.♙b3 (24.♙b5 c6+ 25.♙b4 ♚e4+ 26.♙c5 ♚e7+ 27.♙d4 c5 #) 24...♚e6+ 25.♙b4 ♚c4+ 26.♙a5 ♚c5 #.

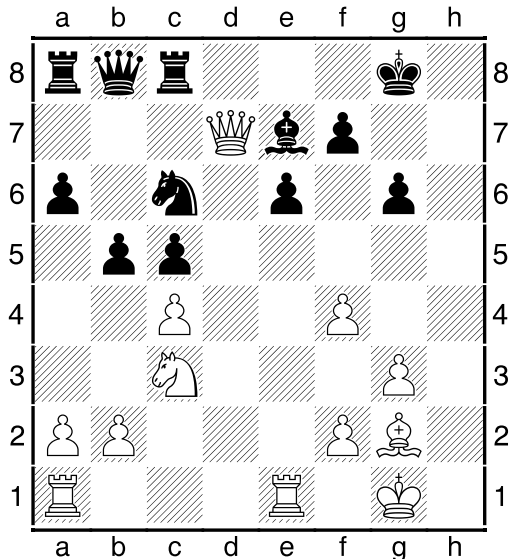
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□ Karpov Anatoly

■ Topalov Veselin

A33 Linares 1994

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.♘f3 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6
5.g3 ♘c6 6.♙g2 ♙c5 7.♘b3 ♙e7 8.♘c3
0-0 9.0-0 d6 10.♙f4 ♘h5 11.e3 ♘xf4
12.exf4 ♙d7 13.♖d2 ♖b8 14.♗fe1 g6
15.h4 a6 16.h5 b5 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.♘c5
dxc5 19.♖xd7 ♗c8 (D)



20. ♖xe6!

A nice exchange sacrifice, the point of White's previous moves (20. ♙xc6? ♗a7).

20... ♗a7

20...fxe6 21. ♙xc6 ♗a7 22. ♖xe6+ ♔g7
23. ♙e4 ♙f6 24. ♖g4 .0.

21. ♖xg6+!

The rook persists in his 'suicidal' ways!

21...fxg6

Black has no choice: 21...♔f8 22. ♖h3 fxg6
23. ♖h8+ ♔f7 24. ♙d5 # or 21...♔h7
22. ♖h3+ ♔xg6 23. ♙e4+ f5 (23...♔g7
24. ♖h7+ ♔f6 25. ♖h6 #) 24. ♖xf5+ ♔g7
25. ♖h7+ ♔f8 26. ♖h6+ ♔e8 27. ♙xc6+
.0.

22. ♖e6+ ♔g7 23. ♙xc6

With the help of the exchange sacrifice White succeeded in breaking down the defence of the black king and achieving active play for his pieces. One must also add to this the two pawns he collected on the way.

23... ♗d8

23...♙f6 24. ♙e4 ♗f8 25. ♘d5 ±.

24.cxb5 ♙f6

Alternatives are not helpful: 24...♖d6
25. ♖xd6 ♙xd6 26.b6 ♗e7 27. ♗d1 .0 or
24...axb5 25. ♘xb5 .0.

25. ♘e4 ♙d4

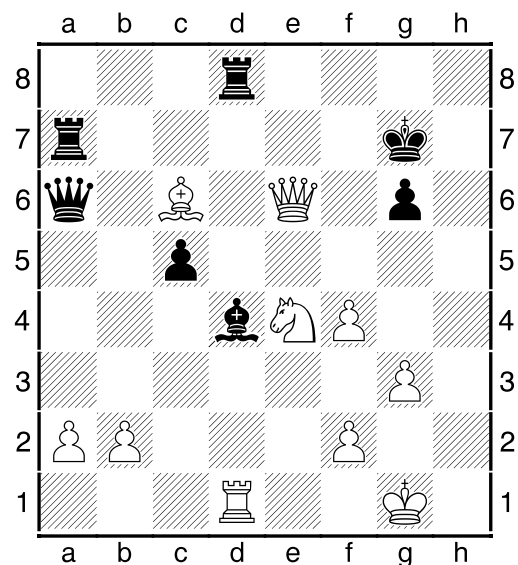
25...♙xb2 26. ♗b1 ♙d4 27.b6 ♗f7
28. ♘g5 .0.

26.bxa6 ♖b6

Unfortunately for Black, 26...♗xa6 would not save him: 27. ♖e7+ ♔h8 (27...♔g8
28. ♙d7 .0) 28. ♘g5 ♗a7 29. ♘f7+ ♔g7
30. ♖xd8 ♖xb2 31. ♖h8+ ♔xf7 32. ♙d5+
♔e7 33. ♗e1+ ♔d6 34. ♖d8+ ♗d7
35. ♗e6+ ♔xd5 36. ♖xd7+ .0.

27. ♗d1 ♖xa6 (D)

27...♗xa6 28. ♖e7+ ♔h8 (28...♔g8
29. ♗xd4) 29. ♗xd4 cxd4 30. ♖f6+ ♔g8
31. ♖xg6+ ♔f8 32. ♘g5 ♗a7 33. ♖f6+
♔g8 34. ♙d5+.



28. ♗xd4!

Here comes the second exchange sacrifice (the third in the game!).

28... ♗xd4

28...cxd4 29. ♖f6+ .0.

29. ♖f6+ ♔g8

The white pieces are dancing around the black king, while the black rooks are unable to participate and defend. Yes, two minor pieces can be better than two rooks, especially when cooperating with their queen against the opponent's king. 29...♔h6
30. ♖h8+ ♗h7 31. ♖f8+ ♗g7 32. ♘f6 and
29...♔h7 30. ♘g5+ ♔g8 31. ♖xg6+ ♔f8
32. ♖e8+ ♔g7 33. ♘e6+ ♔f6 34. ♘xd4
cxd4 35. ♖f8+ ♗f7 36. ♖d6+ ♔g7
37. ♖xd4+ .0 are also winning for White.

30. ♖xg6+ ♔f8

30...♔h8 31. ♘f6 or 30...♗g7 31. ♖e8+

♖h7 32. ♘f6+ ♖h6 33. ♙h5 #.
31. ♙e8+ ♖g7 32. ♙e5+ ♖g8
 32... ♖f8 33. ♙h8+ ♖f7 34. ♘g5+ ♖e7
 35. ♙e5+ .0 or 32... ♖f7 33. ♘g5+ ♖g8
 34. ♙e8+ ♖g7 35. ♘e6+ ♖f6 36. ♘xd4
 cxd4 37. ♙f8+ ♖f7 38. ♙h8+ ♖e7
 39. ♙e8+ ♖d6 40. ♙xf7 ♙xc6 41. ♙g6+
 ♖c7 42. ♙xc6+ ♖xc6 43. ♖f1 .0.
33. ♘f6+ ♖f7 34. ♙e8+ ♖f8
 34... ♖g7 35. ♘d7+ ♖g8 36. ♙g5+ ♖h8
 37. ♙h5+ ♖g7 38. ♙f7+ ♖h6 39. ♙f8+
 ♖h7 40. ♘f6+ ♙xf6 41. ♙xf6 .0.
35. ♙xc5+ ♙d6 36. ♙xa7 ♙xf6
 36... ♖d1+ 37. ♖g2 ♖g1+ 38. ♖h3
 (38. ♖xg1? ♙d1+ 39. ♖g2 ♙h1+ =) 38...
 ♖h1+ 39. ♖g4 .0.
37. ♙h5 ♖d2 38. b3 ♖b2 39. ♖g2

Black resigned, as a bishop and five pawns are too much for a rook!

1-0

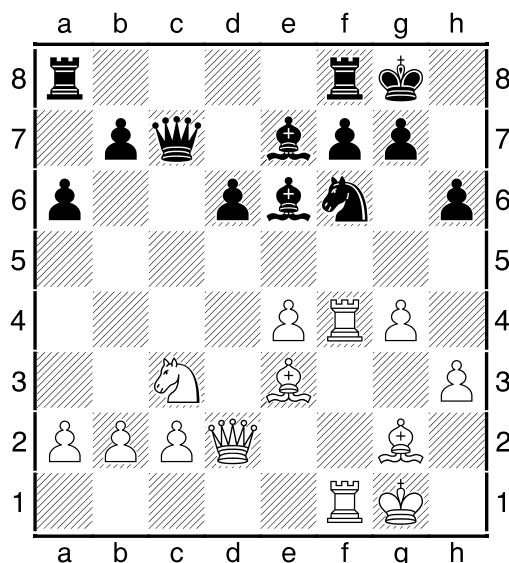
Dutch GM Jan Timman has been the Netherlands' best player for many years. In the next game he 'kills' his main rival (at that specific time):

□ **Timman Jan**

■ **Van Wely Loek**

B90 Breda 1998

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6
 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♙e3 ♘c6 7.h3 e6 8.g4 ♙e7
 9. ♙g2 h6 10.f4 ♙c7 11.0-0 ♘xd4
 12. ♙xd4 e5 13. ♙d2 exf4 14. ♖xf4 ♙e6
 15. ♖af1 0-0 (D)



16. ♖xf6!

Launching a series of impressive sacrifices, culminating in an irresistible final attack.

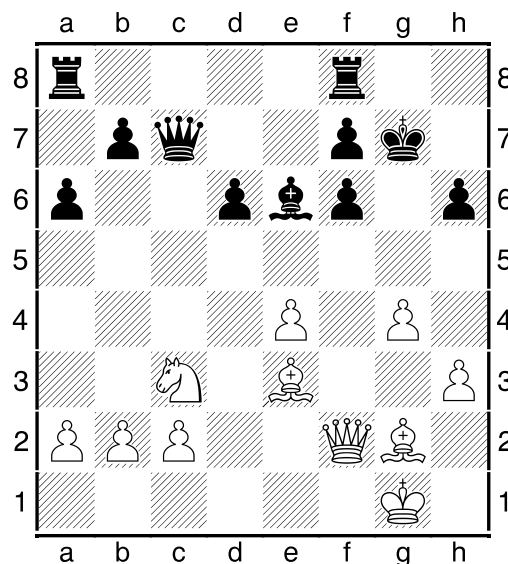
16... ♙xf6 17. ♖xf6! gxf6

How can this double exchange sacrifice be explained? After all, White's g2-bishop is not a very impressive attacking piece and White, more or less, only attacks with his queen and his dark-squared bishop. But the important aspect here is that Black defends his king with even fewer pieces. The rooks need to get to e6/g6 in order to be able to defend the kingside pawns. The fact that White is attacking on dark squares (f6 and h6) also means that the e6-bishop is not a very helpful defender either.

18. ♙f2!

18. ♙d4 is not that accurate: 18... ♖h7! 19. ♙xf6 ♖g8 and Black can defend, as ... ♖g6 will follow.

18... ♖g7? (D)



A mistake, after which Black's position is beyond salvation. Black could have chosen among the following alternatives:

a) 18... ♙e7? 19. ♙h4! (19. ♙d4?! ♖g7), threatening 20. ♙xh6 and 20. ♙d4 with excellent attacking prospects for White and rich compensation for the sacrificed material: 19... ♖fc8 (19... ♖fe8 20. ♙d4 ♖h7 [20... ♖g7 21.g5 hxg5 22. ♙xg5+ ♖h7 23. ♙xf6 ♙f8 24.e5! .0] 21. ♙xf6 ♙f8 22.e5 d5 23. ♙f1! ♖ac8 24. ♙d3+ ♖g8 25.g5 .0) 20.e5! d5 (20... dxe5 21. ♘e4 ♖xc2 22. ♘xf6+ .0) 21.exf6 .0.
 b) 18... ♙a5! 19. ♙xh6 ♙c5 (19... ♖fc8

20. ♖d5 ♙xd5 21. ♖xf6 .0) 20. ♙e3 ♖a5
 21. ♙d4 ♖g5 22. ♙xf6 ♖c5 23. ♙d4 ♖g5
 24. ♙e3 ♖g7 25. ♖d2 ♜fd8 26. ♙d4 f6
 27. ♖f2 ♜f8 28. ♖e2 and, although White
 enjoys a nice initiative, Black might be able
 to hold.

19.e5!

A beautiful and thematic pawn advance,
 liberating the g2-bishop, which wins the
 game! Threats like ♖xf6+ or ♖e4, or
 simply the use of the e4-square for his g2-
 bishop (which is absolutely crucial for the
 success of his brilliant attack) just fuel
 White's attack. Continuations like 19. ♖h4?
 ♜h8 20. ♙d4 ♖d8 21. g5 hxg5 22. ♖xg5+
 ♙f8 23. ♙xf6 ♖b6+ 24. ♙h1 ♜h7 are good
 only for Black.

19...fxe5

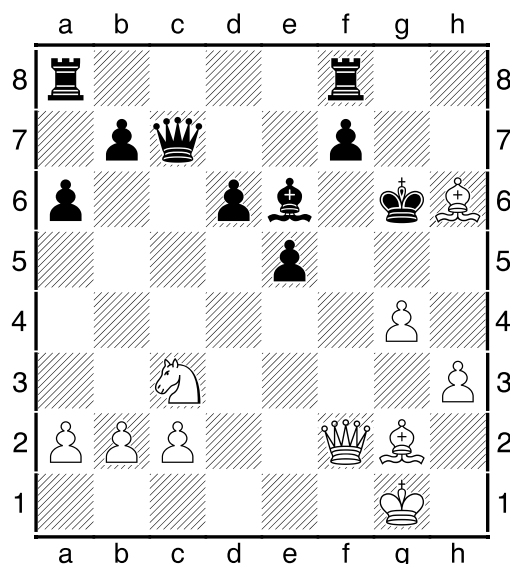
19... ♖e7 20. exf6+ ♖xf6 21. ♙d4 .0 or
 19... dxe5 20. ♙xh6+! and mate follows.

20. ♙xh6+!

A final, impressive sacrifice, signifying the
 culmination of White's attack.

20...♙g6 (D)

The bishop's capture leads to mate in six:
 20... ♙xh6 21. ♖f6+ ♙h7 22. ♙e4+ ♙f5
 23. ♙xf5+ ♙g8 24. ♖g5+ ♙h8 25. ♖h6+
 ♙g8 26. ♖h7 #.



21. ♖h4!

The final subtlety. After the queen thrust
 White creates manifold mate threats:
 21... ♜g8 (21... f5 22. ♖h5+ ♙h7 [22... ♙f6
 23. ♖g5+ ♙f7 24. ♖g7+] 23. ♙xf8+ ♙g8
 24. ♙h6 .0) 22. ♙e4+ f5 23. ♙xf5+ ♙f7

(23... ♙xf5 24. ♖h5+ ♙f6 25. ♖d5+)
 24. ♖h5+ ♙e7 25. ♙g5+ ♙f8 (25... ♙d7
 26. ♖f7+ ♙c6 27. ♙e4+ ♙b6 28. ♙e3+)
 26. ♙xe6 .0. Black resigned. A great player
 like Jan Timman at his best!

1-0

They say that a good player rarely repeats
 the same mistake twice (or a third time, at
 least!). It is also said that good players tend
 to learn from their mistakes and become
 wiser when they have the chance:

□ Topalov Veselin

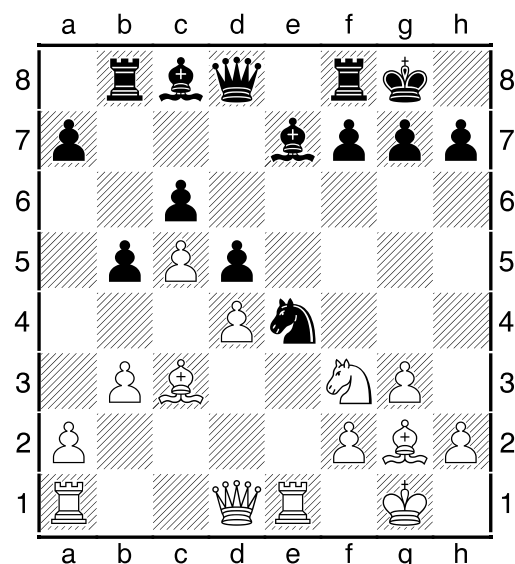
■ Aronian Levon

E15 Wijk aan Zee 2006

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♖f3 b6 4.g3 ♙a6 5.b3
 ♙b4+ 6. ♙d2 ♙e7 7. ♙g2 c6 8. ♙c3 d5
 9. ♖e5 ♖fd7 10. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 11. ♖d2 0-0
 12.0-0 ♖f6 13.e4 b5 14.exd5 exd5

Another nice exchange sacrifice occurred
 after 14...cxd5 15.c5! b4 16. ♙xb4 ♙xf1
 17. ♙xf1 e5 18. ♙c3 a5 19.a3 ♖e4 20. ♖xe4
 dxe4 21.b4, allowing White to win in the
 game Anand,V-Adams,M Wijk aan Zee
 2005.

15. ♜e1 ♜b8 16.c5 ♙c8 17. ♖f3 ♖e4 (D)



18. ♜xe4!

Note an interesting tendency: all the noisy
 novelties lately are somehow connected with
 exchange sacrifices; maybe we should re-
 evaluate the relative strengths of knight/
 bishop and rook?

18...dxe4 19. ♖e5

White's idea is very logical: the pawn on d5
 was a key defender of the h1-a8 diagonal,

and now all of Black's queenside is compromised, along with the centre, of course.

19...♖d5!

No help is provided by a passive defence like 19...♖c7 20.♙xe4 b4 21.♙d2 ♙d7 (21...♙xc5 22.♘xc6 ± or 21...f5 22.♙g2 ♙b7 23.♖e2 ♙f6 24.♖c4+ ♙h8 25.♙f4 ±) 22.♙f4 ♖b7 23.♖d3. It's hard to see why the b8-rook should be stronger than the e5-knight, but even if one manages to see the 'why', White can win the exchange back with ♘xd7.

20.♖e1!

20.♖c2 f5 21.f3? ♙xc5! 22.dxc5 ♖xc5+ 23.♙h1 b4.

20...♙f5

20...f5 21.f3! ♙xc5 22.dxc5 ♖xc5+ 23.♙h1 ♙e8 24.b4 ± was seen in the game Onischuk,A-Browne,W Stillwater 2007.

21.g4! ♙g6 22.f3

It's still too early to snatch material: 22.♘g6 hxg6 23.♖xe4 ♖xe4 24.♙xe4 b4 25.♙b2 ♙fc8 ∞.

22...b4?

A mistake, allowing White to control the centre, which will ultimately decide the game. 22...♙xc5! 23.dxc5 ♖xc5+ 24.♙h1 b4 25.♙b2 ♖c2 26.♖c1 ♖xc1+ 27.♙xc1 exf3 28.♙xf3 ♙bd8 is a forced try for Black.

23.fxe4 ♖e6 24.♙b2 ♙f6

It must be noted that Black can try (instead of the text move) 24...f6 25.♘g6 hxg6 26.♖g3 ± or 24...♙fd8 25.♙c1 ♙f6 26.♘xc6 ♖xc6 27.e5 ♖a6 28.exf6 ♙e8 29.♖f2 ♙e4 30.♙f1 ± Leitao,R-Fier,A Santos 2006.

25.♘xc6!

25.d5? ♖e8 26.♘g6 ♙xb2 27.♘xf8 ♙xa1 28.♖xa1 cxd5 29.exd5 ♖e3+ 30.♙h1 ♙xf8 ±.

25...♖xc6 26.e5 ♖a6 27.exf6 ♙fe8!?

After 27...♖xf6 28.♖f2! ♖g5 29.d5 ♖xg4 30.♖d4 ♖xd4+ 31.♙xd4 Black's position is totally hopeless.

28.♖f1!

If White snoozes with 28.♖f2 ♙e2 29.♖g3 ♙be8 30.♙f1 ♖c8 31.♙xe2 ♙xe2, he suddenly finds himself in danger of losing.

As Black is seeking counterplay against the white king, it is logical to exchange the queens, allowing the white pawn phalanx to move forward.

28...♖e2! 29.♖f2!

Again best. Not much is promised by 29.♖xe2 ♙xe2 30.♙c1 ♙e1+ (30...♙e4 31.♙f1 ♙c2 32.♙f4 ♙d8 33.♙e5 gxf6 34.♙xf6 ♙e8 35.g5 ♙d5 36.♙e5 ♙xe5 37.dxe5 ♙xc5 = Banikas,H-Sokolov,A Ermioni 2006) 31.♙f2 ♙be8 ∞.

29...♖xg4

29...♖d3 30.♙f1 ♖e4 31.h3 ±.

30.h3! ♖g5

30...♖h5 31.♙e1 and the pawns will roll.

31.♙c1!

Transferring the bishop to a better position, after which it will be virtually impossible for Black to cope with White's passed pawns. 31.d5? ♙e4 ± would have been a blunder.

31...♖h5?!

Black should have tried 31...♖xf6 32.♖xf6 gxf6 33.♙f4 ♙bc8 34.♙b7 ♙cd8 35.d5 ♙e4 36.♙e1, although his position would not be that attractive.

32.♙f4 ♙bd8

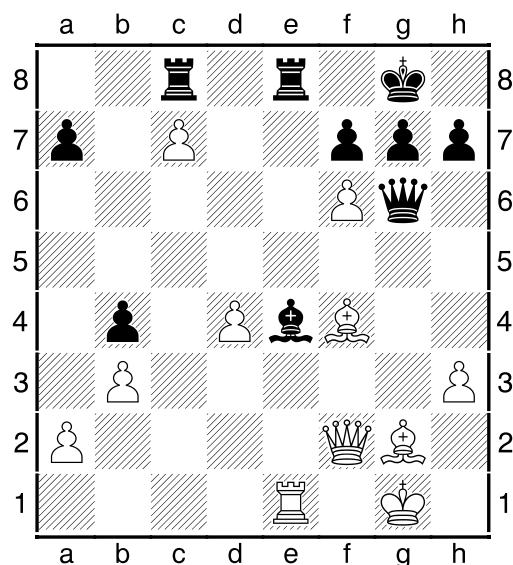
32...♙e2 33.♖g3 ♙be8 34.♙f3.

33.c6 ♙e4

33...♙e2 34.c7 ♙c8 35.♖f3 ♖xf3 36.♙xf3 ♙c2 37.♙e1 gxf6 38.♙e7 with a triumphant d-pawn march.

34.c7 ♙c8 35.♙e1 ♖g6 (D)

35...♙xg2 36.♙xe8+ ♙xe8 37.♖xg2 ♖d1+ 38.♙h2 g6 39.♖e4! ♙c8 40.d5 .0.



36. ♖xe4!

Another exchange sacrifice, and again on the e4-square. Two white bishops and two pawns are worth two black rooks!

36... ♖xe4 37.d5 ♖ce8

37... ♖ee8 38.d6 ♖b1+ 39.♔h2 ♖d1 40.fxg7 a5 41.♖d2 .0.

38.d6

38.♔h2 ♖f5 39.♙xe4 ♖xe4 (39... ♖xe4 40.c8 ♖+! ♖xc8 41.♖g2 g5 42.♖xe4 gxf4 43.d6) 40.d6 ♖d3 41.fxg7 .0.

38... ♖e1+ 39.♔h2 ♖f5 40.♖g3 g6 41.♖g5!

The most precise. Without the queens, Black is hopeless - no counterplay!

41... ♖xg5 42.♙xg5 ♖d1 43.♙c6 ♖e2+

43... ♖c8 44.♙f4.

44.♙g3

1-0



The Endgame Concept

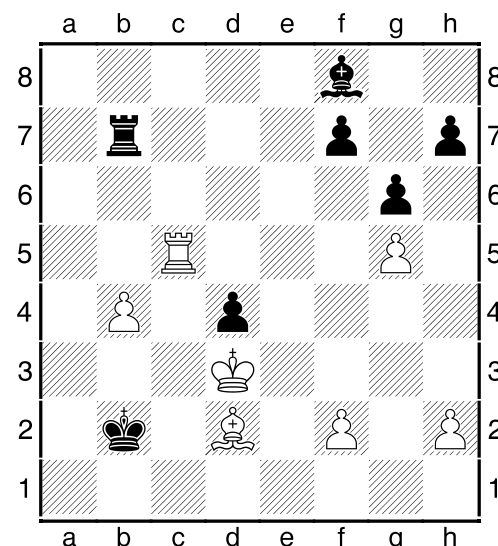
The exchange sacrifice in the endgame is a rare occurrence, but still does exist and we should also take note of it. Just three examples will give us some insight on the subject and the way we might (should) handle this sensitive possibility.

□ Grivas Efstratios

■ Marinkovic Ivan

A57 Leningrad 1989

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.♙g5 ♘e4 5.♙f4 bxc4 6.♖c2 ♘f6 7.e4 e6 8.♘c3 ♙b7 9.♙xc4 exd5 10.exd5 d6 11.♖e2+ ♖e7 12.♘b5 ♖xe2+ 13.♘xe2 ♔d7 14.0-0 ♘a6 15.♖fd1 ♙e7 16.a3 ♖hc8 17.♖ac1 ♘e8 18.♘g3 ♘ac7 19.♘f5 ♙f8 20.b4 cxb4 21.axb4 ♙a6 22.♘a3 ♙xc4 23.♖xc4 ♘f6 24.♘e3 ♖ab8 25.g4 ♘b5 26.♖xc8 ♙xc8 27.♖c1+ ♔d7 28.♘xb5 ♖xb5 29.♖a1 ♘xd5 30.♘xd5 ♖xd5 31.♖xa7+ ♙e6 32.♙e3 ♖b5 33.♙d2 d5 34.♖a4 d4 35.♙g2 ♔d5 36.♙f3 ♙c4 37.♙e4 g6 38.g5 ♙g7 39.♖a5 ♖b7 40.♖c5+ ♙b3 41.♙d3 ♙f8 42.♖c1 ♙b2 43.♖c4 ♙g7 44.♖c5 ♙f8 (D)



45.♔xd4!

The only way to avoid an immediate draw, but also the best continuation. White sacrificed the exchange in order to create winning chances. His decision is mostly based on the activity of his king and the distant king of the opponent, and not on calculating endless and complicated variations. Over the board, the facts and the instinct (based on experience) can prove to be highly important.

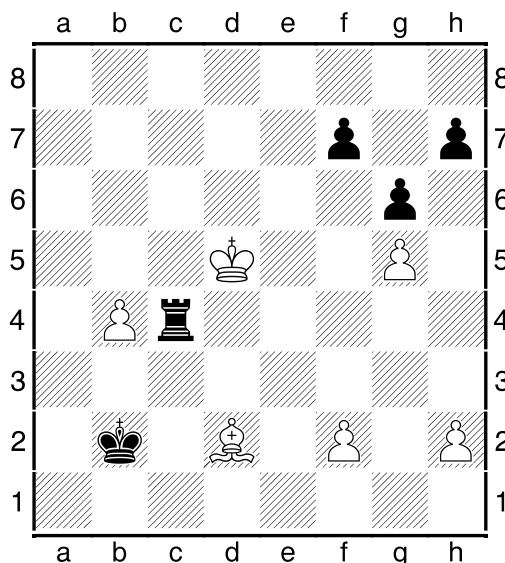
45... ♙xc5+ 46.♔xc5

46.bxc5? ♖d7+ 47.♔e3 ♖d5 0. would have been mistaken.

46... ♖c7+ 47.♔d6 ♖c4

Black's rook must stay active: 47... ♖b7 48.♔c6 ♖b8 49.b5 ♖c8+ 50.♔b7 ♖c2 51.♙e3 .0.

48.♔d5! (D)



48... ♖h4?!

Losing relatively quickly and without a real fight. Similarly easy is 48... ♖c8?! 49. ♕f4 ♖b3 50.b5 ♖b4 51.b6 ♖c5+ 52. ♕d6 ♖b5 53. ♕d2+ ♖a4 54. ♕c7 .0, but Black should have created more problems for White with the active 48... ♖c2, when White would have to find 49. ♕f4! (49. ♕e3? ♖b3 50.b5 ♖b4 51.b6 ♖a5 52. ♕d6 ♖a6 53. ♕e7 ♖c4 =) 49... ♖xf2 (49... ♖b3 50.b5 ♖a4 51.b6 ♖b2 52. ♕c7 .0) 50. ♕e5+ ♖b3 51.b5 ♖a2 (51... ♖d2+ 52. ♕d4 ♖xh2 53.b6 ♖e2 54.b7 ♖e8 55. ♕e5 .0) 52. ♕c7! (52.b6? ♖a5+ 53. ♕d6 ♖b5 54. ♕d4 ♖xg5 55. ♕c6 ♖c4 56.b7 ♖xd4 57.b8 ♖ ♖c5+ 58. ♕d6 ♖h5 =) 52... ♕b4 (52... ♖g2 53.h4 or 52... ♖d2+ 53. ♕c6 ♖c2+ 54. ♕d7 ♖c5 55.b6 ♖xg5 56.b7 ♖b5 57.b8 ♖ ♖xb8 58. ♕xb8 .0) 53.b6 ♖a5+ 54. ♕d6 ♖xg5 55.b7 ♖b5 56.b8 ♖ ♖xb8 57. ♕xb8 .0. Even if there is some well hidden drawing line for Black somewhere, White's decision to sacrifice the exchange was quite correct, as he never was in danger of losing and, anyway, had no way to improve!

49.b5 ♖xh2 50. ♕e3! .0

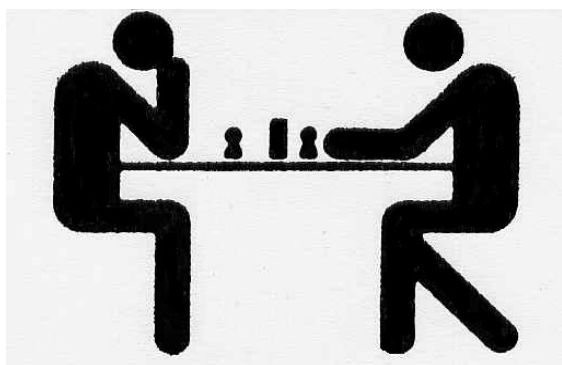
Now, not only the black king but also the black rook has abandoned the battlefield.

50... ♕c3 51.b6 ♖h1 52.b7 ♖b1 53. ♕c6 ♕d3

53... ♖xb7 54. ♕xb7 ♕d3 55. ♕c6 ♕e4 56. ♕d6 ♕f5 57. ♕e7 .0.

54. ♕b6

1-0



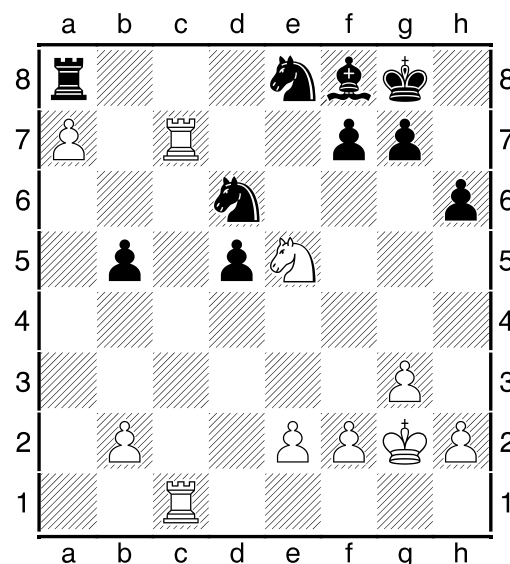
□ Almasi Istvan

■ Ionescu Constantin

A30 Zalakaros 1998

1. ♖f3 ♖f6 2.c4 c5 3.g3 b6 4. ♕g2 ♕b7 5.0-0 e6 6. ♖c3 a6 7.d4 cxd4 8. ♖xd4 d6

9. ♖g5 ♕xg2 10. ♕xg2 ♖c6 11. ♖f4 ♖a7 12. ♖d1 ♖d7 13. ♕e3 ♕e7 14. ♖a4 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16. ♖b6 ♖b7 17. ♖ac1 ♖a7 18. ♖d4 h6 19. ♖f3 0-0 20.a4 e5 21. ♖c3 ♖xb6 22. ♕xb6 ♖xb6 23. ♖c7 ♖c8 24. ♖c6 ♖xc7 25. ♖xc7 ♖e8 26.a5 d5 27. ♖dc1 ♖d6 28.a6 ♕f8 29.a7 ♖a8 30. ♖xe5 ♖fe8 (D)



White seems to be on the verge of winning, thanks to his strong, passed a-pawn, which is close to promotion. But he faces some problems with the black defensive pieces.

31. ♖d7!

The exchange sacrifice is the solution! Actually, White sacrifices his c1-rook, which is somewhat 'useless' in the game's natural course.

31... ♖xc7 32. ♖xc7

Now the threat is of course ♖b6.

32... ♖c8

The alternative was 32... ♖c4 33.b3 ♕d6 34. ♖b7 ♖a5 35. ♖b6! ♖e8 (35... ♖xb7 36. ♖xa8 ♕c5 37. ♖b6 .0) 36. ♖d7 ♕c5 37.a8 ♖ ♖xa8 38. ♖xa8 .0.

33. ♖xc8! ♖xc8 34. ♖b8 ♕d6 35.a8 ♖ ♖xb8 36. ♖xd5

And White went on to win smoothly.

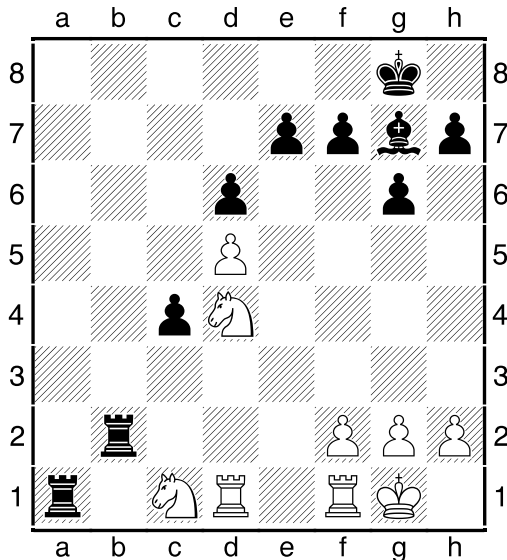
36... ♕f8 37. ♖e5 ♖b7 38. ♖e8 b4 39.b3 ♖e7 40. ♖b5 ♖e6 41. ♖c4 g6 42.e4 ♖e5 43. ♖d4 ♖a5 44.e5 ♖a6 45. ♖d5 h5 46.f4 ♖a2+ 47. ♕h3 ♖e2 48. ♖d3 ♖e1 49. ♖d2 ♖b1 50. ♖d3 ♖e1 51. ♖d2 ♖b1 52.e6 ♖xb3 53. ♖d7

1-0

□ Grivas Efstratios
 ■ Gocheva Rumiana

A57 Kallithea 2007

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.♘f3 g6 5.♘fd2
 ♙g7 6.e4 d6 7.cxb5 a6 8.♘c3 0-0 9.bxa6
 ♘bd7 10.♙e2 ♙xa6 11.0-0 ♙xe2
 12.♙xe2 ♙a5 13.♘c4 ♙a6 14.♙d2 ♖fb8
 15.a4 ♘e5 16.♘xe5 ♙xe2 17.♘xe2 ♘xe4
 18.♘c4 ♘xd2 19.♘xd2 ♖xb2 20.♖ad1
 ♖xa4 21.♘c1 c4 22.♘f3 ♖a1 23.♘d4 (D)



23... ♖xc1?!

Black should have continued pressurizing White with 23...c3! 24.♘de2 c2 (a monster on the 7th rank!) 25.♖d3 ♖b4. The transition into an ending with an exchange less can hardly offer any winning chances.

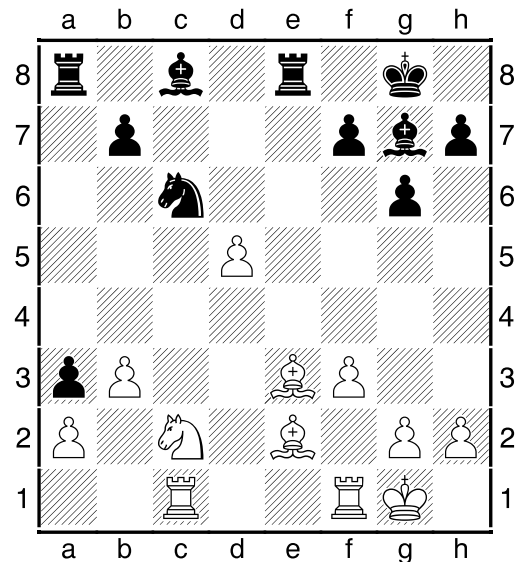
24.♖xc1 ♙xd4 25.♖xc4 ♖d2 26.♖cc1!
 ♙c5 27.♖fd1!

White's d-pawn is more important than his f-pawn, as Black will not be able to create a passed pawn: 27.g3?! ♖xd5 28.♖c2 ♙g7 ♞.

27... ♙xf2+ 28.♙f1 ♖a2 29.♖a1 ♖b2
 30.♖ab1 ♖a2 31.♖d3 ♙h4 32.♖b4
 1/2-1/2

□ Gustafsson Jan
 ■ Kramnik Vladimir
 E94 Dortmund 2012

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6
 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.♙e3 c6 8.0-0 exd4
 9.♘xd4 ♖e8 10.f3 d5 11.cxd5 ♘xd5
 12.♘xd5 cxd5 13.♖c1 a5 14.♙b3 a4
 15.♙xd5 ♙xd5 16.exd5 a3 17.b3 ♘c6
 18.♘c2 (D)



The bishop pair and a dangerous passed pawn can be very strong in the endgame. So, Black's next move wasn't really all that surprising...

18... ♖xe3!!

An amazing shot that was prepared by Kramnik. His initiative on the dark squares and his play against the pawn on a2 compensate the exchange. Furthermore his position is much easier to play than White's. Note that 18...♘b4? 19.♘xb4 ♖xe3 20.♙f2 just plays into White's hands.

19.♘xe3 ♘b4 20.♖c4?!

White plans to exchange rooks, but this costs too much time. 20.♖c7 was called for: 20... ♙d4 (20...♘xa2 21.d6! ∞) 21.♖e7 ♘xd5 (M.Krasenkov proposes 21...♙f5! 22.♖d1! ♙c5 23.d6 ♘xa2, when he believes that in this sharp position Black keeps better prospects after all. The alternative 21...♘xa2 just leads to a draw after 22.♖e8+ ♙g7 23.d6 ♘c3 24.♙f2! ♘d5 25.d7 ♙xe3+ 26.♙g3 ♙f4+ 27.♙f2 ♙e3+ =) 22.♖e8+ ♙g7 23.♙h1 ♘xe3 24.♖c1 ♘d5 25.♖cxc8 ♖xc8 26.♖xc8 ♘c3 27.♖xc3 ♙xc3 =. Well, of course 'this is the computer line. Good luck finding that' - GM A.Ramirez on chessbase.com.

20... ♘xa2 21.♖a4?

But this is the real mistake. 21.♘c2! offers far more resistance as the a-pawn can be kept under control: 21...♘c3 22.♙d3 a2 23.♖a1 ♙f8 24.♖c7 ♘xd5 25.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 26.♖xa2 and Black has a dangerous

initiative, but not more.

21... ♖xa4 22.bxa4 ♙d4 23.♙f2?!

23. ♙c4 was the last practical chance, but Black must be winning in the long run after 23... ♙xe3+ 24. ♙h1 ♘b4 25. ♖a1 ♙c5 26. ♖xa3 ♘xd5 27. ♖b3 (after 27. ♖d3 ♘e7 Black should have enough material plus to win) 27... ♘e7 due to his powerful bishops.

23... ♘b4 24. ♖c1

24. ♖d1 does not help due to 24... ♘c2 (24... ♙a7 25. ♙c4 ♘c2 26. ♖d3 ♙f5 27. ♖c3 ♘xe3 28. ♖xe3 ♙b1 29. d6 ♙f8 30. d7 ♙xe3+ 31. ♙xe3 ♙e7 0.) 25. ♖xd4 ♘xd4 26. ♙c4 ♙d7 0..

24...a2! 25. ♖xc8+ ♙g7 26. ♖c1 ♘xd5 27. ♖d1 ♘xe3

And Black resigned due to 28. ♖xd4 a1 ♙ 29. ♙xe3 ♙g1+ 0.. Good 'preparation' by V.Kramnik.

0-1

A Special Case

In the present sub-chapter we will see a special case where the exchange survives. Our first example is quite old and a must for every 'schoolboy':

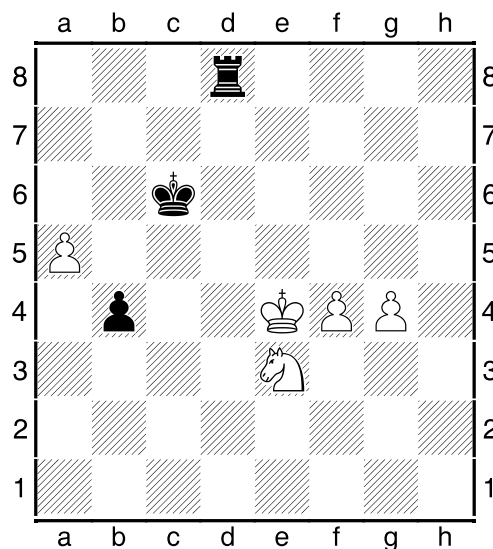
□ Lasker Emanuel

■ Lasker Edward

C99 New York 1924

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6. ♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♙c7 12.♘bd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♙d7 14.♘f1 ♖fc8 15. ♖e2 ♘h5 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.♘xe5 ♙xh3 18.♘xf7 ♙e6 19.♘g5 ♙c4 20.♙d3 ♖d8 21. ♖c2 ♘f4 22. ♙xf4 ♙xf4 23.♘h3 ♙e5 24.♙xc4+ ♘xc4 25. ♙e2 ♖d4 26.f3 ♖ad8 27. ♖ac1 ♙c5 28. ♙h1 ♙b4 29.b3 ♘d2 30.♘e3 ♙a3 31. ♖d1 ♙b4 32.a3 ♙a5 33.b4 ♙c7 34.f4 ♘xe4 35. ♙h2 ♖xd1 36.♘xd1 ♙e7 37. ♖xc7 ♙xc7 38. ♙xe4 ♙c4 39. ♙e7 ♙c8 40.♘df2 h6 41. ♙a7 ♙e6 42. ♙b7 ♙d5 43. ♙b6 ♖d6 44. ♙e3 ♖e6 45. ♙c3 ♙c4 46. ♙f3 ♙c6 47. ♙d3 ♖d6 48. ♙b3+ ♙d5 49. ♙b1 ♖e6 50. ♘g4 ♖e2 51. ♘h6+ g6 52. ♙g6+ ♙f8 53. ♙xh6+ ♙e8 54. ♙g6+ ♙d8 55. ♙g3 ♖e8 56. ♙f2 ♖g8 57. ♙b2 ♙d6 58. ♙c3 ♙d7 59. ♙f3 ♙c7 60. ♙e4 ♖g7 61. ♙f5 ♖e7 62. ♘g5 ♖e3 63. ♘e4 ♙e7 64. ♘f6

♙b8 65.g3 ♖xa3 66. ♙h3 ♖a1 67. ♘d5 ♖h1+ 68. ♙g2 ♙h7 69. ♙xh7 ♖xh7 70. ♙f3 ♙b7 71.g4 ♙c6 72. ♙e4 ♖h8 73. ♘e3 ♖e8+ 74. ♙d4 ♖d8+ 75. ♙e4 a5 76.bxa5 b4 (D)



A famous and well-known position for the drawing mechanism which appeared... It seems that the black b-pawn is a reliable force and, as the white king cannot approach it, the pride of Black!

77.a6!

The right method. White will sacrifice his entire pawn army to ensure his king's involvement in the stoppage of the last black pawn.

77... ♙c5 78.a7 b3 79. ♘d1 ♖a8 80.g5! ♖xa7 81.g6 ♖d7 82. ♘b2 ♖d2

A clever try, but White is on the alert.

83. ♙f3! ♖d8

Not of course 83... ♖xb2? 84.g7 ♖g2 85. ♙xg2 b2 86.g8 ♙ b1 ♙ 87. ♙f8+ and White wins in 55 moves according to my tablebases!

84. ♙e4 ♖d2 85. ♙f3 ♖d8 86. ♙e4 ♙d6

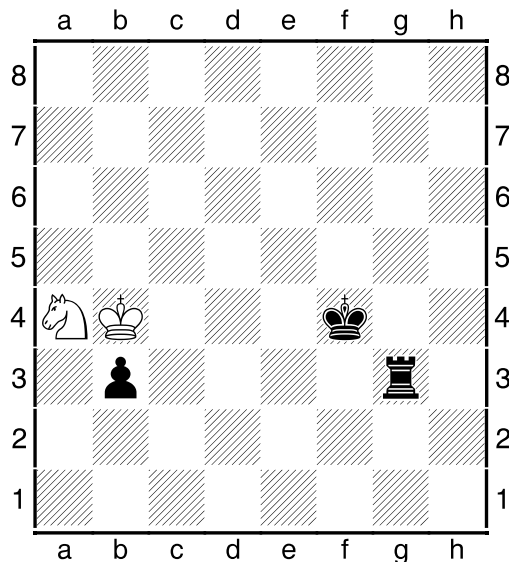
Nothing else to try...

87. ♙d4! ♖c8 88.g7 ♙e6 89.g8 ♙+ ♖xg8 90. ♙c4 ♖g3

There is not much difference for the outcome by protecting the pawn from the file, but there is still a trap to deal with: 90... ♖b8 91. ♙c3 ♙f5 92. ♘c4! (it is important to force the pawn to his last but one rank. 92. ♙c4? is losing: 92... ♙xf4 93. ♙c3 ♙e3 94. ♘c4+ ♙e2 95. ♘b2 ♙e1! and Black will penetrate via d2 or d1,

winning) 92...♔xf4 93.♘d2 b2 94.♔c2 ♚b7 95.♘b1 and the position is drawn, as the black king cannot attack the knight from behind - this is why White had to force the pawn to the second rank.

91.♘a4 ♕f5 92.♕b4 ♔xf4 (D)



And here we have a theoretical drawn position, as Black cannot make progress.

93.♘b2 ♕e4

Black cannot penetrate via the last rank, as this would take too much time, allowing White to capture the pawn: 93...♔g4 94.♘c4 ♕h3 95.♔a3 ♕g2 96.♘d2.

94.♘a4 ♕d4 95.♘b2 ♚f3 96.♘a4!

The only move! 96.♘c4 loses to 96...♚f8 97.♘b2 ♚b8+ 98.♔a3 ♕c3 and 96.♘d1 loses to 96...♕d3!

96...♚e3 97.♘b2 ♕e4 98.♘a4 ♕f3 99.♔a3 ♕e4 100.♕b4 ♕d4 101.♘b2 ♚h3 102.♘a4 ♕d3 103.♕xb3 ♕d4+ 1/2-1/2

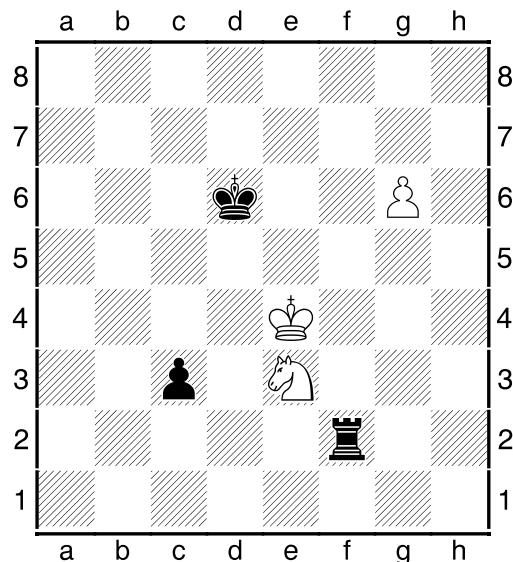
□ Morozevich Alexander

■ Van Kampen Robin

C67 Warsaw 2013

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♚xd8+ ♕xd8 9.♘c3 ♗d7 10.b3 b6 11.♗b2 ♕c8 12.♚ad1 h5 13.♘e2 ♗e7 14.♘f4 ♗e8 15.g3 ♕b7 16.h4 c5 17.c4 ♗c6 18.♘g5 ♗xg5 19.hxg5 h4 20.g4 h3 21.♕h2 ♚h4 22.f3 ♘e3 23.♚de1 ♘g2 24.♕g3 ♘xe1 25.♚xe1 h2 26.♕xh4 ♗xf3 27.e6 fxe6 28.♗xg7 e5 29.♕g3 h1♚ 30.♚xh1 ♗xh1 31.♗xe5 ♗e4 32.♘d5 ♗b1 33.a3 ♚g8 34.♗f6 ♗a2 35.♘e7 ♚e8

36.b4 cxb4 37.axb4 ♗xc4 38.g6 a5 39.bxa5 bxa5 40.♘f5 a4 41.♗b2 ♚e2 42.♗f6 a3 43.g7 a2 44.g5 ♚e1 45.♘h6 a1♚ 46.♗xa1 ♚xa1 47.g8♚ ♗xg8 48.♘xg8 c5 49.♘e7 c4 50.♘f5 c3 51.♘e3 ♚g1+ 52.♕f4 ♕c6 53.♕f5 ♕d6 54.g6 ♚g3 55.♘c2 ♚g2 56.♘e3 ♚f2+ 57.♕e4 (D)



A critical game from the match Netherlands-Russia in the European Team Championship 2013. At this moment Russia was leading 2-1.

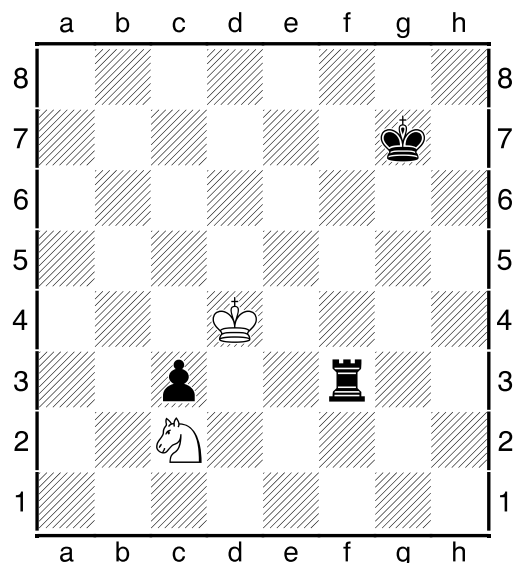
57...♕e6?

Black decided to play it 'safe'! The obvious 57...c2 was curtains and a 2-2 final result.

58.g7! ♕f7 59.♕d3 ♚f3

Black thought he had an easy win, but obviously he was unaware of the Laskers' game!

60.♕d4 ♕xg7 61.♘c2 (D)



And finally, almost the same position (on the c-file instead of the b-file) is on the board. The drawing mechanism is easy and White knew what to do, giving the win to his team...

61...♔f6 62.♔c4 ♕e5 63.♘b4 ♔e4
64.♘c2 ♚h3 65.♘b4 ♚g3 66.♘c2 ♚f3
67.♘b4 ♕f5 68.♘c2 ♕g4 69.♘d4 ♚g3
70.♔b3!

It is time to win the pawn, before it is too late; the black king penetrates from behind!

70...♚e3 71.♘b5 ♕f4 72.♘xc3 ♔e5
73.♔c4 ♚h3 74.♘b5 ♚h8 75.♘c3 ♚c8+
76.♔d3 ♚d8+ 77.♔c4 ♚d4+ 78.♔c5
♚d3 79.♔c4 ♚xc3+ 80.♔xc3

½-½

Yes, these two ‘similar’ examples are a rare bird. But obviously, old endgame theory still survives and must be known by the young players...

Knowledge should be correctly absorbed, as it is quite likely that you gonna need to apply it!

The Passive Concept

As all the previous concepts were focused on the active exchange sacrifice, the reader might get the wrong impression that our subject has no passive side.

Not every exchange sacrifice is made only to create winning chances and obtain the initiative; there are also exchange sacrifices with the purpose of defending. We call them ‘passive’, as was already described in the introduction.

This type of exchange sacrifice is more easily acceptable during a game, as in most of the cases there is no decent alternative.

But of course, here we will examine games where the exchange sacrifice was not just the last step before resigning, but rather the best option in a cramped or inferior position, where special measures had to be taken.

The Old Days

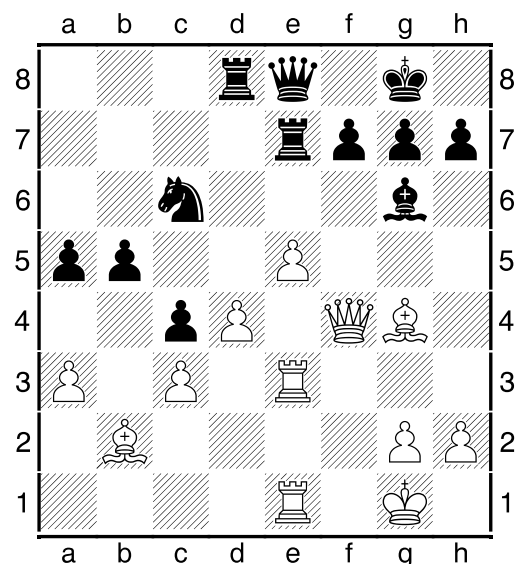
And who better than Tigran Petrosian can help us to understand the old days?

□ Reshevsky Samuel

■ Petrosian Tigran

E58 Zurich 1953

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 0-0
5.♙d3 d5 6.♘f3 c5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.a3 ♙xc3
9.bxc3 b6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♙b2 c4 12.♙c2
♙g4 13.♚e1 ♘e4 14.♘d2 ♘xd2 15.♚xd2
♙h5 16.f3 ♙g6 17.e4 ♚d7 18.♚ae1 dxe4
19.fxe4 ♚fe8 20.♚f4 b5 21.♙d1 ♚e7
22.♙g4 ♚e8 23.e5 a5 24.♚e3 ♚d8
25.♚fe1 (D)



A famous example. Petrosian did not like his position, as White is threatening to continue with h4, or ♙f3 and d5 if the c6-knight moves.

25...♚e6!

An exchange sacrifice born of necessity. Black’s compensation will lie in:

1. Extinguishing White's initiative.
2. Taking full control of the light squares.
3. Creating a strong fortress.

26.a4

26.h4 ♘e7 is no different. White has to accept the sacrifice.

26...♘e7!

26...b4? 27.d5! ♚xd5 28.♙xe6 fxe6
29.♚xc4 ±.

27.♙xe6 fxe6 28.♚f1

28.♚f2 ♘d5 29.♚f3 b4 would be ideal for Black.

28...♘d5 29.♚f3 ♙d3 30.♚xd3!

White correctly returns the exchange, as any queen move would have allowed 30...b4.

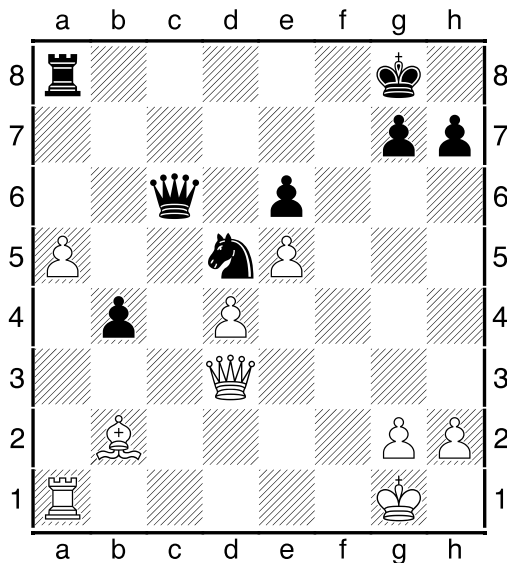
30...cxd3 31.♚xd3 b4! 32.cxb4

32.c4? ♘b6 33.♚c1 (33.d5 exd5 34.c5 ♘c4
35.♙d4 ♚e6) 33...♘xa4 34.♙a1 ♘b6 ♠.

32...axb4

Also good was 32...♘xb4 33.♚b5 (33.♚b3 ♘d5) 33...♚xb5 34.axb5 ♘d3 35.♖e2 ♙b8 36.♖d2 ♙xb5 37.♖xd3 ♙xb2 38.d5 =.

33.a5 ♖a8 34.♖a1 ♚c6 (D)



Black is now only a pawn down, but his superior minor piece provides more than enough compensation.

35.♙c1 ♚c7

Now, another exchange sacrifice with 35... ♖xa5? 36.♖xa5 ♚xc1+ 37.♚f1 ♚e3+ 38.♙h1 h6 39.♖a8+ ♙h7 40.♚b1+ g6 41.♖a7+ ♙h8 42.h3 .0 simply fails!

36.a6 ♚b6 37.♙d2 b3 38.♚c4 h6 39.h3 b2 40.♖b1 ♙h8 41.♙e1

There is nothing left to do for either side. I am sure that Black would have lost the game if he had not found the necessary 25... ♖e6!. ½-½

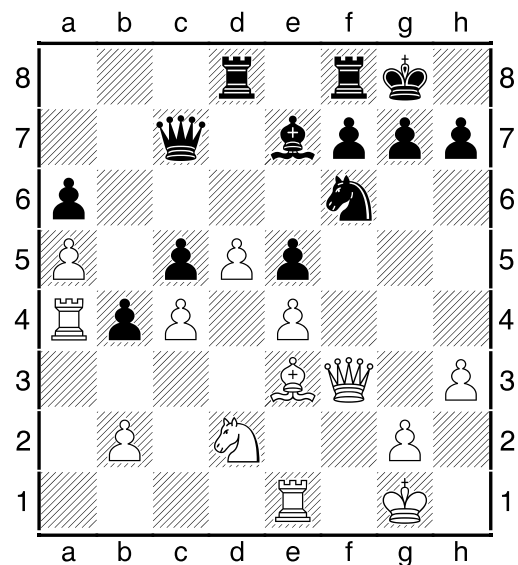


□ Tal Mihail

■ Petrosian Tigran

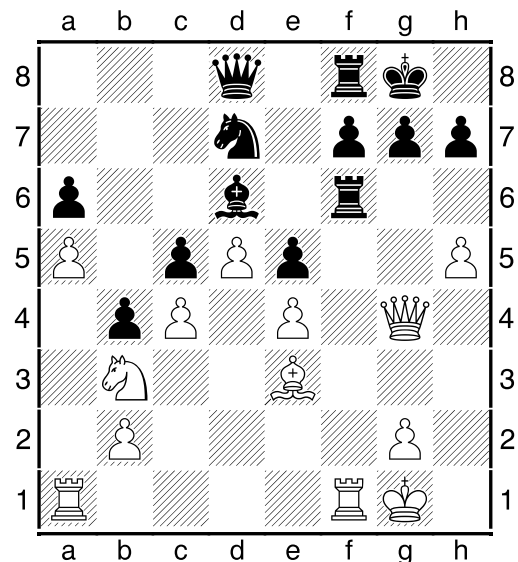
C97 Riga 1958

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♚c7 12.♘bd2 ♙d7 13.♘f1 ♘c4 14.♘e3 ♘xe3 15.♙xe3 ♙e6 16.♘d2 ♖fe8 17.f4 ♖ad8 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.d5 ♙d7 20.c4 ♖b8 21.a4 b4 22.a5 ♖f8 23.♙a4 ♙xa4 24.♖xa4 ♖bd8 25.♚f3 (D)



A natural follow-up for Black would be something like ...♘e8-d6, blockading the passed white d-pawn and exchanging the bishop by ...♙g5 or ...♙h4. But, as his position would then be a bit cramped, Petrosian had already worked out a better option in his mind.

25... ♖d6! 26.♘b3 ♘d7 27.♖aa1 ♖g6 28.♖f1 ♙d6 29.h4 ♚d8 30.h5 ♖f6 31.♚g4 (D)



31... ♖f4!

Suddenly comes the point! As Petrosian said 25 years later: 'my mind worked in some other way then!'

32.♙xf4

32. ♖xf4 exf4 33.♙xf4 ♙xf4 34.♚xf4 ♚e7 intending ...♘e5 is unclear, as Black has good play against White's weak pawns as compensation for his (little) sacrificed

material.

32...exf4

Let's see what Black achieved by his exchange sacrifice:

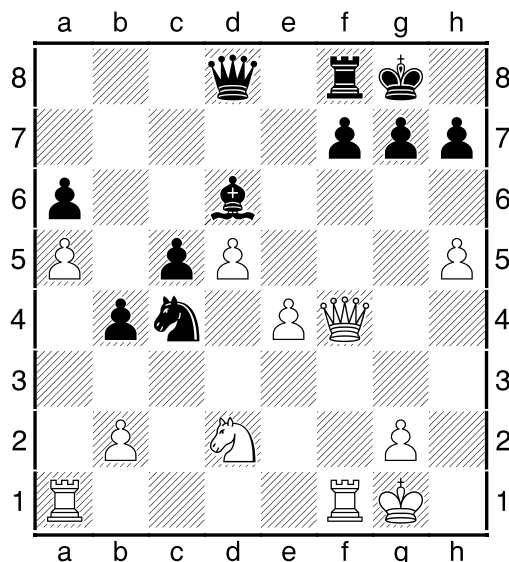
1. He no longer has a cramped position.
2. His minor pieces are well placed and active.
3. The a5-pawn is a target for the dark-squared bishop.
4. Full control of the dark squares.
5. An important outpost on the e5-square.
6. A somewhat exposed white king.

But do not let yourself get carried away by all these positive aspects; White still is an exchange up, so an interesting battle is on the cards.

33.♘d2 ♘e5 34.♙xf4

White could try 34.♙f5 g6 35.♙h3 ♙g5 ♞.

34...♘xc4 (D)



35.e5!?

Maybe it is time to acquiesce in splitting the point with 35.♙f2 ♘xd2 36.♙xd2 ♙h4 37.♞f3 ♞e8 38.♞e1 ♙h2+ 39.♞f1 ♙h1+ 40.♞f2 ♙h4+, but Tal was never in a peaceful mood, especially in his younger years.

35...♘xe5?!

Too optimistic. The natural continuation is 35...♘xd2 36.exd6 ♘xf1 37.♞xf1 h6 =.

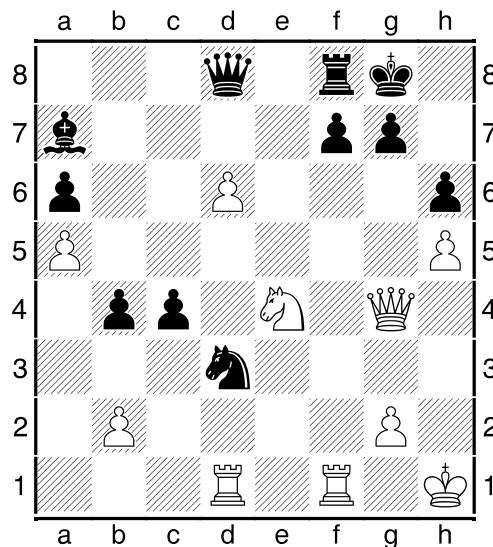
36.♘e4 h6 37.♞ae1?

A serious mistake, returning the favour. Good was 37.b3 ♘b8 38.d6 and White is on top.

37...♘b8! 38.♞d1 c4!

Now it is Black who has the better chances, as a new, important outpost has appeared on the d3-square. White's king is in trouble.

39.d6 ♘d3 40.♙g4 ♘a7+ 41.♞h1 (D)



41...f5! 42.♘f6+

Or 42.♞xf5 ♞xf5 43.♙xf5 ♙h4+ 44.♙h3 ♙xe4 0..

42...♞h8

42...♙xf6? 43.♙xc4+ ♞h7 44.♞xd3 0..

43.♙xc4 ♘xb2 44.♙xa6 ♘xd1 45.♙xa7 ♙xd6

Also OK was 45...♘c3 46.♙e7 gxf6 47.♞xf5 ♙xe7 48.dxe7 ♞e8 49.♞xf6 ♞xe7 50.♞xh6+ ♞h7! (50...♞g7? 51.♞b6 =).

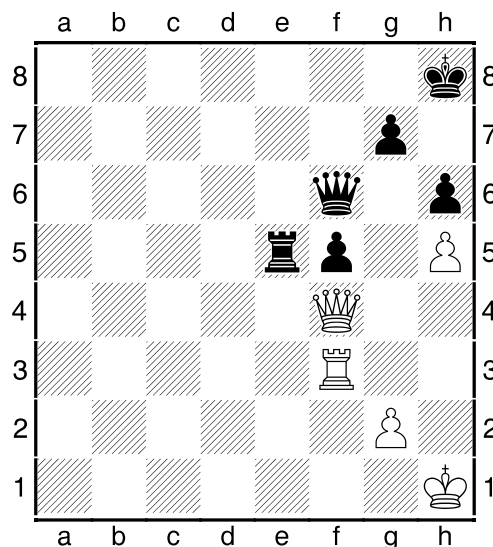
46.♙d7 ♙xf6?!

46...♞d8! 47.♙xd6 ♞xd6 0..

47.♙xd1 ♞b8! 48.♞f3 ♞a8?

A bad mistake. 48...♞b5 49.♙e1 ♞h7 0..

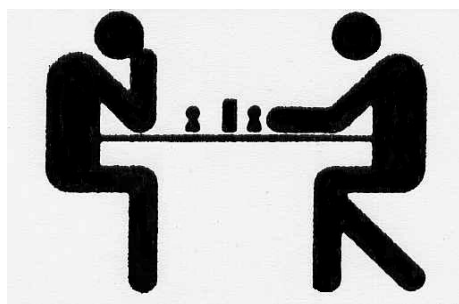
49.♙e1 ♞xa5 50.♙xb4 ♞e5 51.♙f4 (D)



Now Black tried to win for more than 20 moves, but his position no longer provides winning chances.

51...♔h7 52.♔h2 ♖d5 53.♖f1 ♔g5
54.♗f3 ♖e5 55.♔g1 ♖c5 56.♗f2 ♖e5
57.♗f3 ♖a5 58.♔h2 ♔h8 59.♔g1 ♖a2
60.♗d5 ♖c2 61.♗a8+ ♔h7 62.♗f3 ♖c1
63.♖xc1 ♗xc1+ 64.♔h2 ♗c7+ 65.♔h3
♗e5 66.g4 fxg4+ 67.♔xg4 ♗g5+ 68.♔h3
♗f6 69.♗e4+ ♔g8 70.♗e8+ ♗f8 71.♗xf8+
♔xf8 72.♔g4 ♔f7 73.♔f5

½-½



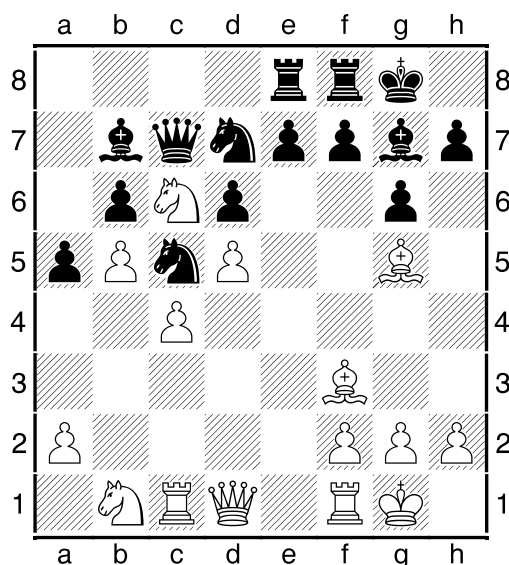
□ Portisch Lajos

■ Petrosian Tigran

A35 San Antonio 1972

1.c4 c5 2.♖c3 ♖c6 3.♖f3 g6 4.e3 ♔g7
5.d4 d6 6.♔e2 cxd4 7.exd4 ♖f6 8.d5 ♖b8
9.0-0 0-0 10.♔e3 ♖a6 11.♖b5 b6
12.♖fd4 ♔b7 13.♔f3 ♖d7 14.♗d2 ♖e5
15.♔e2 ♗c8 16.♖ac1 ♖c5 17.b4 ♖e4
18.♗d1 a6 19.♖a3 a5 20.b5 ♗c7 21.♖c6
♖ae8 22.♖b1 ♖d7 23.♔f3 ♖ec5 24.♔g5

(D)



The white knight on the c6-square applies a lot of pressure to Black's cramped position. Also, White has a direct threat: to invade the

e7-square.

24...e5!

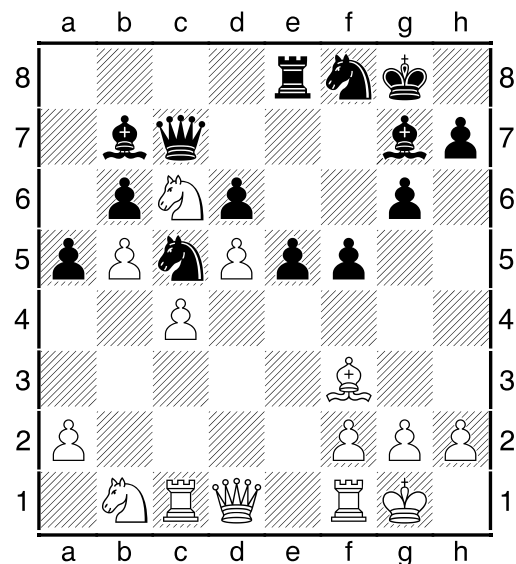
Black decides on an exchange sacrifice; a difficult decision, as 24...♖e5 25.♔e2 ♖e4 does not look bad for him, but the truth is that slowly but surely White will push him back. Black suffers from the absence of a sensible and active plan, a fact that cannot be described by plain move recitation.

25.♔e7

White's hand is forced, as after 25.dxe6 fxe6 26.♖d2 (26.♔e7?! ♖xc6 ♖) 26...♖b8 Black has nothing to complain about.

25...f5 26.♔xf8 ♖xf8 (D)

26...♖xf8 was certainly better, but it doesn't really change the nature of the position.



Let's see what Black has achieved with the exchange sacrifice he opted for:

1. A strong pawn centre.
2. No active play for White (no open files for the rooks).
3. Dark square control.
4. Excellent outpost on the c5-square.

On the contrary, White's c6-outpost is really irrelevant, as the c6-knight might in reality simply be out of play.

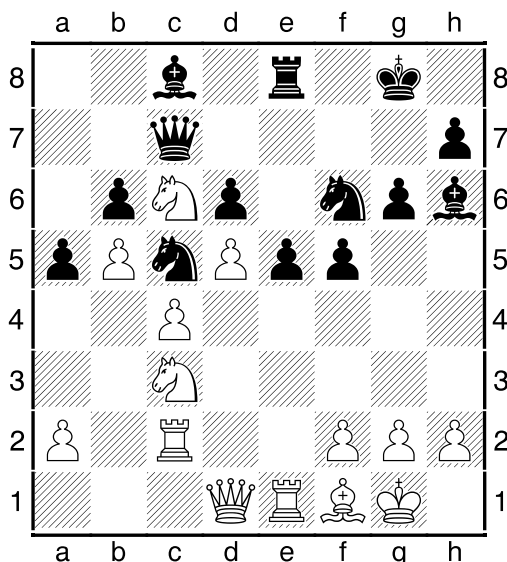
27.♔e2 ♔h6 28.♖c2 ♔c8 29.♖c3 ♖fd7

Black is regrouping his pieces to better squares or diagonals. On the contrary, White can only wait...

30.♖e1 ♖f6

There is no point in 30...e4 as the e5-square cannot really be used.

31.♔f1 (D)

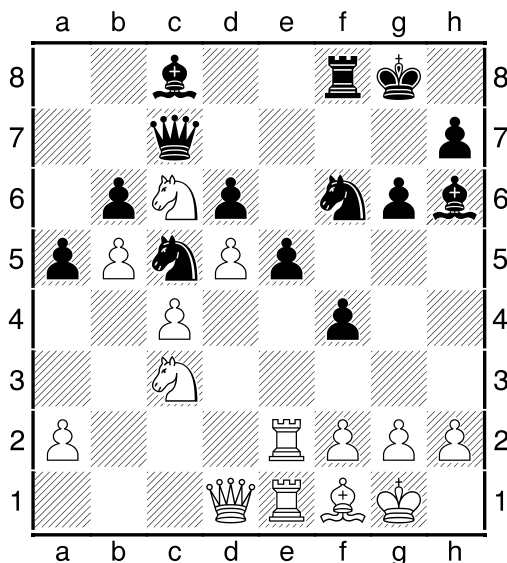


31...f4! 32. Rce2

The other option was 32.f3 ♖f5 33. Rb2 ♗g5 34.g4 fxg3 35.hxg3 h5, when Black will organize an assault on the white king. Note how the white rooks are just hanging around.

32...Rf8?! (D)

32...♗f5 ♞ was the correct follow-up.



33. ♖a4!

White grabbed his best chance: to exchange the strong c5-knight.

33...♖xa4 34. ♗xa4 ♖d7

Black would love to play 34...♗g5? first, but this fails to 35.c5! and White is on top.

35. ♖e7+

Also exchanging the 'useless' c6-knight.

35...♗h8 36. ♖xc8 ♗xc8 37. ♗a3 ♖c5 38. ♗f3 ♗f5 39.h3

Although Black made some inaccuracies, there was no way for White to exploit his extra exchange, as Black's remaining pieces are well placed. The players agreed to a draw in this approximately equal position.

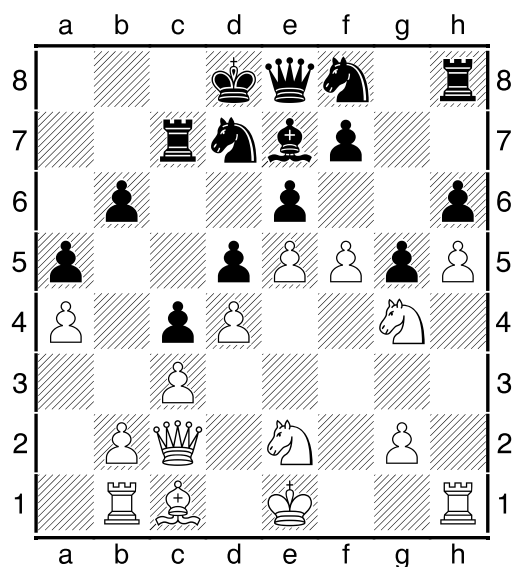
½-½

□ **Ljubojevic Ljubomir**

■ **Portisch Lajos**

C00 Petropolis 1973

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.♖d2 ♖f6 4.♖gf3 ♖c6 5.c3 a5 6.e5 ♖d7 7.d4 b6 8.h4 ♗e7 9.♗b5 ♖cb8 10.♖f1 ♗a6 11.♗xa6 ♖xa6 12.♗d3 h6 13.♖g3 ♖f8 14.♖h5 g6 15.♖f4 ♗d7 16.h5 g5 17.♖e2 c5 18.♖h2 c4 19.♗c2 ♖d8 20.♖g4 ♗e8 21.a4 ♖a7 22.♖b1 ♖c7 23.f4 ♖bd7 24.f5 (D)



It seems that something went wrong for Black already, as his position is quite passive and White enjoys a dangerous initiative on the kingside and especially on the f-file.

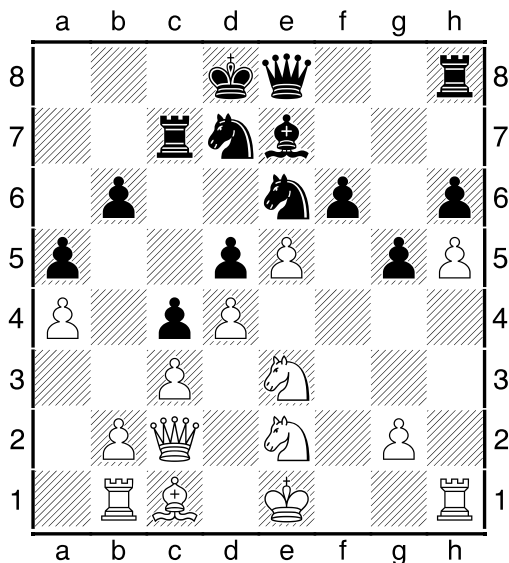
24...f6!

A daring continuation, which includes an exchange sacrifice by force. But the alternative 24...♗c8?! 25.0-0 ± couldn't be rosy for Black... So, the necessity to survive, 'forced' Black to be creative...

25.fxe6 ♖xe6 26.♖e3 (D)

The alternative was 26.exf6 ♖xf6 27.♖xf6 ♗xf6 28.♗f5, but after 28...♗g7! 29.♗xd5+ ♖d7 Black has sufficient counterplay for the pawn. But of course the move chosen by White is logical; after all how Black can

protect his d-pawn? I am sure that White was aware of the exchange sacrifice to come, but he evaluated his position as better.



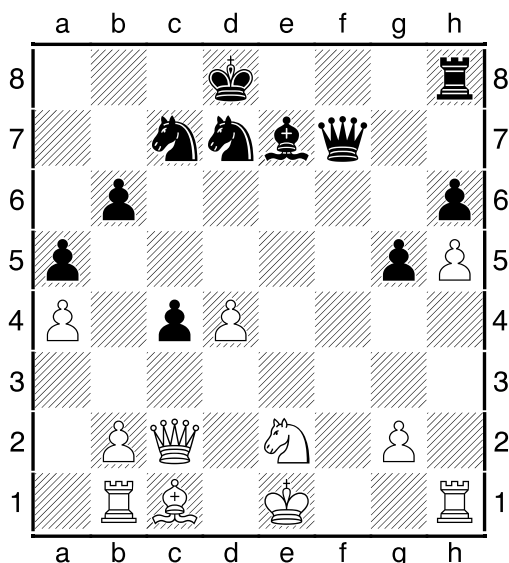
26...fxe5! 27.♞xd5 exd4! 28.♞xc7 ♞xc7?!
 28...♞xc7 is a far better move. After 29.cxd4 ♞b4+ 30.♞d1 (30.♞d2 ♞xd4 31.♞xc4+ ♞c5 ♞) 30...♞e5! 31.♞f1 (31.dxe5 ♞d7+ 32.♞d2 ♞d8 33.♞c3 ♞d4 34.e6! ♞xe6 ♞) 31...♞f8 ♞ Black should be happy with his position. As long as both kings are exposed, no side can feel safe...

29.cxd4

29.♞xd4 was interesting: 29...♞c5+ 30.♞e2 ♞xd4 31.cxd4 ♞f7 32.♞f1 ♞d5 ♞

29...♞f7?! (D)

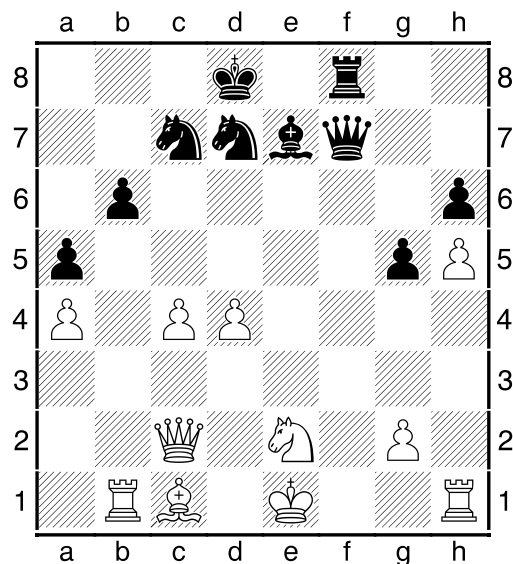
After a very good (although forced!) exchange sacrifice, Black slips a bit. Unclear was the 'obvious' 29...♞b4+ 30.♞d2 ♞d5!



30.b3?!

30.♞d2! ♞f8 31.♞c1 ♞f2+ 32.♞d1 ♞xg2 33.♞e1 ♞g4 34.♞xc4 ♞d6 was still messy, but White would have made progress.

30...♞f8 31.bxc4 (D)



31...♞f2+?!

Black again missed the bishop's check: 31...♞b4+! 32.♞xb4 (32.♞d2?? ♞f2+ 33.♞d1 ♞f1+ 34.♞xf1 ♞xf1+; 32.♞c3? ♞xc4 33.♞d2 ♞xd4 0.) 32...♞f2+ 33.♞d1 ♞xg2 34.♞g1 (34.♞e1 axb4 ♞) 34...♞f1+ 35.♞xf1 ♞xf1+ 36.♞d2 axb4, with equal chances.

32.♞d1 ♞xg2 33.♞e1 ♞a6 34.♞b3 ♞b4 35.♞g6 ♞f6 36.♞g8+ ♞c7 37.♞e3! ♞d6?!

It seems that 37...♞f8 was a bit better again. After 38.♞d2 ♞g4 Black is still in the game and quite alive!

38.♞d2 ♞f4

Black decided to sac another exchange, a concept that he prepared with his previous move and it is probably his best chance. 38...♞g4 loses to 39.♞a8.

39.♞xf4 ♞xf4 40.♞3e2 ♞f3

Here the game was agreed drawn (?!). White should be better after 41.♞xf4+ gxf4 42.♞g6 ♞b3+ 43.♞c2 ♞f3+ 44.♞ee2, but of course his king would be very exposed as well. Nevertheless, he could try...

½-½

<http://trainers.fide.com>

The New Era

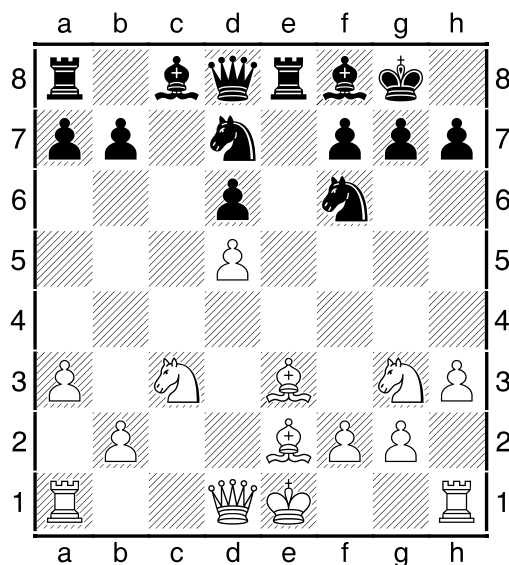
Every top player is aware of the concept and knows the pros and cons of it. Here we will examine some more recent examples:

□ Kasparov Garry

■ Andersson Ulf

E42 Moscow 1981

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 c5
5.♘ge2 cxd4 6.exd4 0-0 7.a3 ♙e7 8.d5
exd5 9.cxd5 ♖e8 10.♙e3 d6 11.h3 ♘bd7
12.♘g3 ♙f8 13.♙e2 (D)



White has gained more space and in general he seems to pose some pressure on Black's cramped position. But here the great Swedish player tries his 'usual' exchange sacrifice...

13... ♖xe3!? 14.fxe3 g6!

The main compensation here consists of the dark square domination and the strong e5-outpost. But of course this sac should be aiming at defensive purposes...

15.0-0 ♗e7 16.♗d4 ♙g7

After 16... ♙h6!? 17.♖f3 ♘e5 White can return the exchange with 18.♖f4!? (18.♖f2 ♘ed7 19.♘f1 ±) 18... ♙xf4 19.exf4 ±.

17.♗f4 ♘e8!?

An interesting idea, although 17... ♘e5 18.♖ac1 ♙d7 19.♘ce4 ♘xe4 20.♘xe4 f5 (20... ♙f5 21.♘g3) 21.♘d2 ♘f7 ∞ wasn't bad at all.

18.♖ac1 ♙e5 19.♗f2 ♘df6 20.♙d3 h5
21.♘ge2! ♘h7 22.♘f4 ♘f8

The natural-looking move 22... ♙d7? was losing to 23.♘h5! gxh5 24.♙xh7+ ♔xh7

25.♗xf7+ .0.

23.♘b5 a6 24.♘d4 ♙d7 25.♖c2

25.♘f3 ♙g7 26.♖fe1 ♘h7 27.e4 ♘g5 looks OK for Black.

25... ♙g7 26.♗g3 ♖b8 27.♖e2 ♘f6
28.♘f3 ♙e8!

Evacuating the d7-square for one of the black knights - the e5-square should be fully controlled!

29.e4 ♘6d7 30.♖c2 ♘e5 31.♘xe5 ♙xe5
32.♗f2 ♘d7

And the other knight comes to e5 as well!

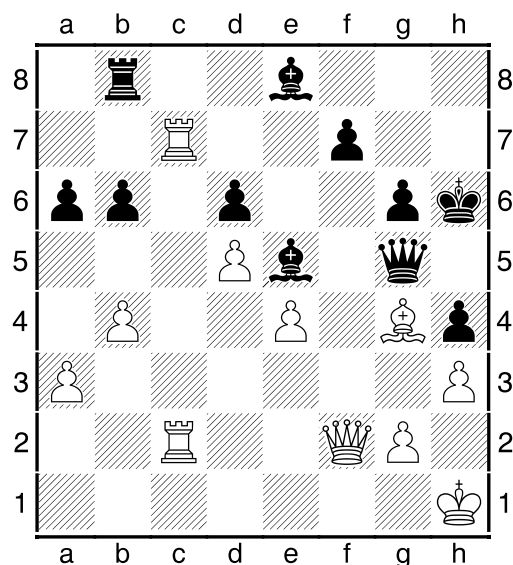
33.b4 ♗d8 34.♙e2 ♙g7 35.♘d3 ♘e5
36.♘xe5 ♙xe5

All knights were exchanged on e5, but this monster bishop will not be. Still of course White is not worse at all and Black should be careful - a rook can be a monster as well.

37.♖fc1 ♔g7 38.♖c7 ♗g5 39.♖1c2

Maybe better was 39.h4!

39...h4! 40.♙g4 ♔h6! 41.♔h1 b6 (D)



42.♖a7

Here White should have tried to exchange one of the black bishops with 42.♙d7!? and gain some winning chances: 42... ♙g3 (42... ♙xd7 43.♖xd7 f6 44.♖cc7 ♖h8 45.♖f7 [45.♗xb6 ♗f4 ∞] 45...b5 46.♔g1 ♗g3 47.♗xg3 hxg3 48.♔f1 ♔g5 ∞) 43.♗f3 f6 44.♙c6 ♗e5 ∞.

42... ♙g3 43.♗d2 ♙f4 44.♗d4 ♙e5
45.♗g1! a5 46.♗c1 ♙f4 47.♗a1 ♙e5
48.♗g1 axb4 49.axb4 ♙f4

Even better seems to be 49... ♗f4 50.♗c1
♗xc1+ 51.♖xc1 f6 52.♖c8 ♖xc8 53.♙xc8

♙c3 54. ♙d7 ♙xd7 55. ♖xd7 ♙xb4 =.

50. ♖a1 ♙e5 51. ♖a3 ♙g7?

A blunder that could cost the game. 51... ♖f4! 52. ♖c1 is already analysed above.

52. ♖f2 ♙f6 53. ♖d3 ♖e5 54. ♙e6! ♙g8 55. ♖f3 ♙g7 56. ♖f4?

56. ♖f1! ♖d4 57. ♙d7 ♙xd7 58. ♖xd7 ♖e5 59. ♖a3 ♖d8 60. ♖xd8 ♙xd8 61. ♖a1 ♙f6 62. ♖xe5 ♙xe5 63. ♖c1 and White should win - the rook against the bishop is a monster in plain endgames.

56... ♖d4?

56... ♖xf4! 57. ♖xf4 ♙e5 58. ♖f1 ♙h6! 59. ♙xf7 ♙b5 60. ♖d1 ♖f8 ±.

57. ♖f1! b5 58. ♙g4! ♖d8!

58... ♖xa7 59. ♖xf6+ ♙g8 60. ♖xd6 .0.

59. ♖c7 ♖b2

59... ♖a8 60. ♙d7! ♙e5 61. ♖f3 ♖b6 62. ♖c6 ±.

60. ♖c2! ♖d4 61. ♖d2?!

61. ♙c8! ♖e5 62. ♖f3 ♖g5 63. ♙b7 ♙d4 64. ♙c6 ±.

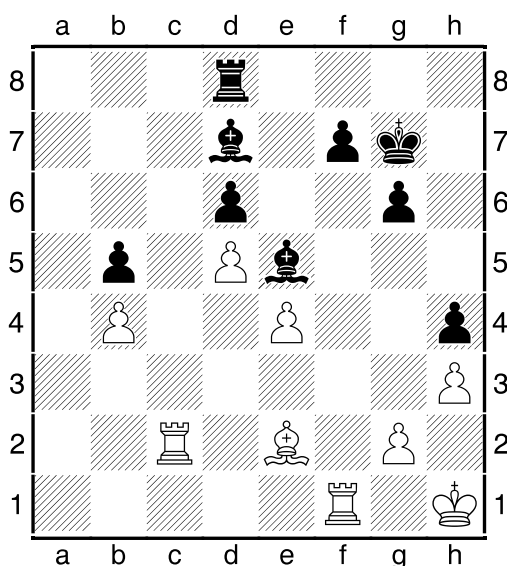
61... ♖e5?!

61... ♖c3 62. ♖c2! (62. ♖d3 ♖b2 63. ♖df3 ♙e5 64. ♖g5 f6! (64... ♖a8? 65. ♖e7 .0) 65. ♖xh4 ♖a8 66. ♖f2 ♖a2 ☹) 62... ♖d4 63. ♙c8 ±.

62. ♖xe5 ♙xe5 63. ♖c2 ♙d7! 64. ♙e2?!

(D)

64. ♙xd7 ♖xd7 65. ♖c8 ♖b7 66. ♖fc1 ±.



64...f5?!

64...f6 65. ♖c7 ♙h6 66. ♙d3 ♙g5 was a better way to fight.

65. ♖c7 ♙h6 66. ♙d3 fxe4 67. ♙xe4 ♙g5

68. ♙d3 ♙d4 69. ♖b7?!

69. ♖f3! ♙b6 70. ♖b7 ♙d4 71. ♙h2!! ♙e5+ 72. ♙g1 ♙d4+ 73. ♙f1 ±.

69... ♙c3! 70. ♙xb5 ♙f5 71. ♙e2 ♖a8

72. b5 ♖a2 73. ♙f3 ♖b2 74. ♖b8 ♙d4

75. ♖d1 ♙c5 76. ♙h2 ♙e3 77. ♖e1 ♙f2

78. ♖f1 ♙c5 79. ♖e8 ♙d4! 80. ♖d1 ♙f2!

81. ♙e2 ♙d7 82. ♖e4 ♙f5 83. ♖e8 ♙d7

½-½

□ **Solak Dragan**

■ **Wells Peter**

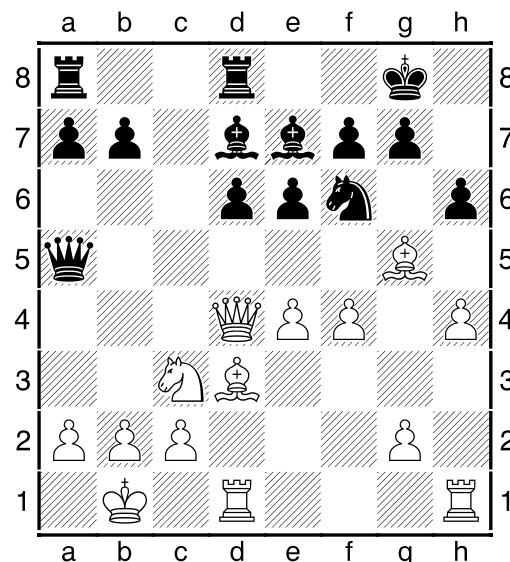
B65 Gothenburg 2005

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6

5. ♘c3 d6 6. ♙g5 e6 7. ♖d2 ♙e7 8.0-0-0 0-0

9.f4 ♘xd4 10. ♖xd4 ♖a5 11. ♙b1 h6

12.h4 ♖d8 13. ♙d3 ♙d7 (D)



14.e5

A typical breakthrough in such positions. White develops a kingside attack, gaining more space in the centre.

14...dxe5 15.fxe5 ♙c6 16. ♖f4!?

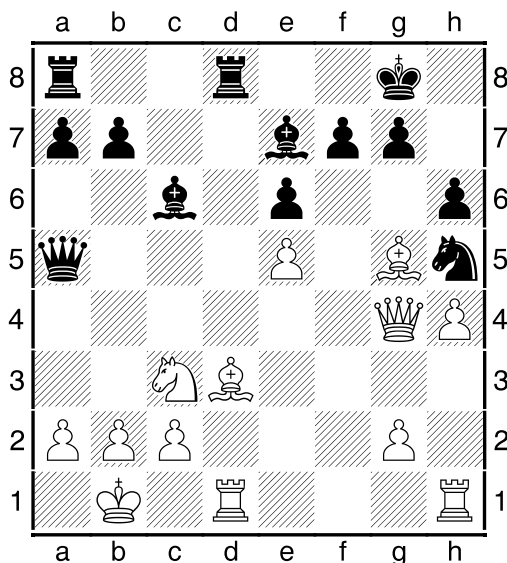
A rare variation. Usually White goes for 16. ♖e3 ♘g4! (16... ♖c5? 17. ♖g3 ♘d7 18. ♙xh6 ♖xe5 19. ♙f4 ± ; 16...hxc5? 17.hxc5 .0 ; 16...♙c5? 17. ♖d2 hxc5 18.exf6 .0) 17. ♖f4 (17. ♖g3?! hxc5 18. ♖xg4 ♖xe5 19.hxc5 ♖xg5 20. ♙h7+ ♙f8 21. ♙e4 ♙f6 ☹) 17...hxc5 18.hxc5 ♖xe5 19. ♙h7+ (19. ♖xg4 ♖xg5 20. ♖h3 ♖h6 21. ♖g3 ♖g5 22. ♖h3 ♖h6 23. ♖g3 ♖g5 24. ♖h3 ½-½ Antoniewski,R-Jurka,M Czech Rep. 1999) 19... ♙f8 20. ♙g6 ♖xd1+

21. ♖xd1 ♔e8 22. ♙xf7+ ♔d7 23. ♖xg4 ♖e4!? (23... ♖xg5 24. ♖xe6+ ♔c7 25. ♖c3 ♖d8 ≅ Nataf,I-Bluvshstein,M Montreal 2003) 24. ♖xe4 (24. ♖h5 ♖xg2 =) 24... ♙xe4 25. ♙xe6+ ♔xe6 26. ♖e1 ♔f5 27. ♖f2 ♙xc2+ 28. ♔xc2 ♖c8+ =.

16... ♖h5!

The only move. 16... ♖b4? gives White a strong attack after 17. exf6 hxg5 18. ♖xb4 ♙xb4 19. hxg5 and 16... hxg5? 17. hxg5 .0 simply loses.

17. ♖g4 (D)



Now Black's position seems to be quite critical, as White's forces are ready to nail down the black king. Some action is required...

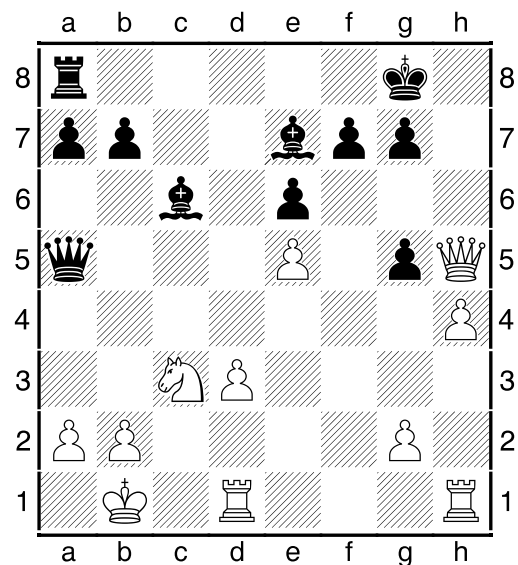
17... ♖xd3!

A good and rather forced exchange sacrifice. The dangerous light-squared bishop must be eliminated at once! Alternatives are not useful: 17... hxg5? 18. ♖xh5 ♖xd3 19. hxg5! .0 and 17... f5? 18. exf6 ♙xf6 19. ♖xh5 .0.

18. cxd3

An interesting novelty at that time. The other capture with 18. ♖xd3 looks quite satisfactory for Black: 18... hxg5 19. ♖xh5 g6!? (19... gxh4 20. ♖d4 g6 21. ♖g4 ♖c5! 22. ♖f1 ♙f6! 23. ♖xg6+ fxg6 24. ♖xg6+ ♙g7 ½-½ Shirov,A-Anand,V Monaco 1997) 20. ♖g4 (20. ♖e2 gxh4 21. ♖f1 ♖c5 ≅) 20... ♖xe5 (20... gxh4!?) 21. h5 ♖f5 22. ♖e2 gxh5 23. ♖xh5 ♙f6 ∞ Korolev,A-Novikov,M Kireevsk 2011.

18... hxg5 19. ♖xh5 (D)

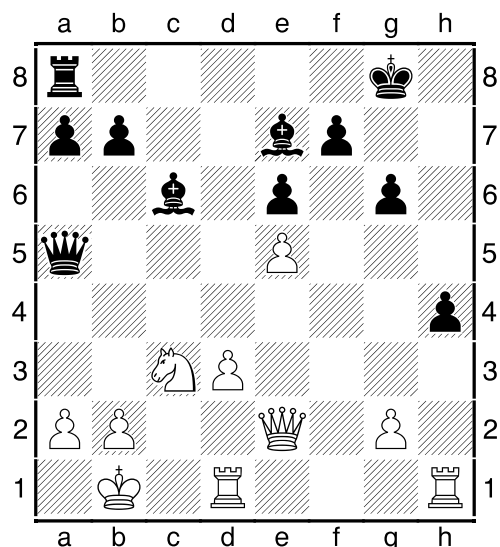


Black sacs the exchange, eliminating White's most dangerous attacking piece and now his position is quite playable. His bishop pair and the strong defence that he can pose are important compensating factors for the loss of the exchange.

19... g6

The other try is 19... gxh4 but Black faces difficulties after 20. d4! (20. ♖xh4?! ♙xh4 21. ♖xh4 ♖d8 22. ♖h3 ♖g5 23. ♖h1 ♖h6 24. ♖xh6 gxh6 25. ♖xh6 ♙xg2 26. ♖h4 ♙c6 27. ♖e4 ½-½ Jaracz,P-Miroshnichenko,E Bad Wiessee 2005) 20... ♖d8 (20... ♙xg2? 21. ♖h2 ♙d5 22. ♖g1 ♖f8 23. ♖h6 .0 Baghdasaryan,V-Docena,J Kocaeli 2013 ; 20... b5!?) 21. ♖hf1 g6 22. ♖g4 ♖f8 23. d5 ♙d7 24. d6 ♙d8 25. ♖f4 ♖g7 26. ♖df1 .0 Mekhitarian,K-Coelho,L Santos 2008.

20. ♖e2 gxh4 (D)



21.d4

White is ahead in material, his position is stable and he can continue the attack. But what about Black? He also has some pluses in the bishop pair, his position is stable and he might have his own attack as well!

21...♖d8 22.♖h3

White here was at the crossroads: 22.♖g4 ♗d7! (22...♗g7? 23.♖xh4 ♘xh4 24.♖xh4 0 Brandenburg,D-Kozhuharov,S Groningen 2009) 23.♖hf1 ♖d8 ♞ and 22.♖f2 ♖b6! (22...♖d7? 23.♖hf1 ♘b4 24.♖xh4 ♘xc3 25.♖h1 ♘e4+ 26.♖xe4 ♖b6 27.b3 ♖xd4 28.♖xd4 ♘xd4 29.♖f4 ♘e3 30.♖h4 1-0 Siewert,M-Armbrust,F Kaiserslautern 2006) 23.♖hf1 ♖f8 ♞.

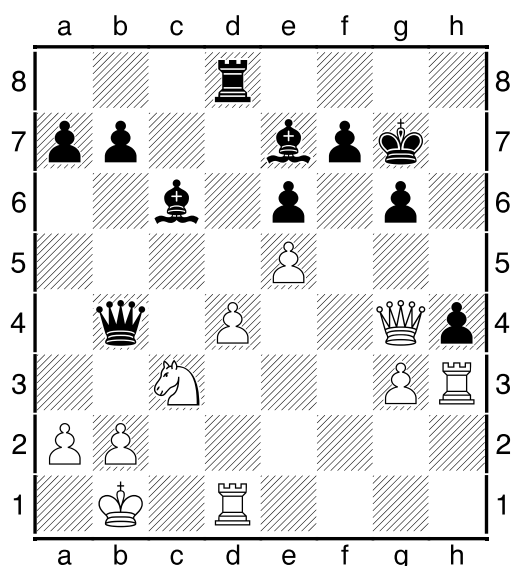
22...♖b4

22...♖d7 has been tried in some games: 23.g3 ♖b6 24.♖f2 hxg3 25.♖xg3 ♘f8 26.♖h4 (26.♖h4 ♘g7 27.♖d2 ♖d8 28.a3 b5 ♞ Pavlovic,M-Hobuss,U Zuerich 1998) 26...♘g7 27.♖d2 ♖d8 28.♖f4 g5! ♞ Nataf,I-Bluvshstein,M Kapuskasing 2004 but maybe the most interesting is the untested 22...b5!?

23.♖g4

Setting the heavy pieces for an assault on the king's castle.

23...♗g7 24.g3!? (D)



Now White aims to open the h-file, with a heavy attack - it seems that Black is in trouble...

24...hxg3?

A losing continuation. Black had to find

24...f5!, where after 25.exf6+ ♘xf6 26.gxh4 (26.♖xh4 ♘xh4 27.gxh4 ♖e7 ∞) 26... ♖xd4 27.♖xd4 ♖xd4 28.♖xd4 ♘xd4 he seems to hold the endgame.

25.♖f4! g5 26.♖xg3

There is no way out now for the black king...

26...♖h8 27.♖f1 ♘e8 28.♗e4 ♖f8 29.♗xg5 ♘xg5 30.♖xg5 ♖h3 31.♖fg1 ♖d3 32.♖f6 1-0

□ Grischuk Alexander

■ Giri Anish

B78 Beijing 2013

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘g7 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♘e3 ♗f6 7.♘c4 d6 8.f3 0-0 9.♖d2 ♘d7 10.h4 h5 11.0-0-0 ♖c8 12.♘b3 ♗e5 13.♘g5 ♖c5 14.♖b1

A well-known and often played line of the 'Sicilian Defence', the 'Dragon Variation'.

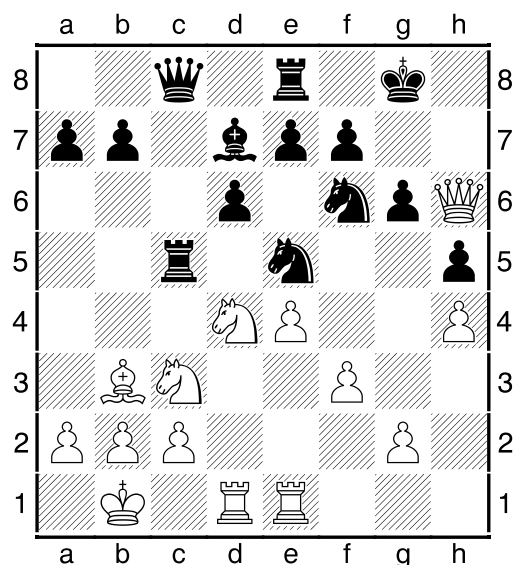
14...♖e8 15.♖he1 ♖c8 16.♘h6!?

The most common continuation seems to be 16.♗d5 ♗xd5 17.♘xd5 ♗c4 18.♘xc4 ♖xc4 19.♗b3 b5 ∞ Krivoborodov,E-Pavlidis,A Athens 2007.

16...♘h6

Black has also tried 16...♘h8 17.♘e3 (17.g4? hxg4 18.f4 ♗c4 19.♘xc4 ♖xc4 20.♗b3 b5 0. Hidzos,G-Pavlidis,A Kallithea 2009) 17...b5 18.♗d5 ♗xd5 19.♘xd5 ♗c4 20.♘xc4 bxc4 21.c3 ♖b7 22.♖e2 ♖a5 ♞ Kosintseva,N-Videnova,I Gaziantep 2012. It seems that White must find something more annoying for Black...

17.♖xh6 (D)



17...♖xc3!

That was Black's idea - to sac the exchange on c3. Quite a typical sacrifice in this particular variation; Black nearly always get some good compensation (and a pawn as well!). A mix of active & passive sac...

18.bxc3 ♜xc3 19. ♚e3

After 19. ♜d2 ♜c5 Black would be ready to push his queenside pawns.

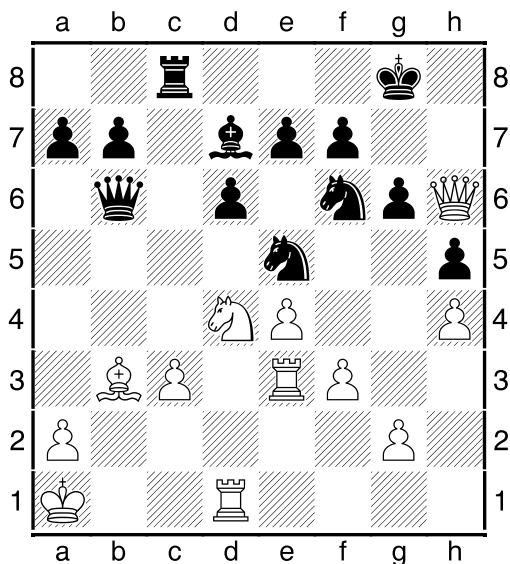
19...♞b4 20.c3

It is important now for White to create a kind of defence around his king, otherwise the black attack will easily tell.

20...♞b6 21. ♔a1

21. ♚e2 a5 22. ♚b2 ♜c5 looks very passive for White - his rook is doing nothing on b2...

21...♚c8 (D)



22.g4!

Activity is welcomed. White cannot just stay back and defend; he is obliged to try to open files for his rooks.

22...hxc4

The other capture with 22...♙xc4 23. ♚b1! (23.fxc4 ♜fxg4 24. ♙xf7+! (24. ♞f4 ♜xe3 25. ♞xe3 ♜c5 ∞) 24...♙xf7 25. ♞h7+ =) 23...♞a6 24. ♞g5 ♙d7 25. ♜f5 should be good for White.

23.f4

23.h5!? gxh5 (23...♜xh5? 24. ♜f5! ±) 24.f4 ♜c4 25. ♙xc4 ♚xc4 26.e5 dxe5 27. ♚xe5 ♜h7 28. ♞xh5 ♚xc3 is also very unclear but always near to equality...

23...♜c4 24.e5 ♜d5?

Black overdoes it! 24...dxe5! 25. ♙xc4

♚xc4 26.fxe5 ♜d5 27.e6 ♜xe3 28.exf7+ ♙xf7 29. ♞h7+ is simply a draw with perpetual check.

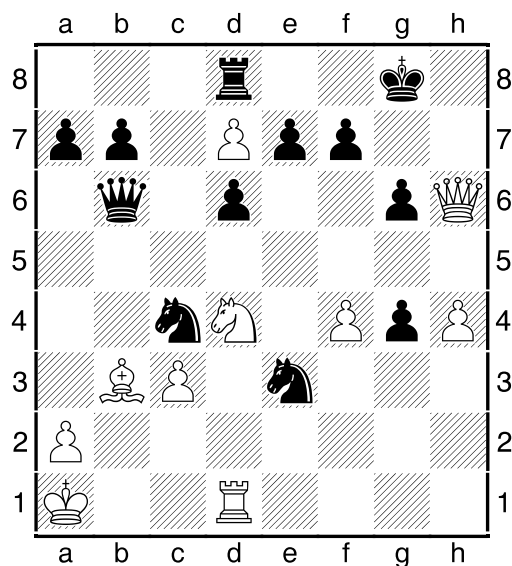
25.e6?

White missed the very strong continuation 25.h5! dxe5 26. ♚xe5 which wins in all cases - the black king gets stripped of cover and comes under heavy attack.

25...♜dxe3 26.exd7?!

And he even makes it difficult... 26.exf7+ ♙xf7 27. ♞h7+ is a perpetual check draw.

26...♚d8 (D)



27.f5?

A bad move that could cost the game. 27. ♜e6! was forced and good: 27...♜f5 28. ♜xd8 ♜xh6 29. ♜xb7 ♞e3 (29...♞xb7 30.d8♞+ ♙g7 31. ♙xc4 ♞f3 32. ♙b3 ♜f5 ∞) 30.d8♞+ ♙g7 31. ♙xc4 ♞xc3+ 32. ♙b1 ♞xc4 33. ♜xd6 exd6 34. ♞xd6 ♞e4+ =.

27...♞a5?

Returning the favour! After 27...d5! 28. ♜e6 ♜xf5 29. ♜xd8 ♜xh6 30. ♜xb7 ♞xb7 31.d8♞+ ♙g7 Black will win.

28. ♚c1 ♞a3

Black decided to repeat moves and accept the draw. He could think of 28...♜xf5 29. ♜xf5 ♞xf5 30. ♙xc4 e6 as only he could have some chances to get the full point.

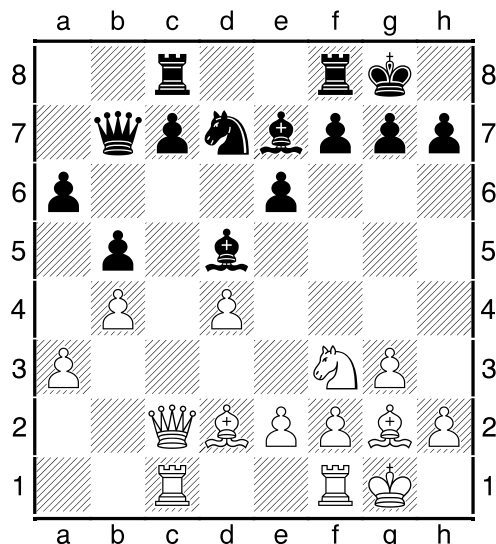
29. ♚b1 ♞a5 30. ♚c1 ♞a3 31. ♚b1 ♞a5 ½-½

We will conclude the passive exchange sacrifice chapter with a recent and rather nice example:

□ Aronian Levon
 ■ Carlsen Magnus

E06 Linares 2009

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙e7
 5.♙g2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.♚c2 a6 8.♚xc4 b5
 9.♚c2 ♙b7 10.♙d2 ♙e4 11.♚c1 ♙b7
 12.a3 ♚c8 13.b4 ♘bd7 14.♙c3 ♘e4
 15.♘bd2 ♙d5 16.♚c2 ♘xd2 17.♙xd2
 ♚b7 18.♚ac1 ♚ac8 (D)



White seems to have gained a slight advantage, mostly due to Black's backward c-pawn. But still, this must not be enough as Black's pieces are decently placed and he has control over the important h1-a8 diagonal; or maybe not?

19.e4!? ♙xe4 20.♘g5 ♙xc2

20...♙xg2?? 21.♚xh7 #.

21.♙xb7 ♙d3! 22.♚fe1 ♙c4

A forced exchange sacrifice, as after 22...♚b8 23.♚xc7 White retains a clear advantage.

23.♙xc8 ♙xg5!

A useful move. In blocked pawn structures knights are more important than bishops, so Black first exchanges White's important minor piece.

24.♙xg5 ♚xc8

Time to take stock. Black sacrificed the exchange (while forced, Carlsen had planned it beforehand) and as compensation he can present:

1. A pawn.

2. Active minor pieces.

3. Bad white bishop (all white pawns are placed on the bishop's colour).

4. No open files for White's rooks.

Of course this is a clear case of a passive exchange sacrifice, aiming mostly to keep the balance.

25.f3 f6 26.♙f4 ♘b6!

It is important for Black not to allow the opening of the a-file, after an eventual a4 advance. In case White succeeds in opening the a-file, he will penetrate with his rooks, achieving strong pressure.

27.h4 ♘f7 28.♘f2 c6! 29.♙d6 ♙d5

A 'monster' has appeared on the d5-square, keeping all of Black's important pawns protected in a hypothetical strong chain.

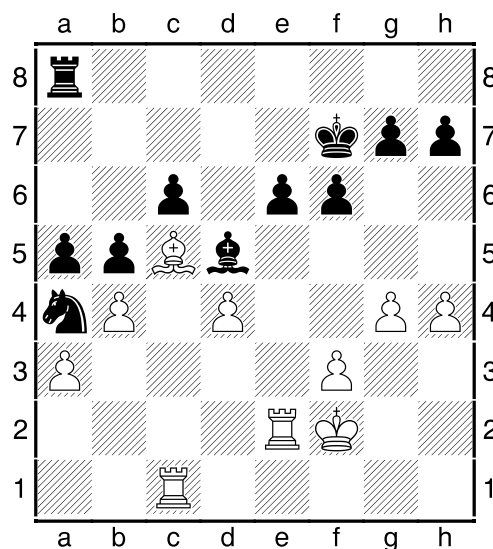
30.♙c5 ♘a4!

30...♘c4?! 31.♚a1! h5?! (31...♘b2) 32.♚e2 and White is ready to play a4.

31.g4 ♚a8

Trying to get some activity on the a-file. Of course Black will never open it if he cannot control it first.

32.♚e2 a5 (D)



33.♙d6

After 33.♚ce1?! ♘xc5 34.dxc5 (34.bxc5 b4) 34...axb4 35.axb4 e5 only Black can try to win, as his pieces are far more active and he can also put pressure on White's weaknesses (b4, f3).

33...axb4 34.♙xb4

34.axb4?! ♘b6 and Black controls the only open file.

34...♘b6 35.♙c5

White has no active or concrete plan at his disposal, so he decided to call it a day.

35...♘a4 36.♙b4 ♘b6 37.♙c5 ½-½

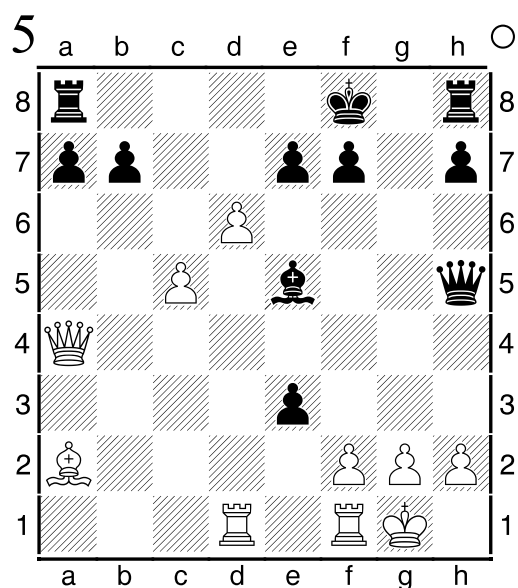
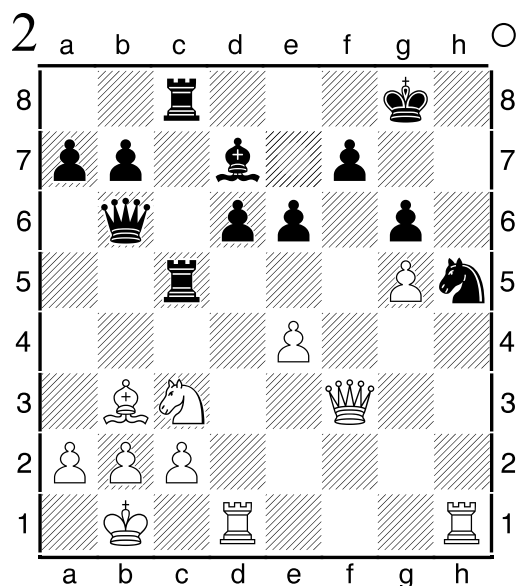
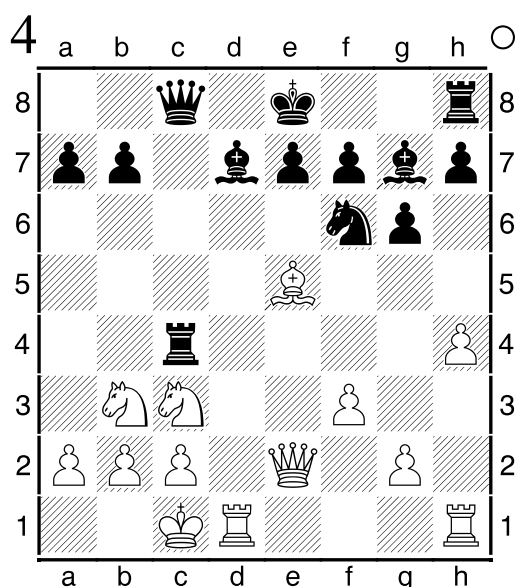
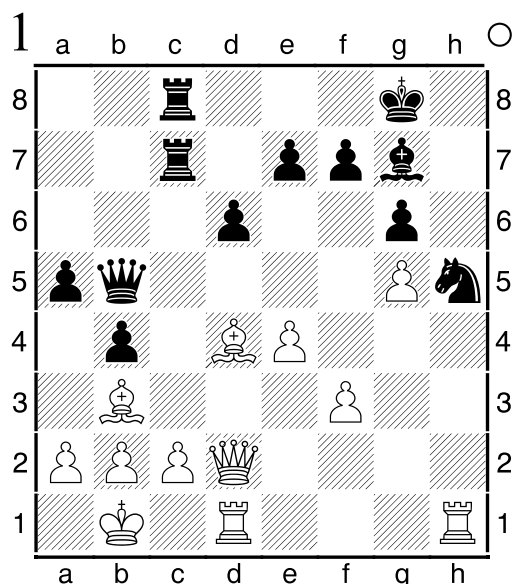
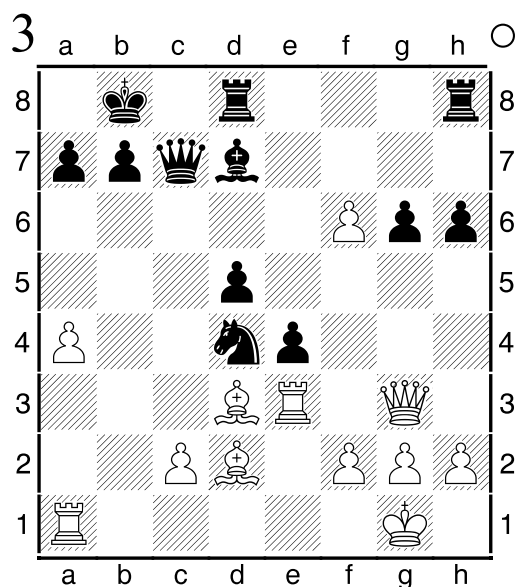
Exercises on the Exchange Sacrifice

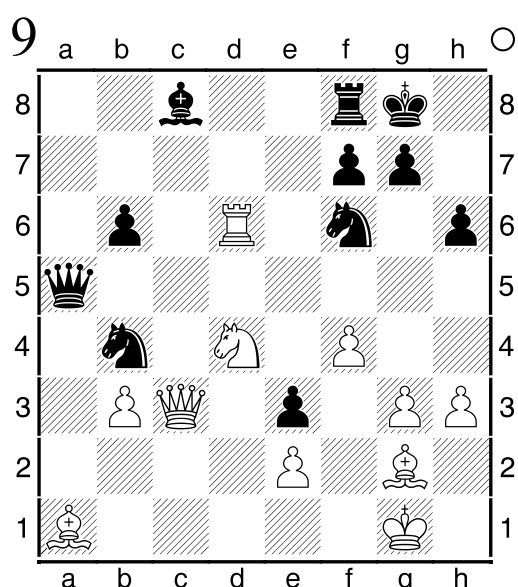
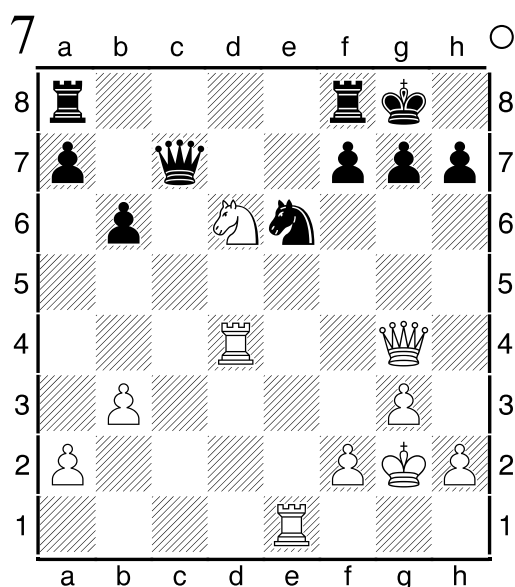
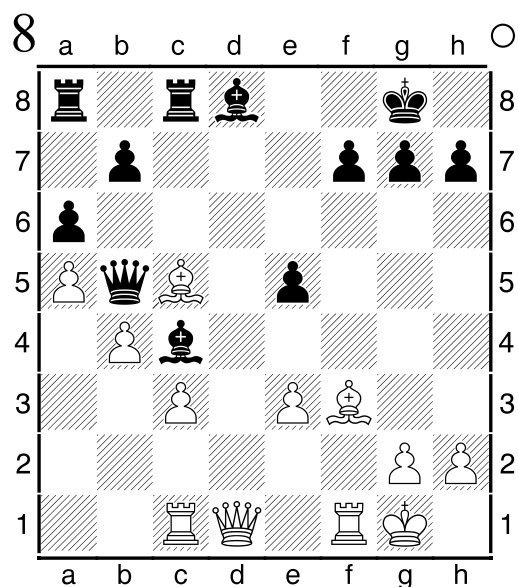
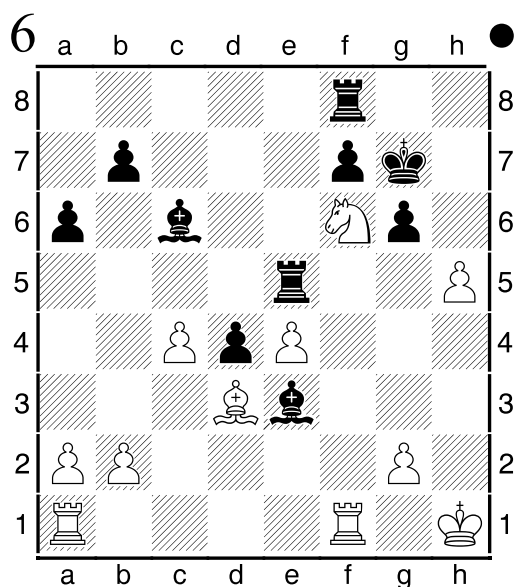
Here follow some interesting and quite famous exchange sacrifices for your personal training.

The symbols ○ / ● indicate which side is to move (White / Black) and you will have to find the correct way to continue.

Note your thoughts and your variations and compare them with the solutions, which can be found on page 79.

Enjoy the Exchange Sacrifice concept!





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Solutions to the Exchange Sacrifice Exercises

(1) Fischer Robert - Larsen Bent

Portoroz 1958 : 22. ♖xh5! gxh5 22... ♗xd4
23. ♖xd4 gxh5 24. g6 ♖e5 25. gxf7+ ♔h7
(25... ♔f8 26. ♖xe5 dxe5 27. ♖g1 e6
28. ♗xe6 ♔e7 29. ♗xc8 ♖xc8 30. ♖g5 . 0)
26. ♖d3 . 0. 23. g6 ±.

(2) Fischer Robert - Gligoric Svetozar

Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade 1959: 26. ♖xh5!
gxh5 27. ♖xh5 ♗e8 27... ♔f8 28. ♖h8+
♔e7 29. ♖f6+ ♔e8 30. ♖h1 ♗b5 31. ♗xe6!
fxe6 32. ♖h7 . 0. 28. ♖h6! . 0.

(3) Fischer Robert - Schweber Samuel

Buenos Aires 1970: 23. ♖xe4! ♖xg3
24. ♖xd4! ♖g4 24... ♖c7 25. ♗f4 ♖h8
26. ♗xc7+ ♔xc7 27. ♗xg6 ±. 25. ♖xg4
♗xg4 26. ♗xg6 ♖hg8 27. ♗h7! ♖h8
28. ♗d3 ♖de8 29. f7 ♖e7 30. f8 ♖+ ♖xf8
31. ♗b4 ±.

(4) Fischer Robert - Camara Helder

Siegen 1970: 19. ♖xd7! ♔xd7 20. ♗b5
♖c6 20... ♖c6 21. ♗xa7 ♖a8 22. ♗xc6
bxc6 23. ♖d1+ . 0. 21. ♖d1+ ♔e8 22. ♗c7+
♖xc7 23. ♗xc7 ♖xc7 24. ♖b5+ 1-0

(5) Petrosian Tigran - Fischer Robert

Buenos Aires 1971: 24. f4! e2 24... ♗f6
25. ♖d5 ♖g6 26. f5 ♖h6 27. ♖b3 e2
28. ♖e1 ♖f4 29. dxe7+ ♔g7 30. ♖xe2
♗d4+ 31. ♖xd4! ♖xd4+ 32. ♔f1 ♖f4+
33. ♖f2 ♖c1+ 34. ♔e2 . 0. 25. fxe5 exd1 ♖

26. ♖xd1 ♖xe5 26... ♔g7 27. ♖f1 e6
(27... ♖xe5 28. ♖xf7+ ♔h6 29. ♖h4+ ♔g6
30. ♖xe7 . 0) 28. ♗xe6 . 0. 27. ♖f1 f6 27...
f5 28. ♖b3 ♔g7 29. ♖f7+ ♔h6 30. dxe7 . 0.
28. ♖b3 ♔g7 29. ♖f7+ ♔h6 30. dxe7 f5
31. ♖xf5 ♖d4+ 32. ♔h1 1-0

(6) Beliavsky Alexander - Kasparov Garry

Moscow 1983: 29... ♖h8 30. g3 ♖exh5+
30... ♗g5! 31. ♗d5 f5! 32. exf5 (32. ♖ae1
♖he8!) 32... ♖xd5! 33. cxd5 ♗xd5+ 34. ♔g1
♗e3+ 35. ♖f2 ♖xh5 0.. 31. ♗xh5+
♖xh5+ 32. ♔g2 f5 33. ♖ae1 fxe4 34. ♗b1
♖c5! 35. b3 b5 ±.

(7) Kasparov Garry - Karpov Anatoly

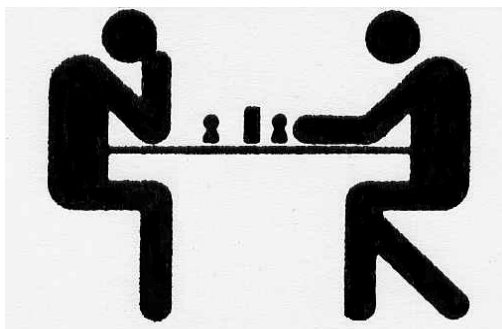
Moscow 1984: 23. ♖xe6! h5 23... fxe6
24. ♖xe6+ ♔h8 25. ♖c4 ♖d8 26. ♗f7+
♖xf7 27. ♖xf7 ±. 24. ♖e4 fxe6 25. ♖xe6+
♔h7 26. ♖d5? 26. ♖c4 ♖d8 27. ♖e4+ g6
28. ♖b7+ ♔h6 29. ♗f7+ ±.

(8) Nunn John - Kuczynski Robert

Germany 1993: 27. ♗d5! ♗xf1 28. ♖f3!
♗f6 29. ♖xf1 e4 29... ♖xc5! 30. bxc5 ♖d8
31. ♗xb7 ♖xc5 32. ♗xa6 ♖xa5 33. ♖c6 =.

(9) Hickl Joerg - Adianto Utut

Jakarta 1996: 26. ♖xf6! gxf6 27. ♗c6 ♗d5
27... ♗xc6 28. ♖xf6 . 0. 28. ♗e7+ ♔g7
29. ♗xd5 ♖xc3 30. ♗xc3 ♗f5 31. ♗xf6+
♔g6 32. ♗d4 1-0



Curriculum Vitae of Efstratios Grivas



*Efstratios Grivas (30.03.1966)
is a highly experienced chess trainer and chess author*

*Has been awarded by the
International Chess Federation (FIDE) the titles of:*

- *International Chess Grandmaster*
- *FIDE Senior Trainer*
- *International Chess Arbiter*
- *International Chess Organizer*

What he does/did:

- *Secretary of the FIDE Trainers' Commission*
- *Head Trainer of the Turkish Men's National Team (2006-2012)*
- *Head Coach of the Greek Men's National Team (2013)*
- *Winner of the FIDE Boleslavsky Medal 2009 (best author)*
- *Winner of the FIDE Euwe Medal 2011 & 2012 (best junior trainer)*
- *Trainer of Various GMs & IMs - In 2009-2011 alone, he formed 5 GMs!*
- *Trainer of the FIDE World Junior Champion U.20 2012 Alex Ipatov*
- *Director of the FIDE Grivas International Chess Academy (Athens)*
- *Worked over 12.000 hours on training!*
- *Official Commentator of the FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Ch 2013*
- *Lecturer at FIDE Seminars for Training & Certifying Trainers*
- *Author of Various Books*
- *Cooperating with the World's Most Important Magazines*

*For more information visit **Efstratios Grivas's** personal internet site:*

www.GrivasChess.com - <http://trainers.fide.com>

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What do teachers know anyway? Michael Jordan, the greatest basketball player in the history of the game, was told by his High School coach that basketball was not a good fit for him. He cut Jordan from the High School basketball team and told him to take up baseball...

The good trainer is not dogmatic; he is trying to become better day by day...