The Grünfeld Defence
Volume Two

By

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7...c5 8.\textit{c}1 0–0

A) 9.d5
B) 9.\textit{f}3 \textit{g}4 10.d5 \textit{d}6 11.e2 \textit{d}7
   B1) 12.0–0
   B2) 12.h3

A) after 9.d5

B) note to 11...\textit{d}7

B2) after 14.c4

9...f5! – the spirit of the Grünfeld

13...e6N

14...bxc4N
Various 7th Moves

1.d4 ךf6 2.c4 گ6 3.ךc3 ڈ5 4.cxd5 ڈxd5 5.e4 ڈxc3 6.bxc3 ڈg7 7.ڈg5

White's main idea in this line is to provoke the move ...h6, and then to continue with ڈc3 and ڈd2; compared with Chapter 11, White would gain a tempo by attacking the black h-pawn. However Black can easily manage without moving his h-pawn.

7...c5 8.ڈc1 0–0

Here play may take two directions: A) 9.d5 or B) 9.ڈf3.

A) 9.d5 گ5!

13.0–0

13...\(\text{d}7\) 14.d6

White cannot afford to play slowly, for example: 14.\(\text{e}2\) \(\text{e}5\) 15.\(\text{xe}4\) \(\text{xc}4\) 16.\(\text{xc}4\) \(b5\) 16.\(\text{d}3\) \(c4\) White is losing his d-pawn.

14...\(\text{f}6\) 15.\(\text{h}6\) \(\text{g}7\) 16.\(\text{g}5\) \(\text{f}6\) 17.\(\text{h}6\)

It seems that neither side can avoid the repetition, Polak – Ftacnik, Czech Republic 2009.

B) 9.\(\text{f}3\) \(\text{g}4\) 10.d5 \(\text{d}6\)

I much prefer this positional concept to the sharp 10...\(f5\) which leads to crazy complications: 11.\(\text{b}3\) \(\text{h}8\) 12.\(\text{d}2\) \(\text{fxe}4\) 13.\(\text{xb}7\) \(\text{d}7\) 14.\(\text{h}3\) I don’t have much faith in Black’s position here.

11.\(\text{c}2\)

It is quite risky for White to play: 11.\(\text{d}2\) \(\text{d}7\) (I would prefer to limit White’s options with the move order 11...\(\text{xf}3\) 12.\(\text{gxf}3\) \(\text{d}7\)) 12.\(\text{c}2\) \(\text{xf}3\) 13.\(\text{gxf}3\)? (This is a serious strategical mistake; it was necessary to recapture with 13.\(\text{xf}3\), when a logical continuation is 13...\(f5\) 14.\(\text{exf}5\) \(\text{xf}5\) 15.0–0 \(\text{e}5\)! 16.\(\text{h}3\) \(\text{g}5\) 17.\(\text{w}xg5\) \(\text{h}2\)† 18.\(\text{w}h1\) \(\text{f}4\) 19.\(\text{w}h4\) \(g5\)! 20.\(\text{w}g4\) \(\text{c}5\) 21.\(\text{w}h5\) \(\text{xf}3\) 22.\(\text{w}xh4\) \(\text{xc}1\) 23.\(\text{w}xh1\) \(\text{h}8\) 24.\(\text{w}e3\) \(\text{xh}5\) 25.\(\text{c}4\) \(\text{h}5\) 26.\(\text{w}xh4\) \(\text{xf}7\) with an equal position.) 13...\(f5\)!

14.\(\text{f}4\) \(\text{c}5\) Black was clearly better in Eperjesi – Farkas, Hungary 2007.

11...\(\text{d}7\)

White’s main options are B1) 12.0–0 and B2) 12.\(\text{h}3\), although he has also tried:

12.\(\text{d}2\) It looks quite natural for the knight to head for the c4-square, but Black’s counterplay arrives just in time. 12...\(\text{xe}2\) 13.\(\text{w}x\text{e}2\)

This was Jenkinson – Fenwick, e-mail 2008. Black should now play: 13...\(\text{e}6\)N 14.\(\text{c}4\) (no good is 14.\(\text{c}4\) \(\text{ae}8\)! and White cannot hold the centre) 14...\(\text{w}a6\) 15.\(\text{w}e3\) \(\text{xe}2\)† 16.\(\text{w}xe2\) \(\text{exd}5\) 17.\(\text{exd}5\) (after 17.\(\text{xd}5\) \(f6\)! Black shouldn’t experience any problems) 17...\(\text{w}e8\)

The position is pretty much balanced.

B1) 12.0–0 \(\text{xf}3\) 13.\(\text{w}x\text{f}3\) \(b5\)

A very interesting concept. Black has given up his light-squared bishop, but in return
has made various gains: he has completed his development and connected his rooks, his queen is well-placed on d6, and he has started to advance his queenside pawns.

14. $\text{Be}2 \text{c}4!

Black now has the c5-square at his disposal.

15.$f4

White has also tried:
15. $\text{Cc}2 \text{Cc}5

15...$f5 deserves serious attention.
16. $\text{Fd}1

After 16.$f4 Black has the strong idea 16...$f6 17. $\text{Qh}4 \text{Qh}6 and White has problems defending the f4-pawn. White’s best option is 16.$e3, although 16...$a6 17. $\text{Fd}1 \text{Da}4 secures Black good counterplay.

16...$f5! 17.$exf5 $\text{Qxf}5 18.$e3 $\text{Qf}8

Black had taken over the initiative in Karavade – Gupta, Reykjavik 2010.

15...$f6

There is an interesting alternative: 15...$\text{b}6N 16. $\text{Cc}2 \text{Qd}8 Black is intending to continue with ...$f5.

16. $\text{Qh}4 \text{Qc}5 17. $\text{Qd}4 \text{e}5!

The key move, otherwise Black would be in trouble.

18.$dx$e6 $\text{Qxd}4 \dagger 19.\text{cxd}4 \text{Qxe}6

20. $\text{Qxc}4!?

The best try. Black is out of danger after 20.$d5 $\text{Qxf}4! 21.$xf4 $g5.

20...$f5!

A very strong response. After 20...$\text{bxc}4 21.$\text{xc}4 followed by 22.$f5 White has good chances of obtaining an advantage.

21.$e5?

This is going too far. White could maintain equality with 21. $\text{b}4 \text{Qxd}4 22. $\text{xb}5.

21...$\text{bxc}4

Now taking the rook is a different story.

22. $\text{xc}4 \text{Qe}8 23.$d5
23...g5!
This is simply a refutation of White’s idea.

24.fxg5 c5 25.d6† h8 26.e6 ad8
27.ad1 xe6!
Black had a winning position in Nyback – Kovchan, Aix-les-Bains 2011.

B2) 12.h3 xf3 13.xf3 b5 14.c4
White decides to prevent Black playing ...c4.

14...bxc4!N
This is a natural improvement over 14...b4 15.0–0 a5, which led to complex strategical play in Nyback – Svidler, Khanty-Mansiysk 2009.

15.xc4 d4! 16.0–0 e5 17.a4 f5
Black has an excellent game.

Conclusion
Developing the bishop to g5 leaves the d4-square poorly defended and means that the white d-pawn will soon have to advance. After A) 9.d5 Black can immediately attack the centre with 9...f5, easily obtaining equal chances. When White opts for B) 9.f3 g4 10.d5, then 10...f5 is not so clear; however 10...d6 and 11.d7 offers Black fine play.