

The Tartakower Variation

of the (Classical) Queen's Gambit Declined [D58-59]

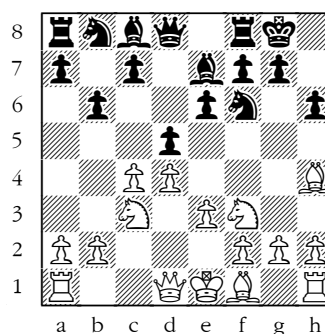
Compiled by Steven Craig Miller

This variation is named after Saviely Tartakower (1887-1956), who ranked among the top ten in the world during the years 1926-1930. Tartakower was known for his wit and a number of his sayings still live on in chess lore: "A game of chess is divided into three stages: the first, when you hope you have the advantage, the second when you believe you have the advantage, and the third ... when you know you are going to lose." "It is always better to sacrifice your opponent's men." "The blunders are all on the board, waiting to be made." "Some part of a mistake is always correct." In the cold winter season of 1919-20, when Vienna was suffering from a severe shortage of fuel, he was asked how he could do any writing when his room was without heat. Tartakower replied: "I just keep the window open." And finally, "I talk to myself because I like dealing with a better class of people."

Tartakower first played this variation in 1922 against Capablanca (who was then World Champion), the game was drawn. But the variation became popular mainly as a result of its use by such players as Spassky, Geller, Karpov, Kasparov, Beliavsky, Short, among others. It played a significant part in the world championship matches between Karpov and Kasparov, where both players were willing to play both sides of this variation.

Introduction

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| 1. | d4 | d5 |
| 2. | c4 | d6 |
| 3. | ♘c3 | ♘f6 |
| 4. | ♙g5 | ♙e7 |
| 5. | ♚f3 | 0-0 |
| 6. | e3 | h6 |
| 7. | ♙h4 | b6 |



This is the basic starting position of the Tartakower Variation. The move order to get to this position is somewhat flexible. For example, White could have played ♚f3 before ♙g5, and Black could have played ♙e7 before ♘f6. For example, compare the following popular move order: 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Be7 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 0-0 7. e3 b6.

Black's move of 7. ... b6 supports the pawn break in the center with ...c7-c5, in addition, it creates the possibility of putting Black's light square bishop on the long light-square diagonal.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♖c3 ♗f6 4. ♔g5 ♕e7 5. e3 0-0 6. ♗f3 h6 7. ♖h4 b6 [D58-59]

	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1	Qc2 Bb7	Bxf6 Bxf6	cxd5 exd5	0-0-0 c5	g4 cxd4	exd4 Nc6	h4 g6	g5 hxg5	hxg5 Bxg5+	(1)
2	♖b3 ♗b7	♗xf6 ♗xf6	cxd5 exd5	♖d1 ♖e8	a3 c6	♗d3 ♗d7	0-0 g6	♗b1 ♗g7	e4 ♗a6	(2)
3	♗d3 ♗b7	0-0 ♗bd7	♖e2 c5	♖fd1 ♗e4	♗g3 cxd4	exd4 ♗g3	hxg3 dxc4	♗c4 ♗f6	♗e5 ♗b4	(3)
4	♖c1 ♗b7	♗xf6 ♗xf6	cxd5 exd5	b4 c6	♗d3 ♖e8	0-0 ♗d7	♖b3 ♗f8	♖fd1 ♗e6	♗f5 ♖c8	(4)
5	♗e2 ♗b7	♗xf6 ♗xf6	cxd5 exd5	b4 c5	bxc5 bxc5	♖b1 ♗c6	0-0 ♗d7	♗b5 ♖c7	♖d3 ♖fc8	(5)
6	cxd5 ♗xd5	♗xe7 ♖xe7	♗xd5 exd5	♖c1 ♗e6	♗d3 c5	dxc5 bxc5	0-0 ♗d7	e4 d4	♗b1 ♖fb8	(6)
7	...	...	...	...	♖a4 c5	♖a3 ♖c8	♗b5 ♖b7	dxc5 bxc5	♖xc5 ♖xc5	(7)
8	...	...	...	...	...	...	♗e2 a5	0-0 ♖f8	dxc5 bxc5	(8)

(1) 17. Kb1 Bf6 18. Bd3 Nb4 19. Bxg6 Nxc2 20. Bh7 (Bellón—Georgiev, Terrasa 1990 —50/461) 20. ... Kh8 21. Bc2 Kg8 22. Rdg1 Bg7 23. Bh7 ½:½ Bellón.

(2) 17. ♖fe1 ♗c4 18. ♖c2 dxe4 19. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 20. ♖xe4 ♗b3 21. ♗c2 ♗f6 (½:½ Kramnik—Kasparov, Moscow (m/3) 2001 —83/450) 22. ♖e2 ♗c2 23. ♖c2 ♖d6= Kasparov.

(3) 17. ♖d3 ♗c3 18. bxc3 ♖c8 19. ♗b3 ♗e4 20. ♖e3 b5 ∞ Karpov—Portisch, Bruxelles 1988 —45/530.

(4) 17. a4 g6 18. Bh3 Bg7 19. g3 Rc7 20. a5 b5 21. Bg2 Bc8 22. Ne3 Qd6 23. Rc2 Ng5 24. Ng5 hxg5= Kasimdzhanov—Belavsky, Elista (ol) 1998 —73/514.

(5) 17. ♖fc8 ♖ab8 18. a4 cxd4! 19. ♗xd4 dxe4 24. ♖e3 ♖d7= Timman—Kasparov, Praha (m/4) 1998 —73/516.

(6) 17. b3 a5 18. ♗d2 a4 19. f4 f6 ∞ G. Soppe—Rustemov, Internet 2001.

(7) 17. ♖c5 ♗a6 18. ♗a6 ♖a6 19. ♖a3 ♖c4 20. ♖c3 ♖a2 21. 0-0 ♖b8 22. b4 ♖a4 23. ♖a1 = Szabó—Kavalek, Amsterdam 1973.

(8) 17. ♖c3 ♗d7 18. ♖fc1 ♖cb8 19. ♖b3 a4! (Winants—Kasparov, Bruxelles 1987 —43/566) 20. ♖b8 ♖b8 21. ♖a4 ♖b2 ∞ Kasparov.

One does not need to memorize these lines, rather one should study them as examples.