

KONSTANTIN SAKAEV

COMPLETE SLAV II



Responsible editor
Konstantin Sakaev

Cover designer
Milos Sibinovic

Typesetting
Marcin Turecki

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Complete Slav II
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All sales or enquires should be directed to Ches Evolution
ul. Smutna 5a, 32-005 Niepolomice, Poland

e-mail: info@chess-evolution.com
website: www.chess-evolution.com

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Key to symbols

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+-	White has a decisive advantage
-+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate

Preface

The second part of the Complete Slav contains all systems that were not presented in the first part, namely a popular variation 3. ♘f3 ♘f6 4. ♗c3 dxc4 and also all systems after 4...e6. Not to mention the possibilities such as 5. g3 or 5. ♖b3, I have presented lines after 5. e3 ♗bd7 - for starters Meran (6. ♗d3 dxc4 7. ♗xc4 b5) and Anti-Meran (6. ♖c2 ♗d6) lines. Also the variations arising after 5. ♗g5 are examined deeply, namely Moscow (5... h6 ♗xf6) and Anti-Moscow (5... h6 ♗h4) variations as well as Botvinnik system 5... dxc4.

A possibility to cover such a multitude of systems in only one book (it was possible to create even 5 tomes) occurred only because I have tried to shorten the lines almost to the bare minimum.

There are plenty of openings books in where not the most important lines are covered - this leads to a creation of plenty unnecessary variations - the book starts to be 'wishy-washy'. In such situations I have decided to only describe why this or other move does not deserve to be examined deeply. Thanks to such a way of thinking this elaboration did not lose its quality and in my opinion it is even easier to find a relevant recommendation.

All of presented variations are analyzed on the same level as those described in the first part of whole elaboration.

The book covers the state of the theory for July 2013.

Konstantin Sakaev

PART 1

Variations 4...dxc4

GAME 1

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♗c3 dxc4



5.e4

Very risky gambit-like move.

5.♙g5?! is dubious – 5...b5 – White risks to stand without a pawn, with no compensation;

5.♘e5 b5 6.g3 ♙b7 7.♙g2 a6 8.0-0 (8.a4 e6 9.0-0 – 8. 0-0 e6 9.a4) 8...c6 9.a4 – 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.g3 b5 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.Ne5 a6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.a4 The Complete Slav, Book;

5.g3 b5 6.♙g2 ♙b7 7.0-0 e6 8.♘e5 a6 9.a4 – 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.g3 b5 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.Ne5 a6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.a4 The Complete Slav, Book 1;

5.e3 Is not dangerous, due to the fact that White will lose a tempo – Nc3 will come under attack.

5...b5 6.a4 b4



7.♘a2 This move has been played already several times. The knight will be able to return to play – Nc1-b3 and will have a comfortable blocking place there. The drawback of this plan is obviously slowness – Black will manage to finish a development and prepare c6–c5.

(Also 7.♘b1 is of the same strength – 7...♙a6 (Black may try to obtain more complex play – 7...c5, but still – the chances are roughly equal. 8.♙xc4 e6 9.0-0 ♙b7 10.♘bd2 ♘bd7=) 8.♙c2 e6 9.0-0 c5 10.♘bd2 c3 11.bxc3 bxc3 12.♘b1 cxd4

(12...♙a5 13.♙a3 cxd4 (13...♙e7 14.dxc5 ♙xe2 15.♙xe2 0-0

16. ♖b5 ♜c7 17. ♞c1±) 14. ♜xd4
(14. ♙xf8 ♜xf8 15. ♜xd4 g6
16. ♞a3 ♜g7=) 14... ♙xa3 15. ♞xa3
0-0 16. ♞xc3 ♜d5=)

13. ♜xd4 ♙xe2 14. ♞xe2 ♙c5
15. ♙a3 (15. ♜xc3 0-0=) 15... ♜bd7
16. ♜xc3 0-0=, position is even.)

7...e6 8. ♙xc4 ♜bd7 9.0-0 ♙b7
10. ♙d2 a5



11. ♜c1 ♙d6 (11... ♙e7 12. ♜b3
0-0 13. ♞e2 ♞b6 14. ♞fd1 ♞ac8=
Shulman – Potkin, Khanty
Mansyisk 2011) 12. ♜b3 c5 13. ♞e2
0-0= position is even, Iljushin –
Ionov, Sochi 2010.

5...b5 6.e5 ♜d5 7.a4
7. ♜g5 h6 8. ♜ge4 ♙f5±

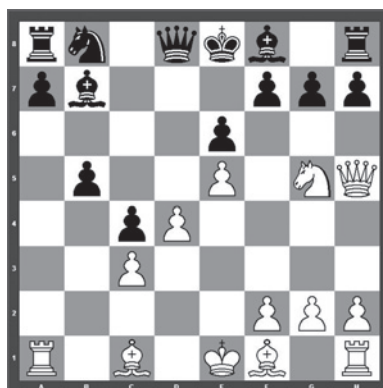
7...e6 8.axb5

8. ♜g5 ♙e7 9. h4 (9. ♞h5? 9...g6
10. ♞h6 ♜b4-+; 9. ♜ge4 b4 10. ♜b1
♙a6±) 9...h6 10. ♜ge4 b4 11. ♜b1
♙a6 12. ♞g4 (12. ♜bd2 c3±) 12...g6
13. ♜bd2 c3± Hillarp Persson – Acs,

Budapest 1996

8...♜xc3 9.bxc3 cxb5 10.♜g5 ♙b7

11. ♞h5



11...g6!

is more promising move in com-
parison with

11... ♞d7 12. ♙e2∞, which leads to
unclear position.

12. ♞g4 ♙d5

12... ♙e7 13. ♜e4

a) 13. h4 h6 14. ♜e4 ♞d5± Van Der
Velden – Yilmaz, Enschede 2008;

b) 13. ♙e2 ♙d5 14. ♙f3 (14. ♜e4
h5 15. ♞f4 a5±) 14... ♜c6 15. ♜e4
h5 16. ♞f4 a5± Magerramov –
Sasikiran, Dubai 2002;

13...h5 14. ♞f4 ♜d7±

13. ♞f4

13. h4 h6 14. ♜e4 ♜d7 15. h5 g5
16. ♙e2 a5± Nakamura – Carlsen,

Gjovik 2009;

13. ♙e2 ♙c7±

13...♔c7 14.♖f6 ♜g8 15.♗f4 h6
16.♘e4 16...♘d7



Position is complex, but advantage is in Black's hands. Rare 5th moves of White does not create any problems to Black. The sacrifice of e4 pawn leads to a complex fight, but objectively Black stands better. Only 5. e3 leads to a complex, even play.

GAME 2

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4



5...♗g4

It was popular 50 years ago, but is already out of date. No wonder – light-squared bishop will come under attack quickly and will be limited by the pawns.

5...c5?! is dubious – 6.d5 (White can also choose 6.e4 and after 6... cxd4 7.♗xd4 ♗xd4 8.♘xd4±, his advantage is very small in this endgame.) 6...e6 (6...♗f5 7.a5! This move allows White to obtain favorable pawn structure. What is more – a4 square is set free for the queen and pawn c4 will be retrieved in a comfortable version. 7...e6 8.♗a4+ ♗d7 9.♘b5! with irresistible Nf3–e5 and Nb5–c7+.) 7.c4 exd5 (7...♘xe4 8.♘xe4 exd5 9.♘c3 ♗e6 10.♘g5 ♘c6 11.g3!) 8.c5 d4 (8...♘fd7 9.♗xd5 – a2–a4 appears to be useful – after Nd7–b6

the Knight comes under a4–a5.)
 9.♙xc4 ♘g4 White has very strong
 initiative and many ways of its
 development. 10.♚b3 – easy and
 convincing: (10.♘d5↑; 10.0-0↑)
 10...♚d7 11.♘d5 ♘c6 12.♚c2 ♚d8



13.♙g5 ♚a5+ 14.♙d2 (14.♙f1↑)
 14...♚d8 15.0-0 ♙e6 16.♘f4 ♙xc4
 17.♚xc4 ♙e7 18.♚fel 0-0 19.h3
 ♘h6 20.e6 ♘f5 21.exf7+ ♚xf7
 22.♘d3 ♘d6 23.♚xc5±, with a clear
 advantage.;

There are many reasons, why not to
 set blockade on dark squares 5...a5
 1) Black can do it later, if necessary
 – it is better to develop the pieces.
 2) In some variations, Black needs
 a5 square for the queen. 3)The
 structure is fixed – Black loses
 a chance to play a7–a6 and b7–b5
 or c6–c5 (because of the b5 square
 weakness). After e.g. 6.e4 ♙g4
 7.♙xc4 e6 (7...♙xf3 8.gxf3±) 8.0-0
 ♙xf3 9.gxf3 ♙e7



10.♘h1 0-0 11.♚g1± White has a big
 advantage.;

5...♘a6 The knight jumps to b4, but
 standing there, he is not very useful.
 The only benefit is that he does not
 block a queen and pawn d4 is under
 attack. Now, White shall strengthen
 the centre. The drawback of the fast
 capture of the centre is connected
 with a defence of pawn d4. 6.e4
 (White may also choose to capture
 the centre step by step – 6.e3
 ♙g4 7.♙xc4 e6 8.h3 Taking on a6
 weakens a complex of light squares
 and also gives Black an open `b`
 file. 8...♙h5 9.0-0 ♘b4 10.♚e2 ♙e7
 11.♚d1 0-0 12.g4! 12...♙g6 13.e4
 ♘d7 14.♙f4± White is dominating
 in the centre and g2–g4 does not
 play a big role. After e.g. 14...♚e8
 15.♙g3 ♚a5 16.h4 h6 17.♙g2 ♙h7
 18.g5 h5 19.♘e5 ♘xe5 20.dxe5±
 White's advantage has increased,
 Ovechkin – Rublevsky, Tomsk
 2001.) 6...♙g4 7.♙xc4 e6 (7...♙xf3
 8.gxf3 e6 9.♙e3±) 8.♙e3 ♘b4 9.0-0
 (9.♚c1 ♙e7 10.0-0 – 9.0-0 Be7
 10.Rc1) 9...♙e7 (9...♙xf3 10.♚xf3±)



10.♖c1! A good way to once and for all repel a Nc2 threat.

a) Not precise is 10.h3, because of 10...♙xf3!

(10...♙h5 11.♖e2 (The position after 11.g4 is extremely sharp and convoluted: 11...♙g6 12.♗e5 ♙xe4 13.g5 ♙f5 14.gxf6 gxf6 15.♗g4 h5! 16.♗h6 ♙g6∞) 11...h6! The only way of ensuring safety to light-squared bishop. (11...♗d7 12.g4! 12...♙g6 13.♗e5± – pawn f' is ready for action.; 11...0-0 12.g4 ♙g6 13.♗e5± – there is also a threat of 'h' pawn march.) 12.♖fd1 0-0 13.g4 ♙g6 14.♙f4± – due to White's dominance in the centre, he stands better.)

11.♖xf3 (11.gxf3 does not look good – pawn should stay on 'h2' to protect the king in a proper way.) 11...♗c2 12.♖ad1 0-0 13.♖d2 ♗xe3 14.fxc3



14...♙b4! 15.♖df2 ♙xc3 16.bxc3 ♖a5 17.e5 ♗d5= – Black forces a simplification of a position.;

b) Also safer, but less ambitious 10.♙e2 is possible: 10...0-0 11.h3 ♙h5 12.♗e5 ♙xe2 13.♖xe2± – White is better due to a spatial advantage.;

10...0-0 (10...♙h5 11.h3 ♙g6 12.♗e5! 12...♙xe4 13.♗xe4 ♗xe4 14.♖g4±) 11.h3 ♙xf3 (11...♙h5 is even worse: 12.g4 ♙g6 13.♗e5 ♗d7 14.f4 ♗xe5 15.dxe5± – Bg6 is trapped.) 12.♖xf3 ♖a5 13.♖fd1 White has small, but stable advantage, Anikaev – Taimanov, Moscow 1984.

6. ♗e5 ♙h5 7.f3

Other continuations have been also played, but they are weaker:

7.g3 e6 8.♙g2 ♙b4 9.0-0 0-0∞ – Bh5 is still alive and that assure Black good counterplay.;

7.h3 ♗a6 8.g4 ♙g6 9.♙g2 ♗b4 10.0-0 ♙c2 11.♖d2 ♙b3∞

7...♗fd7

This is the only way Black is able

to play e7–e5. Otherwise, White will simply play e2–c4 and take back on c4 with clear advantage.

7...c6 8.g4! The toughest one, White chases the bishop. (8.e4 c5 9.♙e3±) 8...♙g6 (8...♜fd7 9.♜xd7 ♖h4+ 10.♔d2 ♜xd7 11.gxh5 ♜c5 12.♔c2 ♜b3 13.♔b1 ♜xa1 14.♔xa1 ♖xh5 15.e3 b5 16.axb5 cxb5 17.♙e2±) 9.h4 c5 10.h5 ♙d3 11.d5!

8.♜xc4



8...e5

The most promising line for White appears

9.g3

Also old-fashioned 9.♜e4 ensures a small advantage. 9...♙b4+ 10.♙d2 ♖c7 11.♙xb4 (11.♜xe5 ♜xe5 12.dxe5 ♜d7 13.♜d6+ ♙xd6 14.exd6 ♖xd6 15.♙c3± – thanks to a pair of bishops, White has small, but stable advantage.; 11.dxe5 0-0 12.f4 ♜a6 13.♜ed6∞; 11.♖b3!? 11...♜a6 12.dxe5 N 12...0-0 13.♖d1 ♙xd2+ 14.♖xd2 ♜xe5 15.♜xe5

♖xe5 16.♖xb7 ♜c5 17.♖xc6 ♜xe4 18.♖xe4 ♖xe4 19.fxe4± – White keeps chances for a win.) 11...♖xb4+ 12.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 13.♔xd2 exd4 14.♜ed6+ ♔e7 (14...♔d8 15.♜xb7+ ♔c7 16.♜ca5!N When the rook will stay on c1, she will neatly cooperate with the knights.) 15.♜f5+ (15.♜xb7 ♜a6 16.♖c1±) 15...♔f6 16.♜xd4 ♖d8 17.e4 ♜c5 18.♔e3 ♖xd4 19.♔xd4 ♜b3+ 20.♔c3 ♜xa1 21.♙e2± – endgame will be not pleasant for Black, Beliavsky – Rublevsky, Tivat 1995.

9...f6

After 9...♙b4 10.dxe5 0-0 11.♙h3 ♖c7 12.f4± compensation for a pawn

is not sufficient.

10.dxe5 ♜xe5 11.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 12.♜xe5 fxe5 13.♙h3 ♜d7 14.♙e3 ♔c7 15.♔f2!

15.♖c1±

15...♙c5 16.♜b5+! cxb5



17.♖hc1!N