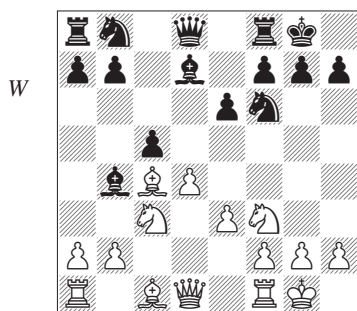


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B)
8...♔d7 (D)



This, the Bronstein Variation, was introduced by the legendary world championship challenger David Bronstein in the 24th Soviet Championship in Moscow 1957 in games against Furman and Petrosian. Both games ended in draws. The variation had its heyday in the last part of the 1960s, after which it more or less faded into obscurity until Yusupov used it to beat Rubinstein expert GM Rainer Knaak in 1991. Since then it has been played by several grandmasters, but it has never regained its former popularity.

9 ♖e2

Let's consider White's alternatives:

a) 9 dxc5 ♕c6! 10 ♘b5 a6 11 ♘bd4 ♕xc5 12 b3 ♕d5 13 ♕xd5 ♖xd5 14 ♕b2 ♘bd7 15 ♖c1 ♖ac8 = Furman-Bronstein, USSR Ch (Moscow) 1957.

b) 9 ♕d3 ♕c6 10 a3 cxd4 11 exd4 ♕e7 12 ♖e1 ♘bd7 13 ♕c2 a6 14 ♖d3 ♖e8 15 ♕g5 g6 = Gligorić-Najdorf, Hollywood 1963.

c) 9 a3 and now:

c1) 9...cxd4 10 exd4 (10 axb4!?) 10...♕e7 11 ♕b3 ♕c6 12 ♕c2 ♘bd7

13 ♖d3 ♖c8 14 ♕g5 g6 15 ♖fe1 ♘d5 with roughly equal chances, Fuhrmann-Gipslis, Berlin 1993.

c2) 9...♕xc3 10 bxc3 ♕c6 11 ♖e1 (or 11 ♘e5 ♕d5 12 ♕e2 cxd4 13 exd4!? ♘e4 14 ♕d3 ♘d7 15 f4!?) with an initiative for White, Pchliniski-Niewiadomski, corr. 1962) 11...♘bd7 12 ♕d3 ♖a5 13 ♕b2 cxd4 14 exd4 (14 cxd4 ♕e4 15 ♘e5 ♕xd3 16 ♘xd7 ♘xd7 17 ♖xd3 ♖ac8 = Geller-Keres, Moscow Ct (2) 1962) 14...♖h5 15 ♕e2 ♖g6 16 ♕f1 ♖h5 = Martinez Acosta-Tullio, corr. 1976.

c3) 9...♕a5 10 ♖e2 (both 10 ♘e2 cxd4 11 ♘exd4 ♘c6 12 b4 ♘xd4 13 ♘xd4 ♕c7 = Cherepkov-Taimanov, St Petersburg Ch 1997 and 10 ♖d3 ♕c6 11 ♘e5 ♖e7 12 ♖d1 ♖d8 13 ♖c2 ♕b6 14 dxc5 ♖xd1+ 15 ♘xd1 ♖xc5 = Ivkov-Garcia Gonzalez, Novi Sad 1976 fail to impress) 10...♕c6 11 ♖d1 ♘bd7 (11...♖e7 transposes to the main line) 12 d5 (12 ♕d2!? ♕b6 ± Yusupov) 12...exd5 13 ♘xd5 ♘b6 14 ♘xb6 (14 ♘f4 ♖c7 15 ♕a2 ♖ae8 ♞ Knaak-Yusupov, Hamburg 1991) 14...♖xb6 15 ♘e5 ♕a4 16 ♖d3 ♖c7 17 b3 ♕xb3 18 ♖xb3 ♖xe5 19 ♕b2 with compensation for the pawn, but no more than that, Szabo-Kholmov, Leningrad 1967.

9...♕c6 10 ♖d1 ♖e7 (D)

11 a3

White has a few other interesting possibilities:

a) 11 ♘e5 ♖d8 and here:

a1) 12 a3 ♕a5 13 dxc5 ♖xd1+ 14 ♘xd1 ♖xc5 15 ♘xc6 ♖xc6 16 b4 ± Taimanov-Reshevsky, Buenos Aires 1960.

a2) 12 ♕d3 h6 13 ♕c2 ♕a5 14 ♖c4 ♕b6 15 a4 ♕d5 16 ♘xd5 exd5 17 ♖d3 ♘c6 18 ♘xc6 bxc6 19 dxc5