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## From “History of the Orangutan Opening”

The first game between major players was seen in the match between Berthold Englisch and Harry Pillsbury in Vienna 1896. For those not familiar with those names, according to Chessmetrics, both players were in the top 10 in the world at the time of the game, which went as follows:

**1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 f6 3.b5 d5 4.e3 Nh6 5.c4 Be6 5...d4 was a better move. 6.cxd5 Qxd5 7.Nc3 White already has a comfortable edge. 7...Qd7 8.Nf3 Bd6 9.d4 Nf7 10.d5 Bf5**



**11.e4 11.Nh4!?** Bg6 **12.Be2** is very good for White. **11...Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 0–0 14.Bd3 Qe7 15.0–0 Nd7 16.Bc2 Nh6 16...Ba3** to exchange the dark-squared bishops was a better choice, but Pillsbury was concerned about his c7–pawn, which will become a target on the open c-file and therefore chose a more passive set-up. **17.Qe2 g5 18.a4 Kh8 19.Nd1 Rg8 20.Ne3 Nf8 21.Qh5 Qg7**



**22.Ng4** Black has been completely outplayed and is without counterplay. Englisch here chose to exchange the knights to open the h-file, but it would have been far better to play more patiently for a breakthrough on the queenside, for instance, 22.g3 Ng6 23.Kh1 (to stop any potential tricks with ...Nf4 by Black) 23...Raf8 24.Rac1 b6 25.Bd3 Rf7 26.Nc4 Bc5 27.Ba3 Bxa3 28.Nxa3 and White will win. **22...Nxb4 23.hxg4 Ng6 24.g3 Ne7 25.Kg2 Qg6 26.Rh1 Qxh5 27.Rxh5 Ng6 28.Rah1 Rg7 29.Ra1?!** Here, Englisch began to lose to the plot a bit, apparently frustrated that he could not find a way through. A better option was 29.Rh6 Kg8 30.Bd3 b6 31.Bc3 eventually followed by a4–a5 with pressure on the queenside. The breakthrough is not likely to happen soon because Black is solid, but he will suffer for a long time before White agrees to a draw. **29...Nf8 30.Rhh1 Nd7 31.Kf1?! a6 32.Ke2**, and here the players settled for a draw. Black is no longer worse. A possible continuation could be 32...axb5 33.axb5 Rgg8 34.Bc3 Nb6 and White will never be able to make any progress. ½–½.

According to Sokolsky, Englisch played other games with 1.b4, but I could not find any record of them anywhere.

### Alexey Pavlovich Sokolsky - Salo Flohr

Semifinal Soviet ch (Moscow) 1953

**1.b4 a5** Interestingly, in his book on the opening, Sokolsky gives an entirely different move order 1...e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 a5 4.b5 Nf6 5.e3. **2.b5 Nf6 3.Bb2 d6 4.e3 e5 5.c4 Be7 6.Nf3 0–0 7.Be2 c6 8.Nc3 Re8 9.0–0**



**9...e4?!** As Sokolsky points out, this active pawn push is misguided because it is inconsistent with his otherwise passive set-up. Instead, Sokolsky suggests 9...Nbd7 followed by ...Nf8. However, the best is 9...Bf5 10.d3 Nbd7 11.Rc1 when White is somewhat better. **10.Nd4 c5** Black pushes White's knight out of the center, but it only creates more weaknesses. However, Sokolsky's suggestion of 10...Qc7 is pretty terrible for Black, for instance, 11.Rc1 Nbd7 12.Qc2 Nc5 13.f3 exf3 14.Rxf3 and White is clearly better. **11.Nc2 Nbd7 12.d3** Breaking the d-file open, taking a look at Black's backward d-pawn. **12...exd3 13.Qxd3 Ne5** Or 13...Nb6 14.e4 Be6 15.Ne3 with a passive position without much hope of counterplay for Black. **14.Qd2 Be6 15.Na3!** The knight is not particularly well-placed on a3, but it protects the important c4-pawn and gives White time to attack the d6-pawn. The knight on e5 is Black's only semi-active piece, but it can easily get kicked away. **15...Bf5 16.f3 Ned7 17.e4 Bg6 18.Rad1 Nb6 19.Nc2**



Black has been completely outplayed. Now desperation sets in... **19...d5!? 20.exd5?! White should have captured with the knight but understandably thought that piece exchanges would help Black, but that is hardly the case: 20.Nxd5 Nbx d5 21.exd5 Bd6 22.f4?! (White can improve with 22.g3 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Be5 24.Bc1 (or 24.Bxe5 Rxe5 25.f4 Re7 26.d6 Rd7 27.Bf3 and White is much better) 24...b6 25.Kg2 and White has an extra pawn, the bishop pair, and a clear advantage) 22...Ne4 gives Black the initiative, according to Sokolsky, but 23.Qe1 is clearly better for White. Sokolsky thought that 20.cxd5 Bd6 would give Black dangerous pressure on the h2–b8 diagonal, but 21.Ne3 Qc7 22.g3 and Black has nothing that resembles adequate compensation. 20...Bd6 21.f4!? Or 21.g3 Be5 22.Bd3 Qd6 23.Bc1 Bd4+ 24.Kh1 Qe5 25.Nb1 Rac8 26.Rfe1 and White is clearly better. 21...Qc7 22.g3 Bh5 23.Ne3? Not 23.Bxh5?? as Black wins after 23...Nxc4. Instead, 23.Qd3! wins for White, e.g., 23...Na4 24.Ba1 Nxc3 25.Bxh5 Nxd1 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Bxd1 and Black's position is a complete disaster. 23...Bxe2 If 23...Qe7 then 24.Bxh5! wins for White (less convincing is 24.Nf5 Qd7) 24...Qxe3+ 25.Qxe3 Rxe3 26.Be2 Rae8 27.Bd3 and the rook on e3 will be evicted, leaving White with a winning position. 24.Nxe2 Ne4?? Black returns the favor. Black would have been fully back in the game had he played 24...Qe7 25.Nf5 Qxe2 26.Qxe2? (26.Nxd6 Qxd2 27.Rxd2 Ne4 28.Nxe4 Rxe4 is not worse for Black) 26...Rxe2 27.Bxf6 Bf8! (27...gxf6 28.Nxd6 is clearly better for White; 27...Nxc4 28.Bxg7 Rxa2 29.Bf6 and White is winning) 28.Be5 g6 29.Nh4 Rxa2 and Black is clearly better on account of his passed a-pawn. 25.Qd3 Qd7 26.Kg2 h5 27.Nc3 Nf6 28.Nb1 Ng4 29.Nxg4 Qxg4 30.Nc3 f5**



**31.Rde1** White gives up a pawn to penetrate with the rook. **31...Rxe1**  
**32.Rxe1 Bxf4** **33.Re6 Bc7** Or **33...Nd7** **34.h3 Qg5** **35.Ne2 Bc7** **36.d6**  
**Bb6** **37.Qd5 Kh7** **38.Bc1** and Black's position collapses entirely. **34.d6**  
**Bd8** **35.h3 Qxc4** **36.Qxf5 Bf6**



**37.Rxf6!** White crashes decisively through. **37...gxf6** **38.Qg6+ Kf8**  
**39.Qxf6+ Qf7** **40.Qh6+ Ke8** **41.Ne4 Qd5** **42.Qh8+** and Black resigned.  
**1-0**

## Chapter 6: Queen's Indian Set-ups

The Queen's Indian Defense is such a sensible opening that it is difficult to believe it should be a proper set-up for Black. But it turns out that things are far from that simple for Black

**1.b4 Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.b5 b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.Nf3 Be7**

Both 5...d5 and 5...c5 tend to transpose to other lines, either in this chapter or the main line chapter.

A fourth option is 5...a6 6.a4 axb5 (or 6...Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.c4 d6 10.d4 axb5 11.axb5 Rxa1 12.Bxa1 cxb5 13.cxb5 Nbd7 was played in Glenne-T.Ernst, Gausdal 1994, and now 14.Bb2 would have been best; White's position is a little easier to play) 7.axb5 Rxa1 8.Bxa1 d6 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.c4 Qa8 11.Nc3 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bb2, and here a draw was agreed upon, ½-½, in Ornstein-R.Akesson, Stockholm 1998, but White has more space and the slightly better chances.

**6.c4 0-0**

So far, so good. Black has played the standard Queen's Indian moves, which look a bit passive in this context, but this can, of course, soon change as Black prepares to strike in the center.

**7.Be2**



**7...d6?!**

Calling this move dubious is perhaps a little harsh, but invariably, Black seems to end up in trouble after this move.

**8.0-0 Nbd7 9.a4 a6**



If Black attempts to stop White's play on the queenside with 9...a5, then the untried 10.Nd4! is uncomfortable for Black: the weak c6-square is the target with Bf3. (less consequential but still favoring White is 10.d3 d5 11.Nbd2 c6 12.bxc6 Bxc6 13.Nd4 Bb7 14.Nb5 and White has the initiative) 10...e5 11.Nf5 (winning the bishop pair for White) 11...Re8



12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 (or 12...Rxe7 13.d3 and Black will be struggling to develop any counterplay whereas White threatens to play e3–e4 followed by f2–f4 with a kingside attack) 13.d3 d5 14.Nd2 Nc5 15.Nb3 dxc4 (also 15...Nxb3 16.Qxb3 dxc4 17.Qxc4 is comfortably better for White) 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.dxc4 Qe7 18.Ba3 Qe6 19.f3!? c5 20.bxc6 Bxc6 21.Qb3 and White has the bishop pair and a weak backward pawn on b6–pawn to attack.

### 10.Nc3

White has a couple of alternatives:

a) 10.a5? is played in the right spirit but is not particularly good in this position: 10...axb5 11.axb6 (or 11.cxb5 Rxa5 12.Rxa5 bxa5 13.Bc3 c5 14.Qa4 Qa8 15.Qxa5 Qxa5 16.Bxa5 Ra8 and Black has the better chances) 11...Rxa1 12.Bxa1 bxc4 13.bxc7 Qxc7 and White has lost a pawn without compensation.

b) 10.d4, and here:

b1) 10...Ne4 11.Qc2 axb5 12.Bd3 Ndf6 13.cxb5 Qd7 14.Nbd2 Nxd2 15.Nxd2 and White has pressure and more space.

b2) 10...axb5 11.axb5 Rxa1 12.Bxa1 Ne4 13.Nfd2 f6 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Nc3 Bb7 16.Bf3 Qa8 17.Bb2 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 (18.gxf3 f5 19.Qe2 h6 20.h3 Qe8 (if 20...Rf6 then 21.Ra1 is pleasant for White) 21.f4 Qg6+ 22.Kh2 Ra8 23.Qf3 Ra7 with about even chances) 18...Qxf3 19.gxf3 Ra8 20.Ra1 Rxa1+ 21.Bxa1 Kf7 22.Kf1 f5 with an equal endgame, Osmak-Mammadova, Chess.com INT 2021.

### 10...Re8



Some important alternatives:

a) 10...axb5 11.cxb5 (or 11.axb5 Rxa1 12.Qxa1 Qa8 13.d3 Ne5 14.Qxa8 Rxa8 15.Nd4 and White has bit more space but Black should hold the balance) 11...Ne5 12.Nd4 d5 13.Qb3 c5 14.bxc6 Nxc6 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Nb5 and White has the slightly easier position to play.

b) 10...c5 11.bxc6!? (it is tempting to play 11.d4, but Black should not have too much trouble holding the balance, for instance, 11...Ne4 12.Qc2 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 axb5 14.axb5 Qc7 15.Bb2 Bf6 16.Rfd1 was about equal in Grund-Balthasar, Germany 1986) 11...Bxc6 12.Qc2 (12.d4!? can also be considered) 12...Re8 13.h3 Bb7 14.Rfb1 h6 15.Ba3 (15.d4!? is again worth considering) 15...d5 16.Bxe7 Rxe7 17.cxd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Rc1 Nc5 20.Ra3 and White has a little initiative but in essence the chances are more or less even.

c) 10...d5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Qc2 Re8 13.Rfb1 Nb8 14.Nd4 and with his better control over the center, White has a clear advantage.

**11.Nd4!?**



The text move is one of my favorite things about the White play against the Queen's Indian set-up. It almost always takes Black by surprise, and it is challenging to play against. Nevertheless, White has two other options, one of which was endorsed by the maestro himself:

a) 11.d4 Bf8?! (or 11...axb5 12.axb5 Rxa1 13.Bxa1 Qa8 14.Bb2 Ne4 15.Qb3 and White has a slight plus) 12.Qc2 g6 13.Rfd1 Qc8 is given as a draw in some databases, quoting Sokolsky-Chukaev, USSR 1959, but while that was the eventual outcome of the game, White has the better chances, for instance, 14.d5 Bg7 15.dxe6 Rxe6 16.Nd4 Re8 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 axb5 19.axb5 Rxa1 20.Bxa1 Qa8 21.Bb2 Ne4?? (this is a bad blunder; Black should have opted for 21...Nc5 although 22.h3 h5 23.Nd4 is pleasant for White) 22.Nd5 Qb7 23.Bxg7 and this position is given as the final position, a draw  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  in Rosner-Hafner, corr 1997, but White is winning after 23...Kxg7 24.Qb2+ f6 25.Nd4 Nec5 26.Nc6 Rf8 27.f4 and Black is completely busted.

b) 11.Qc2 c6 (or 11...c5 12.bxc6 Bxc6, leading to the same position as after 11...c6) 12.bxc6 Bxc6 13.d4! (this is best; but an interesting alternative is 13.a5!? bxa5 14.Nd4 Bb7 15.Nb3 a4 16.Nxa4 Qc7 17.Bc3 and White has upper hand, Rosin-Schreiber, ICCF corr 1996) 13...d5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Bd3! Bxf3 17.gxf3 Bd6 18.f4 Qh4 19.Qc6 Nf6 20.Qf3 and White has slight advantage.

## 11...axb5

A natural decision for Black, but let us have a quick look at the alternatives:

a) 11...e5? plays into White's hands 12.Nc6 Bxc6 13.bxc6 Nc5 14.f4 exf4 15.Rxf4 Ne6 (or 15...d5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.cxd5 and White is winning) 16.Rf5 with a near-decisive advantage for White.

b) 11...Nc5 12.Nc6 (White can also consider 12.d3 axb5 13.cxb5 Qd7 14.Qc2 Bf8 15.Rfc1 with a small plus; or 12.Bf3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nd3 14.Nc6 Qd7 15.Ba3 Ne5 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Qe2 axb5 18.cxb5 with a nice advantage in space and excellent pressure against Black's queenside) 12...Bxc6 13.bxc6 d5 14.d4 Nce4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.a5 Qd6 17.axb6 Qxc6 18.cxd5 exd5 19.bxc7 Rec8 20.Qd3 and Black will not be able to hang on to the a-pawn if also wanting to win the c7-pawn.

### 12.cxb5!



White can also recapture with the a-pawn, but the weakness on c6 along with the open c-file will give Black long-term headaches.

### 12...e5?!

A better choice is 12...d5 although 13.Nc6 Bxc6 14.bxc6 Ne5 15.Rc1 Nxc6 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Rxc6 is comfortably better for White.

**13.Nc6 Bxc6 14.bxc6 Nf8 15.Nb5** and White has a big plus thanks to the space advantage, bishop pair, and attacking potential on both flanks; a truly depressing position for Black.

# A Repertoire in a few lines

Looking at a whole repertoire book can be intimidating, and the prospect of memorizing a whole bunch of lines is even more so. Nevertheless, below I have put together a quick overview that will help get you started.

## 1.b4

- I. 1...e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c3 Ba5 5.Qa4!? Nc6 6.e3 d6 7.Bg3 Qe7 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Nf3 Bb6 10.d4
- II. 1...e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c3 Be7 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Bg2 0-0 8.e3 Na5 9.Ne2 d5 10.0-0 Bf5 11.d4 c6 12.Nd2
- III. 1...e5 2.Bb2 f6 3.b5 d5 4.e3 Be6 5.d4 e4 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 bb4 8.Qb3 Ba5 9.bxc6
- IV. 1...e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 f5 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.d4 e4 7.Nfd2 d5 8.b5 c6 9.a4 0-0 10.Qb3
- V. 1...Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e3 d6 6. Be2 e5 7.d3 a5 8.b5 Nbd7 9.0-0 Re8 10.Nc3 Nc5 11.Rc1
- VI. 1...Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bxg7 Kxg7 8.Qb3 Qd6 9.a3
- VII. 1...Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e3 c6 6.d4 d5 7.a4
- VIII. 1...Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.b5 b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.Nf3 Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Be2 d6 (7...d5 8.0-0 c5 9.d3 Nbd7 10.a4) 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.a4 a6 10.Nc3
- IX. 1...Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.b5 d5 4.e3 c5 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.c4 Bd6 7.d3 0-0 8.Nbd2 b6 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 Qe7 11.a4
- X. 1...Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3 b5 d5 4.e3 Bd6 5.Nf3 a6 6.a4 0-0 7.c4 axb5 8.axb5 Rxa1 9.Bxa1 Nbd7 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Be2
- XI. 1...Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.b5 c6 4.a4 a6 5.e3 axb5 6.axb5 Rxa1 7.Bxa1 cxb5 8.Bxb5 Qa5 9.Nc3 Bb4 10.Qb1
- XII. 1...d5 2.Bb2 Bf5 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.c5 a5 7.a3
- XIII. 1...d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 4.Nf3 c6 5.c4 e6 6.c5
- XIV. 1...d5 2.Bb2 Bg4 3.Nf3 Bxf3 4.gxf3 e6 5.c4 c6 6.e3 Nf6 7.c5
- XV. 1...d5 2.Bb2 Qd6 3.a3 e5 4.e3 Be6 5.Nf3 Nd7 6.d4 e4 7.Nfd2 c6 8.c4

- XVI. 1...c6 2.Bb2 Qb6 3.a3 a5 4.Nc3 axb4 5.axb4 Rxa1 6.Qxa1  
Qxb4 7.Na4 f6 8.Bc3
- XVII. 1...c6 2.Bb2 a5 3.b5 cxb5 4.a3 Nc6 5.e4 b4 6.axb4 Nxb4  
7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Nc3
- XVIII. 1...f5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.Nf3 e6 4.b5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.d4
- XIX. 1...c5 2.bxc5 e5 3.Ba3 Qa5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bb2 Bxc5 6.e3 d6  
7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.c4
- XX. 1...a5 2.b5

Quite deliberately, I did not attach any evaluations to the above lines, those you should seek inside the book.

Have fun!