

**Alexey Bezgodov**

# **Defend Like Petrosian**

What You Can Learn from Tigran Petrosian's  
Extraordinary Defensive Skills

**New In Chess 2020**

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## Introduction

I should say right away that I never knew personally the hero of this book. I am a bit too young. Maybe this is for the best – often, personal acquaintance hinders one in judging the true quality of a thinker.

The play of Tigran Vartanovich Petrosian (1929-1984), the ninth World Champion, remained little-explored for a long time. In my view, the reason for this lies mainly in his lack of resemblance to any other player. It was hard to understand the basis of his great, prolonged and remarkably stable successes. His playing signature defies any precise characterization. There is not the relentless pressure of Robert Fischer, the opening preparation and gigantic will to win of Garry Kasparov, the purposefulness and determination of Mikhail Botvinnik, the technique of Anatoly Karpov and, even more obviously, the combinational genius of Mikhail Tal. But even so, Petrosian had all these qualities, though in a surprising, rather unusual form, proportions and manner of utilization.

Despite being one of the most peace-loving of players, he won numerous tournaments, and held the title of World Champion for six years.

Although he dabbled in training work, he had no real pupils – it is simply impossible to learn to play like Petrosian, as he was unique.

These are not just fine words. Having spent the last eighteen months absorbed in the world of his games, I can say these things with some foundation. In our world of labels and clear definitions, categorical judgements and relative clarity, it is impossible to find a clear label for Petrosian's play (or any such label will at least be one-sided, if not simply false). In his play, there is everything that makes chess rich. Literally every game of his (I'm not talking here about the many quick draws to which Tigran Vartanovich was, so to speak, not averse) sparkles for me with the extraordinary nature of his chess genius. This is not an analytical genius for producing long variations at the level of Lev Polugaevsky. He was not a sporting genius either. Nevertheless, he was a grandiose chess player. Why? As I understand it, he passionately loved chess exactly as a game. He liked to invent something new at the board, each time surprising his opponents with the inexhaustibility of his imagination.

Maybe this will sound harsh and unusual, but in many ways he remained a gigantically strong amateur. Hence his frequent opening disasters. Hence too, and partly because of a certain weakness of character, the numerous games that were not brought to victory (you will see enough

examples in this book). Hence the difficult endgames, which nonetheless he was often able to save.

My task here is to study Petrosian the defender. The greatest mistake would be to consider him a fan of boring passive defence. Defence according to Petrosian was always the search for counter-chances, bluffing, posing the most difficult practical tasks to the opponent. He was Tal reversed. It is not coincidental that in this book there are quite a few battles between Tal and Petrosian. This was a really interesting phenomenon in chess history.

The teacher, without whom Petrosian could not have become a great player, was primarily Aron Nimzowitsch (more precisely, his books – the maestro died when Tigran was five years old, and so they never knew each other). As a child, Tigran was captivated by these books, and his style was formed for life.

What were the common features of Nimzowitsch and Petrosian? They were (in my personal view, of course) as follows:

1. The tireless search for little-studied lines.
2. Frequent rejection of a real struggle for the initiative as White and for clear equality as Black.
3. The tendency towards manoeuvring and a waiting game.
4. Patience, the ability to await your moment of luck.
5. Precise play, a positional flair that is almost unmistakable.
6. The preference for knights over bishops.
7. Sharp changes in the rhythm of the game (from defence to attack, even if risk is involved).

I could go on, but I do not want to try the reader's patience. In general, their play was quite similar. Of course, Petrosian was a lot stronger – chess evolved tremendously over the several decades that separated these chess giants. But it can be argued that in some respects Petrosian remained in the previous chess era, when chess seemed inexhaustible. He made attempts to catch up with the modern era and worked a lot with opening specialists, and yet his play gives the impression that he was dubious about all these long, so-called 'forced' variations. But it is striking that, despite this, in his later years, against much more sophisticated openings and young opponents, he demonstrated the highest level of play, remaining a dangerous opponent to all.

What I have written so far can be considered as a kind of introduction to the introduction. Now to the main point. My tasks do not include

enumerating all aspects of the personality of my hero, his sporting results or his biography. My theme is Tigran Petrosian's (for brevity, I will generally call him TP in the remainder of the book) defensive play.

What are the main features of this defensive play?

1. Intolerance of passivity.
2. The search for counterplay at the cost of any concessions.
3. A readiness for unbalanced positions.
4. The sharpest tactical vision.
5. Composure in the handling of the worst positions.
6. Optimism.
7. A tendency to relax after emerging from a bad position.
8. A love of exchange sacrifices.
9. A penchant for king journeys in the most dangerous situations.
10. Often hard-to-explain pawn weakenings.
11. Preference for knights over bishops (an extremely rare quality for a player of such a level).
12. A depressed mood in the worst minor-piece endings without counterplay.

A most original and unique set of qualities, I'm sure you'll agree!

I love to study the chess classics. My attempt to improve my defensive skill by studying the games of Tigran Petrosian led to a sharp desire to delve more deeply into the topic and in the process my eyes lit up more and more. I understood that this defence should be shown to the whole world in all its details. The results are shocking.

The book you are holding in your hands can be considered unusual, even sensational. Why? Because it explodes the myths about one of the most mysterious players of all time. To many readers, it may even appear disrespectful and excessively critical towards the play of the ninth World Champion. However, I have only striven to be objective.

We are accustomed to consider Tigran Vartanovich Petrosian to be a player who was extremely accurate, patient, well-founded and even, to a certain extent, boring. To some extent, that remains true, but only in those cases where he felt comfortable in the course of the game. However, things were quite different in cases where he was under attack.

I should add straightaway that there were not so many opponents who really wanted to try to beat the great champion, and so Petrosian did not that often have to defend himself against serious threats. But there were exceptions. And when he had to defend himself, then our

hero changed completely. He became first and foremost a tactician, a player who was absolutely fearless and adventurous (in the best sense of the word). I will repeat that this only happened when he was defending his position. Naturally, by playing that way Petrosian was taking great risks and provoking tactical play where no rules applied. Interesting and unpredictable events occurred.

It's time to start the actual book. It is arranged in the following way. In the first Part, I have gathered some games of TP, starting from the early ones, trying to show the stages of the formation of this outstanding defender. That is, starting from the earliest games and continuing to the last, you will be able to trace a certain evolution of TP's defensive methods (or lack thereof). The standard of opponents will naturally grow as well.

In Part II, I have examined 'micro-matches' with some of his great contemporaries, in order to trace the history of their relationship as far as TP's defensive skills are concerned. These are games with world champions and important contenders, long-term opponents of TP on the highest levels of world chess.

In many respects I was guided by my tastes, so please do not think that I consider, for example, Lev Polugaevsky to be a less worthy contender than Lajos Portisch or Paul Keres.

Also, games between Petrosian and Robert James Fischer (except for the earlier ones) are hardly covered at all. Why? As I understand it, Fischer's climax in the 1970s was a whirlwind, against which it was impossible for anyone to stand up. Realizing this, TP played below his strength against him. Well, okay, this book is not about Fischer, we have a different, no less interesting hero.

I will add that in many examples of defence that I studied, TP reminded me of the legendary Jackie Chan – his thought worked so unpredictably, just as suddenly and, it would seem, he was undeservedly saved in the most hopeless situations.

This book is a textbook on active defence. Play like Petrosian, play better than Petrosian!

Alexey Bezgodov  
Khanty-Mansiysk, August 2020

## A happy escape from a nightmare

Game 44 Réti Opening

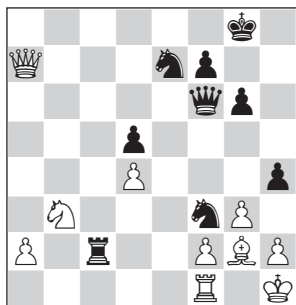
**Tigran Petrosian**

**Jürgen Teufel**

Bamberg 1968

The attempt to outplay an opponent 'on class' results in a blunder, but salvation comes in the shape of a timely draw offer.

**1.g3 d5 2.♙g2 g6 3.c4 c6 4.♚c2 ♘f6**  
**5.b3 ♙g7 6.♙b2 0-0 7.♘f3 ♙g4 8.0-0**  
**♘bd7 9.d3 ♙xf3 10.♙xf3 e6 11.♘d2**  
**♘e8 12.♙xg7 ♘xg7 13.b4 ♘e5**  
**14.♙g2 ♘f5 15.♚b2 ♚f6 16.♞ab1**  
**h5 17.e4 ♘e7 18.b5 ♞fd8 19.bxc6**  
**bxc6 20.exd5 cxd5 21.♚a3 ♞ab8**  
**22.♞xb8 ♞xb8 23.cxd5 exd5 24.♘b3**  
**h4 25.♚xa7 ♞c8 26.d4 ♘f3+ 27.♙h1**  
 Solid was 27.♙xf3 ♚xf3 28.♘d2  
 ♚e2 29.♚a3=, but this is unlikely to  
 have suited White.  
**27...♞c2**



Black has fully sufficient compensation for the pawn. TP's nervous and weak reply shows that time pressure and his desire to win at all costs affected his judgement.

**28.a4?**

He had to bring up the reserves:

28.♚d7! ♘g5 29.♙g1 ♞xa2 30.♚g4=.

**28...♘xh2! 1/2-1/2**

White stands very badly. The variations are attractive and I suggest you explore these yourself. The consequences could have been bad for the World Champion, but the German player settled for a draw.

An unfulfilled combination on the theme of the weakness of f7

Game 45 Ruy Lopez

**Borislav Ivkov**

**Tigran Petrosian**

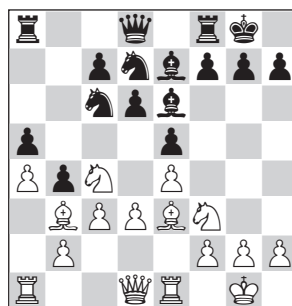
Bamberg 1968

**1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5**

In this game, TP reveals his inexperience in the Spanish and is saved only by a miracle.

**3...a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♞e1**  
**b5 7.♙b3 0-0 8.a4**

At the time, this line had not been so deeply analysed. It undoubtedly requires some accuracy from Black.  
**8...b4 9.d3 d6 10.♘bd2 ♙e6 11.♘c4**  
**♘d7 12.♙e3 a5 13.c3**

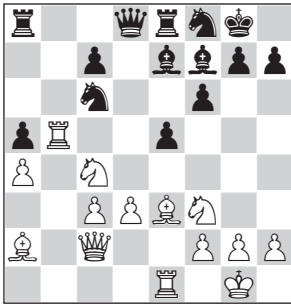


**13...bxc3**

Now the open b-file turns out to be a strong factor for White. I prefer 13...d5! 14.exd5 ♙xd5=.

**14.bxc3 d5 15.exd5 ♙xd5 16.♞b1 ♞e8**

And here, 16...♖b8! was more solid.  
**17.♙a2 f6 18.♜b5 ♙f7 19.♚c2 ♘b5**  
 19...♚c8 20.h4± was also unpleasant.



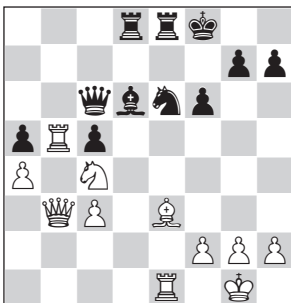
### 20.d4

I am convinced that Petrosian was saved by his gigantic reputation. Against anyone else, Ivkov would without any doubt have preferred 20.♘cxe5! fxe5 21.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 22.♚b3+ ♘e6 23.♚c4! ♜a6 24.♜xe5! ♙f6 25.♜xe6 ♜xe6 26.♚xa6+-. The combination is quite long but not so difficult for such a strong GM.

**20...exd4 21.♘d4 ♘d4 22.♙d4 ♚d7 23.♜d1 ♜ad8 24.♜bb1**

White is better after 24.♘xa5 c5 25.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 26.♘b7 cxd4 27.♘d8+ ♜xd8 28.♜xd4 ♚e6 29.♚b1. **24...♚e6 25.♜e1 ♚d5 26.♜b5 c5 27.♙b3 ♚a8 28.♘b6 ♚c6 29.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 30.♚b3+ ♘e6 31.♙e3 ♙f8**

**32.♘c4 ♙d6**



### 33.♜b6

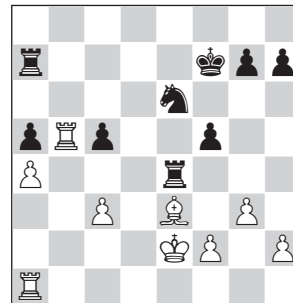
Maybe White missed his opponent's reply? The simple capture of the pawn would have ended the game:

33.♘xa5 ♚c8 34.♘b7+-.

**33...♚d5 34.♘xd6 ♜xd6 35.♚xd5 ♜xd5 36.♜b5 ♜a8 37.g3 ♙f7 38.♙f1**

Things are still not easy for Black after 38.c4 ♜d3 39.♙xc5 ♘xc5 40.♜xc5 ♜a7 41.♜b1 ♜c3 42.♜bb5 ♙g6±.

**38...♜a7 39.♙e2 ♜e5 40.♜eb1 ♜e4 41.♜a1 f5 ½-½**



Here too, White's agreement to a draw was premature and Black still has to suffer.

Game 46 Grünfeld Indian Defence

**Tigran Petrosian**

**Vladimir Savon**

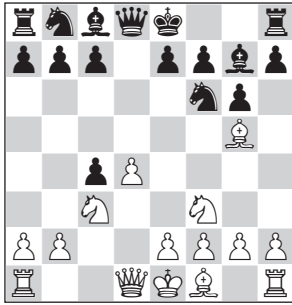
Moscow ch-URS 1969 (5)

This game features one of TP's most striking counterattacks. Black gets extremely good play in the opening, but his attempts to develop the initiative and achieve an advantage were refuted with computer-like accuracy and calmness.

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♙g5 dxc4**



A surprise for Petrosian! Those were the days when it was possible to surprise the World Champion on move 5 of the Grunfeld Defence... At the time, 5...♘e4 was considered practically obligatory.



### 6.e3

Petrosian pointed out that his opponent thought for a long time over his fifth move. Understanding that he might be being lured into a trap, TP deliberately preferred the maximum safety. The time for crazy variations like 6.e4 c5 7.d5 b5 had yet to come, the first game in this theme being played only five years later.

### 6...♙e6

The simple 6...c5 is in no way worse.

### 7.♘d2

7.♘e5! is possible.

### 7...c5 8.dxc5 ♘d5! 9.♙xc4 ♘xc3

### 10.bxc3 ♙xc4 11.♖a4+

11.♘xc4 ♖c7 12.♖a4+ ♖c6 13.♖xc6+ ♘xc6 14.♔c1 0-0-0 15.e4 ♔d3

doesn't promise White an easy life.

### 11...♘c6

Let us allow our imagination a little run:

A) 11...♖d7 12.♖xc4 ♘c6 13.♘f3 ♘a5 14.♖b4 ♘c6 15.♖b3 ♖f5±;

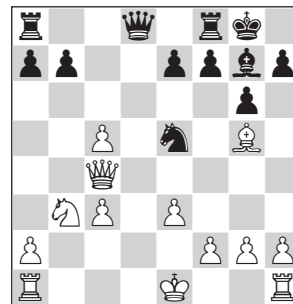
B) Even the eccentric 11...b5 12.cxb6+ ♖d7 (12...♘d7 13.b7 ♔b8 14.♖xc4 h6 15.♙f4 ♔xb7 16.0-0 0-0±) 13.♖xc4 axb6 is sufficient for equality.

### 12.♖xc4 0-0

Unimpressive was 12...♖a5 13.♔c1 0-0-0 14.♘b3 ♖xa2 15.♖xf7 ♘a5 16.♖e6+ ♔d7 17.♘d4 ♖a3 18.0-0 ♖xc5 19.h4±.

### 13.♘b3 ♘e5

A less ambitious player would have chosen 13...♖d7 14.0-0 ♔fd8 15.♙h4 ♖d3=.



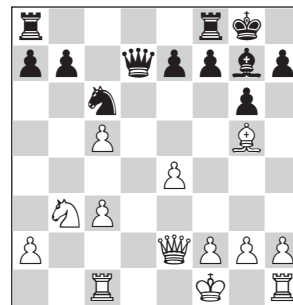
### 14.♖e2

14.♖e4!? f5 15.♖c2 ♔c8 was tried in a game at master level in the 2000 Olympiad, ending in a draw.

### 14...♘d3+ 15.♙f1 ♘e5

15...♖d7 16.♔d1 (16.♙xe7!?) 16...♔fd8 17.h4 f6 18.♙f4 e5 19.e4! ♖e6 (19...exf4 20.♔h3±) 20.♔xd3 exf4 21.h5±.

### 16.e4 ♘c6 17.♔c1 ♖d7



**18.h4!**

Maybe this idea, simple to TP, came as a surprise to his opponent. It is already time to start the attack.

**18... ♖e6**

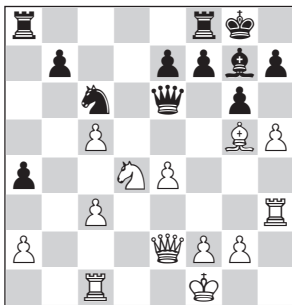
Black has difficulties after 18...h5  
19. ♖d1 ♖c7 20. ♗h3 ♗ad8 21. ♖d5±.

**19.h5 a5 20. ♗h3!**

Remember Petrosian's loss to Flohr, earlier in this book?

**20...a4**

Not bad was 20... ♗fd8 21.hxg6 hxg6  
22. ♖b1 a4 23. ♗c1 ♖e5 24. ♗d2 ♖xc5  
25. ♗xb7 ♗e5±. Thus, Black is still far from helpless.

**21. ♗d4!**

A fairly typical moment in a Petrosian game: thinking he has the advantage, his opponent overestimates his chances.

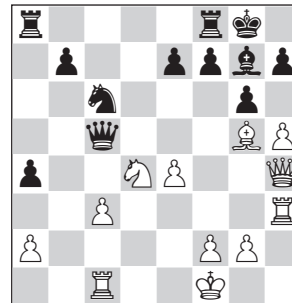
**21... ♖e5**

The time had come to think about saving the game and to abandon ambitions of winning – e.g., with the solid 21... ♗xd4 22.cxd4 ♗xd4  
23. ♖d3 ♗f6 24. ♗xf6 ♖xf6 25. ♖d7 ♖g5 26. ♖c2 ♖fc8 27. ♖xb7 ♖xc5=.

**22. ♖g4**

The white pieces hang threateningly over the black king, like clouds but even more dangerous.

There was the pleasant alternative 22. ♗xc6 bxc6 23. ♖e3 ♖fd8 24. ♗h6 ♗xh6 (24... ♗f6 25.hxg6 hxg6 26.f4 ♖e6 27. ♖e2±) 25. ♖xh6 g5 26. ♖xc6 ♖f4 27. ♖e1 ♖ab8 28.e5±.

**22... ♖xc5 23. ♖h4!**

Evidently, the sharp increase in the activity of White's pieces came as a surprise to Vladimir Savon and he collapsed under the changed circumstances:

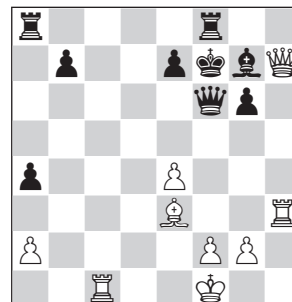
**23...h6??**

Cheerless but still rather more tenacious was 23...f6 24.hxg6 hxg6  
25. ♖h7+ ♗f7 26. ♖xg7+ ♗xg7  
27. ♗e6+ ♗g8 28. ♗xc5 fxg5 29. ♖g3±.

**24. ♗xh6! ♗xd4**

Or 24... ♗f6 25. ♖g4+–.

**25.cxd4 ♖xd4 26.hxg6 fxg6 27. ♗e3 ♖f6 28. ♖h7+ ♗f7**

**29.e5!**

29. ♖f3?? ♜xf3 30.gxf3 ♜h8 would be too simple a trap for Petrosian.

**29... ♜xe5**

Otherwise the pawn can advance to e6, finally destroying Black.

**30. ♖f3+ ♜e6 31. ♜xg6+ ♙f6**

**32. ♜g4+ ♜f7 33. ♖f5**

Even more convincing was 33. ♙d4, but it does not change the essence of things.

**33... ♜b2**

A beautiful illustrative variation is 33... ♜d6 34. ♙c5 ♜c6 35. ♖e1 ♜ae8 36. ♜h5+ ♜g8 37. ♜g5+ ♙g7 38. ♜g1! ♖f6 39. ♜g4 ♖f7 40. ♜e6 ♜c8 41. ♙d4+-. The cooperation of the white pieces in this line makes an unforgettable impression.

**34. ♜h5+ ♜e6 35. ♖e1 ♜d7 36. ♖d5+ ♜c7 37. ♖c1+ 1-0**



A thoroughly convincing fiasco for Black's opening initiative.

Game 47 Grünfeld Indian Defence

**Tigran Petrosian**

**Vladimir Tukmakov**

Moscow ch-URS 1969 (13)

A failed crush

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.e3 ♙g7 5.b4 0-0 6.♙b2 b6 7.♘f3 c5**



**8.b5?**

Wrong. Evidently, TP did not realize the true state of affairs. Today it is known that after 8.bxc5 bxc5 9.♖c1, Black can equalize with accurate play, but no more than that.

**8...cxd4 9.exd4 ♙b7 10.c5?**

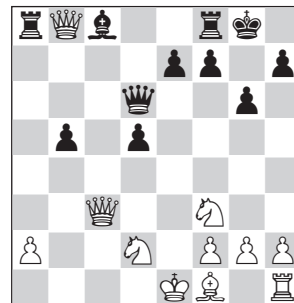
White stands worse after any move, but now he ends up on the verge of defeat.

**10...bxc5 11.dxc5 ♘e4 12.♘xe4**

**♙xb2 13.♘ed2 ♙xa1 14.♜xa1 a6**

**15.c6 ♙c8 16.♜c3 axb5 17.c7 ♜d6**

**18.cxb8 ♜**



Draw agreed, undoubtedly a mistake by Vladimir Tukmakov. After taking back on b8 with the rook, Black has outstanding winning chances, as he has both a material and a positional advantage.

## Death by suffocation

Game 48 Pirc Defence

**Rudolf Maric****Tigran Petrosian**

Vinkovci 1970 (15)

In this game we see very clearly the weak sides of the defensive genius Petrosian – a vague opening and occasional underestimation of the opponent. Rudolf Maric brilliantly exploits his historic opportunity.

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 c6**

I don't think Petrosian really liked this opening, but an occasionally overwhelming urge to play something different drew him to the Pirc/Modern from time to time.

**4.♘f3**

The most principled move is 4.f4!?, of course. But White has other ways to be a little better.

**4...g6 5.♗e2 ♗g7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 ♘bd7**

Possible is 7...b5!?

**8.♗e3 e5 9.dxe5****9...dxe5**

I suspect this is the decisive mistake, as the position from now on looks unattractive. Maybe after 9...♗xe5 Black holds, as his position is significantly easier to play.

**10.♗d6 ♗e8**

He could have driven the queen away with 10...♗e8 11.♗a3 b5!?

**11.♗c4 ♗e7**

11...♗f8 12.♗d2 b5 13.♗b3 ♗c7 14.♘g5 ♗e7 15.f4± is not very convincing.

**12.♗xe7 ♗xe7 13.a4 b6**

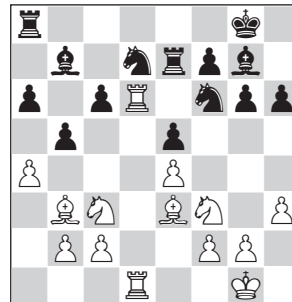
There was sense in preferring 13...h6! 14.a5 ♗e8 although equality is still not guaranteed.

**14.♗fd1 ♗b7**

A sample line is 14...h6 15.♗d6 ♗b7 16.a5 ♗c8 17.axb6 axb6 18.♗a7 ♗b8 19.♗a6 ♗a8 20.♗e2 ♗f8 21.♗xh6 ♗xh6 22.♗xf6 ♗f8 23.♗xa8 ♗xa8 24.♗xc6±.

**15.♗d6 a6**

Or 15...♗e8 16.♗d2!.

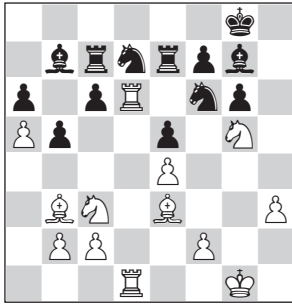
**16.♗ad1 b5 17.♗b3 h6****18.g4!**

Proper and timely. Black's defences are disorganized.

**18...♗c8**

Too passive. It was in the spirit of Petrosian to take play into more concrete channels: 18...c5! 19.axb5 axb5 20.♗d5 ♗b8 21.b3 ♗f8 22.♗xb7 ♗xb7 23.♗d5 ♗xd5 24.♗1xd5 f6 25.♗g2±.

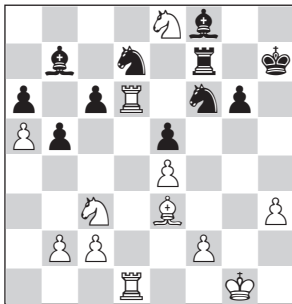
**19.g5 hxg5 20.♗xg5 ♗c7 21.a5**



**21...♖f8?**

A rare case of Petrosian, dumbfounded by the turn of events, committing a decisive blunder. Even so, he is unlikely to have saved the position, even if he had kept his head: 21...♗h6 22.h4 ♖g7 23.♗xf7 (of course not 23.♗xf7 ♗xe3 24.fxe3 ♗xf7—) 23...♗xg5 24.hxg5 ♖xf7 25.gxf6 ♗xf6 26.♗g5 ♗e6 27.♗d8±.

**22.♗xf7! ♗xf7 23.♗e6+ ♖g8**  
**24.♗xc7 ♗f8 25.♗e8 ♖h7**



**26.♗xd7**

Black resigned. A terrible rout.

Game 49 English Opening

**Tigran Petrosian**

**Laszlo Szabo**

Amsterdam 1973 (1)

Again Petrosian gives up his fianchettoed bishop.

**1.c4 ♗f6 2.♗c3 c5 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5**  
**♗xd5 5.♗g2 ♗c7 6.d3 e5 7.♗f3 ♗c6**  
**8.♗d2 ♗e6**

If Szabo had realized what was going to happen, he would probably have played 8...♗d7. TP lost quickly from that position against Vaganian (see Game 56).



**9.♗xc6+!**

A stunning positional idea – Black’s two bishops will prove helpless.

Oleg Romanishin, the great Ukrainian GM, tells of what a huge impression this game made on him.

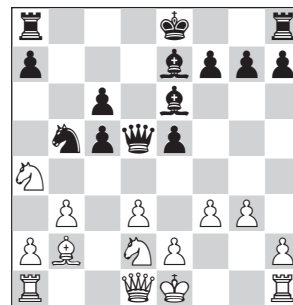
**9...bxc6 10.b3**

Also good was 10.♗a4 ♗d7 11.0-0±.

**10...♗b5 11.♗a4**

Petrosian needs the knight.

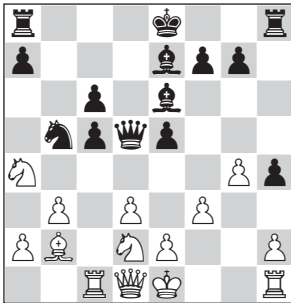
**11...♗d5 12.f3 ♗e7 13.♗b2**



**13...h5**

An unconvincing attack, but Laszlo Szabo was probably already very

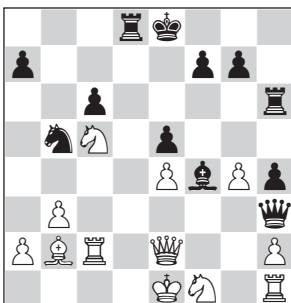
disappointed in his position. A sample variation: 13...♙h3 14.♖c1 0-0 15.♘e4 ♘d4 16.♘f2 ♙c8 17.♙a3 ♖d8 18.0-0 (18.♙xc5 ♙g5 19.♖c4 ♙a6 20.♖c3±) 18...f5 19.♙xc5 ♙g5 20.♖c4 ♙e3 21.♙xd4 exd4 22.♚c2 ♙d7 23.♘c5 ♙c8 24.b4 ♖d6 25.♙h1 ♖b8 26.♘d1 ♙g5 27.♙g2 ♚f7 28.♘b3±. **14.♖c1 h4 15.g4**



**15...♙g4**

Desperation; Black is simply left a piece down. A rare case involving such a strong and experienced GM. Nothing was changed by 15...0-0 16.♘e4, and the c5-pawn falls without compensation.

**16.e4 ♚xd3 17.fxg4 ♙g5 18.♘xc5 ♚h3 19.♚e2 ♖d8 20.♖c2 ♙f4 21.♘f1 ♖h6**



**22.♚g2**

The simplest – after the exchange of queens, Black is finished.

**22...♚xg2 23.♖xg2 ♖hd6 24.♖c2 ♖d1+ 25.♙e2 ♖b1 26.a4 ♘c7 27.♘g3 ♖xb2 28.♖xb2 hxg3 29.hxg3 ♙xg3 30.♖h8+ ♙e7 31.♖xd8 ♘xd8 32.♖d2+ ♙e8 33.♖d6 1-0**

This victory reminds me of Petrosian's game with Balashov, played some five years later (Game No. 59). There too, an exchange of bishop for knight on c6 quickly left Black in an indefensible position.

*An uncompleted counterattack*

Game 50 Sicilian Defence

**Leonid Stein**

**Tigran Petrosian**

Las Palmas 1973 (14)

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 d6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.♙e2**

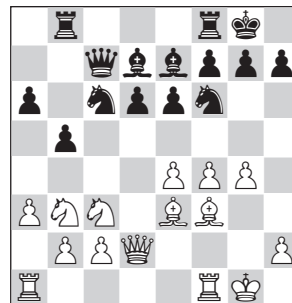
The straightforward 7.f4! was more interesting.

**7...♙e7 8.0-0 ♙d7 9.♘b3**

This retreat does not help White's subsequent kingside attack, and slightly hurts one's eyes today.

However, the theory of the variation was much less developed then. Here too White should prefer 9.f4!.

**9...a6 10.f4 b5 11.a3 0-0 12.♙f3 ♖b8 13.♚d2 ♚c7 14.g4**



## Chapter 3: Versus Tal

This part on Mikhail Tal (1936-1992) is one of the most interesting parts of the book. The inexhaustible ingenuity of both opponents gave the amazed chess world many true pearls of chess beauty. And it is a great pity to imagine how many more were played in countless Soviet blitz tournaments and have disappeared forever. But there we are. We will look at those that remain.

Game 86 Sicilian Defence

**Mikhail Tal**

**Tigran Petrosian**

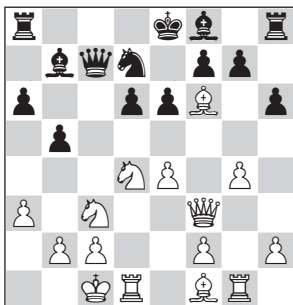
Riga URS-tt 1954 (4)

Their first meeting.

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♕g5 e6 7.♞f3**

Of course, nowadays the standard  
7.f4! is much more popular.

**7...♗bd7 8.0-0 ♞c7 9.♞g1 b5 10.a3  
♕b7 11.g4 h6 12.♕xf6**



**12...gxf6**

Pay attention to this choice. Against a sharp young talent, the more experienced Petrosian sets up a pawn mass in the centre, sacrificing his castling rights to do so.

Maybe 12...♗xf6 13.h4 d5 was objectively stronger, and Black is at least not worse in this sharp position.

**13.h4 ♕e7 14.♞e2 ♗b6 15.♞g3 ♞c8  
16.♕b1 ♗c4 17.♕h3**

It is strange that Tal refrains from the tempting and strongest move 17.f4!. Black would face a difficult period of waiting, whilst White can prepare f4-f5.

**17...♞b6 18.♗b3 a5 19.♗d2 ♕a6**

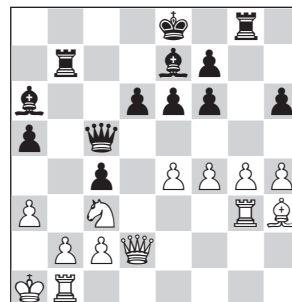
Here already Black could have sought some initiative with 19...♗xd2+ 20.♞xd2 b4 21.♗a2 ♕a6∞.

Maybe TP was put off by the fact that the black king would also be somewhat exposed.

**20.♗xc4 bxc4 21.♕a1 ♞b8 22.♞b1  
♞c5**

Interestingly, the silicon beast suggests Black should castle, something which probably never even entered Petrosian's head.

**23.f4 ♞b7 24.♞d2 ♞g8**



**25.♗a4**

Principled was 25.f5 ♖e5 26.♙f3 ♙h8 27.♙d1, but Black is far from doomed. Interestingly, the computer suggests Black should run his king to b8, which would be very much in TP's style.

**25...♖c6 26.♗c3 ♖c5 27.♗a4 ♖c6**  
Draw agreed.

Neither side needed to repeat. White is slightly better, but would hardly have been likely to beat Petrosian in such a solid position.

Game 87 French Defence

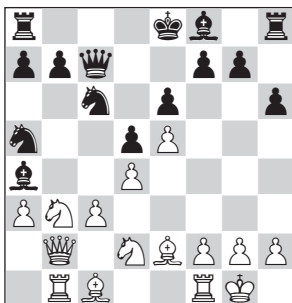
**Mikhail Tal**

**Tigran Petrosian**

Tbilisi ch-URS sf 1956 (7)

This game is notable above all for how fearlessly TP sent his king to the queenside – into Hell itself, it would seem.

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♗c6**  
**5.♗f3 ♖b6 6.a3 c4 7.♗e2 ♗d7**  
**8.♗bd2 ♗a5 9.0-0 ♗e7**  
Or 9...♖c6 10.♙b1 ♖a4 11.b3!  
**10.♙b1 h6 11.♖c2 ♖c7 12.b3 cxb3**  
**13.♗xb3 ♗a4 14.♗fd2 ♗ec6 15.♖b2**



**15...0-0-0**

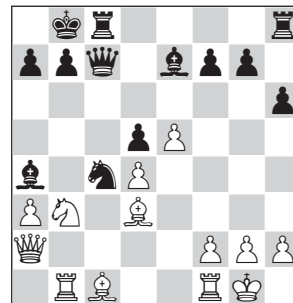
A very brave decision, especially notable because TP had a decent

choice of alternatives. For example, the black king can stay in the centre with 15...♗e7 16.♗xa5 ♗xa5 17.♗b5+ ♗xb5 18.♖xb5+ ♖f8∞. It was also possible to castle on the other side: 15...♗xb3 16.♗xb3 ♗e7 17.f4 0-0 18.f5 exf5 19.♙xf5 ♗d8∞. **16.♗xa5 ♗xa5 17.c4 ♗e7 18.cxd5** Surprisingly, it was stronger not to open the c-file, but to close it instead: 18.c5! g5 19.♗f3 ♗c6 20.♗d2 f5 21.♗e1 h5 22.♗d3 h4 23.♖c3 h3 24.g3 ♗b8 25.♙b2±. After the fall of the pawn on b7, Black would have a hard time.

**18...exd5 19.♗d1 ♗d7**

White's advantage has diminished. One can imagine Tal's surprise at having apparently played accurately but gotten nowhere. Now Black is the one who starts to exploit the opened c-file.

**20.♗c2 ♖b8 21.♗d3 ♖c8 22.♗b3**  
**♗c4 23.♖a2 ♗a4**



**24.♗f5**

A sign that White is ready to agree a draw.

It was possible to try 24.♖e2 ♙hd8 25.♗d2∞ (25.♗a1∞).

**24...♗d7 25.♗d3 ♗a4 26.♗f5 ♗d7**  
Draw agreed.



## Sudden transition into a difficult endgame

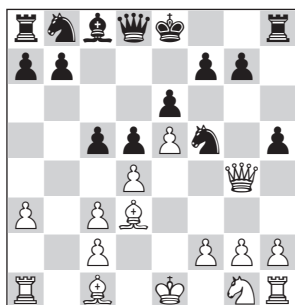
Game 88 French Defence

**Mikhail Tal**

**Tigran Petrosian**

Moscow ch-URS 1957 (13)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5 c5  
5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7 7.♖g4 ♘f5  
8.♙d3 h5**



**9.♖h3 cxd4**

Interesting is 9...g5 10.g4! ♘h4  
11.gxh5±.

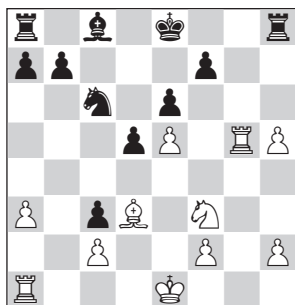
**10.♘f3**

Things would be quite unclear after  
10.♙xf5 exf5 11.cxd4 ♖c7.

**10...♘c6**

He could also have taken on c3.

**11.g4 ♘fe7 12.gxh5 ♖c7 13.♙f4  
♘g6 14.♖g4 ♘xf4 15.♖xf4 dxc3  
16.♖g5 ♖e7 17.♖xg7 ♖f8 18.♖g5  
♖h6 19.♖g1 ♖xg5 20.♖xg5**

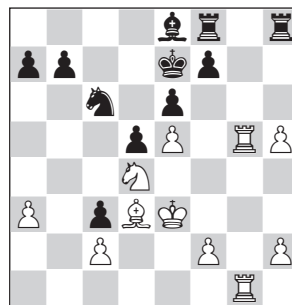


In a rather dubious variation, TP has once again obtained reasonable play, but now relaxes. You already understand what happened with him, but is it only with him?

**20...♙d7**

I prefer 20...b6! and 20...♗e7!.

**21.♗e2 ♗e7 22.♗e3 ♖af8 23.♖ag1  
♙e8 24.♘d4**



**24...f5?!**

It was more tempting to attack e5: 24...f6, and Black is simply not worse.

**25.♘xc6+ ♙xc6?**

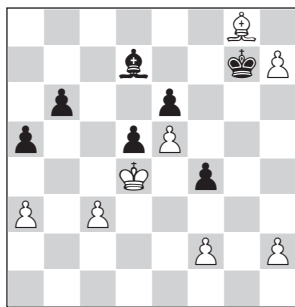
This is a lot of errors from TP.

Taking with the pawn would have kept counterplay: 25...bxc6! 26.♙e2 c5 27.♖b1 d4+ 28.♗f4 ♙c6 29.h4 ♖h7 30.♖g6 ♖fh8 31.♗g5 d3 32.cxd3 ♙a4 33.♖c1 c2 34.♗f4 ♖b8 35.♗e3 ♖b1∞.

**26.♗d4**

Black has no activity at all and should lose. The quick exchange of rooks only hastens the end.

**26...f4 27.♖g7+ ♖f7 28.♖g8 ♖xg8  
29.♖xg8 ♖f8 30.♖xf8 ♗xf8 31.h6 b6  
32.♗xc3 ♗g8 33.♙g6 a5 34.♗d4  
♗f8 35.c3 ♗g8 36.h7+ ♗g7 37.♙f7  
♙d7 38.♙g8**



**38...♙c8 39.♚d3 ♘d7 40.♚e2 ♖h8  
41.♚f3 b5 42.♚xf4 d4**  
Now White just takes everything –  
his opponent is virtually paralysed.  
**43.cxd4 b4 44.axb4 a4 45.d5 a3  
46.dxe6 a2 47.exd7 a1♚ 48.d8♚  
♚c1+ 49.♚f5 ♚b1+ 50.♚e6 ♚g6+  
51.♚d7 1-0**

Transition to the endgame

Game 89 King's Indian Defence

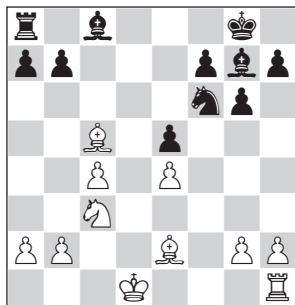
**Mikhail Tal**

**Tigran Petrosian**

Portoroz izt 1958 (20)

Despite the rather bland result,  
there are some interesting moments  
in TP's defence.

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6  
5.♙e2 0-0 6.f4 c5 7.♗f3 cxd4 8.♗xd4  
♗c6 9.♙e3 ♗xd4 10.♙xd4 e5  
11.fxe5 dxe5 12.♙c5 ♖e8 13.♚xd8  
♖xd8 14.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 15.♙xd1**



**15...♙e6 16.b3 ♗d7**

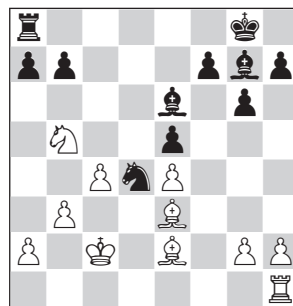
16...♙f8!=.

**17.♙e3 ♗b8**

A rather artificial idea. Here too,  
17...♙f8! was more accurate.

**18.♗b5 ♗c6 19.♚c2 ♗d4+?**

Why?



**20.♙xd4?!**

After 20.♗xd4 exd4 21.♙f4±

Petrosian would have faced a grim  
defence.

**20...exd4 21.♗c7 ♖d8 22.♗xe6 fxe6**

Draw agreed.

A grand kamikaze rook

Game 90 Ruy Lopez

**Mikhail Tal**

**Tigran Petrosian**

Riga ch-URS 1958 (7)

**1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4  
♗f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 0-0  
8.c3 d6 9.h3 ♗a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4  
♚c7 12.♗bd2 ♙d7 13.♗f1 ♗c4  
14.♗e3 ♗xe3 15.♙xe3 ♙e6**

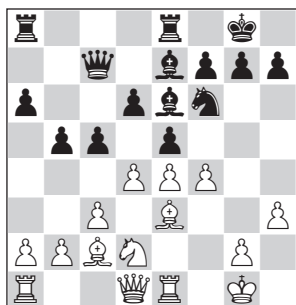
Later against Karpov, TP played  
15...♖fc8.

The exchanging 15...cxd4 16.cxd4  
♖ac8 is also worth a try.

**16.♗d2 ♖fe8**

Or 16...cxd4 17.cxd4 ♖ac8 18.♙c1  
exd4 19.♙xd4 ♜d7=.

**17.f4**



**17...♖ad8**

Objectively, this is a serious mistake. But even in a superior position, it is not easy for White to demonstrate his advantage.

An ordinary grandmaster such as myself would have considered 17...cxd4 18.cxd4 exf4 19.♙xf4 ♖ac8 20.♙c1 ♗a7 21.♜f3 d5 22.e5 ♜e4∞.

**18.fxe5 dxe5**

There is no equality after 18...cxd4 19.cxd4 (19.exf6 dxe3 20.fxe7 exd2 21.exd8 ♗dxe1 ♗+ 22.♗xe1 ♖xd8=) 19...dxe5 20.d5 ♙c5 (20...♙c8 21.♜b3±) 21.dxe6 ♖xe6 22.♙xc5 ♗xc5+ 23.♜h1 ♗b4 24.♙e2 ♖ed6 25.a3 ♗xb2 26.♗b1 ♗xb1+ 27.♜xb1±.

**19.d5 ♙d7 20.c4**

White's position is more pleasant and easier to play, especially as there is no counterplay at all for Black. White has various ways to strengthen his position.

**20...♖b8 21.a4**

It is hard to say whether or not this move was necessary. Later the pawn becomes a weakness on

a5, but could this really have been foreseen? I like 21.♗e2.

**21...b4 22.a5 ♖f8**

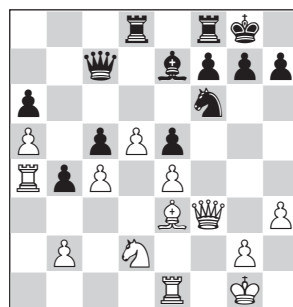
Of course, f7 is already adequately defended, but the move in the game is no better or worse than any other. In some cases, the knight may come to the good square d6.

**23.♙a4**

Evidently, Tal is following his intended plan, but I am not convinced the exchange of bishops favours White. In some cases, the bishop on c2 could join in the attack on the black king.

I suggest 23.♗f3!?

**23...♙xa4 24.♖xa4 ♖bd8 25.♗f3**



**25...♖d6**

As Mikhail Tal (on whom this game made an enormous impression) admitted, he did not guess the point of this rook manoeuvre at all.

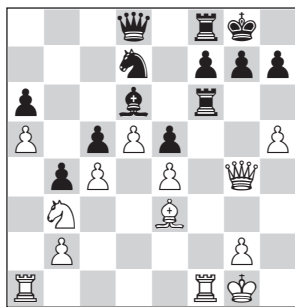
**26.♜b3 ♜d7 27.♖aa1 ♖g6**

The rook is a powerful irritant for White. It prevents an attack on the kingside and getting rid of it is very difficult.

**28.♖f1 ♙d6 29.h4**

An attack or a weakening? We will see!

**29...♗d8 30.h5 ♖f6 31.♗g4**



**31...♖f4!**

A grandiose decision, and undoubtedly best from a practical viewpoint. The computer does not approve, but for the shocked opponent it is extremely hard over the board to find a good reply.

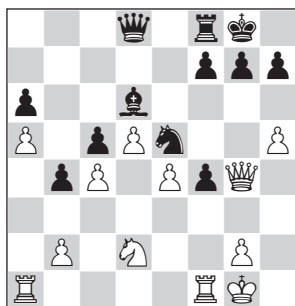
**32.♙xf4**

Nowadays I, armed with knowledge of this game, would have chosen 32.♖xf4 exf4 33.♙xf4 ♘e5 34.♖g3 ♖e8 35.h6 g6 36.♖f1 f6 37.♗e3 ♗e7 38.♗e2 ♖f8, but here too, a win for White remains in considerable doubt.

**32...exf4 33.♘d2**

It is difficult, but White could have decided on 33.♖xf4! ♘e5 34.♗h4 ♙e7 35.♗f2 ♗c7 36.h6 g6 37.♖f6±.

**33...♘e5**



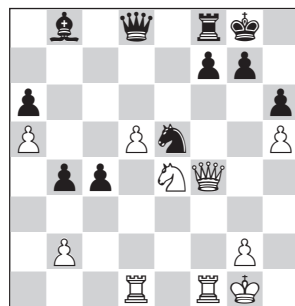
**34.♗xf4**

Mild panic. 34.♗h3!?

**34...♘xc4 35.e5 ♘xe5**

By way of an exception, I will offer one of the variations which entertained me on long Russian winter evenings: 35...♘xd2 36.exd6 ♘xf1 37.♖xf1 h6 38.b3 ♗xa5 39.d7 ♗d8 40.♗d6 a5 41.♖e1 a4 42.♗e7 axb3 43.♗xd8 ♖xd8 44.♖e8+ ♔h7 45.♖xd8 b2 46.♖e8 b1♗+ 47.♔h2 ♗f5 48.d8♗ ♗xh5+ 49.♔g3 ♗g6+ 50.♔f2 ♗c2+ 51.♖e2 ♗f5+ 52.♔g1 b3 53.d6 c4 54.♗c7 ♗g4 55.♗e7 c3 56.d7 c2 57.d8♗ c1♗+ 58.♖e1 b2 59.♗d3+ ♗g6 60.♗xg6+ fxg6 61.♗e4 h5 62.♔f1 b1♗ 63.♗xb1 ♖f4+ 64.♔e2 ♗e5+ 65.♔d3 ♗d6+ 66.♔c4 ♗c6+ 67.♔b4 ♗b6+ 68.♔a4 ♗a6+ 69.♔b3 ♗b6+ 70.♔c3 ♗f6+ 71.♔d2 ♗g5+ 72.♔d3 ♗d5+ 73.♔e3 ♗g5+=.

**36.♘e4 h6 37.♖ae1 ♙b8 38.♖d1 c4**



And Black is already better! I will not delve into the subsequent analytical debris. Those who wish to can consult Garry Kasparov's famous multi-volume *Great Predecessors*. Our subject is different. Therefore I give the remaining moves without comment. I will only add that, according to Kasparov, TP missed a win.

**39.d6 ♘d3 40.♗g4 ♙a7+ 41.♔h1 f5 42.♘f6+ ♔h8 43.♗xc4 ♘xb2**

44. ♖xa6 ♜xd1 45. ♗xa7 ♖xd6  
 46. ♗d7 ♖xf6 47. ♖xd1 ♜b8 48. ♜f3  
 ♜a8 49. ♗e1 ♖xa5 50. ♖xb4 ♜e5  
 51. ♗f4 ♜h7 52. ♜h2 ♜d5 53. ♜f1 ♖g5  
 54. ♗f3 ♜e5 55. ♜g1 ♜c5 56. ♗f2 ♜e5  
 57. ♗f3 ♜a5 58. ♜h2 ♜h8 59. ♜g1 ♜a2  
 60. ♗d5 ♜c2 61. ♗a8+ ♜h7 62. ♗f3  
 ♜c1 63. ♜xc1 ♖xc1+ 64. ♜h2 ♖c7+  
 65. ♜h3 ♖e5 66. g4 fxg4+ 67. ♜xg4  
 ♖g5+ 68. ♜h3 ♗f6 69. ♖e4+ ♜g8  
 70. ♖e8+ ♗f8 71. ♖xf8+ ♜xf8  
 72. ♜g4 ♜f7 73. ♜f5 1/2-1/2

How correctly to tease a predator

Game 91 Sicilian Defence

Mikhail Tal

Tigran Petrosian

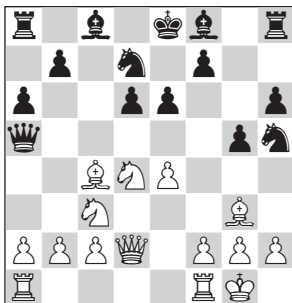
Bled ct 1959 (26)

A surprising game. TP seemed to consciously provoke the great tactician, causing a combinational flurry. Few people could get away with such play, but at the critical moment, Tal flinched and allowed Black to escape.

- 1.e4 c5 2. ♜f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♜xd4  
 ♜f6 5. ♜c3 ♜bd7 6. ♜c4 a6 7. ♜g5  
 ♖a5 8. ♖d2 e6 9.0-0

More aggressive was 9.0-0-0!

- 9...h6 10. ♜h4 g5 11. ♜g3 ♜h5



12. ♜xe6!

In those days, such sacrifices almost created a sensation. The computer approves of it, considering White's position winning.

- 12...fxe6 13. ♜xe6 ♜xg3

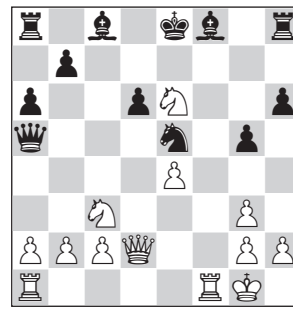
Another unexpected decision.

Opening the file for the white rook is frightening!

Things are also bad after 13...♜e5

14. ♜xf8± and 13...♜f7 14. ♜xf8±.

- 14.fxg3 ♜e5



15. ♜xf8+! ♜xf8 16. ♖xd6

Not 16. ♜xf8 ♖c5+!, and Black wins the knight.

- 16...♜f6!

Only move. 16...♜xe6? 17. ♖xe6+ ♜d8 18. ♜d1+-.

16...♜f7? is also bad: 17. ♜d5! (the move pointed out by the commentators, 17.b4, leads only to equality: 17...♜c4! 18. ♖d4 ♖b6! 19. ♜c5 ♖c6 20. ♜d1 ♜g4 21. ♜d5! ♜xd1 22. ♖h8+ ♜f8 23. ♖h7 ♜f7 with a repetition of moves) 17...♜xe6 18. ♖xe6+ ♜d8 19.b4! ♖b5 20. ♖xe5+-.

17. ♜c7+

Tal's eternal focus on attack often (especially in his youth) prevented him from finding the best continuation, when it involved the

exchange of queens. He could have won by 17.♖c7! ♜xc7 18.♗xc7+ ♕d7 19.♗xa8 ♜c6 20.♜f1! (20.a4±) 20...b5 21.♜f8 ♖b7 22.h3 ♗c4 23.♜f7+ ♕c8 24.♗d5 ♜d6 25.♗ac7 ♗xb2 26.♕f2 ♜c6 27.♗e7+ (27.♜e7) 27...♕xc7 28.♗xc6+ ♕xc6 29.♕e3+-.  
**17...♕f7 18.♜f1 ♜xf1+ 19.♕xf1 ♗c4!**  
 Not 19...♜b8? 20.♗7d5+-.  
**20.♖xh6 ♜c5!**  
 Not 20...♖g4 21.♖h7+!.



**21.♗xa8**

It seems that even Tal's head was spinning with the kaleidoscope of variations, and the great chess pirate steers into calm, drawish waters.

White loses after 21.♖h5+ ♕g7 22.♗xa8 ♖g4!-+. The only way to retain winning chances was 21.♖h7+ ♕f8 22.♗3d5 ♗e3+ 23.♗xe3 ♖xe3 24.♖h8+ ♕f7 25.♖e8+ ♕g7 26.♖e5+ ♕g6. The forcing variation continues: 27.♗xa8 ♖c1+ 28.♕e2 ♖xc2+ 29.♕e3 ♖g4 30.♖e8+ ♕h6 31.♖f8+ ♕g6 32.♖d6+ ♕h5 33.♖b6 ♖xg2 34.♖xb7 ♖g1+ 35.♕d3 ♖d7 36.a4 ♖d1+ 37.♕c3 ♖xa4 38.♖f7+ ♕g4 39.♖f5+ ♕h5 40.♖h3+ ♕g6 41.♖e6+ ♕h5 42.♗b6±.

I believe Black's practical chances of saving himself in such a variation are negligible, whilst White is not risking anything.

**21...♗d2+ 22.♕e2 ♖g4+ 23.♕d3**  
 Or 23.♕xd2 ♖d4+=.  
**23...♖c4+ 24.♕e3 ♖c5+ ½-½**

Exchange of attacks

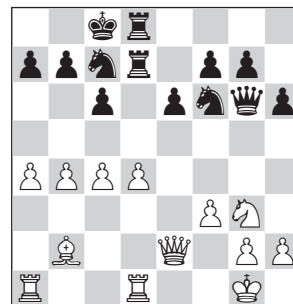
Game 92 Caro-Kann Defence

**Mikhail Tal**

**Tigran Petrosian**

Moscow URS-tt 1961 (2)

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♖f5 5.♗g3 ♖g6 6.♗f3 ♗d7 7.♖c4 e6 8.0-0 ♗g6 9.♗g5 h6 10.♗h3 ♖d6 11.♗f4 ♖xf4 12.♖xf4 ♗d5 13.♖c1 ♖h4 14.♖d3 ♖xd3 15.♖xd3 0-0-0 16.♜d1 ♗7f6 17.c4 ♗c7 18.b4 ♜d7 19.♖b2 ♜hd8 20.♖e2 ♖g4 21.f3 ♖g6 22.a4**



Black's position is unpleasant. Tal is attacking and no obvious counter-measures are apparent.

**22...h5**

Another interesting possibility was 22...♗h5 23.♗xh5 ♖xh5 24.b5 c5!?

**23.b5 h4 24.bxc6**

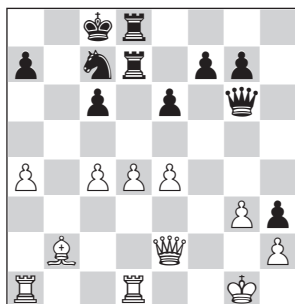
Evidently Tal did not like retreating moves. The computer prefers 24.♗f1

♖h5 25.bxc6 bxc6 26.♙c3 ♘f4  
27.♗b2 ♘a6 28.♞ab1 ♞e8 29.♙e1 e5  
30.d5 h3 31.g3 ♘d3 32.♗e2. However,  
here too, Black is not yet doomed.

**24...bxc6 25.♘e4**

Better was 25.♘f1!

**25...♘xe4 26.fxe4 h3 27.g3**



**27...f5!**

TP in his element.

**28.e5**

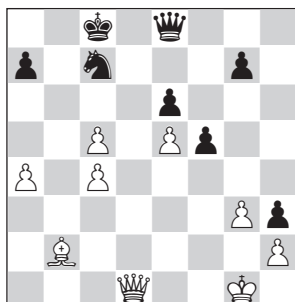
28.exf5 exf5 29.♗f1 f4, and this  
position is almost impossible to  
assess, even with computer analysis.

**28...c5**

A second successive blow at White's  
centre, a disappointment for Tal.

**29.dxc5 ♞xd1+ 30.♞xd1 ♞xd1+**

**31.♗xd1 ♗e8**

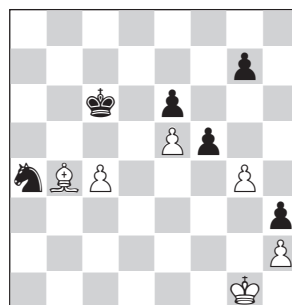


Black is already better!

**32.♗d6 ♘b7 33.c6+ ♗xc6**

**34.♗xc6+ ♘xc6 35.♙d4 a5 36.♙c3**

**♘a6 37.♙xa5 ♘c5 38.♙b4 ♘xa4  
39.g4**



**39...fxg4**

Another example of TP relaxing.  
Objectively 39...g6 was stronger, but  
Petrosian was probably reluctant  
to give White a passed h-pawn:  
40.gxf5 (40.♙f2 ♘b2 41.♙g3 ♘xc4)  
40...gxf5 41.♙f2 ♘b2 42.♙g3 ♘xc4  
43.♙xh3 ♙d5 44.♙g2 ♘xe5 45.h4  
♙f6 46.♙c3+ e5 47.♙f3 ♘d6 48.♙a5  
♘e8, and Black has every chance of  
winning.

**40.♙f2 ♘b2 41.♙g3 ♘xc4 42.♙xg4**

**♘xe5+ 43.♙xh3 ♙d5 44.♙h4 ♘c4**

**45.♙d6 ♘f7 46.♙c7 g6 47.♙g4 ♙d5**

**48.h4 ♘e4 49.h5 ♘e5+**

Draw agreed.

Central conflict

Game 93 Ruy Lopez

**Mikhail Tal**

**Tigran Petrosian**

Moscow 1967 (12)

**1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4**

**♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♞e1 b5 7.♙b3 0-0**

**8.c3 d6 9.h3 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4**

**♘c6 12.♘bd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♙b7**

**14.♘f1 ♞e8 15.♘g3 g6 16.♙h6**

**♙f8 17.♗d2 ♙xh6 18.♗xh6 ♘xd4**

**19.♘xd4 exd4 20.♞ad1 ♞c8 21.♙b1**