

Aloha Chess Warriors,

During the present Spring Chess Tournament there has been several instances where White has opened

- 1) e4
- 2) Bc4
- 3) Qf3

or

- 1) e4
- 2) Qf6
- 3) Bc4

to reach the following position:

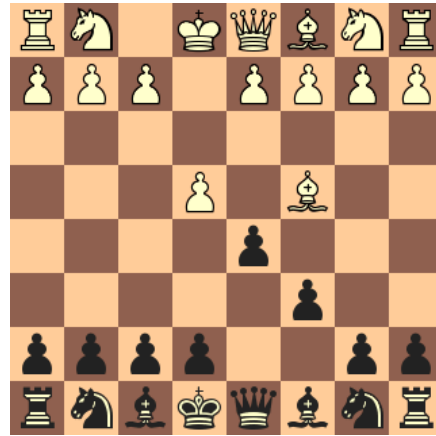


Do take notice that White's queen and bishop are aimed directly at the f7 square. If Black does not pay attention he will find his game at a quick end.

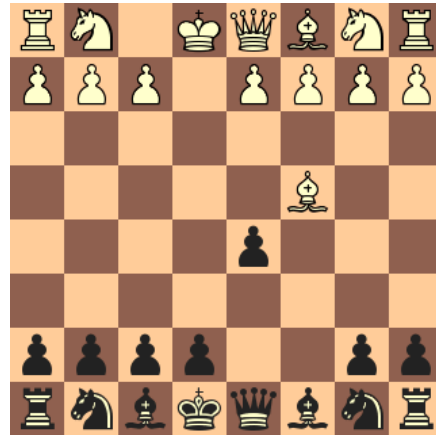
The simple response of 1) ...c6 can change the whole dynamic of White's opening and force him to change his plans. For instance:

- | | |
|--------|----|
| 1) e4 | c6 |
| 2) Bc4 | d5 |

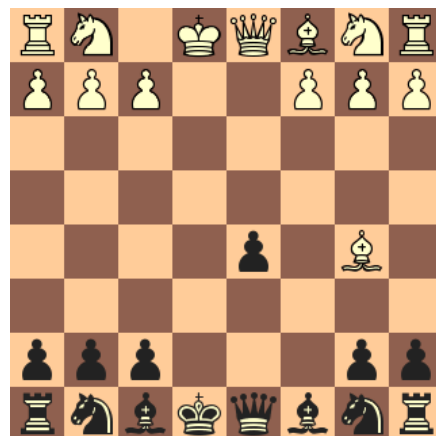
White to play:



If 3) exd5, then 3) ...cxd5 and White is forced to move his bishop.



White may retreat his bishop to b3, or attack the Black's king with 4) Bb5+.

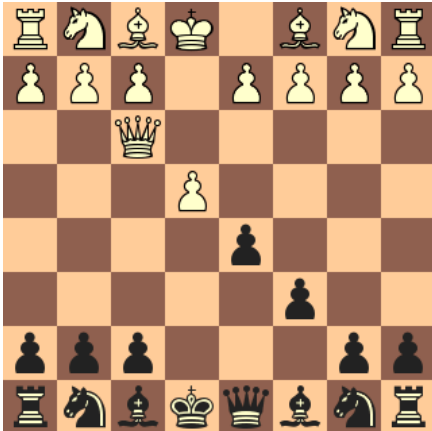


This check to the king is easily blocked with 4) ...Nc6 or 4) ...Bd7.

Likewise, if

- | | |
|--------|----|
| 1) e4 | c6 |
| 2) Qf3 | d5 |

White to play:



If 3) exd5, then 3) ...cxd5.



In this position, while Black may not be attacking White's queen, this prevents him from developing his light-squared bishop to d4.

Of course, the resulting variations are many – countless, even – but the simple reply of 1) ...c6 can change the early course of the game.

I mua!