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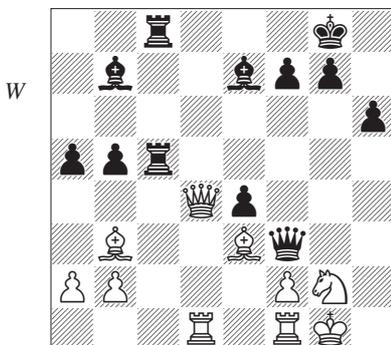
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An impressive tactical duel between two masters of calculation.

There is one more very important phenomenon to which I must draw attention. In the games of Tal, Kasparov, Shirov and very many others, the aim of coordinating the forces is pursued by methods that are sharp, quite often risky, and dynamic. (At this stage I don't think there is any need to dwell on this last term. I hope it is comprehensible to the reader by now.) And yet the great majority of other leading masters have an excellent command of, and a liking for, what we may call 'peaceful' means to achieve the same ends; in other words, rather than trust to extreme measures, they employ positional manoeuvring, technical devices and the like. The main thing is the attainment of coordination (we could also use a favourite word of Vasily Smyslov's – *harmony*). I will take the risk of stating that coordination constitutes *the* overriding principle in chess, to which all other principles are subordinate; to follow these general chess principles is always to pursue the ultimate aim of attaining coordination of the forces (or improving it when once attained).

Now let's look at some instances of what I have called 'peaceful' methods of achieving this end. I should like to begin with an example taken from Capablanca's *Chess Fundamentals*.

This excerpt, which isn't even very complex, made an overwhelming impression on me when I first saw it. To this day it appeals to me as a brilliant example of consistent logical thought in search of the solution to an original position. Capablanca is discussing the following extract:



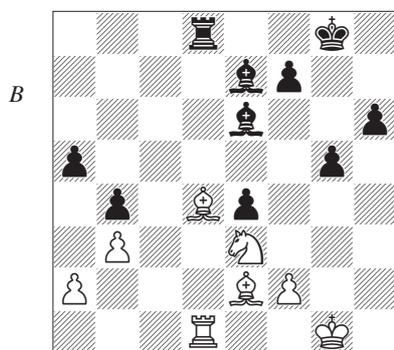
Réti – Yates
London 1922

26 ♖d7

Capablanca criticizes this move. He considers it a serious mistake, and claims that "White would have lost if Black had replied 26...♜5c7, driving the white queen off the h3-c8 diagonal, and then ...♜c6 threatening ...♜g6." Let's begin by testing the correctness of this claim. After 27 ♖xb5 ♜c6!, an attempt to bring the queen across to the defence fails miserably: 28 ♜e5? ♜g6 29 ♖h2 ♜a6 30 ♜c1 ♜xc1 31 ♜xc1 ♜e2! 32 ♜c8+ ♜h7 33 ♜c3 ♜d6 34 ♖h1 ♖f5, and Black wins. Presumably Capablanca had something like this in mind, underestimating 28 ♜f4!, which is White's best move. In reply, I haven't managed to find anything better for Black than 28...♜g4+ 29 ♜h1 ♖h4+ 30 ♜g1 ♜g4+ 31 ♜h2 ♜a6 32 ♜d5 ♖h4+ 33 ♜g1 ♜g4+ 34 ♜h2 ♖h4+, with repetition of moves. As we see, Capablanca's judgement was too categorical, but this isn't where the value of the extract lies.

The main thing comes later, when he writes: "In my personal opinion White could have parried all Black's threats by playing 26 ♜d2." And further: "The move I am suggesting ... frees d1 for the bishop, which from this square would attack the queen on f3 and at the same time keep the d1-h5 diagonal in its sights. Moreover 26 ♜d2 would maintain the threat of ♜d7 in all its force. The latter move would be very strong if White managed to carry it out. Another point is that 26 ♜d2 liberates the e3-bishop, which otherwise couldn't move because of the reply ...e3 ... And once the dark-squared bishop obtains freedom to manoeuvre – let's say, to occupy f4 – this makes room for the g2-knight, which may go to e3 at a suitable moment. In this way, the white pieces will gradually reach their best positions. ... If all this could be achieved without loss of material, space and time, there would be no doubt as to who had the better game."

Let us first test Capablanca's assertions with a little analysis, and then discuss them. After 26 ♜d2 ♜c6 27 ♜d1 ♖h3 28 ♜f4 ♜d5 29 ♜e3 ♖xe3 30 ♜xe3 ♜cd8 31 ♜xd5 ♜xd5 32 b3 g5 (or 32...a4 33 ♜f4 ♜c6 34 ♜e2 g5 35 ♜h5 f5 36 ♜c1 ♜e8 37 ♜c7 with a slight advantage for White) 33 ♜e2 b4 34 ♜b6 ♜b8 35 ♜e3 ♜e6 36 ♜d4 ♜d8 37 ♜d1 (D), the advantage is undoubtedly on White's side.



Of course this is another of those variations that are only very approximate, although it is based entirely on Capablanca's directives. Exploiting White's advantage will still be a very tricky problem, and yet what we have seen lends definite confirmation to the great player's words. And now, to the most important points.

First: the regrouping scheme that Capablanca describes is precisely the kind of plan for coordinating White's forces by 'peaceful' means (that is, without extreme expedients) of which I have spoken. Incidentally it is also one more example of effective coordination in defence. The last diagram splendidly illustrates White's achievements in this direction.

Secondly, Capablanca didn't give a single variation! The analysis he performed was purely logical in character. Capablanca's analysis derives its particular value from being lucid and comprehensible to anyone. Its simple and consequential presentation is very useful to those who wish to study a great master's process of thought. I will repeat that on my first acquaintance with it, and indeed afterwards, this extract made a tremendous impression on me, and I believe it taught me something – in particular, how to set about appraising a situation and looking for solutions by means of logical deduction. I hope it will be of benefit to you too.

In the game, Black failed to find the right move and lost as follows:

26...♖h5? 27 ♗xe7 ♜c6

Or 27...♗f8 28 ♜d8 ♜xd8 29 ♗xd8+ ♖h7 30 ♖d1 (Beim), which is also hopeless for Black.

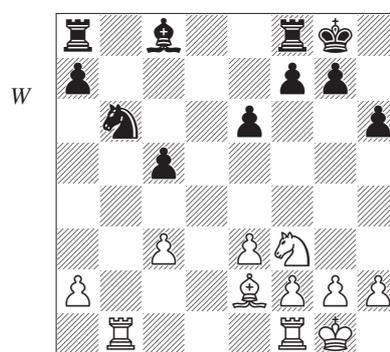
28 ♖xf7+ ♖h7 29 ♗e8 ♜c8 30 ♖g6# (1-0)

Anatoly Karpov, a player whose style is in many ways very similar to Capablanca's, succeeded in conducting the following game in a

manner highly reminiscent of the above example.

Karpov – Kasparov
Moscow Wch (27) 1984/5

1 ♖f3 d5 2 d4 ♗f6 3 c4 e6 4 ♘c3 ♖e7 5 ♖g5
h6 6 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 7 e3 0-0 8 ♗c2 c5 9 dxc5 dxc4
10 ♖xc4 ♗a5 11 0-0 ♖xc3 12 ♗xc3 ♗xc3 13
bxc3 ♗d7 14 c6 bxc6 15 ♜ab1 ♗b6 16 ♖e2 c5
(D)



As you can quite easily see, White hasn't obtained very much out of the opening, and his advantage is of a slight and temporary nature. Black just has to play accurately over the course of the next few moves and prevent White's small lead in development from increasing. An important factor in the position is the c5-pawn, which considerably restricts the scope of some of White's pieces but at the same time represents a weakness. In addition the a7-pawn may very well become weak, but to get at it, White will have to place a rook on the a-file. Since the c5-pawn can't be attacked immediately either, White completes his development and prepares the conditions for a later assault on his opponent's weaknesses.

17 ♜fc1!

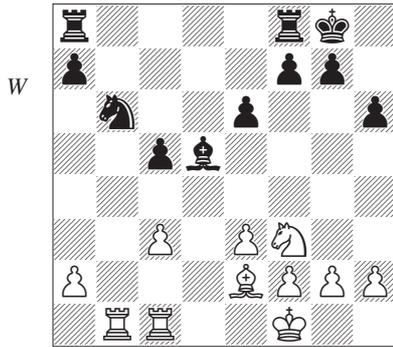
The correct way! After 17 ♜fd1 ♖b7 18 ♗e5 ♜fd8, the game would level out at once.

17...♖b7?!

A major inaccuracy, after which difficulties arise for Black. In later games Black profited from the lessons of this one, and invariably played 17...♖d7! to keep the white rook away from b5. Every single game played in that way ended in a draw.

18 ♖f1 ♖d5 (D)

Geller points out that White would also retain a slight advantage after the alternative 18...♙c6 19 ♘e5 ♙a4 20 ♙b5 (20 ♙a6!? also deserves consideration) 20...♙xb5+ 21 ♖xb5 ♗fc8 22 ♘d3.



19 ♖b5! ♘d7?

Not, of course, 19...♙xa2? 20 c4 ♖ad8 21 ♖b2, but Black had to play 19...♖ac8! 20 ♖a5 ♖c7 21 c4 ♙a8. White would then have the advantage, but Black would be quite capable of holding on. Now White unexpectedly acquires a decisive plus:

20 ♖a5! ♗fb8 21 c4! ♙c6

White now carries out the final steps of his regrouping manoeuvre; his forces will attain ideal coordination. Black is already powerless to hinder this.

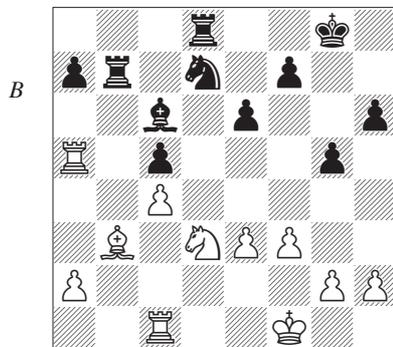
22 ♘e1! ♖b4 23 ♙d1!

White prevents the exchange of his chief attacking unit, which would occur after 23 ♘d3? ♖a4.

23...♖b7 24 f3!

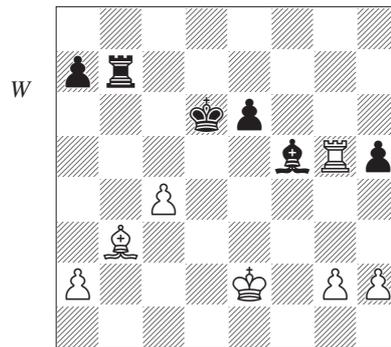
A useful link in the plan. After 24 ♘d3 ♙e4 25 ♘xc5 ♘xc5 26 ♖xc5 ♖b2, Black could hope for counterplay.

24...♖d8 25 ♘d3 g5 26 ♙b3! (D)



White has achieved the ideal deployment of his forces. The c5-pawn falls, and the game enters its technical phase. You will agree that Karpov's conduct of this phase is very impressive.

26...♙f8 27 ♘xc5 ♘xc5 28 ♖xc5 ♗d6 29 ♙e2 ♙e7 30 ♖d1 ♖xd1 31 ♙xd1 ♙d6 32 ♖a5 f5!? 33 ♙e2 h5 34 e4!? fxe4 35 fxe4 ♙xe4 36 ♖xg5 ♙f5 (D)



37 ♙e3?!

It is perhaps only here that White's play can be faulted. It's strange that such a brilliant master of the endgame as Karpov should miss the chance for an elementary but important device – the fixing of a weakness. Most likely he was short of time and therefore decided against altering the pawn-structure. After 37 h4! ♙g4+ 38 ♙e3, as indicated by N.Popov, White would have little trouble in winning. Now there *will* be trouble for him! Kasparov defends magnificently and makes White's task a good deal more complicated.

37...h4! 38 ♙d4 e5+ 39 ♙c3 ♙b1 40 a3 ♖e7 41 ♖g4 h3!

Things would be simpler for White after 41...♖h7 42 h3!, with quite an easy win.

42 g3 ♖e8 43 ♖g7! ♖f8 44 ♖xa7 ♖f2 45 ♙b4 (D)

Look at the position that has been reached; it appears wholly unclear. If these events had not taken place after adjournment analysis, White's task would not have been at all easy.

45...♖xh2

Matters seem even more complicated after 45...♖b2 46 c5+ ♙c6 47 ♙c4 ♙c2 48 ♖a6+ ♙c7 49 ♙xc2 ♖xc2+ 50 ♙d5 ♖xh2 51 ♖a7+ ♙b8 52 ♖h7 ♖h1. The only way to win here is 53 ♙e4! (after 53 g4 h2 54 ♙c6 e4 55 ♖h8+ ♙a7 56 g5 e3, Black draws) 53...h2 54 ♙f3 ♖a1