

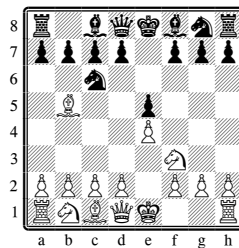
CHESS HISTORY

Rodrigo (Ruy) López de Segura

Spain, c.1530 – c.1580

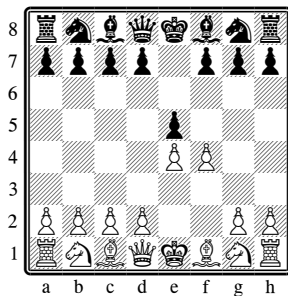


Ruy Lopez was a Spanish priest and first recognized world champion at the height of the Spanish Empire, besting the realm's greatest players in 1560 and 1572. He published a book of analysis, in part a response to Damiano's claim that $2 \dots Nc6$ was the best move after $1. e4 e5 2. Nf3$. Damiano had only considered the "Italian" continuation $Bc4$, but Lopez claimed instead that $Bb5$ secured White's advantage. The move $Bb5$, known as the "Ruy Lopez" or "Spanish Game," is the most respected continuation in modern times.

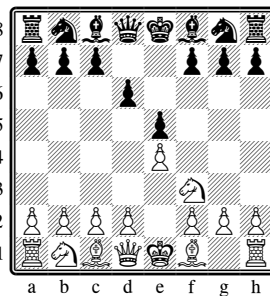


The Ruy Lopez (or Spanish Game)

As White, Lopez was fond of the King's Gambit. In 1572 he met an up-and-coming Italian player, **Leonardo di Bona (di Cutri)**, and beat him convincingly with this aggressive gambit.



After $1. e4 e5 2. Nf3$, Lopez preferred the move $2 \dots d6$. In 1575, Di Bona (with **Paolo Boi**) beat Lopez 3-2 (Lopez used this defense) at a tournament sponsored by **King Phillip II**.



These days, the Berlin Defense to the Spanish Game, $3 \dots Nf6$, is all the rage. **Vladimir Kramnik** used it in 2000 to defeat the great **Garry Kasparov**, who had held the chess crown since 1985.

