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Pawn Structure Chess



Synopsis

Pawns form the playing fields of chess, a semipermanent structure that can determine whether a player wins or loses. This major update to the classic guide to pawn structure, written by international Grandmaster Andrew Soltis, teaches readers how to handle their pawns. He explains where best to place them, which pawns to advance or exchange, and why certain structures are good and others disastrous. Pawn Structure Chess is a must-have for everyone who plays.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I hate learning openings. This book has actually helped me learn the ideas behind the openings in a rather painless way. How can that be you may ask, since this is a book about the middlegame based on various pawn structures. Well, the reason is that you cannot really differentiate easily between an opening a middlegame and an endgame. They are all part of a seamless whole. Various openings lead to certain pawn structures which dictate certain middlegame plans for both sides. If you understand what the idea behind the middlegame plan is, then you understand the moves you need to make in the opening which makes memorization of variations easier. It also allows you to play the right move once your opponent goes "out of book" because you have a better understanding of what position the particular opening is trying to accomplish. I'll give an example of how the book has helped me. About a month ago I decided to learn the Caro-Kann as black (mostly to cut down on the amount of theory I need to know against e4). So what I did was look through the various line of the Caro-Kann in the MCO and see what the final pawn structures looked like. As it

turns out, there are only about 5 pawn structures that are likely to develop. They are the: Caro-Slav formation; Kingside pawn chain; the panov formation; isolani; and the orthodox exchange center. Each of these pawn formations are discussed in pawn structure chess (the first three each have their own chapter and the last two are both found in the chapter on the QGD and its descendants). After studying the general strategic ideas for both black and white arising from each of these pawn formations, I went back and looked at the variations again.

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