

THE 6 CASES OF THE CLASSICAL PAWN CENTER:

(The Scale of Desirability ranked from 1-6 from the Attacker's point of view.)

1.) THE MOBILE CENTER :

The Attacker has a pawn duo on his 4th rank. The Defender has a lone pawn that stands on his 3rd rank. There is *no* pawn tension.

2.) THE RESTRAINED (or "KNIGHT'S LEAP") CENTER :

The Attacker has a lone pawn on his 4th rank. This is opposed by a lone Defender's pawn which stands on his 3rd rank. There is *no* pawn tension. These two pawns stand a "Knight's Leap" away from each other and each restrains the other's advance.

3.) THE UNCLARIFIED CENTER :

The Attacker has a pawn duo on his 4th rank. This is opposed by two pawns of the Defender in the form of a chain. One of the Defender's pawns stands on his 4th rank, where it is defended by a fellow pawn on his 3rd rank. There *is* pawn tension. This center can easily transpose into one of the other types of centers.

4.) THE CLOSED AND ADVANCED CENTER :

The Attacker's pawn duo has formed a chain on his 4th and 5th ranks. The Defender's pawn duo has formed a chain on his 3rd and 4th ranks. There is *no* pawn tension. The pawn chains of the two opponents are locked against each other, thereby blocking lines of movement for both players' pieces.

5.) THE OPEN CENTER :

There are no pawns in the center for at least one player, while his opponent has either no pawns or at most one pawn, in the center. The "Attacker" is the player who controls more space, whether he has a central pawn or not. There is *no* pawn tension. The files and diagonals are open for the free play of the pieces of both players.

6.) THE RAMMED (or "FIXED") CENTER :

The Attacker has a lone pawn on his 4th rank. This is opposed by a lone pawn of the Defender's on his 4th rank. There is *no* pawn tension. There is one completely open central file adjacent to this pawn ram.

(*The detailed strategies descriptions of the above summaries are on the following 6 pages as a WORD.doc. The examples for the descriptions are in the companion Chessbase database.)*