

Controlling the Centre

Chess

Two ways to control the centre, and why both are valid.

Classical — occupy it

- Pawns on e4 and d4
- Direct space advantage
- Restricts enemy pieces
- Can become a target
- Italian, Ruy Lopez, Queen's Gambit

Hypermodern — control it

- Pieces watch the centre from a distance
- Invite the enemy to occupy it
- Then undermine with pawn breaks
- Fianchettoed bishops
- King's Indian, Grünfeld, Nimzo-Indian

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

A big centre is an asset if it can be maintained and a liability if it can be attacked. That tension is the whole debate.

Hypermodern openings were considered absurd in 1900 and are standard now. Both approaches are entirely sound.