

Endgame Principles

Chess

What changes once the queens come off, and how to play it.

In the opening

- Hide the king — castle early
- Keep pawns back as shelter
- Rooks behind the pawn wall
- Material counts most

In the endgame

- Activate the king — march it centrally
- Push passed pawns hard
- Rooks BEHIND passed pawns, yours or theirs
- A passed pawn can outweigh a piece

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Trade pieces when ahead in material; trade pawns when behind.
Fewer pawns makes a draw easier to hold.

The king is worth about four pawns as a fighting piece. Leaving it in the corner is playing a piece down.