

Opening Pawn Structures

Chess

The structures the main openings produce, and the plans they dictate.

Recurring structures and the plan each implies.

Structure	From	Plan
Isolated queen's pawn	QGD, Panov	Piece activity vs the weak pawn
Carlsbad	QGD Exchange	Minority attack on the queenside
Maroczy Bind	Sicilian, c4+e4	Space; restrain ...d5 and ...b5
Hedgehog	English, Sicilian	Black coils, then breaks with ...b5 or ...d5
Closed centre	King's Indian	Opposite-wing pawn storms
Open centre	Italian, Scotch	Rapid development, king safety

The isolated queen's pawn is strong in the middlegame and weak in the endgame. That tension defines every plan around it.