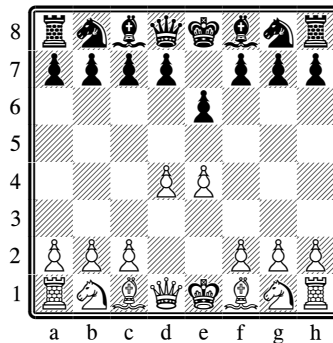


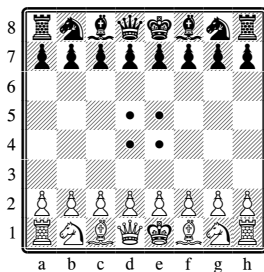
CHESS STRATEGY AND TACTICS

THE PHALANX

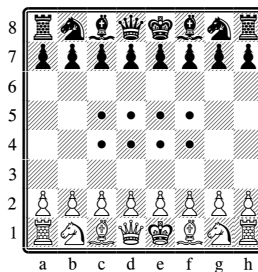


One of the most important patterns in chess is the goal of a *classical center* with pawns side by side in the center of the board. As the ancient footsoldiers of Greece and Rome formed a *phalanx*, side by side with shields and spears, so too these pawns in chess sieze important ground, prevent enemy incursions, and provide space for the preparation of more powerful troops to their rear and at their flanks.

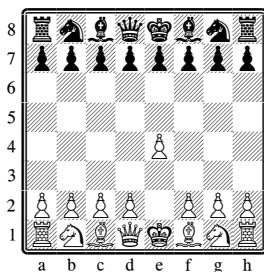
Good opening moves make more sense when you see how they relate to a phalanx.



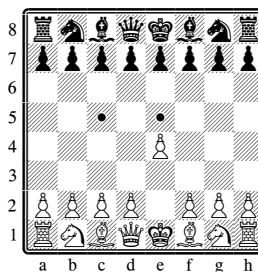
Without control of the center, a flank attack should fail.



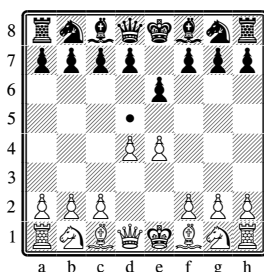
The extended center.



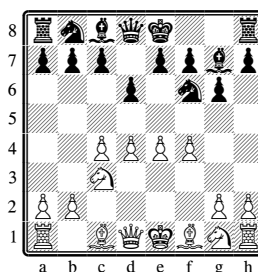
After 1. e4, White is ready to form a phalanx.



Black can play a pawn to e5 or c5 to prevent it.



With 1. e6, Black allows the phalanx but immediately disrupts it with his queen's pawn.



The Four Pawns Attack against the hypermodern King's Indian Defense.