Contents 3

## **Contents**

Contents		3
Symbols		4
Introduction		5
The most im motifs in The	portant strategic and tactical e Colle-Koltanowski System	10
Chapter 1	Black plays bd7	17
Chapter 2	Black plays 6	110
Chapter 3	Black plays an earlyb7-b6	183
Chapter 4	Black plays an earlyc5-c4	196
Chapter 5	Black avoids the Colle-Koltanowski System	204
Bibliography	<sup>,</sup>	221
Index of Var	iations	222

### Introduction

Dear chess friend.

First I would like to thank you for your interest in my work. Perhaps you are now expecting me to say a few words about the opening this book is about.

I shall divide my introduction into two parts:

# Part 1: For those of you who are still in doubt

Probably you are holding this book and just cannot make up your mind whether it is worth buying. Will it be useful for you, will it be suitable for you or is it just a waste of money and effort?

Let me share my own thoughts with you about the contents and purpose of this book - of course under the condition that you are on the "white" side of the board:

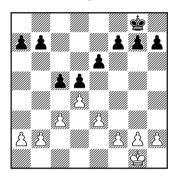
I think that best chances with White in this opening have positional players who are also not afraid of playing aggressive attacking chess. often at the cost of material losses. At the beginning White develops relatively calmly and for that reason the Colle-Koltanowski System does not seem suitable for the typical gambit player, who is striving from the very beginning for a wild and unclear position. Very often it comes down to a White or Black isolated queen's pawn, or pawn majority on the gueenside and in these cases one needs positional knowledge and skills in order to play these positions right.

On the other hand, there are many variations in which White has to attack very aggressively the Black's kingside - not a few games have been won by beautiful attacks on the Black king - and one needs solid tactical skills to do that.

- Perhaps you are not necessarily a very ambitious and regular tournament player, and do not want to be always up-to-date with the main openings. A d2-d4 player, using the Colle-Koltanowski System, at least, evades the Queen's gambit Accepted and Orthodox, Albin's countergambit and the Tarrasch defence. (what you will have to do in other cases will be discussed in Chapter 5)
- Indeed, the Colle-Koltanowski System should not be considered as a real surprise weapon since it is relatively popular among low and middle class chess players, and yet many players would find it difficult to react adequately against this opening. The latter is to be seen more often in rapidplay events in which players neither have enough time to prepare for each game, nor have enough time to search for the best variations over the board. What is more, even if an opponent does know this opening very well, it is very difficult to "punish" White because the Colle-Koltanowski System is very solid and strategically substantiated!
- Maybe you just wish to expand your opening repertoire and have a

# The most important strategic and tactical motifs in the Colle-Koltanowski System

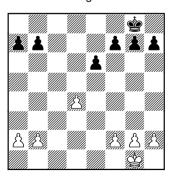
#### The standard pawn structure



#### I – Typical transformations of the standard pawn structure

#### A – White's pawn structure transforms into an isolated pawn on d4

Let us assume that White plays e3-e4 (without exchanging on c5 before that), Black takes on e4 (...d5xe4) and d4 (...c5xd4), White recaptures on d4 (c3x d4) and the following structure is set up:



As it is well known, a pawn structure like that has at the same time its advantages and disadvantages. It gives White a space advantage; the knight gets the outpost e5 and the rook - the semi-open e-file; very often because of these factors the first player has good chances for attack on the kingside.

Sometimes - although that is a relatively rare occasion - White can become active on the queenside, i.e. when he is in possession of the c-file or his bishop is positioned on f3 or e4 from where it can exert pressure on b7.

On the other hand, the weakness of the isolated d4 pawn can be very tangible and the more we approach the endgame, the more tangible it gets. Furthermore, Black fully controls the important central d5 square. To put it in a few words, White is striving for dynamic and complex positions, while Black is struggling for exchanges and simplified positions.

⇒ Games 1, 3-6, 8, 12 and 35 in the book show some possible ways of playing this particular pawn structure.

## B – Black's pawn structure transforms into an isolated pawn on d5

This can occur when White exchanges on c5 in the standard pawn structure and Black takes on c5 with the bishop. Then White plays e3-e4 and if the second player does not exchange on e4, White can play e4xd5 and after ...e6xd5 the following new pawn structure is formed:

# Chapter 1 Black plays ... **⊘**bd7

An overall summary and review can be found at the end of the chapter on p. 106

# Game 1 Izeta – Illescas Los Yebenes 1990

1.d4 d5 2.**ົ**∆f3 **⊘**∫f6 3.e3 e6 4.**ⓒ**d3 c5 5.c3 **⊘**bd7 6.**⊘**bd2

⇒ 6...<u></u> d6

The bishop takes the more active place on d6 thus preventing f3-e5 and preparing ...e6-e5. But on the other hand his position can turn out to be unsafe, if White plays e3-e4-e5 that would be a fork. If Black replies ...d5xe4 to e3-e4, then f2d2xe4 would again attack the bishop. Besides, developing the white bishop on g5 would pin the f6, what is not the case if the black bishop was on e7.

The alternate plan 6... ≜e7 or 5... ≜e7 ... 6... ∮bd7 will be discussed in ⇒ *Games* 15-21.

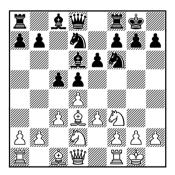
#### 7.0-0

In some other games White did not hurry to castle, but first played **7.**\(\psi \)**e2** and after **7...0-0** followed **8.e4**.

But after the better reply **8...e5!**, Black secures himself a comfortable game, e.g. 9.dxe5 ②xe5 10.⊙xe5 ③xe5 11.0-0 (11.⊙f3 ﴿2g4↑△12.h3? ﴿2xf3 13.∰xf3?

dxe4 14. 2xe4 2xe4 15. 2xe4 2:c3+!-+, 11...dxe4!?) 11... 2c7 12.h3 2e8 13. 2e1 2d7, and now it is White that has to think of equalizing, Popchev-Sherbakov, Belgrade 1990.

#### 7...0-0





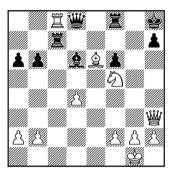
Now the initial phase is over. As we already know the main idea for White is e3-e4 that will allow the first player to gain some space in the centre and activate his pieces. The question is whether he should carry out this plan immediately or first prepare it in order to increase

#### 27. ge6+ gr

27...\(\psi\)h8 loses in view of 28.\(\bigcirc\)g6+ \(\psi\)g7
29.\(\pri\)xf8 \(\psi\)xf8 30.\(\psi\)g4+! (30.\(\bigcirc\)ac8 \(\bigcirc\)c7!)
30...\(\psi\)h8 31.\(\bigcirc\)ac8 resp. 30...\(\psi\)h6 31.\(\bigcirc\)ac3.

#### 28.\(\begin{aligned} 28.\(\beg

Being in terrible time trouble, Knezevic offered a draw after the last move. After 29... ★ 1



the winning move was **30. h6!** and Black is overloaded with the defence of the three crucial squares d8, f8 and g7.

1/2-1/2

#### Game 5 L. B. Hansen – Vescovi Kopenhagen 1995

1.d4 c5 2.e3 a f6 3.a f3 e6 4.a d3 d5 5.0-0 bd7 6.c3 a d6 7.a bd2 0-0 8.a e1 c7 9.e4 cxd4 10.cxd4 dxe4 11.a xe4

 ⇒ 11...

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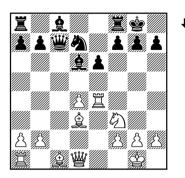
 11...

 11...

 11...

This move seems natural - usually it is a good strategy to exchange pieces when playing against an isolated pawn. Of course, this is not always the case, otherwise chess would have been too easy and boring.

#### 



This is the only continuation that creates serious difficulties for the second player - the rook is preparing to participate in the attack on the kingside.

We should never neglect this motif since it occurs relatively often in the Colle-Koltanowski System.

The alternative **12. (a)** xe4 **(a)** f6 13. **(a)** c2 **(a)** d7 would give Black a comfortable game.

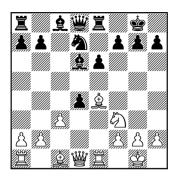
#### 12...b6

The idea of this move is quite obvious - the \(\delta c 8\) is to go to b7.

There are some other options:

- a) 12...e5? is not recommendable in view of 13.dxe5 ②xe5 14.①xe5 ③xe5 15.\@h5! f5 16.\@c4+ \@h8 17.\@h4 g6 18.\@xg6 \@xh2+ 19.\\@h1!+-, Zalys-Trone, corr 1965.
- b) 12... 16? looks very dubious because of 13. 14! with the threat 14. 25, e.g.:
- b1) **13...h6?** 14. 2xh6! gxh6 15. 4d2! and White is winning.
- b2) **13... ⊎e7?** 14. De5l, Zillmer-Detry, corr 1998, and there is no reasonable defence against the threat 15. ≜xh7+ Dxh7 16. ₩h5+-, e.g.: 14...h6 15. ≜xh6! gxh6 16. ₩d2+- or 14...g6 15. ≜g5 ₩d8 16. ₩f3 ≜e7 17. ≜h6 ≦e8 18. ≜b5+-.

48 Chapter 1



11



Smith/Hall believe that this sacrifice is not correct and generally evaluate the positions favourable for Black. Baburin (Megabase) also considers it to be a dubious one but he follows the analysis of Vukovic that leads to a draw. Gary Lane puts a "!?" to it and reveals a gap in the Vukovic/Baburin analysis, but he offers an idea of Winants that saves Black in another line. Ottow finally proves that after the 12<sup>th</sup> move White gets a considerable, probably decisive, advantage.

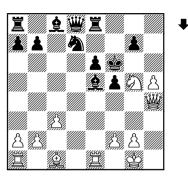
As I have previously said, I was convinced by Ottow's analysis and now I only took the liberty to deepen it a little so that I can contribute a bit to the analysis of this position.

According to Smith/Hall this is the best continuation, while all the others prefer 13... \$\preceigs\$ g8. We will come back to this critical position later.

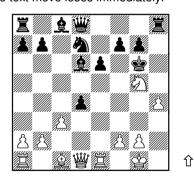
#### 14.h4 \(\mathbb{I}\)h8?

After this move all the commentators are unanimous - Black's position is lost now. Certainly 14...f5 was stronger, but in the long run it would not have saved Black either:

14...f5 15.h5+ ☆f6 16.₩xd4+ 点e5 17.₩h4!



Smith/Hall, unfortunately, missed this strong continuation. White's attack could hardly be repelled now, e.g. **17... a5** (17... **a** 27 18. **a** 4 **a** 66 19. **a** xe6+ **a** 68 20. **a** d6+ **a** g8 21. **a** c4+- Winants, 17... **a** c7 18. **a** 64! **a** c8 c7 19. **a** xe5 **a** xe5 20. **a** c7 18. **a** 19. **a** 19. **a** 20. c7 19. **a** 19. **a** 20. c7 19. **a** 19. c8 20. c8 21. c9 62. c9 21. c9 63 21. c9 63 21. c9 63 21. c9 63 22. c9 64+- c9 12. c9 21. c9 22. c9 64+- c9 13. c9 22. c9 64+- c9 14. c9 22. c9 24. c9 24. c9 24. c9 25. c9 2

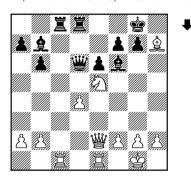


15.\(\mathbb{Z}\)xe6+!

More precise is 15.h5+!! \( \bar{L} \) xh5 16. \( \bar{L} \) xe6+! fxe6 17.\( \bar{L} \) d3+ \( \bar{L} \) f6 18.\( \bar{L} \) f3+ \( \bar{L} \) g6 19.\( \bar{L} \) e4++- (Lane), but these are only trivial matters.

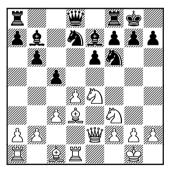
#### 15...5 f6

15...fxe6 16.\ddd{\dd}d3+ \ddr{\dd}h5 17.g4+ \ddr{\dd}xg4 18.\ddf{d}f3+ \ddr{\dd}xh4 19.\ddr{\dd}h3\dth. ≜xf6 20.≜xh7+ \( \frac{1}{2}\)f8! seemed fine.
18.cxd4 \( \frac{1}{2}\)d6 \( 19.\)≜xf6 \( \frac{1}{2}\)xf6 \( 20.\)
\( \frac{1}{2}\)xh7+. Witkowski-Gens. Potsdam 1994.



Instead of **20... \*\*xh7??** 21. **\*\*#h5**+ **\*\*g8** 22. **\*\*#xf7**+ **\*\*zh7** 23. **\*\*xc8 \*xc8** 24. **\*\*ze3** + **\*ys5** 25. **\*\*zh3**+ **\*zh6** 26. **\*\*xh6**+! **\*\*zh6** 27. **\*\*yg6** Black had to play **20... \*\*f8!**, and the position remains unclear.

# 9.e4 dxe4 10.<a>∅xe4 <a>≜b7 11.<a>ℤd1!?</a>



It is clear that the d4 and c5 pawns will sooner or later be exchanged - therefore the rook prudently takes the d-file. Besides, the queen on d8 now does not feel so comfortably.

#### 11...5\xe4

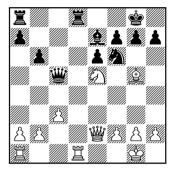
Black is a little confined and therefore decides to exchange some pieces. Others: 11...cxd4 

Game 17.

11...**⊮c7** ⇒ Game 18.

**15.dxc5** ⇒ *game 16*.

15...≝fd8 16.dxc5! ₩xc5 17.⊘e5



This is a typical position for the variation. White has three to two pawns on the queenside, while Black has the pawn majority on the kingside. Now almost everything depends on whose pawns are more mobile. Often - but not always! - White has a small advantage because of the following factors:

- Usually, White's pieces remain more active after the exchanges in the centre, here e.g. \$g5 and \$265 compared to respectively \$e7 and \$266.
- From the first move White started fighting for the e5 square (think of d2-d4, 2g1-f3 and dd1-e2). The effect of these moves can still be felt - it is very difficult for Black to accomplish ...e6-e5.
- White's king is closer to the black pawn majority than his counterpart to the white pawns on the queenside.
- Should the game come to a pawn ending with White having a passed pawn on the queenside, the first player should be able to win that endgame, e.g. a pawn ending with \(\delta\c4/\deltag2/\deltah2\) against \(\delta\c5/\deltag7/\deltah7\).

106 Chapter 1

## **Summary**

In the variation

1.d4 d5 2.ᡚf3 ᡚf6 3.e3 e6 4.≜d3 c5 5.c3 ᡚbd7 6.ᡚbd2

Black usually chooses between the development of his bishop to d6 or e7.



The continuation ... £f8-d6 seems a bit more active - the bishop takes the e5 square under control, prepares ... e6-e5 and at the same time prevents £f3-e5. But on the other hand it is more vulnerable to the opponent's attack.

White can immediately carry out the thematic e3-e4 after

8.e4

However, it does not promise him any advantage - usually Black equalizes fairly easy or even gets good counterplay. 

⇒ Game 1

It is better to prepare the advance e3-e4 first. But 8.\(\pm\)e2?! is dubious in view of 8...e5!, and therefore

8.Ee1

is the best continuation. In this case

8...e5

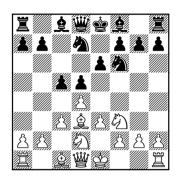
is playable, but does not promise equality: With

9.e4!

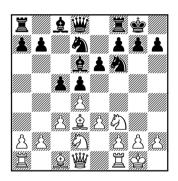
White achieves a dangerous initiative.

⇒ Game 2

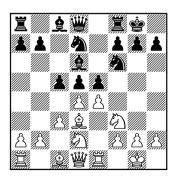
The most frequent reply to 8. \( \begin{align\*} \text{\$\Z\$} = 1 \] is the developing move



(after 6. 5 bd2)



(after 7...0-0)



(after 9.e4!)



#### 8...⊮c7,

after which usually follows

9.e4!

After

#### 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 dxe4 11. ⟨√xe4

occurs the basic position in the system with ... ∅bd7 and ... ₫d6, in which Black has a great variety of choices.

In my opinion

⇒ Game 3

and 11....≜f4 (⇔ comments to Game 3) do not solve Black's opening problems.

Also after

≅xe4!

⇒ Game 4

White develops a strong initiative, but here 12... £4!? is worth considering. After

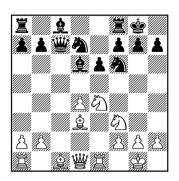
**e2 b7** 14.**□**h4! ⇒ Game 5

White's initiative on the kingside is again very dangerous.

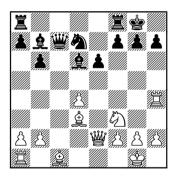
There are some alternatives to 12...b6, amongst which 12... b6!? seems the strongest one to me (a continuation which has not been played yet) - see the comments of Game 5. If Black plays 12... b8, then 13. c2!? would lead to Game 6, which I think is favourable for White.

However, a very interesting continuation is... \( \frac{1}{2} \) 8-e8 without exchanging on d4:

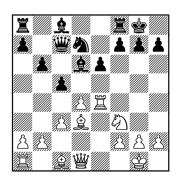
Instead of 12...cxd4?!, the continuation 12...b6!?, which we analyzed at the end of *Game 6*, deserves most attention. The arising position is extremely sharp. Probably this is the best possibility for Black in the system with bd7 and d6.



(after 11. 2xe4)



(after 14.\(\mathbb{I}\)h4)



(after 12...b6)



## **Index of variations**

Page number = the beginning of the relevant thematic game, sometimes the key moves are reached 2-3 pages later

Chapter 1 Black plays⊙bd7	. 17
6.∮bd2 ≜d6 7.0-0 (7.∰e2) 70-0 (7e5) 8.e4	.17
6.∮bd2 ≜d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.≌e1! (8.⊯e2?!) 8e5	
6.ᡚbd2 ዿd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.፮e1 豐c7 9.e4 cxd4 10.cxd4 dxe4 11.ᡚxe4 ᡚd5 (ዿf4)	30
6.ᡚbd2d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.ॾe1 ; c7 9.e4 cxd4 10.cxd4 dxe4 11.ᡚxe4 b6	.34
6.ᡚbd2d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.ॾe1 ; c7 9.e4 cxd4 10.cxd4 dxe4 11.ᡚxe4 ᡚxe4	
6.句bd2 এd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.≌e1 c7 9.e4 dxe4	
6.∮bd2 ≜d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.≌e1 ≌e8 9.e4 dxe4	
6.句bd2 এd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.罩e1 b6 9.e4	
6.句bd2 এd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.罩e1 b6 9.b3!?	
6.句bd2 এd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.≌e1 b6	
6.₺bd2 এd6 7.0-0 b6?!	
6.ቭbd2 এd6 7.0-0 豐c7 8.豐e2!?	
6.₺bd2	
1.d4 d5 2.എf3 എf6 3.e3 e6 4.ൠd3 ൠd6 5.0-0 എbd7 6.എbd2 0-0 (6e5) 7.e4!	
The pawn majority on the queenside (general discussion)	. 72
6. 5bd2 (6.0-0 ge77. 5e5) 7 ge77.0-0 0-0 8. we2 (8.e4, 8. ze1) 8 b6	74
(8≝c7) 9.e4 dxe4 10.ᡚxe4 ≜b7 11.罩d1!? ᡚxe4 6.ᡚbd2 ≜e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.豐e2 b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.ᡚxe4 ≜b7 11.罩d1 cxd4	
6.⊘bd2	
6.夕bd2 호e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.夕e5!? 신xe5	
6.⊘bd2	
6.⊘bd2	
6.创bd2	
6.心bd2 豐c7 7.0-0 曾c7 6.e4::	
6.∮e5	
Summary	
•	
Chapter 2 Black plays ac6	110
6. 4 bd2 (6. 6 e 5) 6 d6 7.0-0 0-0 (7e 5) 8.dxc5! (8.e4) 8 dxc5 9.e4 e 7	
(9 various) 10. ∰e2 ≦e8 (10 various) (10dxe4 11. ∑xe4 ≜e7 ⇒ p. 158) 1	110
6.ົ)bd2	122
6 6 hd2	

	133
6.ᡚbd2 ₫d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ₫xc5 9.e4 ∰c7 10.∰e2 ᡚe5 11.ᡚxe5 dxe5	135
6. ②bd2 ₫d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ₫xc5 9.e4 ₩c7 10. ₩e2 b6!?	137
6.ᡚbd2 ₫d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ₫xc5 9.e4 ∰c7 10.∰e2 ₫d7	140
6.ᡚbd2 ₫d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ₫xc5 9.e4 ∰c7 10.∰e2 ₫b6	141
6.ᡚbd2 ₫d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ₫xc5 9.e4 ∰c7 10.exd5	141
6.ᡚbd2 ≜d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ≜xc5 9.e4 e5 10.exd5 (10.∰e2) 10∰xd5	146
6. ∅bd2 ≜d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ≜xc5 9.e4 e5 10.exd5 ∅xd5!?	149
6. ∅bd2 ≜d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ≜xc5 9.e4 dxe4 10. ∅xe4 ∅xe4	
6.₺bd2 ₫d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 ₫xc5 9.e4 dxe4 10.₺xe4 ₫e7 11.₩e2 ₩c7	157
6. Dbd2 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8. We2!? (8. Ze1) 8 b6? (8 e5 9.dxc5 dxc5 10.e4	
⇒ p. 146, 8 c7 9.dxc5 ≜xc5 10.e4 ⇒ p. 115., 8 d7!?) 9.e4!	
6. ②bd2 鱼e7 7.0-0 0-0 8. 響e2 b6	
6. ②bd2 鱼e7 7.0-0 0-0 8. 響e2 ②d7	
6.②bd2 ≜e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.②e5!?	166
6.⊙bd2 ≜e7 7.0-0 ∰c7!?	
6. 2bd2 <u>d</u> d6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.exd4! 0-0 9. <b>Z</b> e1 <b>W</b> c7 10. <b>W</b> e2 <b>Z</b> e8	
6. ②bd2 鱼d6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.exd4 0-0 9. 罩e1 豐c7 10. 豐e2 ②d7!	
6.②bd2	
Summary	
Chapter 3 Black plays an earlyb7-b6	
1.d4 d5 2.2 f3 16 3.e3 e6 4. d3 c5 5.c3 e7 6.0-0 0-0 7. bd2 b6!?	
1.d4 d5 2.ᡚf3 ᡚf6 3.e3 e6 4.彙d3 b6 5.0-0 彙b7 6.ᡚe5!? ᡚbd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.	185
1.d4 d5 2.ᡚf3 ᡚf6 3.e3 e6 4.ዿd3 b6 5.0-0 ዿb7 6.ᡚe5!? ᡚbd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?. 1.d4 d5 2.ᡚf3 ᡚf6 3.e3 e6 4.ዿd3 b6 5.0-0 ዿb7 6.ᡚe5!? ᡚbd7 7.f4 g6 8.ዿd2!?	185 189
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?. 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!? 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6	185 189 192
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!? 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!? 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6	185 189 192 193
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?. 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!? 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6	185 189 192 193
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?. 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?. 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6	185 189 192 193 195
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!? 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!? 1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6	185 189 192 193 195 196
1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.♠d2!?  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5 g6  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5 ♠e7 (6♠d6)  Summary  Chapter 4 Black plays an earlyc5-c4  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 c5 5.c3 �1c6 6.�1bd2 ♠e7 7.0-0 c4?!	185 189 192 193 195 196
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6	185 189 192 193 195 196 197
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 �e7 (6�d6)  Summary  Chapter 4 Black plays an earlyc5-c4  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 �c6 6.�bd2 �e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 c4?!  1.d4 �f6 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 d5 4.�d3 c5 5.0-0 c4!?	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!?  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 �e7 (6�d6)  Summary  Chapter 4 Black plays an earlyc5-c4  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 �c6 6.�bd2 �e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 c4?!  1.d4 �f6 2.�f3 e6 3.e3 d5 4.�d3 c5 5.0-0 c4!?  Summary	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200 203
1.d4 d5 2.②f3 ②f6 3.e3 e6 4.逾d3 b6 5.0-0 逾b7 6.②e5!? ②bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.②f3 ②f6 3.e3 e6 4.逾d3 b6 5.0-0 逾b7 6.②e5!? ②bd7 7.f4 g6 8.逾d2!?  1.d4 d5 2.②f3 ②f6 3.e3 e6 4.逾d3 b6 5.0-0 逾b7 6.②e5 g6	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200 203
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!?  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 �e7 (6�d6)  Summary  Chapter 4 Black plays an earlyc5-c4  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 �c6 6.�bd2 �e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 c4?!  1.d4 �f6 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 d5 4.�d3 c5 5.0-0 c4!?  Summary  Chapter 5 Black avoids the Colle-Koltanowski System	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200 203 204
1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!?  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 �e7 (6�d6)  Summary  Chapter 4 Black plays an earlyc5-c4  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 �c6 6.�bd2 �e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 d5 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 �c6 6.�bd2 �e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 �f6 2.�f3 �f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.0-0 c4!?  Summary  Chapter 5 Black avoids the Colle-Koltanowski System  I — What should be played against 1�f6?	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200 203 204 204 205
1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.�d2!?  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 g6  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 b6 5.0-0 �b7 6.�e5 �e7 (6�d6)  Summary  Chapter 4 Black plays an earlyc5-c4  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.�d3 c5 5.c3 �1c6 6.�1bd2 �1e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.�1d3 c5 5.c3 c4?!  1.d4 �1f6 2.�1f3 e6 3.e3 d5 4.�1d3 c5 5.0-0 c4!?  Summary  Chapter 5 Black avoids the Colle-Koltanowski System  I - What should be played against 1�1f6?  II - Black plays 1f5  III - Black plays 1c5	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200 203 204 204 205 206
1.d4 d5 2.0f3 0f6 3.e3 e6 4.0d3 b6 5.0-0 0b7 6.0e5!? 0bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!? 1.d4 d5 2.0f3 0f6 3.e3 e6 4.0d3 b6 5.0-0 0b7 6.0e5!? 0bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.bd!? 1.d4 d5 2.0f3 0f6 3.e3 e6 4.0d3 b6 5.0-0 0b7 6.0e5 g6 1.d4 d5 2.0f3 0f6 3.e3 e6 4.0d3 b6 5.0-0 0b7 6.0e5 0e7 (60d6)	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200 203 204 204 205 206 206
1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6!? 8.b3!?.  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5!? �bd7 7.f4 g6 8.♠d2!?  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5 g6  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 b6 5.0-0 ♠b7 6.�e5 ♠e7 (6♠d6)  Summary  Chapter 4 Black plays an earlyc5-c4  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 c5 5.c3 �1c6 6.�1bd2 ♠e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 d5 2.�1f3 �1f6 3.e3 e6 4.♠d3 c5 5.c3 €16 6.�1bd2 ♠e7 7.0-0 c4?!  1.d4 �1f6 2.�1f3 e6 3.e3 d5 4.♠d3 c5 5.0-0 c4!?  Summary  Chapter 5 Black avoids the Colle-Koltanowski System  I — What should be played against 1�1f6?  III — Black plays 1f5  III — Black plays 1c5	185 189 192 193 195 196 197 199 200 203 204 204 205 206 206 209