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**WINNING PAWN PLAY
IN THE
INDIAN DEFENSES**



CONTENTS

Setting the Stage.....	5
The Qualitative Majority in Nimzowitsch's Career	11
PART I	
General Theory of the Qualitative Majority	25
PART II	
General Theory of the King's Indian Structure.....	43
PART III	
White's Play in the King's Indian Structure	70
PART IV	
Black's Play in the King's Indian Structure	112
PART V	
The Sämisch in the King's Indian Structure	162
PART VI	
The Modern Benoni Structure: Theory and Practice	205
PART VII	
The Benoni Structure: Theory and Practice	249
APPENDIX	
Qualitative Majorities in the Ruy López	275
Glossary	302
Bibliography	308
Player Index	311

Part III

White's Play in the King's Indian Structure

66. White's QM Offensive

In this section, we will examine the different ways for White to handle his offensive in the King's Indian Structure. Since, as Clausewitz wrote, "defense is the strongest form of warfare," any variety in attacking methods for White is due more to the need to overcome the kind of defense that Black puts up, than to any inherent multiplicity of offensive methods.

To soften this deterministic aspect of the defense in war and in chess, we will basically examine White victories – not because the outcome is critical to the teaching process, but due to its strong psychological appeal, which leads to good learning!

67. Wait-and-See Approaches

One principle in the conduct of warfare is, as the military theorist A.H. Jomini wrote in *The Art of War*, "knowing how to make the best use of the advantages which the reciprocal directions of the two bases of operations may afford" (175). The wait-and-see approach (ei-

ther by itself or together with other defensive methods) in the King's Indian Structure illustrates this principle, as White attacks on the queenside and Black on the kingside with their respective QMs.

"Wait-and-see" can take one of two forms:

- a) watchful waiting (Chapter 61) – a purely local and episodic, operational approach;
- b) wait-and-see defense (Chapter 57) – a generalized, strategic approach.

Generally speaking, a wait-and-see attitude on one wing is accompanied by offensive action in the opposite direction on the other wing. The defender operates on the assumption that the present setup is the best one to meet the enemy QM attack and therefore he can invest his moves in pursuit of his own attack on the opposite flank. Sometimes the wait-and-see defense includes some prophylactic measures against the hostile QM advance. In any case, wait-and-see defense takes place under the motto that, "the best defense is a good offense."

68. Restraint/Obstruction

Foremost among the ways to meet a QM attack is the restraint/obstruction complex (Chapter 36). In the King's Indian Structure, after overcoming Black's attempts to restrain or obstruct his QM, White achieves primary contact (Chapter 26, 2.c5) and then reaches the target position (Diagram 23), which facilitates the invasion into Black's queenside (Chapter 27).

69. White's Classical QM Attack

The following game features a classic QM attack by White, which unfolds despite all of Black's attempts at resistance. Although play develops bidirectionally (White attacking on the queenside and Black on the kingside), for learning purposes we focus on one particular side.

T.Petrosian – A.Lutikov

USSR Championship, Moscow 1961

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6
5.♙e2 0-0 6.♗f3 e5 7.d5 a5**

7.d5 creates mutual black and white QMs; with 7...a5 Black starts implementing a restraint/obstruction strategy aimed at delaying the advance of White's QM (see Chapter 36).

Black's strategy may also be intended to induce piece trades, blunting White's attack and lessening the impact of an eventual invasion.

Thirdly, and more distantly, Black can also hope to exploit the lines White

forces open on the queenside for his own counterattack in the same sector.

By delaying the progress of White's QM, Black gains time for his own QM advance. Thus, by furthering his restraint/obstruction strategy, generally Black also aids in the success of his own kingside QM offensive. Built into the assessment of Black's prospects on the kingside is an estimate of his restraint/obstruction efforts on the queenside.

8.♙g5

"Petrosian's unpleasant pin, which truly revitalized 7.d5" (Cherta 47). One limited purpose of 8.♙g5 is to create an interior line of communication, connecting the queen on d1 and the a1-rook and thus helping to promote the advance of White's QM. Now that the a1-rook is held, White needn't worry about the consequences of various prospective pawn trades affecting the rook's fate.

A second limited objective involves delaying Black's primary contact ...f7-f5 by pinning the f6-knight (see Chapter 48). In order to break the pin, Black would have to play ...h7-h6 and ...g6-g5, when the g-pawn no longer supports the f-pawn's advance. This limits Black's choices, as in case of e4xf5 (direct unblocking; see Chapter 50) he can then no longer retake on f5 with a pawn.

Finally, 8.♙g5 also delays White's castling, which – as long as the situation persists – deprives the black QM of its major target, the enemy king.

PART III

8...h6 9.♗h4 ♖a6 10.♞d2

A typical and very important move in the Petrosian System. White's control over h5 with the e2-bishop restrains Black's maneuver ...g6-g5, ...♞h5-f4.

10...♞d7

A novelty. However, 10...♞e8 is better, for reasons similar to the first one given for 8.♗g5: the a8-rook is guarded. With the text move, Black can't significantly delay the march of White's QM – a small positional flaw that Petrosian's sharp eye doesn't fail to notice.

11.a3 ♞h7

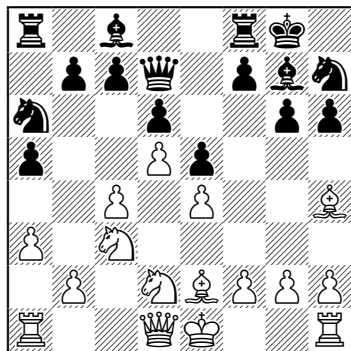


Diagram 58

The a5-pawn and a6-knight restrain White's QM. By throwing in ...b7-b6, this would reach the level of obstruction. The alternative to 11...♞h7 would be 11...♞e8, with the idea of defending the base of the pawn chain at d6 as well as the invasion point at c7. However, as the a6-knight already holds c7, Black has a more aggressive role in mind for his other knight with ...♞g5.

12.f3

Pre-reinforcing White's base at e4, prior to Black's making contact with ...f7-f5 (see Chapter 64 and Diagram 132). The immediate idea is to save the dark-squared bishop from harassment.

12.f3 serves other purposes, too. It fits in well with White's defensive scheme, which hardly envisions direct unblocking (Chapter 50). In addition, Black's king's knight is not positioned to exploit the dark squares with ...♞h5-f4. Finally, it makes f2 available for the dark-squared bishop to support contact at c5.

12...f5

Black's primary contact balances great speed against limited offensive potential (Chapter 48).

13.b4

White starts operations on the queenside, avoiding castling. Delaying or even skipping castling altogether is one of the main stratagems in the Petrosian System.

The trick lies in castling just when White has advanced far enough on the queenside, but not so far that Black loses all hope of conquering with his own QM attack on the kingside. This deception leads Black to eschew passive defense on the queenside and instead to deploy his pieces for a futile attack on the opposite wing, dispersing his forces ineffectively (see Chapter 178). A subtlety worthy of the great Petrosian!

13...a×b4 14.a×b4 ♖b8

14...♞xb4 is impossible, as the a8-rook is loose. Hence Black's measures imposed no real restraint on White's QM advance.

15.♖b1 ♞f6 16.♙f2 ♚e7 17.c5

White's QM achieves primary contact (Chapter 26, 2.c5).

17...♚h7

An instance of watchful waiting (Chapter 43) which, though leaving White free to pursue his strategy, presses Black's own QM attack on the kingside.

18.c×d6 c×d6

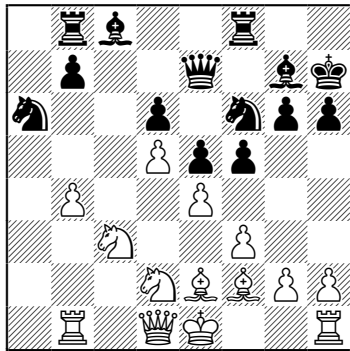


Diagram 59: Target position

In our outline, 18.cxd6 represents indirect unblocking (Chapter 44), and 18...cxd6 replaces the base (44, a). Together they bring about the target position from White's QM attack (Diagram 23). White's immediate task is to invade at c7 (Chapter 27) and then to hone in

on the d6-pawn as the starting point for the next phase of the game.

Considering how far White's attack has progressed, note that Black hasn't even decided yet how to proceed after making his own contact with ...f7-f5. Should he open lines right away with the indirect unblocking ...fxe4 (Chapter 52); shift the base with ...f5-f4 (Chapter 53); or adopt watchful waiting with ...*tenuki* (Chapter 61)?

19.0-0

Meanwhile, by castling at this point Petrosian carries out a very deep strategic idea. True, castling makes the king's rook available for deployment on the queenside; but the real nuance lies in the calculated risk taken by inducing Lutikov to shift the base – which, in principle, could generate a strong kingside QM attack. But Petrosian realizes that he can afford to take this risk as his own QM attack is far along, and he knows that re-deploying Black's forces to the kingside would constitute a force dispersal away from the queenside, facilitating White's invasion.

19...f4

Shifts the base of White's pawn chain from e4 to f3. Now the further sharpening, secondary contact ...g6-g5-g4 is necessary (Chapter 58). This costs Black additional time, improving White's already excellent prospects on the queenside.

20.♞c4 ♞c7 21.♞b6

PART III

The key move in the application of White's QM. With 21. ♖b6, White ensures the elimination of the c8-bishop, precluding the possible ... ♗xh3 sacrifice which could ensue after the restraining move h2-h3 (Chapter 54). Additionally, in the King's Indian Structure, eliminating the c8-bishop makes the light squares in the enemy camp – particularly e6 – available to White's pieces.

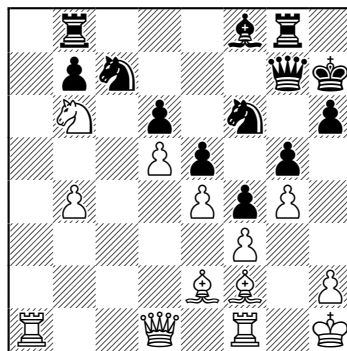


Diagram 60: g2-g4 inversion

21...g5 22. ♖a1 ♖g8 23. ♗h1

Cautious and perceptive play, typical of Petrosian's style and personality. In addition to preventing Black's ...g5-g4 contact followed by the line-opening ...g4xf3 (indirect unblocking), 23. ♗h1 also lures Black further in, so as to – at the right time – pre-empt Black's attack with the g2-g4 inversion (Chapter 55). This would change the situation on the kingside and force Black to spend even more time in order to press his attack.

23... ♗d7 24. ♗x d7

The offensive value of this trade lies in the creation of new exterior lines of communication (the light squares) that can be used for the invasion and direct attack on the opponent's king.

24... ♗x d7 25. ♗a4 ♗f8 26. ♗b6 ♗g7 27. g4

(see Diagram 60)

Just when Black was finally ready to make secondary contact on g4, White carries out this inversion which makes things even more difficult for the second

player's QM. Even today we can imagine how frustrating it must have been to face Petrosian!

27...h5

A break perfectly mirroring those we saw in Chapters 38 and 56.

28. h3 ♖h8 29. ♗g2 ♗g8 30. ♖h1 h×g4 31. h×g4 ♖xh1 32. ♗xh1

No more than a feint at using the lines of communication opened by the opponent.

32... ♗d7 33. ♗c1 ♗x b6 34. ♗x b6 ♗a8 35. ♗a7 ♖d8 36. ♗b5

A quick glance is enough to see how hard Black has tried to stop White from invading on the key squares d6 and c7, resorting even to ... ♗a8. Meanwhile he has one final hope with ... ♗g7-h6-h4-g3+, which will be duly snuffed out by Petrosian.

36... ♗e7 37. ♗f2

External prophylaxis (Chapter 65, 15.h4) aimed at h4, Black's last chance.

37...♔f7 38.♖c2 ♗h8 39.♗h1 ♖×h1
40.♔×h1 ♗h8+ 41.♔g2

As ...♗h4 is no longer possible, White is ready to invade and launch the final offensive.

41...♗b8 42.♔d7

The invasion finally begins via the light squares. Ultimately the invaders will turn to the right and assault the black king's position.

42...♘c7 43.♖c1 ♘a6 44.♗h1 ♔g7
45.♔f5 ♗h8 46.♗b1 ♖e8 47.♗h1 ♗h8
48.♗a1 ♗b8 49.♗a4 ♔f8 50.♗d7

It took 50 moves to complete the invasion, but the effect is crushing.

50...♘×b4 51.♗e6 ♗c7 52.♔h7 ♔e8
53.♔g6+ 1-0

The detailed description of events in this game (with chapter references) is intended to introduce the reader to the proper way to handle the QM, and to help him understand what happened here.

70. Shifting the Base

In the last chapter, we discussed the concepts of restraint and obstruction, with only a passing reference to shifting the base (19...f4). Now we will see White executing a base shift.

When White makes contact with c4-c5 and exchanges this pawn for Black's base at d6, by thus replacing the base he seeks to reach the normal QM target position. However, conditions permitting, he will also have another possible objective, based on the target position that results from shifting the base after pushing the contact c5-pawn to c6. By fixing the c7-pawn, this advance sets the new base of Black's pawn chain on that square.

However, this base shift by White (Chapter 33) shouldn't be confused with tertiary contact (Chapter 34) – which, despite also occurring as a result of c5-c6, is a new pawn contact aimed at opening new lines.

V. Korchnoi – J. Polgár Monaco (rapid) 1993

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♔g7 4.e4 d6
5.♔e2 0-0 6.♘f3 e5 7.0-0 a5 8.♔e3
♘g4 9.♔g5 f6 10.♔c1 ♘c6 11.d5 ♘e7
12.♘e1 f5 13.f3 ♘f6 14.♔e3 b6 15.♗c1
♔d7

With the a8-rook protected and ready to support ...a5-a4, Black completes her obstruction of White's QM.

16.b3 f4 17.♔f2 g5 18.a3 h5 19.b4 a×b4
20.a×b4 g4

Secondary contact (Chapter 58), applicable to Black only.

21.c5 b×c5 22.b×c5 ♔h6