

from our series on the Isolated Queen's Pawn (IQP), including: attacks on h7, rook lifts, and long-range pieces.

In our **example**, from Jepson – Hector, 1999, these themes combine with **17. Ba3**, which is a thematic use of a long diagonal. White continues using his control of open lines from there.

After **17. ... Nd7 18. Bb4 Qd3 19. Rad1 Qf5 20. Bxf8 Nxf8 21. Rd8!**, **Black resigned** as White's pieces

have flown around the open board and landed in mating formation.



### EXCHANGE FRENCH TACTICS, PT. 1

This week's puzzles all come from the **French Exchange** variation with 4. c4, as part of our **Openings Project**. Themes should be familiar

**# 1. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 2. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 3. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 4. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 5. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 6. WHITE TO PLAY**

### SOLUTIONS

**1) 17. Qe2** Black tried to blockade White's c3-pawn, but walked into a double attack! **17. ... h6 18. Qxh5 Nb2 19. Bf5 Qd5** If 19. ... Bxf5 20. Nxf5 hxg5, then 21. Ne7 wins the queen. **20. Bxd7** winning. (Bailet – Todory, France, 2016) **2) 30. Re5!** Black cannot both stop mate on h7 and defend the queen. (Arizmendi – Bramman, Benasque, 1999) **3) 11. Nd5!** Black resigned, as Nd5-c7+ is unstoppable. For instance,

even **11. ... Bd6 12. Bxd6 Qxd6** loses to **13. Nf6+** with a discovered attack on the queen. (Graf – Debus, Baunatal, 1999) **4) 15. Rd1** White has been playing for Nb5-d6+, and now has enough pressure along the d-file to execute it. **15. ... Qb6 16. Nd6+ Kf8 17. Qc4** Threatening mate, and continuing to pile on the attack: **17. ... Nh6 18. Ne5** and now a fork on d7, too. Black resigned shortly. (Kufa – Pavelek, Moravia, 2003) **5) 16. Qb4!** There is no way

to defend the a5-knight. Knights on the rim are dim! **16. ... c6 17. Nxf6+ Qxf6 18. Rxe8+ Rxe8 19. Bf1** The knight on a5 is lost. (Volkman – Dzierzenga, Austria, 2013) **6) 20. Re4** An excellent use of the open board. White breaks out of the pin and pressures the loose b4-bishop. **20. ... Qa6** If 20. ... Qc5 21. Nxd5 Qxd5 then 22. Rxb4 wins the bishop. **21. Nxd5 cxd5 22. Rxb4** and **Black resigned** five moves later. (Kantans – Muller, Tornelo, 2020)