



As the astute reader will have noticed, it is not uncommon for Suttles to deploy his pieces behind his pawns, in order to maximize the flexibility of his pawns, while at the same time creating a resilient position which can absorb the opponent's pawn breaks. The diagrammed position is an excellent example of this positional idea. White's pieces are classically placed, but he cannot open the position advantageously with just his two center pawns, and thus is soon forced to redeploy his pieces ... behind his pawns.

Not surprisingly, almost all of Black's pieces are also "on the edge" of the board, with the exception of his g7-♘. The title of this book is no accident.

14.♖ad1 ♖c7 15.h4 h6 16.♗e2

White moves his c3-♗ to e2, so he can advance his c2-♙, which in turn will let him bring his b3-♘ to a better diagonal. All this is intended as preparation for a kingside attack.

Black, recalling the old saying that "you can never be checkmated when you have a knight at f8", transfers his b8-♗ to the key square.

16...♗d7 17.♘h2 ♖d8 18.c3
♗f8 19.♘c2 ♖e7?!

Black, anticipating his opponent's attack, masses his pieces on the kingside as well, but 19...♖e7 gives White a tactical opportunity he overlooks.

20.e5?!

Fixing the center, but in so doing White gives Black a clear plan of attack on the queenside. After 20.d5! cxd5 21.exd5 e5 22.♗ed4 and 23.♗c6, White is better.

20...d5 21.♘f4 c5 22.g3 ♖b8
23.♖g2 ♖ab7

Black intends to take advantage of White's a4-♙ by breaking with ...b6-b5.

24.♖b1 ♗d7 25.h5!?

White feels he must do something to get his kingside attack going, so he sacrifices a piece. But Black's knights defend their king well, so there is little chance of White succeeding in a direct attack.

25...g5 26.♗xg5?! ♘xe2
27.♖xe2 hxg5 28.♘xg5 f6
29.exf6 ♘xf6 30.♘f4 ♖c8
31.♖be1 ♗f8

White has some compensation for the sacrificed piece, but not enough if Black defends precisely.

32.g4?! cxd4 33.cxd4 ♖g7?!