Chess History

1st General Lyceum of Ilion, Athens
"Maths everywhere"2019-2022

What is really chess?

Chess can tell you a great deal about the way people lived in medieval times. If you look at the way a chessboard is set up and study the pieces and how they are used, you will realize that chess is a miniature history of medieval times. The six different chess pieces on the board represent a cross section of medieval life with its many ceremonies, grandeur and wars.
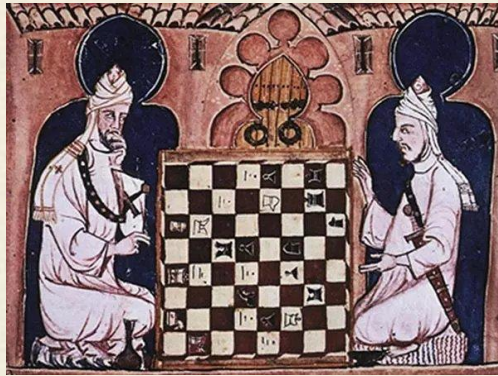
History

The history of Chess can be traced back nearly 1500 years to its earliest known predecessor, called "chaturanga", in India. Chaturanga translates to "four division of the military": infantry, cavalry, elephantry and chariotry. These forms are represented by the pieces that would evolved to the modern pawn, knight, bishop and rook.

✔ Chess was played for many centuries in China, India, and Persia.

✔ No one really knows for sure where it actually originated

When **Arabs** conquered Persia in 8th century , chess was taken up by the Muslim world and through the Moorish conquest of Spain (Muslim inhabitants on the Iberian peninsula, Sicily and France), spread to Europe, where the first country who was influenced is Russia

Chess in Europe

In Europe, the moves of the pieces changed in the 15th century and those changes formed chess as we know it today.

Most notably, the queen and the bishop became more powerful pieces, with movement similar to the one today.

That era, chess became more popular because chess clubs, chess books and chess journals appeared and players and experts started analyzing games.

First Chess Tournament: 1575

The first informal international chess tournament took place when the Italians Leonardo da Cutri and Paolo Boi traveled to the court of Philip II in Madrid to play Ruy Lopez and Alfonso Ceron of Spain.

Ruy Lopez had already beaten both of them in several earlier games, and it seemed like an easy victory for the Spanish after they won the first two games.

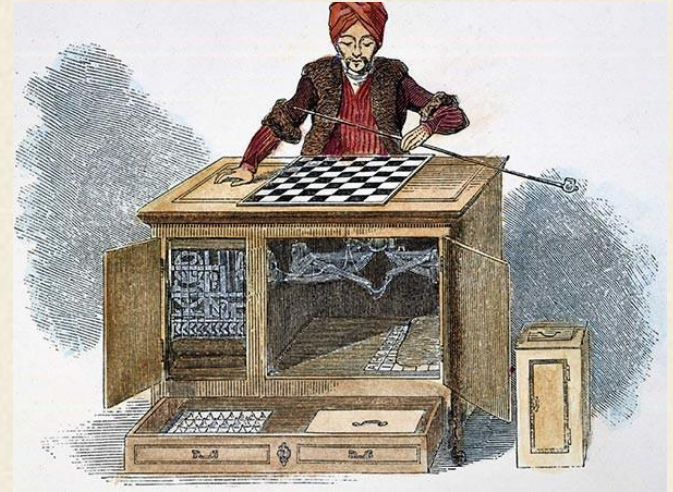The Italians, though, won the next three in a row to secure victory in the world's first chess tournament.

The Mechanical Turk: 1770. An entertaining hoax

In 1770, the Hungarian inventor Wolfgang von Kempelen unveiled the Mechanical Turk, an automatic chess-playing "machine" that entertained and bewildered audiences by defeating strong human opponents.

Originally designed by von Kempelen to impress an Austrian empress, the Turk had cabinets that could be opened to reveal an impressive array of gears and cogs, ostensibly to power the mechanical chess mind.
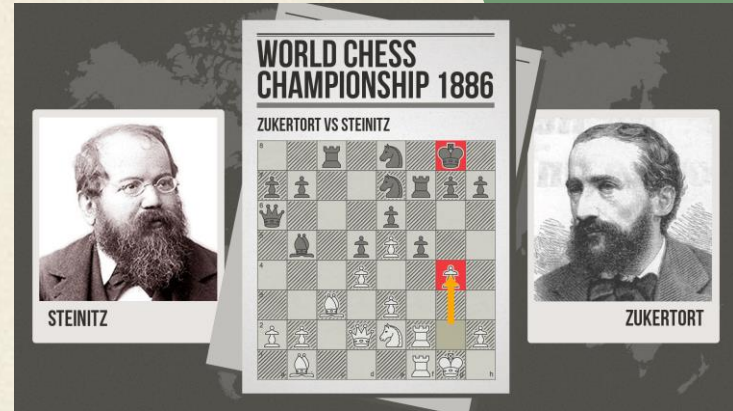
In the 84 years that the Turk wowed audiences in Europe and the Americas, the Turk beat nearly all its challengers. Famous statesmen Napoleon Bonaparte and Benjamin Franklin were among the humans defeated by the mysterious machine

Chess Tournaments

In 1851, the **first chess tournament** took place in London and was won by the German Adolf Anderssen.
The **first world chess championship** was the 1886 match between the two leading players in the world, Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort, with the former becoming the first world champion

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 1886

ZUKERTORT VS STEINITZ

STEINITZ

ZUKERTORT

21st century great Chess players

The charismatic Garry Kasparov appeared on the world chess stage at the age of 10 years old.

Kasparov became the youngest world champion ever at age 22 after defeating Anatoly Karpov, and remained the undisputed strongest chess player for nearly 22 years. His peak rating of 2851 stood as the highest in history until it was surpassed by the current world champion Magnus Carlsen in 2013.

Kasparov enjoyed widespread fame as the face of chess for decades before retiring in 2005 to focus on Russian politics and charity projects.

Kasparov is almost universally considered one of the strongest and most famous world champions of all time.

А.Карпов   Г.Каспаров

IBM against Kasparov

In 1989, the computer company IBM hired a team of Carnegie Mellon engineers to create a computer capable of beating the world chess champion.

That champion was Garry Kasparov, who said "there is still a long way to go before a human on his or her best day is unable to defeat the best computer."

Indeed, in 1989, Garry Kasparov defeated IBM's **"Deep Thought"** computer in a 6-game match. The next version, "Deep Blue," also fell to Kasparov in 1996.

But in the 1997 rematch, Deep Blue, then capable of evaluating 200 million chess positions per second, defeated Kasparov by a score of 3.5 to 2.5.

Computer vs human

Chess software today is far stronger than human chess players. The human world champion Magnus Carlsen is rated 2877, while the best computer program (currently Stockfish) is rated 3290.

Today, chess is been played by million of people in all over the world. The current world champion is Magnus Carslen, from Norway, who has the title since 2013.

Amazing facts about chess

During World War II, some of the top Chess players were also **code breakers**. British masters Harry Golombek, Stuart Milner-Barry and H. O'D. Alexander was on the teamwhich broke the Nazi Enigma code.

The folding chessboard was invented in 1125 by a priest who was forbidden to play chess. The priest found a way around it by making a folding chessboard. When folded together and put ona bookshelf, it simply lookslike two books.

According to the America's Foundation for Chess, there are 169,518,829,100 ,544,000,000,00 0,000,000 (approximately 1.70x10 29) ways to play the first 10 moves of a game of chess.

The number of possibilities of a Knight's tour is over 122 million

Statistics

TOP CHESS PLAYERS

OPEN	WOMEN	JUNIORS	GIRLS
Carlsen, Magnus 2865	Hou, Yifan 2658	Firouzja, Alireza 2804	Zhu, Jiner 2478

https://ratings.fide.com/

There are 318,979,564,000 ways of starting the first four moves in a game of chess.

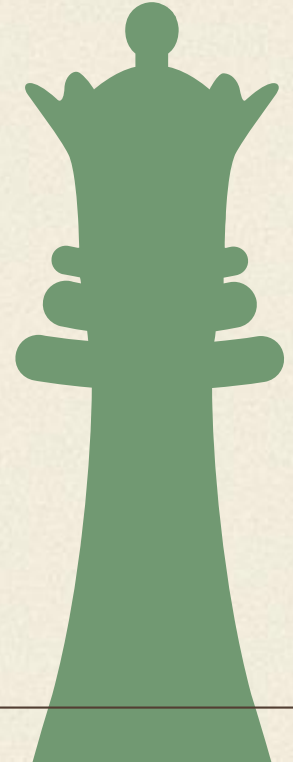CHESSTIER

600,000,000 people know how to play chess worldwide.

The longest chess game that's theoretically possible is 5,949 moves long

An average chess game is 38 moves long.

THANKS