

History

Britannica

First appeared in India in 6th century

Some say it evolved from chaturanga due to similar gameplay: pieces have different abilities, capture the king
Sanskrit

Spread as empires expanded

Chess set became symbol of wealth, knowledge, and power

Set designs before 600 CE had animals, warriors, noblemen

Muslim pieces nonrepresentational due to Islamic rules against images of living creatures

Gendered

Introduction of the queen made it faster, perceived as masculine sport

Women barred from taverns where chess clubs were held

Timed play started in 1861