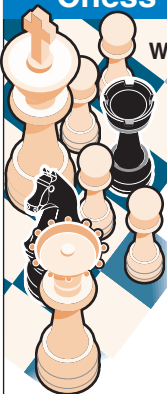


Chess champions



World champions were first recognised in 1886. Since then 13 players have held the title – with Soviet and Russian players dominating the game since 1927.

Emanuel Lasker of Germany held the title for a record 26 years and 337 days between 1894 and 1921

Wilhem Steinitz	1886-1894
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Czech-Germany-U.S.

Emanuel Lasker	1894-1921
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Germany

José Capablanca	1921-1927
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Cuba

Alexander Alekhine	1927-1935
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Russia-France

1937-1946

Max Euwe	1935-1937
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Holland

Mikhail Botvinnik	1948-1957
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USSR

1958-1960, 1961-1963

Vasily Smyslov	1957-1958
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USSR

Mikhail Tal	1960-1961
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USSR

Tigran Petrosian	1963-1969
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USSR

Boris Spassky	1969-1972
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USSR

Bobby Fischer	1972-1975
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United States

Anatoly Karpov	1975-1985
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USSR

Garry Kasparov	Since 1985
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USSR-Russia