

Introduction to Japan

In ancient times, it was believed that chess came to Japan from China through Korea. However, when comparing Chinese chess and shogi, although there are some points in common, many others make it difficult to believe that Chinese chess was passed down and developed as-it-was in Japan. Nowadays, if anything, the similarities between shogi and Southeast Asian chess are being pointed out. Before chess was introduced from China, it reached Japan via sea routes from Southeast Asia, and later it is believed that the prototype of shogi was created under the influence of Chinese chess and Korean chess.