

CHESS · VARIANT 147 OF 153

Turkish Great Chess IV

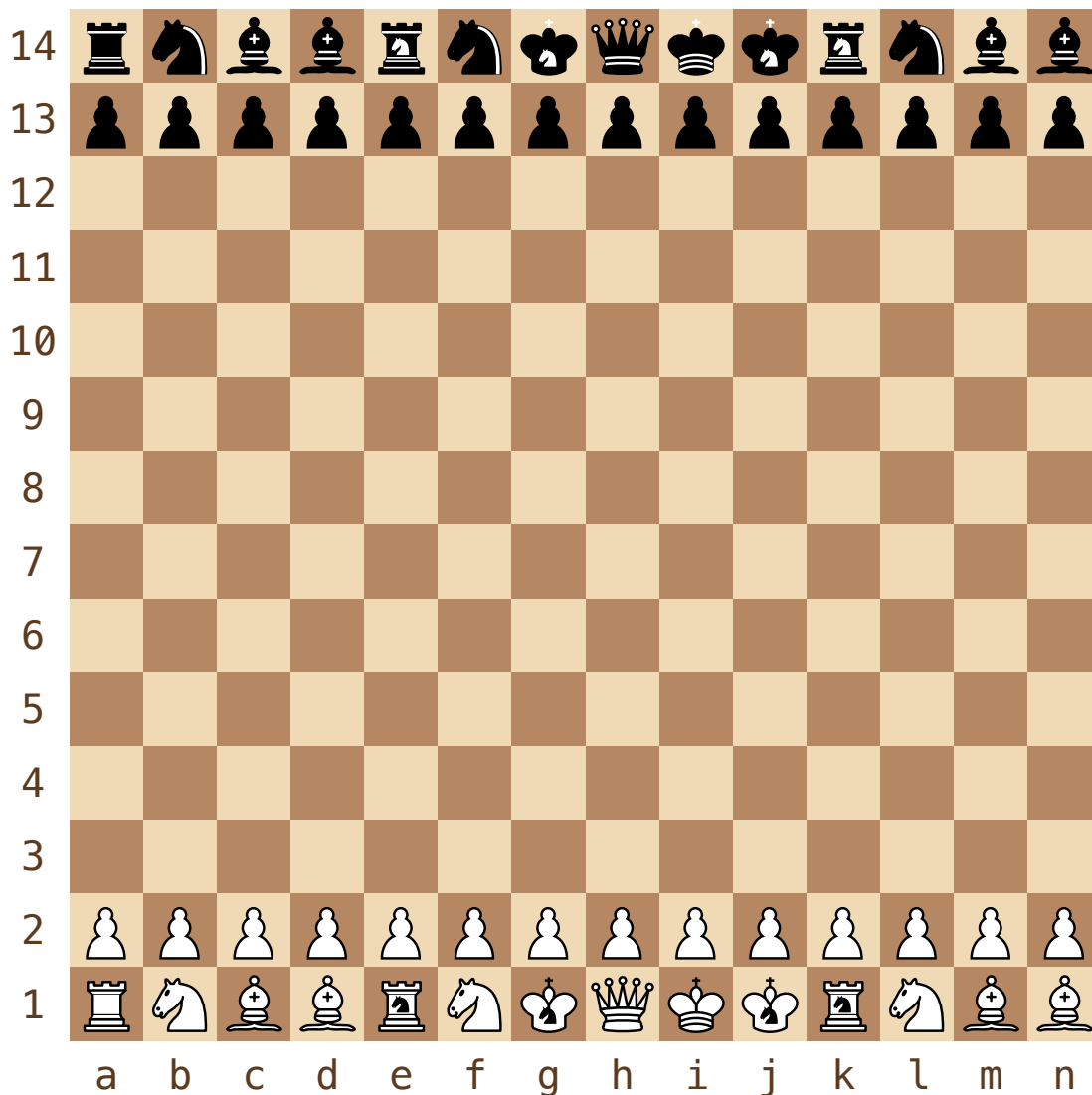
14×14

BOARD

2

PLAYERS

TURKISH GREAT CHESS IV



Turkish Great Chess IV – starting position

<https://engine.moddable.games/play/?game=chess&variant=turkish-great-chess-iv>

Turkish Great Chess, Variation IV is a historical large chess variant played on a 14×14 board. Although catalogued under Turkish chess by John Gollon from H. J. R. Murray's *A History of Chess*, it uses Indian piece names (Raja, Rani) and Persian names (Shahzadeh) alongside the standard Arabic-derived names, suggesting a mixed cultural origin.

A notable feature: the **Rani (Queen)** is unusually weak – moving only one square in any direction like a King – and may be deliberately placed or left on an attacked square without being considered in check. This makes the Rani tactically sacrificeable.

THE BOARD

14×14 (196 squares). Uncoloured in the original; shown checkered on chessvariants.com for clarity.

STARTING POSITION

Rank 1 (White):

SQUARE	PIECE
a1	Rook
b1	Ghora (Knight)
c1	Dahja (Standard)
d1	Ratha (Chariot)
e1	Fil (Elephant)
f1	Shahzadeh (Prince)
g1	Wazir
h1	Raja (King)
i1	Rani (Queen)
j1	Fil (Elephant)
k1	Ratha (Chariot)
l1	Dahja (Standard)
m1	Ghora (Knight)
n1	Rook
a2-n2	Pawns (14 pieces)

Black: mirror on ranks 14 and 13.

PIECES

PIECE	NAME(S)	MOVEMENT	COUNT
Raja	King	As King in chess	1 per side
Rani	Queen	1 square in any direction; may be placed/left en prise	1 per side
Shahzadeh	Prince	As Bishop or Rook (= Chancellor without Knight)	1 per side
Wazir	Vizir / Minister	As Bishop or Rook	1 per side
Fil	Elephant	As Bishop	2 per side
Ratha	Chariot	As Rook	2 per side
Dahja	Standard	As Bishop	2 per side
Ghora	Horse	As Knight	2 per side
Rook	—	As Rook	2 per side
Pawn	—	As Pawn (no double first move)	14 per side

KEY PIECE NOTES

Rani: Unlike the standard chess Queen, the Rani moves only one square in any direction. Uniquely, she **may be placed or left en prise** — the opponent is not required to capture her, and she cannot be used to deliver checkmate in the traditional sense. This makes her more of a positional piece than a royal one.

Shahzadeh and Wazir: Both move as Bishop or Rook — together they form a powerful slider pair.

RULES

- ♦ No castling
- ♦ Pawns have no double first move
- ♦ Stalemate and bare King rules unknown from historical sources
- ♦ Pawn promotion: reaches last rank and promotes to Wazir
- ♦ Win: Checkmate the opponent's Raja

ATTRIBUTION

Turkish Great Chess, Variation IV. John Gollon's version, sourced from H. J. R. Murray's *A History of Chess*. Documented by John Ayer on chessvariants.com/large.dir/greatchessiv.html.