My first introduction to chess on youtube was **thechesswebsite**. I began playing on lichess and chesscube and chess.com. lichess was more difficult and I enjoyed having a higher rating so I primarily played on chesscube and they had the best gamification and ongoing tournaments of fun time controls to join. I enjoyed playing blitz (and faster) and learned the King's Gambit.

As I got better I found **ChessNetwork** and most excitingly I played him several times. During his livestream he would have his chat choose a number in a number range and the first to guess the number would play him in a game. Admittedly, I did cheat by using my iPhone's chess engine to play him – losing and winning once if I'm remembering accurately.

In highschool I found **KingsCrusher** and enjoyed watching his 5-minute games. His aggressive style was appealing. During this time I also played on instantchess.com during my computer class.

I went on another hiatus and came back to some exciting new faces revitalizing the chess scene. **ChessExplained** and **OnlineChessLessons** were my absolute favorites. I never was fond of coverage – instead loving live commentary on games. This is my favorite video of that era: [ChessCube World Cup - USA vs. Egypt - Round 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAd8FzVIFP8)

The third wave of chess streaming was after youtube videos – live streaming. In the beginning I was familiar with names such as **Amazingoid** and **Chessbrah**. I remember Chessbrah completely changing the streaming scene vibe. From the beginning I watched them build a team, a house, have camps, etc.

From that I became aware of Andrew Tang, Naroditzsky. I began watching John Bartholomew and Hikaru. I remember Hikaru and Reckful being friends and discussing huge Twitter options trades.

The fourth wave of chess streaming is popularity. After Chessbrah paved the way for full-time chess content creation came the normalizations of chess streamers. Botez and Gotham. This era marks the start of the mainstream where it's the chess culture and less chess elitism. It's the change of popularity over talent aka Ludwig least common denominator model for the normies.

The fifth wave is the newer generation who are new faces trying to be popular and successful instead of being at a high level. Anna, Nemo, etc, there's honestly countless new faces.

What is good news is Chess is here to stay. It has not faded with the internet but has adapted. Queen's Gambit, new memes, PogChamps, Hans, AlphaZero, etc. I'm happy about how a lot of it has panned out. I'm happy Magnus is the world champion representative for the chess scene. I'll never forget following Magnus v Fabiano Game 1 or Game 6 and the post-match interviews. I've followed the Chess scene from the beginning of live streaming and I'm happy about my choices in content creators that I've followed and am drawn to.

I'd love to write out my WC3 journey as well one day.

Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBAtAM7vtgc>

Kanye West - Bound 2