



In 1948, Botvinnik places first in the Hague–Moscow tournament, ahead of Smyslov, Keres, Reshevsky and Euwe.

In 1974, Karpov wins the Candidates in a final versus Korchnoi and becomes world champion in 1975 as Fisher forfeits the championship match.

In 2007, Anand places first in the Mexico City tournament, ahead of Kramnik, Gelfand, Leko, Svidler, Morozevich, Aronian and Grischuk.

In 2023, Carlsen resigns as world champion. Nepomniachtchi and Ding compete in the championship match.

Timeline of the chess world championship 1921 – 2021.  
Follows the Kasparov continuity 1993 – 2005.  
Ratings of world top ten given as grey lines.  
Red line is smoothed rating curve of the world champion.  
Ratings are Chessmetrics (– June 2000) and FIDE (July 2000 –).