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[Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's supreme Shia religious authority, has issued rulings forbidding chess. After the 1979 Islamic revolution, playing chess was banned in public in Iran and declared haram, or forbidden, by senior clerics because it was associated with gambling.](#)

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[It was believed that on that day, the souls of the dead returned to their homes, so people dressed in costumes and lit bonfires to ward off spirits.](#) In this way, popular Halloween tropes such as witches, goblins, and goblins became associated with the holiday.